



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

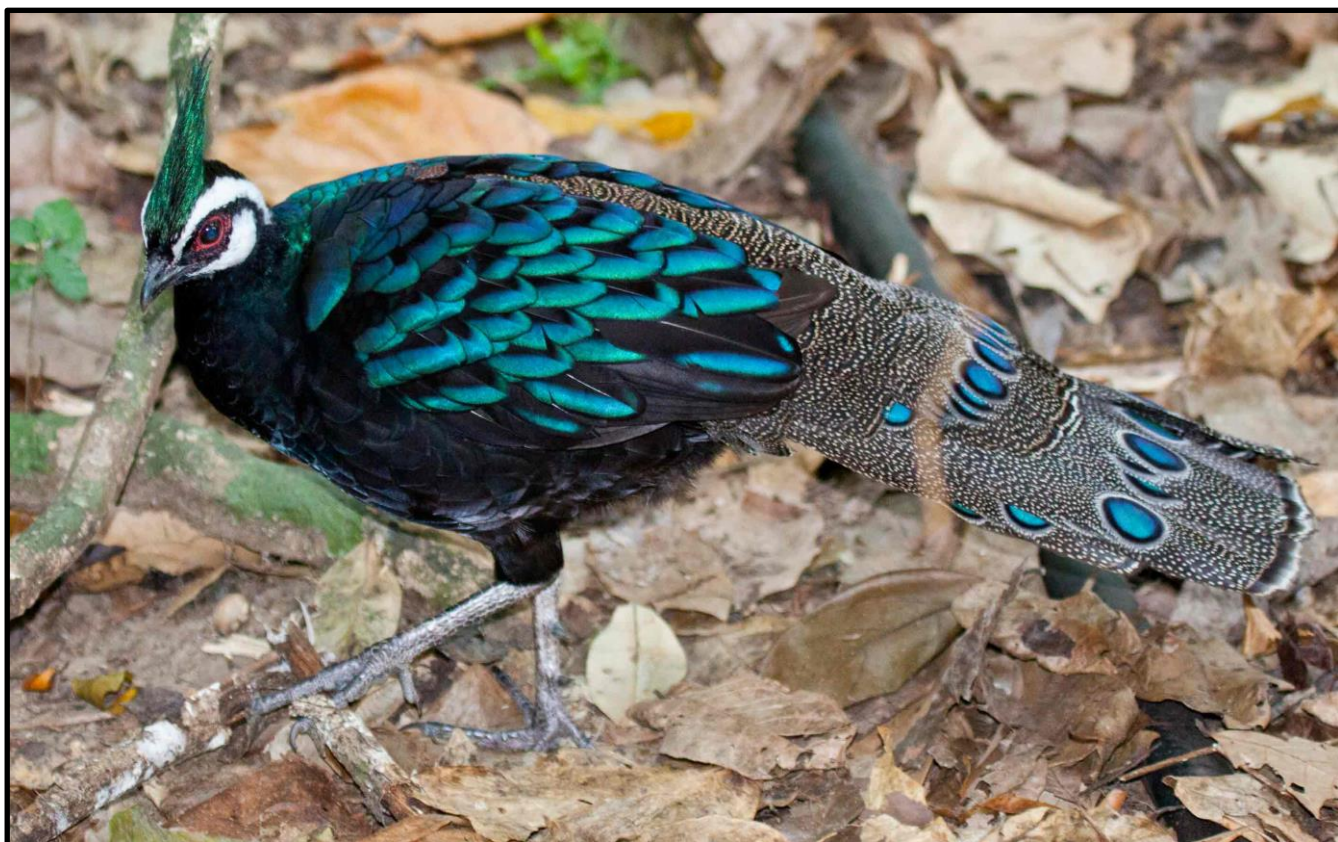
Philippines

Endangered Endemics

1st May to 18th May 2016 (18 days)

Visayan Islands Extension

18th to 24th May 2016 (7 days)



Palawan Peacock-Pheasant by Sue Wright

Trip Report compiled by: Forrest Rowland

Top Ten Birds of the Tour (as voted by participants):

1. **Philippine Eagle**
2. **Palawan Peacock-Pheasant**
3. **Azure-breasted Pitta**
4. **Rufous Hornbill**
5. **Falcated Wren-Babbler**
6. **Visayan Broadbill**
7. **Wattled Broadbill**
8. **Mantanani Scops-Owl**
9. **Cebu Hawk-Owl**
10. **Philippine Frogmouth**

Our journey through the Philippines got off to a great start. Fortunately, our flight from Manila to Puerto Princesa was a short one and we departed early in the morning, allowing us to hit the ground birding, with plenty of the day left to chalk up an impressive total!

We started at a patch of mangroves near the airport where our first birds included our first Philippine Pied Fantails and the *aurora* subspecies of Olive-backed Sunbird. In the scrub we saw: our first Ashy-fronted Bulbuls, Collared Kingfisher, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, and Pied Trillers. Our most exciting species near the port was a vibrant Blue-eared Kingfisher perched at eye-level off the boardwalk of our delicious lunch spot! Unfortunately, no Chinese Egrets were in evidence, as it seemed most had left early for breeding grounds - perhaps due to the drought and heat of this El Nino year. This species was one of the astoundingly few dips we had on this productive tour.

We began our drive to Sabang, birding a few stops along the way. Highlights of these stops included: Palawan Flowerpeckers, a pair of Copper-throated Sunbird, Lovely Sunbird, Yellow-throated Leafbird, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Dark-throated Orioles, Sulphur-bellied and Palawan Bulbuls, Palawan Tits, numerous Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoos, our first Chestnut-breasted Malkoha encounter, and incredibly close encounters with Blue-headed Racket-tails feasting in a mango tree, and raucous Great Slaty Woodpeckers in a family group! Bird of the day, undoubtedly, went to the Falcated Wren-Babbler that gave its presence away scuffling through the leaf litter behind me. We hit the tape, and this beauty came right in, sat up, and commenced to sing in full view not 10 meters away! The experience lasted 10 minutes or so.

We topped off the daylight hours by stopping at Cockatoo Lookout Point, where I accidentally flushed Barred Buttonquail. Luckily, we would see more at a later stage. Stellar views of four cavorting Red-vented Cockatoos were a treat, and a few more came cruising past for flight views later. A fitting end to a major first day's birding!



Falcated Wren-Babbler
by Forrest Rowland



Night activities came up with nothing on the night-bird front, though we enjoyed great views of roosting Hooded and Red-bellied Pittas!



Palawan Blue Flycatcher by Forrest Rowland

For the morning of our first official full day of birding, we started with breakfast at our well-appointed beach hotel in Sabang, before taking the short drive to the boat dock in town. From there we boarded a small boat and undertook the 20 minute journey to the headquarters of St. Paul's Underground River National Park. Timing our arrival to precede the hordes of tourists to come, we had enough time to wander around in relative peace, searching for our main targets. Foremost of these was, of course, the splendid male Palawan Peacock-Pheasant that resides in this area. A little help from some locals - solicited or otherwise - and we were soon staring down at this highly desired bird, in all its glory. In addition

to this, we had: at least two pairs of Philippine Megapodes, territorial White-vented Shamans, a very showy mated pair of Palawan Blue Flycatchers, a wonderfully obliging pair of Ashy-headed Babblers, more Hooded Pitta action, a brief encounter with Oriental (Rufous-backed) Dwarf Kingfisher, and more Long-tailed Macaques and Monitors than we could count.

With the crowds arriving and birds in the bag, we journeyed into the caves that give this area its name. Highlights of the cave tour included: Germaine's Swiftlet, Dog-faced Water Snake, and being serenaded with several show-tunes from our extravagant boatman. Afterwards, we headed back to Sabang, before heading out again to do some more forest birding.

We made use of a trail on the outskirts of town where we managed views of: Blue Paradise Flycatchers, Philippine Cuckoo-Doves, and a stunning Ruddy Kingfisher, before returning to the Hotel for lunch and a quick snooze.

After lunch we made our way out to a relatively unknown site - owned by a local family - that is good for Palawan Hornbill, Parrots, and Woodpeckers. The site did not disappoint! We were treated to: one Palawan Hornbill, a pair of nesting Blue-naped Parrots, a pair of nesting Blue-headed Racket-tails, Black-headed Bulbul, Asian Koel, a brief Violet Cuckoo encounter, and a nest of Buff-spotted Flameback. We also returned to Cockatoo Point to burn some time before night birding, and were to: our first Pale Spiderhunter, Plaintive Cuckoo perched up in full song, and splendid views of Lovely and Purple-throated Sunbirds.



**Mantanani Scops Owl
by Don Burlett**



Night birding was much more successful tonight! We had great views of the dainty Palawan Frogmouth, and even better views of a responsive pair of Palawan Scops Owls.



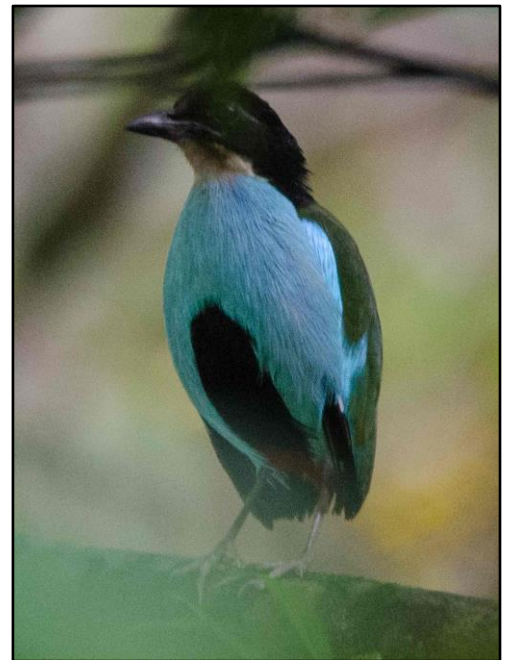
Philippine Eagle by Forrest Rowland

Before embarking upon the return journey to Puerto Princesa the following day, we returned to the Hornbill/Woodpecker site, but didn't pick up anything new. We headed over to the forest trails that we birded the evening before, and were rewarded with: Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, drop dead views of Asian Fairy Bluebird, another Palawan Tit, Slender-billed Crows on nest, and the highlight of the morning – Red-headed Flamebacks! Three came bombing in to audio, and we managed some views of this retiring species. Gray-faced Buzzard and Crested Goshawk were also seen well.

Upon arrival in Puerto Princesa, we went straight to the docks for our boat-ride to Cowrie Island - Pandan Island being closed (due to unruly birder activity by another company, we hear), we were relegated to Cowrie, which does not, unfortunately, host Grey or Pied Imperial Pigeons. It did turn up, however, an amazing experience with Mantanani Scops Owl - two downy youngsters attended by two adults at close range! We returned to the Hotel mid-afternoon and took the evening off.

