



The stunning –and endemic- Azure-breasted (Steere’s) Pitta showed exceedingly well several times during the tour. And they were the “real” thing, wild birds in the forest and no “tame”, staked-out birds at feeding stations (Dani Lopez-Velasco).

ULTIMATE PHILIPPINES

18 JANUARY – 7 / 13 FEBRUARY 2015

LEADER: DANI LOPEZ-VELASCO

This year’s Ultimate Philippines tour was yet again another highly successful tour to this avian endemic paradise. The first three weeks focused on the better-known islands of Luzon, Palawan and Mindanao, and here we saw some of those mind-blowing, world’s must-see birds, including Philippine Eagle, Palawan Peacock-Pheasant, Azure-breasted Pitta and Luzon Bleeding-heart (singing from a branch!), amongst many other endemics. The extension took us to the central Visayas where exciting endemics such as Negros Striped Babbler or the recently described Cebu Hawk-Owl were seen well. Our success rate with the endemic targets – the ones you come here for- was overall very good, and highlights included no less than 12 species of owl recorded, including mega views of Philippine Eagle-Owl, 11 species of beautiful kingfishers, including Hombron’s (Blue-capped Wood) and Spotted Wood and the 5 possible endemic

racket-tails. Odd looking Philippine and Palawan Frogmouths gave the best possible views, impressive Rufous and Writhed Hornbills (amongst 7 species of endemic hornbills) delighted us, and both Scale-feathered and Rough-crested (Red-c) Malkohas proved easy to see. A pair of Ashy Ground Thrushes were seen at point blank range, skulking Falcated and Striated Wren-Babblers were lured into view, an amazing male Celestial Monarch, getting very rare these days, was seen nicely after a lot of effort, together with Short-crested Monarch, and the rare White-fronted Tit gave also prolonged scope views as it sang from a dead snag. 12 species of flowerpeckers, including the scarce Flame-crowned, were seen, as well as no less than 14 species of sunbirds, including Apo and the recently split Magnificent Sunbird. A critically endangered male Baer's Pochard was a huge bonus at Candaba, and the Yellow-browed Warbler we found at Polis was probably the first documented record in the Philippines. Deforestation is at its worst in these islands, and seeing the forest disappear in front of your eyes is always a sad sight. In no time and unless urgent conservation work takes place, some of these exciting endemics will no longer exist, so it's a bit of a privilege every time you get to see these endangered birds.



The old male Palawan Peacock-Pheasant at St Pauls (DLV)

Our 'Ultimate Philippines' adventure began at Manila airport and we were soon heading off towards Subic Bay. We made a quick stop at Candaba Marsh, but by the time we arrived it was already quite dark, so few birds were seen (no problem though, as we would visit the place later on the tour).

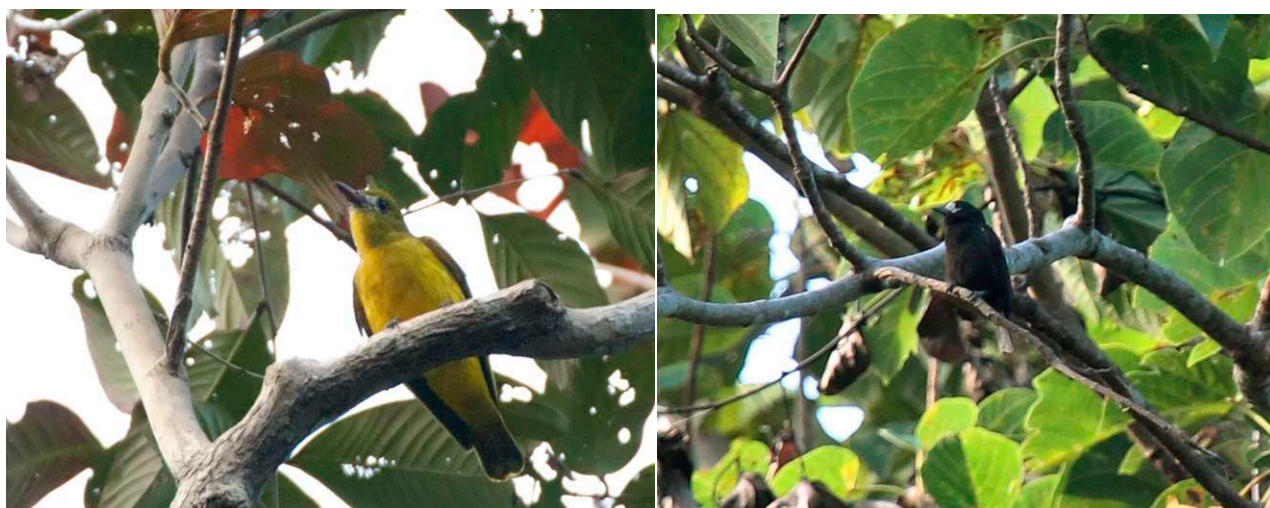
Several nightbird species occur in the Subic area, so our first owling session took place early next morning. Things started very well, with a pair of obliging Chocolate Boobooks sitting on telephone wires by the road. We then tried for Luzon Hawk-Owl, which gave good views, while a Great-eared Nightjar was also seen. The rest of the day was spent birding the various spots at Subic, and it proved to be very successful. Two pairs of vocal Philippine Serpent Eagles soared overhead, while Crested Goshawk, Besra, Common Emerald and White-eared Brown Doves, Philippine Green and Green Imperial Pigeons and endemic Guaibero were all seen in the area. The scarce Green Racket-tail was seen very well both perched and in flight, and a couple of flocks of endemic Rufous Coucals were easier to see than usual, while noisy Blue-naped Parrots were pleasantly common. Delightful Whiskered Treeswifts, Luzon Hornbills and active Bar-bellied and Blackish Cuckooshrikes were all logged as well. White-bellied, Northern Sooty and Luzon Flameback – the latter a recent split from Greater Flameback - also performed, Rufous-crowned Bee-eaters were conspicuous on the wires (a split from Blue-throated), and Brown-breasted Kingfishers (split by some from White-throated) were commonly seen along the road. Other notable additions included two pairs of Philippine Falconets, some

