

# HALMAHERA 17-22/7 1999



Photo: Gurney's Eagle - Lars Petersson

## *Report compiled by Roger Ahlman*

### *Participants*

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## **HALMAHERA 17-22/7**

This was the second leg of our Indonesia tour. The first being Sulawesi and the third Java. For those see separate reports.

### **ITINERY**

17/7 We took a taxi from the hotel to the airport and the plane for Ternate departed on schedule. Rain met us on Ternate. We took a taxi, with an english-speaking (!) driver to the speedboats that took us across the straight to Halmahera. From Sidangoli we took another taxi about 10 kms inland to Kali Bati Puti. The driver dropped us off at Anu's place although he wasn't there, only his wife, Mishke. She agreed to let us stay there for one night. The place is nothing but a wreck and a few days later Mishke took all her belongings and moved to Tobelo, where Anu already had moved to.

18/7 Lars started the day with a stomach illness. We went in to the forest to look for Standardwing but didn't find the display site. Some other good birds seen though. Later Roger and Bengt walked the rather steep road up to Gultom's place and agreed with him that we could stay there for the rest of our days on Halmahera.

19/7 According to Gultom, Standardwings could be seen at Jaiolo which is about an hour north of Sidangoli. We didn't see any but saw other birds which were more common here than around KBP. Unfortunately it started to rain and it didn't stop until afternoon by which time we were back at KBP and did the loggingroad in the afternoon together with Daniel from England.

20/7 Started at the Standardwing site once more and heard one bird. The rest of the morning was spent along the loggingroad. Afternoon around the pass above Gultom's. In the evening a long walk along the main road and the loggingroad for owls and owl-nightjars.

21/7 A final morning at the Standardwing site and this time we found the right place and saw 2 males! During the rest of the morning we split up and walked the loggingroad, the main road and the pass. In the afternoon transport to Sidangoli. Later in the afternoon we did the Sidangoli mangroves by boat. There is lots of room for negotiations with the boatmen!

22/7 We tried to find a taxi in the early morning to go to Jaiolo again but in vain. The ferry left for Ternate at 10.20 and later the flight to Jakarta.

### **STRATEGY ETC**

The traditional birding site is Kali Bati Puti which is only 10 kms inland from Sidangoli which is the port town. Accommodations has previously been at Anu's but that is no longer an option, so Gultom's a few hundred meters up the road is the only place to stay unless one wants to stay in Sidangoli and commute to KBP. Gultom can probably house up to 4 persons. English is not spoken at all although Mr Gultom speaks a few words so learning some Indonesian is useful.

We spent four full days here and saw most of the endemics but Standardwing is getting more and more difficult nowadays as chainsaws are heard in several places. An other option is to go to Tobelo about four hours from Sidangoli and take a boat across the bay and stay in the jungle with natives and visit a magnificent displayground for Standardwing but this will probably require more time. For more information about that see Birdwatching in Indonesia.

Soon after we left a lot of bad things, almost a civil war, have happened on Halmahera and other islands in the Moluccas so Halmahera is probably not very safe to visit at the moment.

# KALI BATU PUTI

Pass



Scarlet-breasted fruitdove heard here.

I-B Pitta seen from the road

Gultom's lodge.

Small shop

Fruiting tree about here.

2 Great cuckoo-doves here.

Old road, partly overgrown.

Guerney's eagle seen soaring over this area almost daily.

Logging-track.

Big tree by the stream.

Very small stream

Moluccan scrubfowl, Dusky oriole and Sombre kingfisher.

Wallace's Owlet-nightjair heard here.