Our final morning on the island of Palawan saw us plying the roads and trail of the Iwahig Penal Colony. The site is well known for Melodious Babbler and Palawan Flycatcher - both of which we encountered. The latter showed remarkably well! We logged an astonishing 60+ species this morning, after spending some time in the scrub and rice paddies of the colony. Crested Serpent Eagle, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Black-headed Bulbul, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Paddfield Pipit, all three species of Munias, several species of shorebirds, Greater Painted Snipes, Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns, and Oriental Pratincoles galore - the list goes on and on. It was an incredible visit to this productive, diverse, though somewhat intimidating site! We flew to Manila and fought traffic back to the Heritage Hotel.

Having spent the night in Manila once again, we had a fairly long journey ahead of us, to the slopes of Mt. Kitanglad. We began with a flight to Cagayan de Oro, on Mindanao's northern shores, where we commenced a four hour journey to the base of the mountain - stopping along the way for lunch. Upon reaching our



**Azure-breasted Pitta
by Forrest Rowland**



local guides' homes near the base of the mountain, we reorganized into a truck - of sorts - that we could all fit in.



Blue-headed Racket-tail by Forrest Rowland

committee. We arrived with enough time to enjoy the waking flights of Great Eared and Philippine Nightjars, and an outrageous encounter with a Philippine Frogmouth that perched just above eye-level – allowing us approach to within 5 meters of it! Other highlights included: our only Black-winged Kites of the tour, Pied Bushchat, Philippine Coucal, and a few other open country species lower down.

The next two full days would see us encountering many of the same species seen the previous day, though we also added many more specials to the list. Most significant of these - for some - of course, was the Philippine Eagle seen within the first few hours of our arrival at the viewpoint on our first morning. At first, it was far away, perching on a snag on the opposing hillside. We were elated to see it at all, but we continued to hold out for more. We were rewarded when two came soaring in, low, right overhead, and one perched in a tree next to us!

To pass the time whilst waiting, we watched: our first Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis, Mindanao Racket-tails, Tawny Grassbirds, Red-eared Parrot-Finches, Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Bizarre-looking Apo Myna, and more. Perhaps as significant as the sighting itself was the timeliness in which it came – affording us the opportunity to spend more time scouring the forest for other specials, in particular those on the slopes high above the viewpoint. We hiked up to see Apo Sunbird shortly after our eagle sighting, picking it up along with numerous McGregor's Cuckooshrike and Mindanao White-eyes in the process. It was our only visit to the upper reaches of the mountain, so we were very happy to encounter: more Apo Myna, several mixed flocks with Black-and-Cinnamon Fantails, Yellow-bellied Whistlers, and our first Philippine Trogon.



**Blue Paradise Flycatcher
by Forrest Rowland**





Everett's Scops Owl by Don Burlett

Most of our time was spent - after our success high up - on birding the lower, more-easily-accessed, slopes. Flame-breasted Flowerpecker, Buff-spotted Woodpecker, Rusty Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo, Philippine Hanging Parrot, Olive-capped Flowerpecker, Grey-hooded Sunbird, Rufous-headed Tailorbird, Turquoise Flycatchers, Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, White-eared and Amethyst Brown Doves, and White-browed Shortwing all showed to varying degrees. The views we had of the Fruit Dove were outstanding!

After hiking back down the mountain, we traveled to Eden Mountain Resort - a 3.5 hour drive away from the base of Kitinglad. We arrived at this foothill site in time to get rained out of afternoon birding. Dinner was, thankfully, amazing! And the hot water and amenities were welcomed - after three nights camping.

The following morning we awoke early to track down our targets here - Cryptic Flycatcher and Whiskered Flowerpecker. The Flowerpecker took some effort to get to, but the Flycatcher turned up almost exactly where it was prescribed. A beautifully cooperative pair of these tiny little puffballs was displaying, singing, even copulating, during our observation of the rare species. Orange-tufted Spiderhunter was certainly a welcome sideline! The Flowerpecker site was a bit of a drive, then a steep, short hike, but it delivered the goods. We had four of this extremely local, rare species seen very well. Bicolored, Red-keeled, and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers were also noted, amongst other previously seen species. From here we returned to the resort to grab our gear and drive to Bislig, another four hours away.

We made it to Bislig in time to hit the only local birding site worth a visit - Bislig airport wetlands. It was awesome! Yellow, Cinnamon, and Black Bitterns, Philippine Swampheens, Wandering Whistling-Duck, Philippines Duck, Golden-headed Cisticola, our only Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Little Ringed Plovers, and flyby Chestnut-cheeked Starlings were all noted. When two Eastern Grass Owls popped up to forage, well before dusk, we knew we had really lucked out in our visit here. I was tempted to buy an "I 'Heart' Bislig" T-shirt.

Three full days to explore the PICOP area and surrounds proved enough to bag nearly all of the endemics and specials possible there. Visiting the upper forests on the first and third days, the quarry and one remaining lower forest on the second, and "dirty PICOP ponds" (as it is on eBird) allowed us plenty of time to enjoy our traditional Filipino jeepney rides! Highlights abounded, which included: gorgeous



Spotted Wood Kingfisher by Forrest Rowland



Azure-breasted Pitta, three Philippine Honey Buzzards, Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle, Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, Philippine Serpent Eagle, many Philippine Falconets, a wonderfully obliging Winchell's Kingfisher, Southern Silvery Kingfisher, spectacular Rufous, Writhed and Mindanao Hornbills, Short-crested and Celestial Monarchs, Naked-faced Spiderhunter, Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike, Black-and-White Triller, Brown Tit-Babbler, Mindanao Pygmy-Babblers galore, two flocks of Rusty-crowned Babblers, Handsome and Metallic-winged Sunbirds, a fruiting tree with every possible Flowerpecker, Bulbul and Brown-dove species on the property, a number of Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatchers, and White-bellied Woodpecker.



Philippine Megapode by Don Burlett

Night birding here was very difficult due to the 4:45AM sunrise (requiring a 2:15AM departure from Hotel), and we were rained out of our best attempt. The highlight of our time here was – in my opinion – when two Wattled Broadbills appeared, at eye level, next to the trail we walked upon. They gave us a few full minutes to enjoy their beauty from every angle. Hard to top a Broadbill, and such a beautiful, rare, one at that. Of course, spotting a male Hombron's Kingfisher, deep in the brush, was a treat! This was our only encounter with the species, and it sat for ages – allowing for great scope views.

We then departed very early for Davao, and our flight back to Luzon. We managed to arrive to Mt. Makiling, Luzon, with more than enough time to have a quick rest, and then spend time near the agricultural department of the University nearby. The fields there are well-known for being the most reliable place to see Buttonquail in the Philippines. Once again, the birds delivered a show. We had two pairs of Barred Buttonquails, and one pair of Spotted Buttonquail during our vigil this afternoon! Barred Rails, White-breasted Waterhens,

Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, Philippine Pygmy Woodpeckers, Coppersmith Barbets, and several species of Swift entertained us while we waited for these Buttonquails. Quite an enjoyable afternoon sit. We tried, but failed, to see any night-birds.

The following morning started exceptionally well! I had barely played a few seconds of the recording when a Spotted Wood Kingfisher came screeching in for great views and photographs. As the morning went along, we tracked down: an excitable Grey-backed Tailorbird, two marvelous Scale-feathered Malkohas, a family group of Luzon Flamebacks, a shy (but eventually somewhat cooperative) White-browed Shama, and a blooming tree full of Flaming Sunbirds! Things started to slow down after these sightings. In fact, they almost stopped. We walked down the hill for hours, seeing and hearing very little until it was time for lunch and a well-



Red-keeled Flowerpecker by Sue Wright



deserved short break. The afternoon's birding followed the same pattern, although we did find an obliging Red-crested Malkoha, along with Purple Needletail flybys, before returning for more Buttonquail views. Unfortunately, not a single buttonquail showed up! Our saving grace was that we had bagged the must-see species of Makiling. Indigo-banded Kingfisher was dipped, but we had one last shot for it the following day.



Philippine Frogmouth by Sue Wright

A very long drive lay ahead of us on our departure from Mt Makiling, but we were sure to make time for one, planned, birding stop. The stop may have been amidst rice paddies, but it was a highly productive stop and more than enough to satisfy our daily need for lifers! We had come to Candaba Marsh Sanctuary in search of White-browed Crake, Red Turtle Dove, and a few other goodies. We were successful on all counts, including being treated to the largest concentration of Purple Herons and Black-crowned Night Herons imaginable. We estimated more than 1100 herons in total, in the only remaining wet spot of the sanctuary. Due to severe drought, the surrounding farmers had slowly been syphoning off the water for the rice. Deplorable, but what an interesting show. Pheasant-tailed Jacanas in breeding plumage were in good numbers, and simply gorgeous! We had a very limited amount of time, given the 12 hours driving time required to reach Mt. Polis, so only one more stop was made.

We stopped along the way to catch up with the Indigo-banded Kingfisher and arrived not long after dark, exhausted. A good night's sleep was much appreciated, and even more enjoyable having acquired the pretty little endemic kingfisher en route.

We arose early the next morning to try our luck at finding Luzon Scops Owl. It was a resounding success, taking less than 15 minutes to call in a pair! We made a quick stop at a local coffee shop to escape the cold and eat breakfast before we continued birding along the road to Mt Polis. One of the first species to show was a Philippine Bush Warbler followed by a few of the more common species, including: Chestnut-faced Babbler, Negros Leaf Warbler, Mountain White-eye, and a couple of lovely Mountain Tailorbirds. Overall, the morning was very quiet. We managed to encounter one mixed flock, providing a fleeting glimpse of Benguet Bush Warbler, along with Long-tailed Bush Warbler. We counted Mountain Shrike as one of the better birds of the morning. Two showed exceptionally well! The afternoon was unproductive, and mostly rained-out. We enjoyed



Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove by Forrest Rowland



the enchanting views of the Banahue rice terraces, and traveled a short distance to a nearby stakeout for Luzon Water Redstart, which showed very well.



Mountain White-eye
by Forrest Rowland

After an uninspiring visit to Mt. Polis, but with enough of the key species in tow, we decided to pick up Yellowish White-eye at the Hotel after a bit of a lie in, before undertaking the drive to Subic Bay. The drive there was fairly uneventful but we did arrive with time to do some very productive birding. Highlights of the short afternoon/evening walk were: tracking down Luzon Hornbill, Sooty Woodpecker, Green Racket-tails, Blackish Cuckooshrike, Rusty-crowned Bee-eater, an enormous colony of Flying Foxes, and superlative views of Luzon Hawk-Owl and Chocolate Boobook. One of the highlights of the night activities was herping – we had a gorgeous Tokay Gecko on the road in front of us, as well as a rare Oriental Box Turtle!

The Subic Bay area provides some of the easiest and most enjoyable birding on our tour and we thoroughly enjoyed our morning there - not to mention a little time off! We found a host of target endemics and specials but we were also able to get numerous better looks at previously seldom-seen species such as the meledectes-like Coletto. Of the specials: Green Racket-tail Rough-crested Malkoha, Rufous Coucal, Sooty and

White-bellied Woodpeckers, Luzon Flameback, Philippine Coucal, Trilling Tailorbird, Besra, and White-bellied Sea Eagle, were the best seen. A clear highlight was when Sue spotted a perched Philippine Hawk-Eagle which stayed long enough for exceptional views.