Elegant Tits, the ubiquitous Philippine Bulbul, Coletto, the shy White-browed Shama singing its beautiful song, and spectacular Rough-crested and Scale-feathered Malkohas – both trip favourites!-. In the afternoon we visited another patch of forest, in search of the rare White-fronted Tit, but it was predictably quiet, and there was sign of our target, only adding Ashy Minivet to our list. Another owling session in the evening gave us fantastic views of Philippine Scops Owl, as well as another Chocolate Boobook.



Northern Sooty Woodpecker (DLV), Luzon Flameback (André d'Penha) and White-browed Shama (DLV) were all seen at Subic.

Before leaving Subic the next day we had time for some early morning birding. We tried first for White-lored Oriole, and in no time we found a very confiding pair, which gave great views. Afterwards we visited the White-fronted Tit area again, and this time we got lucky, as a bird quickly responded. It flew towards us from quite some distance, landed on a dead snag, and showed superbly in the scope for some time. Success! It was then time to sit back for the long drive north to Banaue. In the late afternoon, we stopped at the river at Lagawe, where there was no sign of the usual Indigo-banded Kingfisher. Eventually, we made it to our hotel at Banaue for a well-deserved dinner.



The two most difficult Subic specialities, White-lored Oriole, left, and White-fronted Tit, right (DLV)

We set off very early next morning, looking for the endemic Luzon Scops Owl in the montane forest above town, but although we heard a couple of birds pretty close, we couldn't lure them into view. After dawn, bird activity started to pick up, and we spent some time looking for and at mixed flocks, which contained a number of new species for us, including Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker, Green-backed Whistler, Negros Leaf Warbler (a split from Mountain Leaf), Blue-headed Fantail, Citrine Canary Flycatcher, Luzon Bush Warbler and Mountain White-eye. Tireless Sulphur-billed Nuthatches were seen creeping up tree trunks, striking Little Pied Flycatchers flittered around, both Luzon Sunbird (split from Metallic-winged) and the scarce Flame-crowned Flowerpecker busily fed on roadside flowers, and small flocks of Chestnut-faced Babbler flew from tree to tree. Several endemic Mountain Shrikes – a species than can be tricky to see at

times- perched out in the open. However, bird of the day was definitely the stunning and rare Flame-breasted Fruit Dove that Andrea found for us perched in a tree. We enjoyed excellent scope views of this mega dove, which is rapidly declining due to deforestation and illegal bird trapping, until it flew off. A roadside stake-out for Luzon Water Redstart didn't deliver the hoped for bird. Afterwards we had lunch at Bay-yo, overlooking some rice-terraces and spending some time scanning the river until we eventually found the priced redstart. Nearby we also had brief views of a flock of Red Crossbill of the endemic, and rare, *luzoniensis* subspecies. Nearby, we tried at the usual place for the skulking Benguet Bush Warbler, but for some reason the birds kept very quiet and weren't interested in the tape at all. On the way back we stopped at the famous Banaue rice terraces, where we saw a Cinnamon Bittern, a Common Moorhen and several Buff-banded Rails. We then finished off the day in the hotel gardens, where we added Bicolored Flowerpecker and a flock of Yellowish White-eyes to our list.



Mountain Shrike at Mt Polis (DLV).