2 Great cuckoo-doves here.

Anu's place

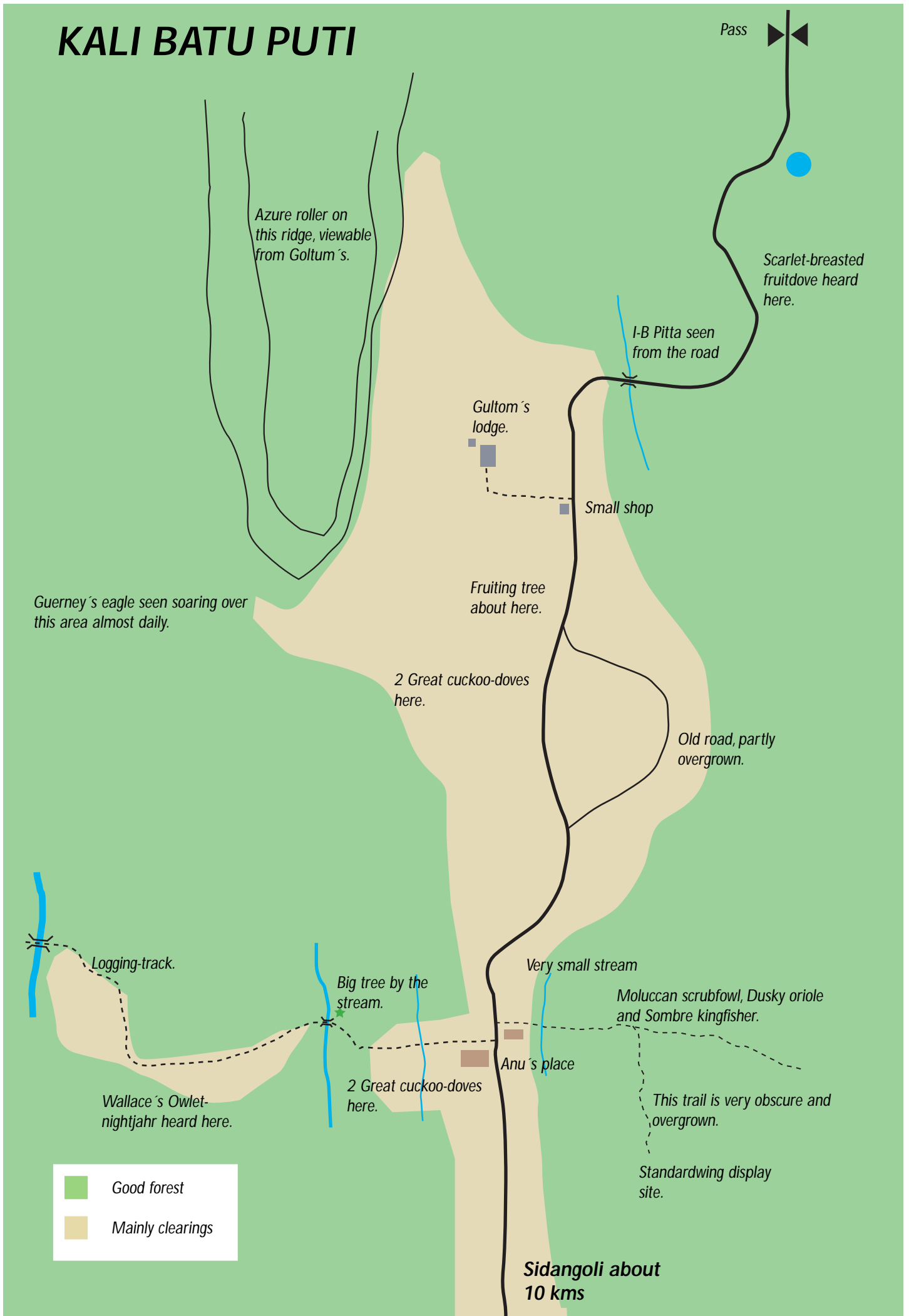
This trail is very obscure and overgrown.

Standardwing display site.

Good forest

Mainly clearings

Sidangoli about 10 kms



# HALMAHERA 17-22/7

Great Frigatebird

1 Sidangoli swamp 21/7, 1 Sidangoli-Ternate 22/7

Lesser Frigatebird

2 Sidangoli swamp 21/7, 2 Sidangoli-Ternate 22/7

Frigatebird sp.

30 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Great-billed Heron

1 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Little Heron

1 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Osprey

1 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Brahminy Kite

Singles daily KBP

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

1 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Variable Goshawk

2 KBP 20/7

Gurney's Eagle

2 KBP 18 and 20/7

Spotted Kestrel

3-5 daily KBP

Oriental Hobby

1 KBP 18/7

Dusky Scrubfowl

2 Jaiolo 19/7, 3-5 seen and heard KBP

Common Bush-Hen

1 at the pass above KBP 20/7, 1 heard 21/7

Pacific Golden Plover

1 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Grey-tailed Tattler

6 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Greater Crested Tern

4 Sidangoli-Ternate 22/7

Brown Cuckoo-Dove

10 daily KBP

Great Cuckoo-Dove

2+2 KBP 19/7

Emerald Dove

2 KBP 20/7

Scarlet-breasted Fruit-Dove  
1 heard KBP 20/7 above Goltum's lodge.