Fortunately, we had spare time on our hands the final morning, which we used to bird La Mesa EcoPark near Manila. There are two reasons to visit the park: Ashy Thrush and Lowland White-eye. We ended up with time to spare and, most importantly, the opportunity to sit down and have lunch! Both showed wonderfully! Black-naped Oriole and Golden-bellied Gerygone attending nests were fun to encounter, as was the Philippine Hanging Parrot that displayed atop a broken palm trunk. Our transfer and flight to Negros was only somewhat delayed and we arrived in time to relax and enjoy a shower before dinner.

Mt. Kanla-on can be described as a slog - You must start early, and expect rain. You might not want to expect much bird activity, because it can be quite slow. We wouldn't know about that. Our day up Kanla-on was action-packed. Despite the slog and rain, it was one of the most productive visits of the tour!

The day started off with a mixed flock, and essentially ended with one - before the rain. We ended up having great encounters



McGregor's Cuckooshrike
by Forrest Rowland



with: Visayan Fantail, Sulphur-bellied Nuthatch, Elegant Tit, Visayan Bulbul, and other, more common, flocking species. Notables that we enjoyed great views of included: the highly sought-after Flame-templed Babbler, a handful of cooperative Lemon-throated Warblers, White-vented Whistler, White-winged Cuckooshrikes, Balicassio, Philippine Tailorbird, and a pair of Maroon-naped Sunbirds!



Asian Fairy-bluebird by Forrest Rowland

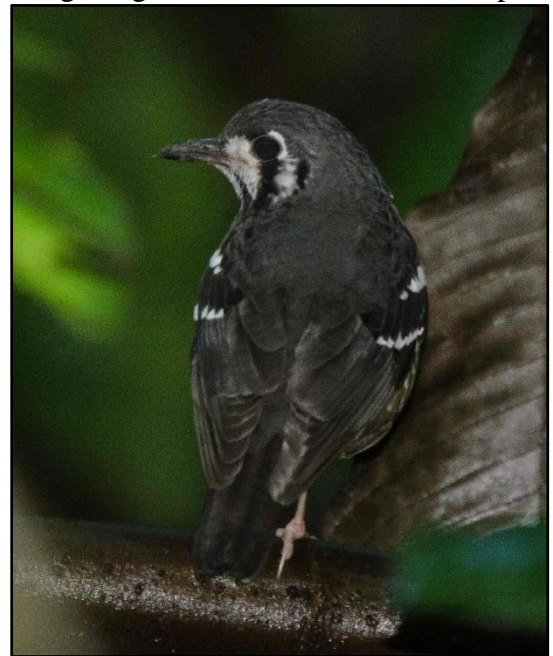
Yellow-faced Flameback and Blue-crowned Racket-tail both showed to varying degrees (seen by everyone), while Visayan Shama played hard to get - and was effective at it. Rain took up much of our birding time this morning, unfortunately, but we couldn't complain. Had it been a clear, hot, sunny day the bird activity may have been much diminished.

After lunch, we made our way downhill to a nearby resort for an impressive Flying Fox colony, Glossy Swiftlet colony, and the local endemic Black-belted Flowerpecker.

The following morning we flew to Cebu City, before undertaking the drive to Tabunan which is one of only two patches of forest left on the entire island. Everything on the island is endangered and, essentially, doomed. Despite this gloomy auspice, we had a wonderful visit to Tabunan!

We climbed our way, slowly, through farmlands and patches of forest to our first birding spot for the day. Once there, with little effort, we drew in a Cebu Hawk-Owl for wonderful views and even photographs. Black Shama didn't join in, but the mobbing birds that came in to join the Hawk-Owl included: the stunning Magnificent Sunbird, Black-naped Monarch, and Streak-breasted Bulbul. Nearby, a cooperative Mangrove Blue Flycatcher came in for views and photos as well. After that, we made the final climb up to our "home-away-from-home" for the day. We then sat for a long while, enjoying light conversation and a well-deserved break with a view, while the occasional bird came in to visit us. Perhaps we came close, when a vocalizing birds flew circles around the platform after we hit the playback, but Cebu Flowerpecker remained true to its nature and status as one of the rarest birds on earth. It was never definitively seen.

Our final stop on the tour was to the touristy, forested island of Bohol. Our first birding on Bohol was an afternoon spent at Raj Sikutuna NP. Shortly after arrival, our driver pointed out two Philippine Flying Lemurs. Amazing creatures! The pale female was hanging just below the nearly-black male. Also known as Colugo, this rare species is best found right here on Bohol. On the bird front, Striated Wren-Babbled finally showed superbly, and Samar Hornbills surrounded us



Ashy Thrush by Forrest Rowland



at the clearing near the park entrance. Otherwise, it was relatively quiet.



Naked-faced Spiderhunter
by Forrest Rowland

We started our only full day on Bohol back at the Rajah Sikatuna National Park and went on to visit nearby rivers, roads and even the Chocolate Hills for lunch. Birding was slow for the most part, but we did end up with a respectable list containing most of the special endemics we had come for. It wasn't, however, until the afternoon that things really heated up. Getting rained out much of the morning was very disheartening. A near miss Visayan Blue Fantail was heartbreaking, and spirits were at an all-time low. After lunch, our luck changed when a local guide took us to a stakeout spot for the localized Southern Silvery Kingfisher. Hard to imagine, but this bird was even more strikingly beautiful than its Northern counterpart! Shortly thereafter we were escorted to a roost site for Everett's Scops Owl. It just got better from there. We drove to a forested road opposite the National Park to see what might turn up. Bohol Sunbird, Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo, Philippine Trogon, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, Bicolored, Red-keeled, Buzzing and Pygmy Flowerpeckers, Asian Fairy Bluebird, and Bohol Sunbird were all great pickups! The bird of the day, and one of the best of the trip, was ticked off when I spotted a Slaty-legged Crake sneaking out into the road in front of us! We had good views then, but we got even better views later when it came back out to the

roadside and wandered leisurely through the roadside scrub. Incredible!

We went to bed very happy after a day fully recovered. The following morning was the final birding of our journey. It was hard to decide where to go, as Black-crowned Babbler and Visayan Blue Fantail were more likely inside the National Park. However, we were all pretty burned out on the poor trails and endless silence in the deep forest of the park, so we decided to return to the birdy forested road from the epically wonderful afternoon before. It was the right decision. Despite only adding one new species to the trip tally, it was voted the #1 Bird of the entire tour, handily beating out Philippine Eagle. We were standing, like fools, on our 6th attempt to see Yellow-breasted Tailorbird - and getting only more glimpses - when, right next to us and just overhead, three male Visayan Wattled Broadbills went absolutely nuts. Whether they had been there the whole time or just arrived without us noticing, no one knows, but when a female Broadbill came in the males began honking, bill-clapping, and jumping over one another in full view - on the same branch! It was simply unbelievable. We had written this species off as only being possible in the Park - our local guide had never seen it elsewhere. Yet there we stood, watching three males and one snow white female Broadbill flying around, making all sorts of ruckus. They moved quickly away once we all got excited and camera shutters began firing. Within a few minutes of their departure, the whole group returned and passed silently, slowly over us, and we had even more fabulous views and photo opportunities. A better end to a fabulously productive tour could not have been imagined.



Annotated List of Bird Species recorded

Total species recorded (including extension): 324 (310 seen, 14 Heard only)

*Does not include "Leader Only" species

An impressive 177 endemics were recorded, with another 7 Near Endemics!

Key to Abbreviations:

E: endemic species found only in the Philippines

NE: near endemic species found in the Philippines and one or more nearby small islands

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). 2014. IOC World Bird List (v 6.2).

Megapodes Megapodiidae

Philippine Megapode (Tabon Scrubfowl) (NE) *Megapodius cumingii*

Four birds were seen in St. Paul's Underground River National Park, Palawan, at very close range.

Note: We observed the subspecies cumingii.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

We saw this species, finally, at Subic and again on Bohol.

Palawan Peacock-Pheasant (E) *Polyplectron napoleonis*

We enjoyed stellar views of the lovely, long-lived male at Underground River National Park, Palawan.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

This species was encountered at the Bislig airstrip in Mindanao, as well as the Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Note: We observed the subspecies arcuata.

Philippine Duck (E) *Anas luzonica*

Numerous individuals were seen at the Bislig airstrip, Mindanao and a further four at Candaba Marsh.

Herons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Several birds were seen very well on Palawan, Mindanao, and Luzon.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

This species was also seen on all three of the islands on the main tour.

Black Bittern *Dupitor flavicollis*

One was seen well flying low over the marshes, then briefly perched, at the Bislig airstrip.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Encountered at Bislig airstrip, one on Bohol, and some 350+ at Candaba Marshes!

Note: We observed the subspecies nycticorax.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

A few were seen at various sites.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

Our first sighting of this species came from near Mt. Kitanglad, but our best one was encountered at a lunch stop en route to Bislig.

Note: We observed the subspecies speciosa.



Eastern Cattle Egret*Bubulcus coromandus*

An abundant species, found in good numbers throughout the tour.

Grey Heron*Ardea cinerea*

One late individual at Candaba Marshes was recorded.

Purple Heron*Ardea purpurea*

A few at Bislig airstrip, but more than 700 individuals estimated at Candaba Marshes. Incredible!!!

Note: We observed the subspecies *manilensis*.

Great Egret*Ardea alba*

We encountered individuals and small groups of this species, on the islands of Luzon and Palawan.

Note: We observed the *modesta* ssp.

Intermediate Egret*Egretta intermedia*

This species was also seen at numerous wetlands, throughout the tour

Little Egret*Egretta garzetta*

Our initial sightings of this species were on Palawan, seen frequently throughout.

Note: We observed the subspecies *garzetta*.

Pacific Reef Heron*Egretta sacra*

A few of these handsome egrets was seen in Sabang, Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies *sacra*.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**Black-winged Kite***Elanus ceruleus*

Three of these, uncommon in the Philippines, noted near Mt. Kitinglad

Note: We observed the *hypoleuca* ssp.

Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard*Pernis ptilorhynchus*

We had a handful of encounters with this species on Palawan and Mt. Kitinglad.

Notes: We observed the subspecies *palawanensis* on Palawan and *philippensis* on Mindanao.

Philippine Honey Buzzard (E)*Pernis steerei*

We had fantastic views of two low-soaring birds at PICOP.

Notes: We observed the subspecies *steerei*. This species was split from Barred Honey Buzzard.

Crested Serpent Eagle*Spilornis cheela*

We saw several of this species on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies *palawanensis*.

Philippine Serpent Eagle (E)*Spilornis holospilus*

We enjoyed scattered sightings of this attractive raptor on the islands of Mindanao, Luzon and Bohol.

Our best sightings came from Subic.