We only had a few target birds for our second day at Mount Polis, and started off with another attempt at Luzon Scops Owl. Unfortunately, the birds were again uncooperative, despite all of our efforts, hearing them calling fairly close but failing to see them. Once dawn broke, a single Montane (Luzon) Racket-tail gave great views, and we spent the rest of the morning looking at more or less the same species as the previous day, adding Mountain Tailorbird to our list, while a skulking Long-tailed Bush Warbler was only glimpsed. While having our lunch I heard a call that sounded just like a Yellow-browed Warbler (a mega rarity in the Philippines), and went to look for it, obviously thinking it would be just a common bird making a funny call. However, it took only five minutes to confirm my initial thought: it was indeed a Yellow-browed Warbler. I quickly alerted the group and during the next 10 minutes we all enjoyed good views of this *phylloscopus*, apparently the third record for the Philippines and possibly the first well documented one. Another afternoon attempt at Benguet Bush Warbler produced the same results as the previous day, with only one bird calling distantly from a steep slope. Before dinner, we made tried again for Luzon Scops Owl at a different spot, and

within no time we heard a bird calling. The bird wasn't very responsive, although I managed to spotlight it briefly before it flew off. We managed to call it in again, and this time the owl landed in an easier, isolated tree, with some of us at least seeing it in flight. However, luck was definitely not on our side that night, as suddenly the fog came in, not letting us see more than a metre away! We waited and waited but after almost an hour there was no sign of the fog lifting up, so reluctantly decided to go back to the hotel.



Luzon (split from Metallic-winged) Sunbird and Negros (split from Mountain) Leaf Warbler. (DLV)

We left Banaue early the next day for the long drive back to Manila, after another unsuccessful attempt at the skittish scops owl. A stop at the Lagawe river gave the hoped for Indigo-banded Kingfisher, which gave good scope views sitting on some rocks by the river. Our target for the day was the rare and impressive Philippine Eagle-Owl, which until recently was pretty much a dream-only for any visiting birder. However, Angono, famous for its petroglyphs, is home in recent years to a pair of these impressive owls, and that's where we were heading. We were not to be disappointed as we had stunning views of an adult roosting in a tree, as well as a chick in the nest. One of the birds of the trip! After this, we arrived in good time to enjoy our luxury hotel in Manila.



The impressive Philippine Eagle-Owl was seen very well near Manila. (Dani Lopez-Velasco)

Our flight to Palawan was early in the morning and as soon as we arrived at Puerto Princesa we headed to a nearby beach. We quickly found our target, the endangered Chinese Egret, which gave excellent view. A few waders were also present, including Grey-tailed Tattlers, Greater Sand Plover and Pacific Golden Plovers, while the mangroves held several Philippine Pied Fantails and some Black-headed Bulbuls. The rest of the day was spent birding along the road to Sabang, scoring a good number of endemics. A pair of the critically endangered Red-vented (Philippine) Cockatoo was seen both perched and in flight, several distinctive Palawan Hornbills showed at length, two groups of Blue-headed Racket-tails flew overhead, showing their distinctly shaped tails, brightly colored Fiery Minivets flittered about, Yellow-throated Leafbirds perched in the canopy, and both Palawan Drongos and noisy Palawan Crows obliged. A brief Red-headed Flameback was a leader-only bird, but on the other hand, colorful Palawan Flowerpeckers were far more cooperative, and in the same area we noted the subtle differences between Ashy-fronted, Sulphur-bellied and Palawan Bulbuls. Other birds seen included Pin-striped Tit-Babbler, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Asian Fairy Bluebird, Striped and Pygmy Flowerpeckers, Brown-throated and Copper-throated Sunbirds and Pale Spiderhunter. In the evening, we enjoyed fantastic views of Palawan Scops Owl, as well as a roosting Hooded Pitta. All in all, a highly productive first day in the island.

In the early morning we took a boat to St Paul's National Park, seeing some Pacific Reef Herons on the way, and within minutes of arriving we had found our main target, the stunning Palawan Peacock-Pheasant, one of those must-see birds in the world. This habituated individual is getting old and as soon as it dies, the species will return to its former highly sought-after and extremely elusive status. The same area also gave us two showy Philippine Megapodes, a very obliging Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher and a variety of endemics including a White-vented Shama, a pair of Ashy-headed Babbblers, Spot-throated Flameback (split from Common Flameback) and Palawan Blue Flycatcher. In the afternoon we did some roadside birding, which produced Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Plaintive Cuckoo, a pair of prehistoric looking Great Slaty Woodpeckers, Mangrove Whistler, Dark-throated Oriole, Common Hill Myna, Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha. In the evening we had great views of Palawan Frogmouth (split from Javan), as well as another Palawan Scops Owl and a confiding Large-tailed Nightjar.