Blue-capped Fruit-Dove  
2 KBP 18/7, 5 20/7 and 1 21/7, 2 Jaiolo 19/7

Grey-headed Fruit-Dove  
Common KBP

Spectacled Imperial Pigeon  
1 KBP 18/7

Cinnamon-bellied Imperial Pigeon  
2 KBP 18/7, 2 20/7 and 4 21/7

Pied Imperial Pigeon  
2 Sidangoli 18/7, 6 Sidangoli 21/7

Violet-necked Lory  
30 KBP 20/7

Chattering Lory  
1+3 KBP 20/7

Red-flanked Lorikeet  
3+1 KBP 20/7

White Cockatoo  
Fairly common KBP

Eclectus Parrot  
Common KBP

Red-cheeked Parrot  
Fairly common KBP

Great-billed Parrot  
Singles seen daily KBP

Moluccan King Parrot  
1 lower KBP

Moluccan Hanging-Parrot  
5 KBP 20/7

Goliath Coucal  
4 seen near a loggingtrack at KBP 19/7

Lesser Coucal  
Singles seen daily KBP.

Moluccan Scops-Owl  
3 heard KBP 17/7 and 5 heard on a longer walk 20/7

Moluccan Boobook  
1 heard on 18 and 20/7

Moluccan Owlet-Nightjar  
1 heard on a loggingtrack at KBP 20/7

Uniform Swiftlet  
Common

Glossy Swiftlet  
Common

Moustached Tree-Swift  
2 KBP 21/7

Blue-and-White Kingfisher  
Up to 5 around KBP, 3 Jaiolo 19/7

Sombre Kingfisher  
Up to 3 heard at KBP and 1 seen.

Collared Kingfisher  
1 Sidangoli 17/7

Sacred Kingfisher  
1 Sidangoli 17/7 and 21/7

Rainbow Bee-eater  
150 KBP 17/7 and singles 18-21/7

Purple Dollarbird  
1 KBP 18/7 and 2 19/7. The birds were seen from Goltum's lodge in dead treetops on the ridge just north of the lodge.

Blyth's Hornbill  
Common

Ivory-billed Pitta  
Up to 10 heard at KBP. A few seen. The birds around KBP are quite difficult to playback as so many people have done that over the years. That goes for Sombre kingfisher as well.

Moluccan Cuckoo-Shrike  
1 KBP 18/7, 2 Jaiolo 19/7

White-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike  
5 Sidangoli swamp 21/7

Halmahera Cuckoo-Shrike  
1 KBP

Common Cicadabird  
2 Jaiolo 19/7

Rufous-bellied Triller  
2 Jaiolo 19/7, 3 KBP 19-21/7

Golden Bulbul  
15 Jaiolo 19/7, 5 KBP 20/7 and 2 21/7

Spangled Drongo  
Common KBP

Dusky-brown Oriole  
2 KBP 21/7 at the Standardwing displaysite.

Long-billed Crow  
Singles at KBP

Paradise Crow  
10 Jaiolo 19/7, 3 KBP 21/7

Standardwing Bird of Paradise  
2 males KBP 21/7 and heard 20/7. This site will probably not be valid for long. The birds are seen displaying only occasionally nowadays. To see this truly spectacular endemic, one is better going to Tobelo and cross the bay and spend some time in the forest where there is a huge playground. More information about this is available from the book "Where to watch birds in Indonesia".

White-naped Monarch  
1 KBP 19/7 and 2 20/7

Spectacled Monarch  
2 KBP 19/7 and 3 20/7

Slaty Flycatcher  
4 KBP 19/7 and 1 20/7

Shining Flycatcher  
1 pair KBP 20/7

Willie Wagtail  
1 KBP 17/7 and 2 Sidangoli 21/7

Common Golden Whistler  
1 KBP 19/7 and 3 20/7

Drab Whistler  
1 KBP 20/7

Moluccan Starling  
6 KBP 18/7 and 1 20/7

Metallic Starling  
Very common.

White-streaked Friarbird  
1 KBP 19/7 and 5 20/7

Dusky Friarbird  
1 KBP 18/7

Black Sunbird  
Fairly common KBP.

Olive-backed Sunbird  
Fairly common KBP.

Flame-breasted Flowerpecker  
10 KBP 19/7 and 1 21/7

Cream-throated White-eye  
5 Jaiolo 19/7 and 3 KBP 20/7

Black-faced Munia  
Common