Philippine Eagle (E)*Pithecophaga jefferyi*

We had two of these stunning, impressive birds, come soaring low overhead at Mt. Kitinglad. We spent fully ten minutes enjoying unbelievable views, then one perched in a tree not 150 feet from us!

Philippine Hawk-Eagle (E)*Nisaetus philippensis*

A great spot by Sue, who noticed this one perched, very closeby, at Subic.

Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle (E)*Nisaetus pinskeri*

This species was seen very well, soaring, at PICOP.

Note: This species was split from Philippine Hawk-Eagle.

Crested Goshawk*Accipiter trivirgatus*

Several seen on both Palawan and Mindanao.

Note: We observed the subspecies *palawanus* on Palawan and *extimus* on Mindanao.

Besra*Accipiter virgatus*

Seen on a handful of occasions during the tour.



Note: We observed the subspecies confusus on Luzon and quagga elsewhere.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

We had several sightings of this beauty .

Note: We observed the subspecies intermedius.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One of these beauties came cruising by the Flying Fox colony at Subic Bay.

Gray-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*

We lucked into one at Palawan. Not often recorded in the Philippines.

Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicas*

We got extremely lucky to bump into a late migrant at Mt. Polis, where, on occasion, a bird has over-summered.

Falcons Falconidae

Philippine Falconet (E) *Microhierax erythrogenys*

This species was especially common at PICOP but was also seen at a few other sites.

Note: We observed the subspecies erythrogenys on Luzon and meridionalis on Mindanao.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

A singleton was seen on the drive to Bislig.

Note: We observed the subspecies ernesti.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae

Slaty-legged Crake *Rallina eurizinoides*

Amazingly, one walked right out into the road near Raj Sikutuna, Bohol! We ended up with amazing looks at this cooperative, rarely seen, species.

Note: The nominate eurizinoides ssp. was seen

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*

We had excellent views of this species on the islands of Bohol and Negros, while only a few of us had sightings at La Mesa and at Subic Bay.

Note: We observed the subspecies torquatus.

(H) Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*

A few of these birds were heard at our visit to Candaba Marsh on Luzon.

Note: We recorded the subspecies philippensis.

(H) Plain Bush-hen (E) *Amaurornis olivacea*

Heard at Mt. Kitinglad, and Subic Bay, but never showed.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Several seen on various islands.

Note: We observed the subspecies phoenicurus.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*

We enjoyed great views at the Candaba Marsh Sanctuary, Luzon.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*

Another species that we saw well at the Bislig airstrip, and on Palawan.

Philippine Swamphen (E) *Porphyrio porphyrio*

This recently split species was seen at Bislig Airstrip and Candaba Marsh.

Note: We observed the subspecies pulverulentus.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Seen well at the Bislig airstrip and at Candaba Marshes.

Note: Orientalis subspecies seen.



Buttonquail Turnicidae**Spotted Buttonquail (E)** *Turnix ocellatus*

We had great views of this endemic as a pair wandered across the grassland trail near Mt. Makiling!

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

Glimpsed when flushed on Palawan, but two pairs seen exceptionally well near Mt. Makiling.

Avocets and Stilts Recurvirostridae**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

Seen on a handful of occasions following our first sightings on Palawan.

Plovers Charadriidae**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

We saw a pair of these dainty birds at the Bislig airport.

*Note: We observed the subspecies dubius.***Painted-Snipes Rostratulidae****Greater Painted-Snipe** *Rostratula benghalensis*

A pair flushed and seen well near Iwahig, Palawan, and another pair at Candaba Marshes

Jacanas Jacanidae**Pheasant-tailed Jacana** *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

More than a dozen of these gorgeous creatures at the Candaba Marsh Sanctuary were a real treat!

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae**Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

We had good views of this species on Cawrie Island, Palawan.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

We had a few of these near Iwahig, Palawan.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

Seen near Iwahig, Palawan.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

A few near Iwahig, Palawan.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers were seen on Palawan and at scattered sites thereafter.

Pratincoles Glareolidae**Oriental Pratincole** *Glareola maldivarum*

We saw dozens of these beauties at a few sites during the tour.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

Seen at several wetlands throughout the tour



Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

Common (Rock) Pigeon*Columba livia*

This feral species was observed in most urban areas throughout the tour.

Red Turtle Dove*Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Dozens observed at Candaba Marshes, Luzon. An attractive little dove!

Note: We observed the subspecies humilis.

Spotted Dove*Streptopelia chinensis*

This widespread Asian species was found at various sites, throughout the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies tigrina.

Philippine Cuckoo-Dove (E)*Macropygia tenuirostris*

We first saw this species on Palawan but enjoyed our best views on Mt. Kitanglad.

Notes: We observed the subspecies tenuirostris. The history of splits from which this species came is a little complex. To simplify, it came from the same splitting line as Brown, Slender-billed and Ruddy Cuckoo-Doves, which at one point were all a part of Reddish Cuckoo-Dove.

Common Emerald Dove*Chalcophaps indica*

We had our best views at Subic Bay, when a male wouldn't hardly flush out of the road in front of us!

Note: We observed the subspecies indica.

Zebra Dove*Geopelia striata*

One of a few species that is regularly seen in association with humans in the Philippines, and are quite numerous.

(H) Luzon Bleeding-heart (E)*Gallicolumba luzonica*

One of these highly sought-after birds began singing from deep cover, roadside, near Subic Bay.

Note: We recorded the subspecies luzonica.

(H) Mindanao Bleeding-heart (E)*Gallicolumba crinigera*

This species was a leader only, but was heard well by all participants on Bohol. After much effort, we had to abandon the singing individual to catch our flight.

Note: We recorded the leytensis subspecies

White-eared Brown Dove (E)*Phapitreron leucotis*

Seen on a number of occasions during our tour, including observations on nearly every island we visited.

Note: We observed the subspecies leucotis on Luzon, brevirostris on Mindanao and Bohol, and nigrorum on Negros.

Amethyst Brown Dove (E)*Phapitreron amethystinus*

This often difficult species was first seen on Mindanao, though we saw individuals at Subic and Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies maculpectis on Negros, amethystinus on the other islands.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon*Treron vernans*

This widespread species prefers more open secondary habitat and we found small numbers near the Bislig airstrip.

Philippine Green Pigeon (E)*Treron axillaris*

We saw these beauties on many occasions throughout the tour.

Notes: We observed the subspecies axillaris on Luzon and canescens on Mindanao.

(H) Thick-billed Green Pigeon*Treron curvirostra*

Heard on Palawan.

Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove (E)*Ptilinopus occipitalis*

We were very lucky to get great scope views and photographs on Mt. Kitinglad, and a few views later throughout the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies incognitus on Mindanao and occipitalis elsewhere.



Black-chinned Fruit Dove (E)

Ptilinopus leclancheri

This species was only seen well at Palawan, though we didn't really attempt to locate calling individuals heard afterwards, and a few were seen elsewhere.

Note: We observed the subspecies leclancheri on other islands, gironieri was seen on Palawan.

Green Imperial Pigeon

Ducula aenea

Seen at numerous sites but most commonly encountered at Subic Bay and on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies palawanensis on Palawan and aenea elsewhere.

(H) Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon (E)

Duculua poliocephala

Heard at PICOP, Mindanao.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae

Red-vented (Philippine) Cockatoo (E)

Cacatua haematuropygia

Amazing views of 6 individuals at the lookout point, Palawan! Perched and flying.

Parrots Psittacidae

Philippine Hanging Parrot (Colasisi) (E)

Loriculus philippensis

We found this small noisy parrot on a number of islands, including Mindanao, Luzon and Cebu.

Note: We observed the subspecies philippensis on Luzon, worcesteri on Bohol and apicalis on Mindanao.

Mindanao Racket-tail (E)

Prioniturus waterstradti

Great views on three groups of this species as they flew by at Mt. Kitinglad.

Note: This species was split from Montane Racket-tail.

(H) Montane Racket-tail (E)

Prioniturus montanus

Heard somewhere in the distance at dawn, Mt. Polis.

Blue-headed Racket-tail (E)

Prioniturus platenae

A number of these attractive parrots were seen and photographed at various points on Palawan!

Green Racket-tail (E)

Prioniturus luconensis

We had fantastic views of this species at Subic Bay.

Blue-crowned Racket-tail (E)

Prioniturus discurus

We managed to see this species on Negros, where it is a potential split.

Note: We observed the subspecies whiteheadi.

Blue-naped Parrot (NE)

Tanygnathus lucionensis

We saw this species on Palawan and at Subic Bay.

Note: We observed the subspecies lucionensis on Luzon and salvadorii on Palawan.

Guaibero (E)

Bolbopsittacus lunulatus

An attractive and distinctive parrot, seen at numerous sites, including Subic Bay, PICOP and Mt. Makiling.

Note: We observed the subspecies lunulatus on Luzon and mindanensis on Mindanao.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Rufous Coucal (E)

Centropus melanops

Great views, eventually, at Subic Bay!

Black-faced Coucal (E)

Centropus melanops

We had a few encounters with this distinctive species at PICOP and on Bohol.

Greater Coucal

Centropus sinensis

Seen well on Palawan.

Note: We recorded the subspecies bubutus.



Philippine Coucal (E)*Centropus viridis*

We heard this attractive bird calling at almost all forest sites and had sightings at Mt. Kitinglad, Bislig, Subic Bay, and Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies *viridis*.

Lesser Coucal*Centropus bengalensis*

We had a couple of sightings of this retiring species at the Bislig airstrip, and elsewhere.

Note: We observed the subspecies *philippinensis*.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha (E)*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

We had brief views of this retiring, though beautiful, species on two occasions at Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies *harringtoni*.

Rough-crested (Red-crested) Malkoha (E)*Dasylophus superciliosus*

Those of us that didn't see this species at the Mt. Makiling Botanical Gardens were lucky to catch up at Subic Bay.

Note: We observed the subspecies *superciliosus*.

Scale-feathered Malkoha (E)*Dasylophus cumingi*

We had brilliant views of this truly spectacular bird on Mt. Makiling – definitely one of the tour highlights.

Note: We observed the subspecies *cagayanensis*.

Asian Koel*Eudynamis scolopaceus*

We had great views on Palawan early in the tour, and heard it often thereafter.

Note: We observed the subspecies *mindanensis*.

Violet Cuckoo*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

We had brief views on Palawan only.

Note: We observed the subspecies *xanthorhynchus*.

Plaintive Cuckoo*Cacomantis merulinus*

We had great views of a calling bird on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies *merulinus*.

Rusty-breasted (Brush) Cuckoo*Cacomantis sepulcralis*

We had good views of a calling bird, finally, on Bohol.

Notes: We observed the subspecies *sepulcralis*. This species was split from Brush Cuckoo, *C. variolosus*.

Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo (E)*Surniculus velutinus*

We earned an amazing view, at last, of this species on Bohol.

Notes: We observed the subspecies *velutinus*. This species was split from Asian Drongo-Cuckoo.

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo*Surniculus lugubris*

This widespread Asian bird, here represented by subspecies *brachyurus*, was heard calling and seen on several occasions in forested areas on Palawan.