Beautiful Palawan scenery (Marc Junio)



Pale Spiderhunter (split from Little), Lovely Sunbird (split from Handsome) and Philippine Megapode (André d'Penha)

The endemic Palawan Tit had so far eluded us, so we spent some time looking for it next morning. We soon heard their calls at the second spot where we stopped, and we were soon enjoying good views of this cute endemic. We then visited a nearby beach for Malaysian Plover, but, like last year, drew a blank; perhaps this threatened bird has abandoned the site due to the ever-increasing numbers of tourists. After an excellent lunch it was time to leave Sabang and St Paul's, surely one of the loveliest places in the Philippines. In the afternoon, we drove towards Puento Princesa, seeing Crested Serpent Eagle, Western Osprey and Javan Pond Heron on the way. After checking in at our hotel, we visited some nearby rice paddies, where a variety

of waders and herons were seen, as well as a confiding White-browed Crake.



A pristine beach at St Pauls National Park (Marc Junio)

We spent most of the next day birding around the Iwahig Penal Colony. In the early morning we worked the Balsahan Trail, where we had good views of the endemic Palawan Flycatcher. Melodious Babblers were, for a change, easy to see this year, and we had excellent looks at them as well. The endemic Blue Paradise Flycatcher was also seen in the forest, and a pair of eye-level Lovely Sunbirds was also a welcome sight. We then tried for Red-headed Flameback, but the only woodpeckers on show were a pair of Spot-throated Flamebacks. A quick stop at some rice paddies gave us good numbers of waders including Common and Pin-tailed/Swinhoe's Snipes (not really possible to tell apart except when good pictures showing outer tail feathers are taken), Long-toed and Red-necked Stints, Redshank, Marsh Sandpiper, as well as flocks of Chestnut, White-bellied and Scaly-breasted Munias. To finish off the day, we took a boat out to a small offshore island in search of Mantanani Scops Owl. As it got dark, the owls started calling, and, while surprisingly they didn't seem very interested in the playback at all, we ended up having good views of a calling bird, sitting very low down. Pleased with our success, we took the boat back to the mainland and drove on to Puerto Princesa for the night.



The endemic Palawan Flycatcher (DLV)

Early next morning we took a flight to Manila and then to Davao on the island of Mindanao. We arrived there mid afternoon and then drove eastwards to our base for the next few days, the Paper Country Inn at Bislig.

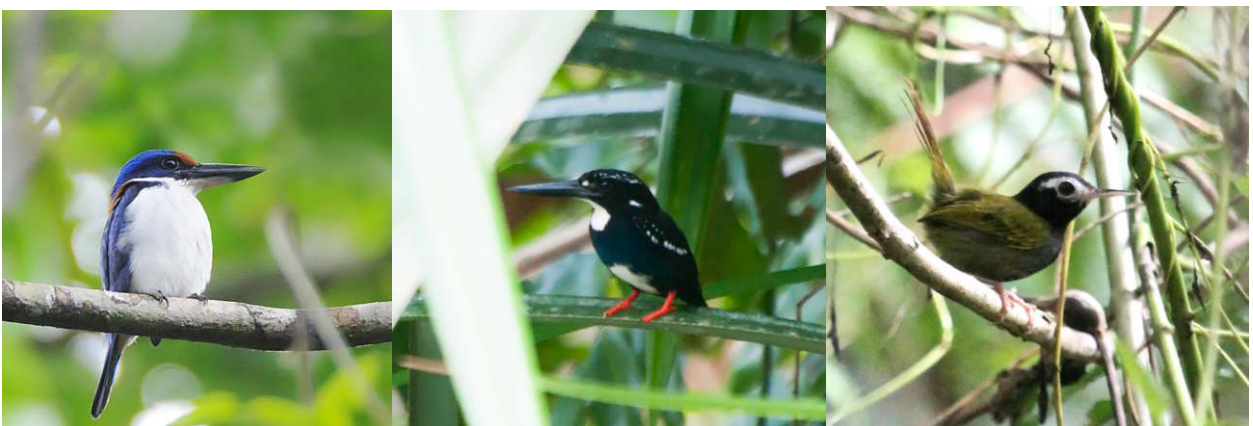
During our first day in what remains of the PICOP logging concession we managed to see a good selection of endemics. Our usual early start and bumpy jeepney ride into the former concession was in the dark, in time to track down a calling Mindanao Hawk-Owl. After some coffee we started birding, with one of the first birds seen being a stunning and very confiding Azure-breasted (Steere's) Pitta. What a cracker! Further on the trail we came across a mixed flock containing a pair of Philippine Leafbirds, plus other goodies such as endemic Short-crested Monarch, Mindanao Blue Fantail, Yellowish and Yellow-wattled Bulbuls, Rusty-Crowned and Mindanao Pygmy Babblers as well as Yellow-bellied Whistlers. A vocal pair of Striated Wren-Babblers (Streaked Ground Babbler) gave very good views, and we also managed to pull a Black-headed Tailorbird out of its thick home, while Rufous-fronted Tailorbird and Philippine Magpie Robin were easier to see. Philippine Orioles were in evidence in the canopy, at least 3 Black-faced Coucals and a Rufous Paradise Flycatcher showed well, and a pair of Philippine Trogons posed nicely in the scope. A calling Winchell's (Rufous-lore) Kingfisher was first heard and after some time eventually found sitting motionless on a branch and gave good views. Active Brown Tit-Babblers moved through the undergrowth, and several Mindanao Hornbills and Philippine Hanging Parrots –which had somehow eluded us until now - were also logged. Flowerpeckers were much in evidence in the area, and we enjoyed good looks at Olive-backed, Red-keeled, Orange-bellied and Pygmy. Overhead, at least 5 Steere's Honey Buzzards (split from Barred) and a pair of Philippine Serpent Eagles soared, while Some Blue-crowned Racket-tails were also seen in the scope. After our picnic we returned back to Bislig, stopping to admire the faithful and always brilliant Southern Silvery Kingfisher on its pool. In the afternoon we paid a visit to the airfield, where we saw several