Notes: We observed the subspecies *brachyurus*. This species underwent a name change from Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, following the splitting of the species.

Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo (E)*Hierococcyx pectoralis*

Our first encounter with this species was two scoped birds on Mt. Kitinglad. Thereafter, we heard it on numerous other occasions.

Note: This species was split from Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo, *C. nasicolor*.

Barn Owls Tytonidae

Eastern Grass Owl*Tyto longimembris*

We enjoyed a lengthy observation of two individuals at the Bislig Airport, well before sundown!

Note: We observed the subspecies *amauronota*.



Owls Strigidae

(H) Giant Scops Owl (E) *Otus gurneyi*

We were lucky to at least hear this species on Mt. Kitanglad.

Palawan Scops Owl (E) *Otus fuliginosus*

We had lengthy, great looks on the second try for this species. A lovely not-so-little owl!

Philippine Scops Owl (E) *Otus megalotis*

Perhaps the most cooperative of all the owls that we saw. We were lucky enough to see a juvenile on a day roost near Manila!

Everett's Scops Owl (E) *Otus everetti*

We had great looks at one of these owls at a roost site on Bohol, and glimpses at PICOP, Mindanao.

Note: This species was split from Philippine Scops Owl.

Mantanani Scops Owl (E) *Otus mantananai*

A family group of 4, including two downy chicks, on Cowrie Island, Palawan!!!

Luzon Scops Owl (E) *Otus longicornis*

We had an uncharacteristically easy time with this special bird, which perched up beautifully near Banahue, Luzon.

(H) Spotted Wood Owl *Strix seloputo*

Heard near Sabang, Palawan

Note: We recorded the subspecies wiepkeni.

Chocolate Boobook (Hawk-Owl) (E) *Ninox randi*

We had great views of a whopping four individuals at Subic Bay.

Note: This species was split from Brown Hawk-Owl.

(H) Mindanao Hawk-Owl (E) *Ninox spilocephala*

Many responding birds just didn't perch in the open for us.

Note: This species was split from Philippine Hawk-Owl.

Cebu Hawk-Owl (E) *Ninox rumseyi*

Another fairly recent split (no surprise, especially given the call!) that we found to be very responsive and cooperative during the day in Tabunan, Cebu!

Note: This species was split from Philippine Hawk-Owl.

Luzon Hawk-Owl (E) *Ninox philippensis*

We had no trouble finding this species at Subic Bay, when one flew right past our heads and perched up perfectly!

Notes: We observed the subspecies philippensis. This species was split from Philippine Hawk-Owl.

Frogmouths Podargidae

Philippine Frogmouth (E) *Batrachostomus septimus*

Excellent views of this nocturnal oddity were had at Mt. Kitanglad.

Notes: We observed the subspecies septimus.

Palawan Frogmouth (E) *Batrachostomus chaseni*

We had fine views of this relatively small Frogmouth on Palawan.

Note: This species was split from Javan Frogmouth.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*

This large nightjar was seen in small numbers at dawn and dusk throughout the main tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies macrotis.



Philippine Nightjar (E)

Caprimulgus manillensis

We had few views of this heard-often species, but one included a bird incubating eggs on its scrape!

Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae

Whiskered Treeswift

Hemiproctne comata

We enjoyed great scope views at Subic Bay and Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies major.

Swifts Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet

Collocalia esculenta

We found this bird to be ubiquitous in the Philippines.

Note: We observed the subspecies marginata on Luzon and bagobo on other islands.

Pygmy Swiftlet (E)

Collocalia troglodytes

Seen well at most sites throughout the tour.

Philippine Swiftlet (E)

Aerodramus mearnsi

We saw this species at high-elevation sites on Mindanao and Luzon.

Uniform Swiftlet

Aerodramus vanikorensis

Most of us caught up with this species during our time on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies palawanensis.

Ameline Swiftlet (E)

Aerodramus amelis

This species was relatively common at some low-elevation sites, including PICOP.

Note: This species was split from Uniform Swiftlet.

Germain's Swiftlet

Aerodramus germane

We saw this species at the St. Paul's Underground River NP, when we took the boatride through the vast cave complex.

Note: This species was split from Edible-nest Swiftlet.

Philippine Spine-tailed Swift (Needletail) (E)

Mearnsia picina

Small groups of these distinctive birds were seen at PICOP.

Brown-backed Needletail

Hirundapus giganteus

A few of the large, speedy swifts was seen during our visit to Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies giganteus.

Purple Needletail

Hirundapus celebensis

We saw this species on a couple of occasions at Mt. Makiling Botanical Gardens, and at Subic Bay.

Asian Palm Swift

Cypsiurus balasiensis

Great looks at several low-flying individuals on the grassland trail near Mt. Makiling.

House Swift

Apus nipalensis

Fairly numerous throughout the main tour, excluding Palawan.

Trogons Trogonidae

Philippine Trogon (E)

Harpactes ardens

We enjoyed several, fine, encounters with this species at Mt. Kitinglad, PICOP, and Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies linea on Bohol and ardens on Mindanao.

Rollers Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird

Eurystomus orientalis

We found this widespread and conspicuous species at a few sights during the tour, including Palawan, PICOP and Subic Bay.



Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Spotted Wood Kingfisher (E)*Actenoides lindsayi*

We had two splendid encounters with this ornate species on Mt. Makiling, with photos from each! We also heard the rare subspecies on Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies lindsayi on Luzon, and heard moseleyi on Negros

Hombron's (Blue-capped) Kingfisher (E)*Actenoides hombroni*

Another splendid bird that came as reward for our persistence. We were lucky to find a cooperative male that called long enough for me to track down its perch and put it in the scope at PICOP. Despite dense foliage, we had great views!

Ruddy Kingfisher*Halcyon coromanda*

A great spot by our local leader! An individual perched low over a stream near Sabang, Palawan.

White-throated (Brown-breasted) Kingfisher*Halcyon smyrnensis*

We found good numbers of this species at PICOP and Subic Bay, among other sites.

Note: We observed the subspecies gularis.

Winchell's (Rufous-lored) Kingfisher (E)*Todirhamphus winchelli*

It may have taken a long wait and a lot of back-and-forth but we did end up having one of these beauties at close range at PICOP. A great bird!

Note: We observed the subspecies mindanensis.

Collared Kingfisher*Todirhamphus chloris*

This widespread species was found throughout the tour in good numbers at virtually all lowland sites.

Note: We observed the subspecies collaris.

Blue-eared Kingfisher*Alcedo meninting*

We saw this species on our visit to the Puerto Princesa mangroves, near our lunch stop. A stunner!!!

Note: We observed the subspecies meninting.

Oriental (Rufous-backed) Dwarf Kingfisher*Ceyx erithaca*

We had several brief views of this quick little species as it darted around us, Iwahig, Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies motleyi.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher (E)*Alcedo cyanopectus*

Another beautiful kingfisher, and another one we had to work hard for! After a runaround at Mt. Makiling, we were very relieved to find one on our journey up to Banaue.

Note: We observed the subspecies cyanopectus.

Northern Silvery Kingfisher (E)*Alcedo flumenicola*

A real stunner! We found two with the help of a local guide on Bohol, at a tucked-away little waterway.

Note: This was split from the following species.

Southern Silvery Kingfisher (E)*Alcedo argentata*

Almost as gorgeous as its Northern counterpart, we had equally impressive views at a stakeout near PICOP.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Rufous-crowned Bee-eater (E)*Merops americanus*

We had wonderful views of this species in Subic Bay.

Note: This was a recent split from Blue-throated Bee-eater..

Blue-tailed Bee-eater*Merops philippinus*

This species was seen well at several locations on the main tour.

Note: We observed the endemic subspecies philippinus.



Hornbills Bucerotidae

Palawan Hornbill (E)

Anthracoceros marchei

I spotted one perched up, after a healthy wait, at a stakeout near Sabang. Becoming tricky...

Rufous Hornbill (E)

Buceros hydrocorax

Definitely one of the best-looking hornbills. Our local guide Sardo at PICOP had them nailed down at a nest hole right over the trail. Awesome!

Note: We observed the subspecies mindanensis.

Luzon Hornbill (E)

Penelopides manillae

We eventually caught up with these noisy birds at Subic Bay.

Note: This species was split from Tarictic Hornbill.

Mindanao Hornbill (E)

Penelopides affinis

Small numbers were seen on Mt. Kitinglad, and many more in the PICOP area.

Note: This species was split from Tarictic Hornbill.

Samar Hornbill (E)

Penelopides samarensis

We had splendid views of this species at Raja Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

Note: This species was split from Tarictic Hornbill.

(H) Visayan Hornbill (E)

Penelopides panini

This seldom-seen, endangered species was heard only, and was perhaps the nearest miss of the tour.

Note: This species was split from Tarictic Hornbill.

Wreathed Hornbill (E)

Aceros leucocephalus

We enjoyed great views of this species, in flight and perched, in lowland rainforest at PICOP.

Barbets Capitonidae

Coppersmith Barbet

Megalaima haemacephala

We heard this species on numerous occasions but only made a special effort to get good looks while we were in Subic Bay.

Note: We observed the subspecies haemacephala.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker (E)

Dendrocopos maculatus

We all had good looks at this species in several locations.

Note: We observed the ssp. validirostris, fulvifaciatus, and maculatus.

White-bellied Woodpecker

Dryocopus javensis

All of us had great views at Subic Bay of a bird woken from its roosting hole, while most of also saw it at PICOP, Mindanao.

Note: We observed the subspecies confusus on Luzon and multilunatus on Mindanao.

Spot-throated Flameback (E)

Dinopium everetti

We had great views of several individuals during our time on Palawan.

Note: This species was split from Common Flameback (Goldenback).

Buff-spotted Flameback (E)

Chrysocolaptes lucidus

We first saw this species on Mt. Kitanglad but had further, brief views on Bohol.

Notes: We observed the subspecies montanus on Mindanao and rufopunctatus on Bohol. This species was split from Greater Flameback.

Luzon Flameback (E)

Chrysocolaptes haematribon

A striking species and pleasantly common at Subic Bay.

Note: This species was split from Greater Flameback.



Yellow-faced Flameback (E)*Chrysocolaptes xanthocephalus*

We had only flybys of this species, responding to tape, though one client was able to view this exceedingly rare species perched, as well!

Note: This species was split from Greater Flameback.

Red-headed Flameback (E)*Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus*

We had an amazing encounter with a family group of three near Sabang, Palawan.

Note: This species was split from Greater Flameback

Sooty Woodpecker (E)*Mulleripicus funebris*

This lovely endemic woodpecker was seen in the beautiful forested areas near Subic Bay.

Note: We observed the subspecies funebris. This species is up for a split as Northern Sooty Woodpecker.

Great Slaty Woodpecker*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

One group came in very close and put on a spectacular show for us near Sabang, Palawan.

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Wattled Broadbill (E)*Eurylaimus steerii*

I spotted two of these beauties perched, 10m away, eye-level, at PICOP. Great views were enjoyed by all, though photo ops weren't stellar given the harsh, dappled lighting.

Visayan Broadbill (E)*Eurylaimus samarensis*

We were fortunate not to locate a calling Yellow-breasted Tailorbird on our last morning on Bohol. It gave us the run around long enough that a group of FOUR stunning Visayan Broadbills decided to make their presence known in spectacular fashion with three males displaying on a branch together for the snowy-white female present. They spent a full ten minutes in our presence, given us looks from every which angle we could desire, at times less than 10m distant. For most, this was the highlight of the entire tour!

Note: This species was split from Wattled Broadbill.

Pittas Pittidae

Red-bellied Pitta*Pitta erythrogaster*

We had this species both day, and night, on Palawan in the trail and I spotted one on roost. We also heard one that we did not put forth the effort to track down at PICOP, Mindanao.

Note: We observed the subspecies erythrogaster. This ssp is a likely split as Philippine Pitta.

Hooded Pitta*Pitta sordida*

Heard calling from several lowland forest sites throughout the tour and seen very well by everyone on Palawan on the trail at St. Paul's Underground River and on a night roost near Sabang.

Note: We observed the subspecies palawanensis.

Azure-breasted (Steere's) Pitta (E)*Pitta steerii*

This gorgeous bird was seen once at PICOP, perched up in full view.

Note: We observed the subspecies steerii.

Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone*Gerygone sulphurea*

We had great views of this species in the mangroves at Palawan, Candaba Marshes on Luzon, and at La Mesa EcoPark where we found an active nest!

Note: We observed the subspecies simplex.



Woodswallow Artamidae**White-breasted Woodswallow***Artamus leucorhynchus*

A widespread species seen on many days of the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies *leucorhynchus*.

Ioras Aegithinidae**Common Iora***Aegithina tiphia*

Seen on the first two days of the tour, on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies *aequanimis*.

Cuckooshrikes & Trillers Campephagidae**Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike***Coracina striata*

We had great views on Palawan, Mindanao, Luzon, Cebu, and Bohol. They were very active!

Note: We observed the subspecies *difficilis* on Palawan, *striata* on Luzon, *boholensis* on Bohol, *cebuensis* on Cebu, and *kochii* on Mindanao.

Blackish Cuckooshrike (E)*Coracina coerulescens*

We had two good views at Subic Bay.

Note: We observed the subspecies *coerulescens*.

Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike (E)*Coracina mindanensis*

We had great scope views of this species on two occasions at PICOP.

Note: We observed the subspecies *coerulescens*.

White-winged Cuckooshrike (E)*Coracina ostenta*

We all ended up having stellar views of this handsome species on Mt. Kanla-on, Negros.

McGregor's Cuckooshrike (E)*Coracina mcgregori*

We had well over a dozen on our hike up Mt. Kitinglad, Mindanao!

Black-and-White Triller*Lalage melanoleuca*

This often tricky species was encountered on our last day at PICOP, and did not disappoint.

Note: We observed the subspecies *minor*.

Pied Triller*Lalage nigra*

This was one of the first species seen on the tour, on Palawan. Thereafter it was only seen again on Cebu.

Note: We observed the subspecies *nigra*.

Fiery Minivet (NE)*Pericrocotus igneus*

A great find on Palawan.

Note: Relatively recent split from Small Minivet.

Scarlet Minivet*Pericrocotus flammeus*

Interestingly, only seen near PICOP.

Notes: We observed the subspecies *novus*.

Whistlers Pachycephalidae**(H) Green-backed Whistler (E)***Pachycephala albiventris*

We had surprisingly few encounters during our time in the Banaue area managing glimpses only.

White-vented Whistler (NE)*Pachycephala homeyeri*

Some of us missed this species on Cebu, but we had all seen it very well Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies *major* on Cebu and *winchelli* on Negros.

Yellow-bellied Whistler (E)*Pachycephala philippinensis*

Small numbers of this species were seen on Mt. Kitanglad and on Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies *boholensis* on Bohol and *apoensis* on Mindanao.



Shrikes Laniidae

Brown Shrike*Lanius cristatus*

This winter migrant was seen on a few occasion during the tour.

Long-tailed Shrike*Lanius schach*

This attractive, widespread species was first seen on Mt. Kitanglad.

Note: We observed the subspecies nasutus.

Mountain Shrike (E)*Lanius validirostris*

We all enjoyed stellar views of this bird on Mt. Polis, having encountered at least two scope-able individuals. It was a leader only on Mt. Kitinglad, earlier in the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies validirostris. Leaders noted the hachisuka ssp on Mindanao.

Orioles Oriolidae

Dark-throated Oriole*Oriolus xanthonotus*

We saw several of these beauties on Palawan.

Note: We observed the ssp persuasus.

Philippine Oriole (E)*Oriolus steerii*

Excellent scope views for most at PICOP, Mindanao.

Note: We observed the subspecies samarensis.

Black-naped Oriole*Oriolus chinensis*

First seen at PICOP but subsequently recorded on Luzon and Bohol on numerous occasions.

Note: We observed the subspecies chinensis.

Drongos Dicruridae

Ashy Drongo*Dicrurus leucophaeus*

Seen well on two days on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies leucophaeus.

Balicassiao (E)*Dicrurus balicassius*

We had great views of birds at Mt. Makiling, Subic Bay and Mt. Kanla-on, including a few nests found.

Note: We observed the subspecies mirabilis on Negros and balicassius on Luzon.

Hair-crested Drongo (E)*Dicrurus bracteatus*

We found this species at PICOP, on the island of Palawan and on Bohol.

Notes: We observed the subspecies samarensis on Bohol, striatus on Mindanao and palawanensis on Palawan. This species was split from Spangled Drongo.

Fantails Rhipidurae

Mindanao Blue Fantail (E)*Rhipidura superciliaris*

Seen daily at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: We observed the subspecies apo. This species was split from Blue Fantail.

(H) Visayan Blue Fantail (E)*Rhipidura samarensis*

Seen well by only myself, in the heavy rain. Heard by the group.

Note: This species was split from Blue Fantail.

Blue-headed Fantail (E)*Rhipidura cyaniceps*

Seen briefly on Mt. Polis. A surprisingly beautiful bird!

Visayan Fantail (E)*Rhipidura albiventris*

One of the very first species to show during our time on Mt. Kanla-on. A great little bird!

Note: This species was split from Blue-headed Fantail



Philippine Pied Fantail (E)*Rhipidura nigritorquis*

Seen on several days of the tour, a fairly common species in disturbed habitats.

Note: This species was split from Pied Fantail.

Black-and-cinamon Fantail (E)*Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea*

Fairly common in forest on Mt. Kitanglad, and incredibly handsome.

Note: We observed the subspecies hutchinsoni.

Monarch Flycatchers Monarchidae**Black-naped Monarch***Hypothymis azurea*

This widespread Asian species was seen on a handful of occasions, throughout the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies azurea.

Short-crested Monarch (E)*Hypothymis helenae*

This species was seen in a large mixed bird party, on our second day at PICOP.

Note: We observed the subspecies agusanae.

Celestial Monarch (E)*Hypothymis coelestis*

The group only had views of a non-breeding plumage, responsive, bird. I glimpsed a male. This species is becoming, sadly, exceptionally rare and hard to see.

Blue Paradise Flycatcher (E)*Terpsiphone cyanescens*

This magnificent Palawan endemic was seen on two days.

Rufous Paradise Flycatcher (NE)*Terpsiphone cinnamomea*

A few paired individuals were seen very well at PICOP, and hung around for photos!

Note: We observed the subspecies cinnamomea.

Crows Corvidae**Slender-billed Crow***Corvus enca*

Seen daily on the island of Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies pusillus.

Large-billed Crow*Corvus macrorhynchos*

Fairly common throughout the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies philippinus.

Tits Paridae**Elegant Tit (E)***Periparus elegans*

We encountered this pretty little species on Mt. Kitanglad, Mt. Polis, Cebu and Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies albescens on Negros, visayanus on Cebu, elegans on Luzon and mindanensis on Mindanao.

Palawan Tit (E)*Periparus amabilis*

We had great views of this species on the first day of the tour!

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae**Black-headed Bulbul***Pycnonotus atriceps*

Another widespread species found almost daily on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies atriceps.

Yellow-wattled Bulbul (E)*Pycnonotus urostictus*

A vocal but often retiring species that we found on all three days in the PICOP area, as well as on Bohol. We managed to locate three nests of this species, which have yet to be formally described.

Note: We observed the subspecies atricaudatus on Bohol and philippensis on Mindanao.



Yellow-vented Bulbul*Pycnonotus goiavier*

A common bird of secondary scrub, seen regularly throughout the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies samarensis on Bohol, goiavier on Luzon and Negros, and suluensis on Mindanao.

Ashy-fronted Bulbul (E)*Pycnonotus cinereifrons*

One of the very first species seen on the tour and one that we saw regularly on Palawan.

Note: This species was split from Olive-winged Bulbul.

Palawan (Gray-throated) Bulbul (E)*Alophoixus frater*

Fairly common and encountered almost every day while on Palawan.

Note: This species was split from Grey-cheeked Bulbul.

Sulphur-bellied Bulbul (E)*Iole palawanensis*

A rather inconspicuous bulbul but seen well in the Sabang area of Palawan.

Philippine Bulbul (E)*Hypsipetes philippinus*

This very common and vocal species was seen on almost every day of the tour after Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies saturator on Bohol, Cebu and Mindanao, and subspecies philippinus on Luzon.

Visayan Bulbul (E)*Hypsipetes guimarensis*

Despite being very vocal and very common in the forest, we had to wait until we reached suburban areas on Negros to see this species well.

Note: This species was split from Philippine Bulbul.

Streak-breasted Bulbul (E)*Hypsipetes siquijorensis*

With so many species facing extinction on Cebu, we were delighted to see this species. We had our best views when it came in to mob the Cebu Hawk-Owl!

Note: We observed the subspecies monticola.

Yellowish Bulbul (E)*Ixos everetti*

We saw several at PICOP, including birds coming to a fruiting tree that hosted at least a dozen species!

Note: We observed the subspecies everetti.

Martins & Swallows Hirundinidae**Grey-throated Martin***Riparia chinensis*

This species was seen at Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan.

Barn Swallow*Hirundo rustica*

We saw many of these winter migrants during the first half of the trip.

Pacific Swallow*Hirundo tahitica*

We first encountered this species near Sabang.

Note: We observed the subspecies javanica.

Striated Swallow*Cecropis striolata*

We had numerous encounters with this lovely species on several islands throughout.

Note: We observed the subspecies striolata.

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettidae**Mountain Tailorbird***Orthotomus cucullatus*

A few pairs of these delightful birds were seen well in the Mt. Polis area.

Note: We observed the subspecies philippinus.

Rufous-headed Tailorbird (E)*Phylloscopus heterolaemus*

Another little skulker that often takes a little work to see! In the end, however, we all managed to see at least one, during time on Mt. Kitanglad.

Note: This species was split from Mountain Tailorbird.