new species, including Wandering Whistling Duck, Philippine Duck, King Quail, Yellow Bittern, Philippine Swamphen (split by some from Purple), Clamorous Reed Warbler, a showy Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler and a pair of Golden-headed Cisticolas. As dusk fell, we waited for the previously easy (not anymore) Australasian Grass Owl to make an appearance, but only Philippine Nightjars showed up.



Deforestation at PICOP, left, is one of the main reasons for the decline of such stunning birds as the endemic Rufous Hornbill. (André d'Penha)

Next morning, we headed out early again to try for some nightbirds. Highlight of the owling session was a responsive Philippine Frogmouth. Most of the day was spent on a trail through forested hills (the best bit of habitat remaining PICOP). We got pretty much rained out, but nevertheless managed to see some notable species. After a bit of effort, we found 2 different Hombron's (Blue-capped Wood) Kingfishers, a cracking endemic. A flowering tree attracted plenty of birds, including Orange-tufted and Naked-faced Spiderhunters, and plenty of Purple-throated and Metallic-winged Sunbirds. Between rain shower and rain shower, a family of Rufous Hornbills was admired in the scope. Probably due to the almost non-stop, heavy rain, only one flock was located, which, amongst other birds, held Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, Philippine Leaf Warbler and Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher. As we were walking back, several Philippine Spine-tailed Swifts (Philippine Needletails) flew over the forest and gave good views. After our picnic it started to rain pretty heavily again, so we decided to call it a day and headed back to our hotel.



Some PICOP specialities: Whinchell's and Southern Silvery Kingfishers and Black-headed Tailorbird. (DLV and André d'Penha)

We started well before dawn next morning. A Giant Scops Owl called pretty close but, as usual with the species, remained silent and didn't respond. We tried to get closer and started with the playback again, but the owl remained silent and we ended up with untickable flight views. On the other hand, Mindanao Hawk-Owls were far more responsive and allowed excellent views. Then we set off in search for (Mindanao) Wattle Broadbill, a species that's getting very difficult lately and which had eluded us the previous day at a couple of favoured places, but we drew a blank. Another PICOP speciality that is quite rare nowadays is the

stunning Celestial Monarch, and we certainly worked hard for it. We heard it several times in a mixed flock, but only a few of us managed to get brief views before the flock moved on. We kept searching all morning long, to no avail. After lunch, just when we were about to leave, we decided to give one last try, and it proved to be the right decision. We first heard it again calling distantly and this time, managed to track it down. A spectacular male in all its glory, even raising its crest! Excellent stuff! Rufous Hornbills were very much in evidence as well, and we noted two family groups totalling at least 12 individuals. A pair of Buff-spotted Flamebacks (split from Greater) was a welcome sight, and other new birds seen in the morning included Barred Rail, Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo and the Mindanao subspecies of Stripe-headed Rhabdornis. In the afternoon we visited Bislig airfield again, noting, apart from the same species seen in our previous visit, a Plain Bush Hen seen by Karel, a male Watercock and a Lesser Coucal, although the grass owl failed again show up at dusk.