Philippine Bush Warbler (E)*Cettia seebohmi*

This was one of the first species we saw in the Mt. Polis area. Hearing numerous calling birds throughout the rest of the day, this was the only “Bush Warbler” that didn’t require ridiculous effort!

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae**Arctic Warbler***Phylloscopus borealis*

One individual was seen at Eden Mountain Resort.

Japanese Leaf Warbler*Phylloscopus xanthodryas*

After some deliberation, the guides decided one of the Leaf-Warblers seen on Palawan was this species.

*Three individuals belonging to the Arctic/Kamchatka Leaf/Japanese Leaf Warbler complex were observed during the tour. These individuals were not vocalizing, and were therefore left as *Phylloscopus* sp.

Philippine Leaf Warbler (E)*Phylloscopus olivaceus*

Seen almost daily in the PICOP area, and on Bohol.

Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler (E)*Phylloscopus cebuensis*

We had stellar views of four obliging individuals on Mt. Kanla-on, Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies cebuensis..

Negros Leaf Warbler (E)*Phylloscopus nigrorum*

We had great views on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao and on Mt. Polis, Luzon.

Notes: We observed the subspecies benguetensis on Luzon and flavostriatus on Mindanao. This species was split from Mountain Leaf Warbler.

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae**Clamorous Reed Warbler***Acrocephalus stentoreus*

Numerous individuals were seen and heard at Bislig Airstrip, and, even better, at Candaba Marsh Sanctuary.

Note: We observed the subspecies harterti.

Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae**Long-tailed Bush Warbler (E)***Bradypterus caudatus*

We had glimpses of this ridiculously difficult species on Mt Polis, when it scrambled across a wee landslip where we had placed the bluetooth speaker. This bird was only out-done by the following species.

Note: We observed the subspecies caudata.

Benguet Bush Warbler (E)*Bradypterus seebohmi*

Two of us managed a quick look at nearly the entire bird, for a split second, as it popped up out of the grass onto a pine root. It could’ve been a mouse...

Tawny Grassbird*Megalurus timoriensis*

Pairs and individuals of this species were eventually seen by all at various locations.

Note: We observed the subspecies crex.

Striated Grassbird*Megalurus palustris*

A common and conspicuous grassland species seen at several sites on the tour.

Note: We observed the subspecies forbesi.



Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae**Zitting Cisticola***Cisticola juncidis*

Seen well displaying over the rice paddies at Iwahig, Palawan, and near Candaba Marshes.

Note: We observed the subspecies tinnabulans.

Golden-headed Cisticola*Cisticola exilis*

Also seen by all at Bislig airstrip and near Mt. Makiling.

Note: We observed the subspecies semirufus.

Philippine Tailorbird (E)*Orthotomus castaneiceps*

Great views on Mt. Kanla-on, Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies rabori..

Trilling Tailorbird (E)*Orthotomus chloronotus*

After a lot of patience and effort, most of us were rewarded with sightings of this species at Subic Bay.

Notes: We observed the subspecies frontalis. This species was split from Philippine Tailorbird.

Rufous-fronted Tailorbird (E)*Orthotomus frontalis*

Seen very well at PICOP and on Bohol.

Notes: This species was split from Philippine Tailorbird.

Grey-backed Tailorbird (E)*Orthotomus derbianus*

Our morning on Mt. Makiling ended with sightings of this species. Also encountered at La Mesa Ecopark.

Note: We observed the subspecies derbianus.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird*Orthotomus sericeus*

Seen daily on the island of Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies sericeus.

Black-headed (White-browed) Tailorbird (E)*Orthotomus nigriceps*

Most of us managed to get onto this species at PICOP.

Yellow-breasted Tailorbird (E)*Orthotomus samarensis*

During our final morning of the tour, on Bohol, we were attempting to lure in this species (which we had heard often on the island) when we were distracted by a group of 4 Visayan Broadbills displaying overhead! Needless to say, we kind of forgot about the skulking Tailorbird, which seen by two of us.

Babblers Timaliidae**Pin-striped Tit-Babbler***Macronous gularis*

Found daily on the island of Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies woodi.

Brown Tit-Babbler (E)*Macronous striaticeps*

Noisy flocks of these birds were commonly encountered on our first and final days at PICOP, where we had unrivalled looks.

Note: We observed the subspecies mindanensis.

Striated Wren-Babbler (E)*Ptilocichla mindanensis*

We heard this shy species at PICOP every day, but it wasn't until our sighting on Bohol that we were afforded stellar views of a wonderfully cooperative individual that hopped circles around us.

Note: We observed the subspecies fortichi on Bohol and heard mindanensis on Mindanao.

Falcated Wren-Babbler (E)*Ptilocichla falcata*

For the local leader Mark, the bird of the tour. We were enjoying views of several species (including Blue-headed Racket-tail) in a fruiting mango when I heard something in the leaf litter behind us. I turned around, saw the bird, and hit the tape. For the next 10 minutes (until we walked away), we enjoyed incomparable views of this species, perched right up, singing its heart out for us at 5 m



distance, just below eye level. We managed some of the best photos imaginable of this typically elusive bird.

Ashy-headed Babbler (E)*Malacocincla cinereiceps*

We had great luck with this species luring a pair into view on a trail at St. Paul's Underground River, Palawan!

Melodious (Palawan) Babbler (E)*Malacopteron palawanense*

Unfortunately, this species was almost entirely invisible. A few of us saw it reasonably well enough to tick it, but our looks didn't go much beyond that.

White-eyes Zosteropidae**Chestnut-faced Babbler (E)***Zosterornis whiteheadi*

We found low numbers of this species during our time in the Mt. Polis area.

Note: We observed the subspecies whiteheadi.

Flame-templed Babbler (E)*Dasycrotapha speciosa*

We ended up with amazing views of this colorful babbler during our hike up Mt. Kanla-on.

Mindanao Pygmy Babbler (E)*Dasycrotapha plateni*

Great views of at least 3 family groups of this species at PICOP.

Note: This species was split from Pygmy Babbler.

Rusty-crowned Babbler (E)*Sterrhoptilus capitalis*

A few of these handsome birds were seen, in association with mixed-bird parties during our time at PICOP.

Note: We observed the subspecies euroaustralis.

Lowland White-eye (E)*Zosterops meyeri*

This was one of a few target species that we successfully found at La Mesa.

Note: We observed the subspecies meyeri.

Everett's White-eye*Zosterops everetti*

A handful of individuals was seen at PICOP, Mindanao, and on Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies basilanicus.

Yellowish White-eye (E)*Zosterops nigrorum*

We had our first few near Banahue, Luzon, and many more up Mt. Kanla-On, Negros.

Note: We observed the subspecies nigrorum on Negros, and aureiloris on Luzon.

Mountain White-eye*Zosterops montanus*

Very numerous on Mt. Kitanglad and several seen on Mt. Polis.

Note: We observed the subspecies vulcani on Mindanao and whiteheadi on Luzon.

Mindanao White-eye (E)*Lophozosterops goodfellowi*

Most of us had good views of this species the day we hiked higher up Mt. Kitinglad, though one in our party only had backlit views. Several were encountered, in pairs or small groups, amongst more numerous mixed-flock species.

Notes: This species was previously known as Black-masked White-eye.

Fairy-bluebirds Irenidae**Asian Fairy-bluebird***Irena puella*

This stunning bird was seen well on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies tweeddalei.

Philippine Fairy-bluebird (E)*Irena cyanogastra*

Our first sighting was a Leader Only, which irked me. Finally, we had a decent-enough look on Bohol, albeit brief.

Note: We observed the subspecies ellae on Bohol and heard hoogstrali on Mindanao.



Nuthatches Sittidae**Sulphur-billed Nuthatch (E)***Sitta oenochlamys*

We had multiple sightings on Mt. Kitanglad and again on Mt. Kanla-on, where some managed great photos.

Note: We observed the subspecies oenochlamys on Negros and apo on Mindanao.

Mynas, Starlings & Rhabdorni Sturnidae**Asian Glossy Starling***Aplonis panayensis*

A widespread Asian species, seen in good numbers, especially near towns and cities in the lowlands.

Note: We observed the subspecies panayensis.

Short-tailed Glossy Starling*Aplonis minor*

Only seen on Mt. Kitanglad, where we had scope views of several at nest holes.

Note: We observed the subspecies todayensis.

Apo Myna (E)*Basilornis mirandus*

We enjoyed wonderful views of several of these bizarre-looking birds on Mount Kitanglad.

Coledo (NE)*Sarcops calvus*

This peculiar endemic was seen at numerous sites, including PICOP, Subic Bay and Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies melanotus on Mindanao and Bohol, and calvus on Luzon.

Chestnut-cheeked Starling*Agropsar philippensis*

Two were observed in flight at the Bislig airport. They did not perch, but most of our group caught up with them for decent flight views.

Common Hill Myna*Gracula religiosa*

Fairly common during two of the days on Palawan.

Note: We observed the subspecies palawanensis.

Crested Myna*Acridotheres cristatellus*

Commonly seen around Subic Bay disturbed areas, namely the airstrip.

Note: We observed the subspecies cristatellus.

Stripe-headed Rhabdornis (E)*Rhabdornis mystacalis*

We had good views at Mt. Makiling, Subic Bay and PICOP.

Note: We observed the subspecies mystacalis on Luzon and minor on Mindanao.

Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis (E)*Rhabdornis inornatus*

We had great looks at several birds on Mt. Kitanglad.

Note: We observed the subspecies alaris on Mindanao.

Visayan Rhabdornis (E)*Rhabdornis panayensis*

Glimpsed by one of our group on Negros, the first to respond to my wild gesturing.

Note: This is a recent split from Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis that looks remarkably similar to Grand.

Thrushes Turdidae**Ashy Thrush (E)***Geokichla cinerea*

We picked up this special species at La Mesa EcoPark, where two pairs are now nesting!

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae**Philippine Magpie-Robin (E)***Copsychus saularis*

Seen well near PICOP, Mindanao, and on Cebu.

Note: This species was split from Oriental Magpie-Robin.

White-browed Shama (E)*Copsychus luzoniensis*

Serious persistence and patience finally paid off when we managed great views of this ghost songster during our morning visit up Mt. Kanla-On.



Note: We observed the subspecies luzoniensis.

(H) Visayan Shama (E)

Copsychus superciliaris

We like to tell ourselves that, just as we were drawing near that defining view, rain foiled our attempts to see this frustrating species. This would be plausible, had our attempts at two other singing individuals seen any different outcome than our final attempt had. In essence, we got sick of hearing it sing, mockingly, just beyond view.

Note: Recently split from the preceding species.

White-vented Shama (E)

Copsychus niger

We had great experiences with this, the only, cooperative shama.

Black Shama (E)

Copsychus cebuensis

One very responsive bird was seen well in flight at Tabunan. That translates to: we tried repeatedly for perched views, but settled for the several flight views we had of this tricky species.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher

Muscicapa griseisticta

Seen daily on Palawan and Mt. Kitinglad.