On our last morning at PICOP we first did some owling, but things were pretty quiet. Later, we visited a fruiting tree where there was plenty of activity. Highlights included excellent scope view of Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon and both Yellow-breasted and Black-chinned Fruit Doves. A single Writhed Hornbill showed up, but a calling Red-bellied Pitta remained hidden. We improved our views of Black-headed Tailorbird, and also caught up with Everett's White-eye. It was then time to take the final bumpy jeepney ride back to the hotel to pack, have an early lunch and then drive to a place near Davao for the night.

Next morning, we drove to Bukidnon Province and the jumping off point for Mount Kitanglad. Eventually we arrived at the trailhead where the ponies were waiting to carry our baggage up to the camp. The track is no longer passable for vehicles, so we were back to the traditional sweaty walk up to the Eagle Camp. After settling in, we set out just before dusk to look for Bukidnon Woodcock – a species discovered by a Birdquest group lead by Simon Harrap and the late Tim Fisher in 1993 - and were treated to some very close flypasts by two birds. Excellent stuff! After this we had great views of one of the most bizarre-looking birds in the planet -Philippine Frogmouth –'Old Growler' as this long-term resident is known.



Scanning for Philippine Eagle at the famous "Eagle" Viewpoint in Mt Kitanglad. (Marc Junio)

We woke up early on our first full day in the mountain, in order to look, unsuccessfully, for Giant Scops Owl, on what would be a major battle over the following days. After breakfast we walked up to the Eagle Viewpoint with our man-in-the-spot, Carlito, and his son Danny, picking up a few species on the way, including Oriental Cuckoo, Black-and-cinnamon Fantail, Rufous-headed Tailorbird, Negros Leaf Warbler, Turquoise Flycatcher, Olive-capped, Fire-breasted and Buzzing Flowerpeckes, Grey-hooded Sunbird, Cinnamon Ibon, and some obliging White-cheeked Bullfinches. By 9 o'clock we had reached the viewpoint, where we spent most of the day, hoping for the great Philippine Eagle, the star of the mountain, to show up. However, weather, with rain and low clouds, wasn't on our side, and we didn't have a sniff at the eagle. In fact there were very few raptors around, although luckily one of them was the endemic Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle, while good numbers Mindanao Racket-tails and a single Philippine Swiftlet were seen. On the walk

back, we came across 2 Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis, while the usually “invisible” Long-tailed Bush Warbler gave the best possible views, sitting in a log, completely in the open, for ages. Before dinner, we enjoyed again a good show of pair of displaying woodcocks but Giant Scops Owl was only heard a couple of times, despite quite some time trying to call it in.



Two bizarre-looking birds from Kitangland: Apo Myna and Philippine Frogmouth (André d'Penha)

Having missed the eagle - possibly the single most wanted bird for any birder coming to the Philippines-, the previous day, pressure was definitely high when we started climbing up the mountain the following morning. The weather was better, our moods were high, but no one was prepared for the sighting we were about to have... Just 800 metres from our campsite, Martine found with her bins a big “white” bird perched in a tree not far from the trail... The EAGLE! We soon set our scopes on the bird, and had mind-blowing views of it for several minutes. It then flew off, but after some searching I eventually relocated it further down the valley, and over the next half an hour we enjoyed terrific views of this critically endangered bird. Pressure off! While watching the eagle, a Red-eared parrotfinch flew in front of us. Now it was time to proceed to the higher parts of the mountain, and as we got higher we encountered several flocks and started to pick up some of the high altitude specialities, including several McGregor's Cuckooshrikes and a couple of Mindanao (Black-masked) White-eyes. Apo Mynas were pretty showy, and we enjoyed superb views of these punk starlings. Once we reached the right altitude, it didn't take long to find our target, the localized Apo Sunbird. A male and a female were seen feeding fairly low down and we studied their plumage features in detail. After having a well-deserved picnic lunch, we started the long walk back to the camp. We found a small group of Short-tailed Starlings, some more White-cheeked Bullfinches, a single Paddyfield Pipit and had two brief encounters with Red-eared Parrotfinch. Due to a change in the time of our flight next day, we were forced to leave the camp in the late afternoon, making it to the hotel near Cagayan de Oro pretty late in the evening.



The mighty and critically endangered Philippine Eagle showed very well on our second day at Kitangland. (DLV). The track up the camp was a bit too muddy, for us that is, not for the horses! (Marc Junio)

The flight arrived to Manila on time, and we were soon heading towards Mount Makiling. After quickly check-in at our hotel we visited the well known 'buttonquail track', where our target Spotted Buttonquail, showed superbly dust-bathing in the track.

The next day was spent at Mount Makiling, where the birding in the upper parts of the mountain was pretty good. Once dawn broke, several Spotted Wood Kingfishers were heard as soon as we step out of the jeepney, and within minutes we had excellent views of a male that sat in full view. This is surely the easiest place in the Philippines to see this cracker! Grey-backed Tailorbirds were pretty easy this year, and we had good looks at a singing bird. Both Rough-crested and Scale-feathered Malkohas were also in evidence, and our first and only Amethyst Brown Dove of the trip flew straight to the tape and sat on a branch for some time. The endemic Flaming Sunbird was seen busily feeding on flowering trees above the trail, while a Philippine Trogon posed in the scope. While walking back to the vehicle, I saw some movement with the back of my eye, and was amazed to see a stunning Luzon Bleeding-heart. The bird was slowly walking just a few metres from us, and I quietly pointed it out to those who were behind me, hoping not to scare it away. However, the bird quickly walked into cover. We then set a strategy, assembled close to each other, started to play the tape, waited and hoped for the best. After some minutes, suddenly the bird came in and perched in a branch, in full view and with the sun shining on the breast. WOW! One of the best and most difficult of all Philippine endemics in all its glory! Most of us managed to get a very good look at it – definitely my best views ever of this bird- before it dropped to the ground. We spent some more time trying to lure it in again, to no avail. Nearby, a Pechora Pipit was also seen walking quietly on the forest floor. Very pleased with our success, we returned to the jeepney. While having lunch we got the news of a Baer's Pochard -a mega rarity in the country, and a critically endangered bird worldwide- having been found by Rob Hutchinson in Candaba, and without thinking much about it, decided to make a bit of a crazy attempt to see it. Thanks to some impressive driving skills of our bus driver through Manila, we managed to get to the marsh with half an hour of daylight left to search for the duck. Thousands of waterfowl were present in the water Lilly-covered ponds, and most of them were already roosting and well hidden in the vegetation. After two quick scans without any success, light was fading fast and our chances of seeing the bird were quickly vanishing, but at the third attempt I saw half of a distant dark head in between masses of other duck heads, and once it opened its eye, revealing it was pale, I quickly shouted, "pochard here"! Luckily, after a few minutes the pochard started preening and then swam out into the open water, giving very good views just as it was getting dark. We all enjoyed excellent scope views of this critically endangered species, and happily embarked on the long journey back to our hotel. The efforts had definitely been worth it!



Spotted Wood Kingfisher and Scale-feathered Malkoha. (DLV and André d'Penha)

Next morning we visited La Mesa Ecopark, in search of the endemic Ashy Ground Thrush. The place was full of students, but after some time we found a quiet patch of forest, where a pair of these beautiful thrushes performed at length. What a bird! Other good birds in the area included endemic Lowland White-eye and some singing Golden-bellied Gerygones. It was then time to go to the airport. After saying goodbye to those leaving, we checked in for the flight to Dumagete and the Visayas extension, arriving in good time at our seaside hotel in Negros.



The group happily watching the male Baer's Pochard at Candaba. (Marc Junio)

One of the most special Negros endemics is the endangered Negros Striped Babbler, and a hike up one of the few forested mountains left in the island is required in order to see it. The excursion turned out to be a great success, as we had excellent views of several of these babblers. Other highlights of the morning included distant views of the endemic White-winged Cuckooshrike, some Tarictic (Visayan) Hornbills, scope studies of a pair of Philippines Collared Dove and a singing Tawny Grassbird. On the drive back to town we stopped at a forested gully where our target, the very localized Visayan Shama (split from White-browed) was soon located giving its lovely song. After dinner we set off in search of the endemic Negros Scops Owl, but the only owls seen were a pair of Luzon Hawk-Owls.



Some Negros specialities. Visayan Shama, Negros Striped Babbler and White-winged Cuckooshrike. (DLV and André d'Penha)

The rain ruined our pre-dawn owling session, and we then paid a visit to the Twin Lakes to search for a few more endemics. On arrival we found a very confiding male Maroon-naped Sunbird (a split from Flaming) as well as a male of the aptly named Magnificent Sunbird (a split from Crimson) feeding on some flowers. A visit to the lake itself produced a stunning Spotted Wood Kingfisher of the local *moseleyi* subspecies, some endangered Tarictic Hornbills, as well as several distinctive Visayan Drongos (the white bellied form of Balicassiao). A mixed flock held Visayan Bulbuls and Visayan Fantails, as well as White-vented Whistlers, Elegant Tits and Sulphur-billed Nuthatches. We also greatly improved our views of White-winged Cuckooshrikes, which showed nicely. After lunch we rounded off the visit with Philippine Tailorbird, and then it started to rain, so we decided to head back. In the evening we tried for Negros Scops Owl, but for some reason they were very skittish this year. After a couple of hours and a lot of trying, we managed to get poor views at two different spots.