Palawan Blue Flycatcher (E)

Cyornis lemprieri

We enjoyed stellar views of this furtive species in St. Paul's NP!

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher

Cyornis rufigastra

One individual gave crippling views at Tabunan, Cebu. What a beauty!

Note: We observed the subspecies philippensis.

Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher

Cyornis ruficauda

We had great views of three at PICOP, and another in full song at Raj Sikutuna, Bohol.

Note: We observed the samarensis ssp on Mindanao, and boholensis on Bohol.

Turquoise Flycatcher (NE)

Eumyias panayensis

Recorded regularly on Mt. Kitanglad and in the Mt. Polis area.

Note: We observed the subspecies negrimentalis on Luzon and nigriloris on Mindanao.

White-browed Shortwing

Brachypteryx montana

We heard this shy species on Mt. Kitanglad and Mt. Polis. A few of our party managed brief looks on Kitinglad.

Note: We observed the ssp. malindangensis.

(H) Little Slaty Flycatcher

Ficedula basilanica

Unfortunately, a no-show that was heard once only at PICOP, where uncommon at best.

Palawan Flycatcher (E)

Ficedula platenea

Great views after a bit of persistence at Iwahig. A cute, charismatic species.

Russet-tailed Flycatcher (E)

Ficedula crypta

I tracked down a singing pair at Eden Mountain Resort, where they were staked out. Tiny birds!

Little Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula westermanni

We encountered numerous mated pairs during our time on Mt. Kitanglad and in the Mt. Polis area.

Note: We observed the subspecies rabori on Luzon and westermanni on Mindanao.

Luzon Water Redstart (E)

Rhyacornis bicolor

Fabulous views of a pair near Banahue!

Pied Bush Chat

Saxicola caprata

This widespread Asian species was first seen during our ascent to the Mt. Kitanglad camp. Thereafter it was encountered in Luzon.

Note: We observed the subspecies caprata on Luzon and anderseni on Mindanao.

Leafbirds Chloropseidae

Philippine Leafbird (E)

Chloropsis flavipennis

We saw but two of these during our time at PICOP.



Yellow-throated Leafbird (E)*Chloropsis palawanensis*

An attractive species that we saw every day on Palawan, often with mixed flocks.

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**Olive-backed Flowerpecker (E)***Prionochilus olivaceus*

We all had luck with this species during at PICOP, where it was coming to a fruiting tree with a dozen other species!

Note: We observed the subspecies olivaceus.

Palawan Flowerpecker (E)*Prionochilus plateni*

This fine Palawan endemic was one of the first species seen on the tour. What a beauty!

Note: We observed the subspecies plateni.

Striped (Thick-billed) Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum aeruginosum*

We only had the briefest of views of this species at PICOP, where it is very uncommon.

Note: We observed the subspecies striatissimum.

Whiskered Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum proprium*

We had a great experience with 4 individuals at a staked out area near Eden Mountain Resort, Mindanao. A first for Rockjumper!

Olive-capped Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum nigrilore*

Pleasantly common during our time on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao, where we saw many.

Note: We observed the subspecies nigrilore.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum anthonyi*

We managed brief, satisfactory, views of one individual on Mt. Polis, Luzon, where bird activity was surprisingly slow this year.

Note: We observed the subspecies anthonyi.

Bicolored Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum bicolor*

This species was first encountered near Eden Mountain Resort, again at PICOP, and finally on Bohol where we had a tree with 7 of them in a treetop at once!

Note: We observed the subspecies bicolor.

Red-keeled (Red-striped) Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum australe*

We enjoyed many sightings of this striking bird at Mt. Makiling, PICOP, Cebu, and Bohol.

Black-belted (Red-keeled) Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum haematostictum*

We had one individual perched up very nicely at a resort near Mt. Kanla-On, Negros!

Note: This species was split from Red-keeled/Red-striped Flowerpecker.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker*Dicaeum trigonostigma*

We found several of these beauties at PICOP, including a nest, and on Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies cinereigulare.

Buzzing Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum hypoleuca*

We had great views on Mt. Makiling, including an attended nest, PICOP, and Cebu.

Note: Obscurum and Pontifex ssp observed.

Pygmy Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum pygmaeum*

We had superb views of a few birds on Palawan, Banahue (Luzon), and finally on Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies palawanorum, pygmaeum, and davao, respectively.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker*Dicaeum ignipectus*

Another gorgeously striking flowerpecker, seen on Mt. Kitinglad and Mt. Polis.

Note: On Mindanao we observed the subspecies apo, luzoniense was seen on Luzon.



Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Brown-throated Sunbird

Anthreptes malacensis

Not the most obliging species of Sunbird on the tour, but we did manage to get views of a few different individuals during our first day on Palawan.

Notes: We observed the subspecies paraguae. This species was split from Plain-throated Sunbird

Purple-throated Sunbird (E)

Leptocoma sperata

This flashy sunbird was first seen on Palawan and further enjoyed near PICOP and on Bohol.

Note: We observed the subspecies sperata, trochilus, and juliae, respectively. Van Hasselt's Sunbird was recently split from this species, making this species an endemic, now!

Copper-throated Sunbird

Leptocoma calcostetha

We managed great looks at a pair in the mangroves near Sabang, after a bit of patience.

Olive-backed Sunbird

Cinnyris jugularis

This widespread Asian species was found in good numbers on Palawan and on various islands thereafter.

Note: We observed the subspecies aurora on Palawan and jugularis elsewhere.

Gray-hooded Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga primigenia

This montane Mindanao endemic was seen regularly on Mt. Kitinglad, including locating a nest.

Note: We observed the subspecies primigenia.

Apo Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga boltoni

Who can forget our efforts to see this species on Mt. Kitanglad???

Note: We observed the subspecies malindangensis.

Flaming Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga flagrans

We had great views of a few pairs feeding at a blossoming tree on Mt. Makiling.

Note: We observed the subspecies flagrans.

Maroon-naped Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga guimaraes

This recent split put on a surprise appearance for us on Mt. Kanla-on, Negros! It was our local guide's first encounter with this enigmatic species at the site.

Note: This was split from Flaming Sunbird.

Metallic-winged Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga pulcherrima

We ended up seeing a dozen or so individuals during our three days birding PICOP, mostly in mixed flocks.

Luzon Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga jefferyi

Shockingly, we only had one good sighting at Mt. Polis, where I spied a singing male that spent a good amount of time on his preferred perch.

Note: This species was split from Metallic-winged Sunbird.

Bohol Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga decorosa

We ended up seeing this species on our last two outings on Bohol.

Note: This species was split from Metallic-winged Sunbird.

Lovely Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga shelleyi

Good numbers of these stunningly beautiful birds were seen on Palawan.

Handsome Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga bella

Both males and females of this species were seen well at PICOP, and again on Bohol.

Notes: We observed the subspecies bella. This species was split from Lovely Sunbird.

Magnificent Sunbird (E)

Aethopyga magnifica

Well named! This glowing species was seen exceptionally well as it mobbed a Cebu Hawk-Owl on Tabunan. Quite the experience for us to witness!

Note: This species was split from Crimson Sunbird.



Orange-tufted Spiderhunter (E)*Arachnothera flammifera*

We only saw this species well once, at Eden Mountain Resort, Mindanao.

Notes: Notes: We observed the subspecies flammifera. This species was split from Little Spiderhunter.

Pale Spiderhunter (E)*Arachnothera dilutior*

We ended up with great views at Iwahig, after decent looks near the Cockatoo Point on Palawan.

Note: This species was split from Little Spiderhunter.

Naked-faced Spiderhunter (E)*Arachnothera clarae*

Great experiences with this impressive species at PICOP, including observing a bird carrying food to a nest!

Notes: We observed the subspecies clarae.

Old World Sparrows Ploceidae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow*Passer montanus*

This introduced species was common in all towns and cities.

Cinnamon Ibon (White-eye) (E)*Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*

Several pairs and small groups were seen on Mt. Kitanglad, in mixed flocks.

Parrotfinches & Munias Estrilidae

Red-eared Parrotfinch (E)*Erythrura coloria*

We had fine views of this little gem both days on Mt. Kitinglad.

Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannakin)*Lonchura punctulata*

This widespread Asian species was seen on Mindanao, Luzon, and at Iwahig on Palawan.

Notes: We observed the subspecies cabanisi.

White-bellied Munia*Lonchura leucogastra*

We all had great views on Palawan, Candaba Marshes (Luzon), and building a nest on Mt. Kanla-On, Negros.

Notes: We observed the subspecies everetti on Luzon and manuei elsewhere.

Chestnut Munia*Lonchura malacca*

Regularly encountered in all grassland/rice paddy habitats throughout the tour.

Notes: We observed the subspecies jagori.

Pipits & Wagtails Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail*Motacilla tschutchensis*

This wintering migrant was recorded at Iwahig, Palawan.

Note: taivana subspecies observed, presumably.

Grey Wagtail*Motacilla cinerea*

We had two encounter with this species on Mindanao.

Paddyfield Pipit*Anthus rufulus*

Fairly common in grassy habitats on Palawan, Mindanao, and Luzon.

Notes: We observed the subspecies lugubris.

Finches Fringillidae

(H) White-cheeked Bullfinch (E)*Pyrrhulla leucogenis*

Unfortunately, these were a flyby heard-only on Mt. Polis. Three came over us on Mt. Kitinglad, but it was during our unbeatable encounter with two Philippine Eagles, so little attention was paid.



Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

Large Flying Fox*Pteropus vampyrus*

We saw thousands of these impressive creatures at Subic Bay and a few less on Negros.

Island Flying Fox*Pteropus hypomelanus*

This was the most abundant species at the resort on Negros.

Golden-crowned Flying Fox*Acerodon jubatus*

A large number of individuals were seen together with the Large Flying Foxes, in Subic Bay.

Philippine Flying Lemur (Colugo)*Cynocephalus volans*

We had excellent views of a mated pair at Rajah Sikatuna NP on Bohol. What a great mammal!

Philippine Tarsier*Tarsius philippensis*

Always a delight to see, we made a special stop to admire these cute gremlins of the mammal world.

Long-tailed Macaque*Macaca fascicularis*

Seen at very close range on Palawan and at Subic Bay.

Philippine Pygmy Squirrel*Exilisciurus concinnus*

A few seen during the tour.

Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel*Sundasciurus juvencus*

Seen at both St. Paul's Underground River NP and again along the Iwahig Penal Colony trail on the island of Palawan.

Mindanao Tree Squirrel*Sundasciurus mindanensis*

One was seen in the forest of PICOP, Mindanao.

Bohol Squirrel*Sundasciurus boholensis*

We found two scurrying through the trees over a forested road on Bohol.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Wagler's Pit Viper**Philippine Monitor****Cane Toad****Dog-faced Water Snake****Gray's Monitor****Philippine Forest Toad****Mueller's Wolf Snake****Common House Gecko****Hawksbill Sea Turtle****Philippine Sailfin Lizard****Tokay Gecko****Oriental Box Turtle****Mindanao Flying Dragon****Philippine Fling Dragon****Philippine Longneck**

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