Spotted Wood Kingfisher of the endangered *moseleyi* subspecies, and the endemic Maroon-naped Sunbird (split from Flaming) both showed well at Negros. (André d'Penha)

We still had a couple of special birds to look for before leaving to Bohol, so we started early the next day at a forested gully, where we searched for Flame-templed Babblers. One came quickly to the tape but only showed briefly, and then flew off. As a consolation prize, delightful Black-belted (Visayan) Flowerpeckers were much in evidence in the area and showed well. So with two hours left in the island, we decided to give another last minute try for the babbler at another place. After some walking we reached our stake out, and eventually heard the distinctive song of the babbler. The bird was frustratingly difficult to see, keeping high up in the canopy, but in the end, most of us got decent looks at it, and some even got to see the face pattern well. Persistence pays off! Then, it was time to return to our hotel, pick up our luggage and head to Bohol.

The fast ferry took us to Tagbilaran in just two hours, but the seas were pretty much birdless apart from a few terns.

We had an early start next day and headed towards Rajah Sikatuna National Park, where our owling session wasn't very productive, as our target Everett's Scops Owl was heard very close but couldn't be located. After some coffee we enjoyed good views of a skulking Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, and then spent some time at the clearing, seeing a pair of Samar Hornbills and some brightly colored Philippine Minivets, as well as two roosting Luzon Hawk-Owls and a perched Besra. Nearby, a cracking Azure-breasted Pitta gave excellent views, much to the delight of Magnus, singing from an exposed branch for more than 15 minutes. Good stuff! Later on we hit the trails, but the forest was pretty quiet. After a lot of walking, we finally encountered a mixed flock that held Philippine Leaf Warbler, Black-crowned Babbler and a pair of Philippine Fairy-bluebirds, but sadly no wattled broadbills. Before lunch we checked a nearby river and after a bit of searching we located our target, the strikingly patterned Northern Silvery Kingfisher. We then had lunch in the butterfly gardens, where the main highlight was a day roosting Everett's Scops Owl. After lunch we visited some nearby secondary habitat area where both Handsome and Bohol Sunbirds (split from Metallic-winged) were found feeding on coconut flowers. In the afternoon we hit the trails again, but they were still very quiet, and we saw very little of note, apart from two roosting Philippine Flying Lemurs (Colugos) and a single Black-faced Coucal.



Highlights from our stay at Bohol included the strange Philippine Flying Lemur, Azure-breasted (Steere's) Pitta and Everett's Scops Owl
(André d'Penha)

We went back to the National Park early next morning, mostly looking for Visayan (Wattled) Broadbill and Visayan Blue Fantail. We came across two flocks, getting good views of the endemic fantail, but again failing to see any broadbills, which also seem to be getting very rare over the last couple of years. We then left to pack and returned to the ferry terminal. Our ferry to Cebu left on time and after docking we were on our way to Tabunan, a relict area of forest high in the hills above the Cebu City. We arrived in good time and walked out to the forest, lead by a local guy, where our main target, the recently described Cebu Hawk-Owl, hopefully awaited us. And as dusk fell, we stroke gold, enjoying walk-away views of a pair of these owls.

We paid a brief visit to Tabunan again the next morning. Black Shama- a scarce Cebu endemic- was as usual pretty shy, but eventually we all had decent views of one. Nearby, we also found a pair of Mangrove Blue Flycatchers of the local *philippinensis* subspecies (possibly a future split). This is also the place where the almost extinct (or is it already extinct?) Cebu Flowerpecker used to occur, but apparently there haven't been any sightings in the last couple of years, so not seeing it didn't really feel like a miss (although one always hopes for the best when coming here!) Not much else was seen here, so after saying goodbye to our local man in the spot and her young and sharp-eyed daughter, we drove back to the city. All that remained was our flight back to Manila before we split up and headed for our separate flights home. It had been an extremely successful trip from a birding perspective, with many great birds. It is surprising that, even though the habitat continues to get more and more degraded each year, we still manage to see as many species as in the past, including a number of previously "ungettable" birds. However, it's also true that the numbers of certain species are clearly decreasing rapidly, and some of them are getting tougher and tougher to find

each year. The habitat destruction is becoming such a problem that the number of species we'll be able to find in the future will soon start to diminish. So, the sad message is, if you've not yet been, go as soon as you can, as many of the birds will not be around too much longer, at least not in areas where we can get to them.



Philippine Eagle Owl chick. (DLV)



Tail feather detail of the amazing Palawan Peacock Pheasant. (DLV)



Sunrise at PICOP. (François Poumarat)



The group at the base of Mt Makiling, after having had great views of Luzon Bleeding-heart. (Marc Junio)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were only recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

CR = Critically Endangered, **E** = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* Seen at Candaba and Bislig (nominate).

Gadwall *Anas strepera* A pair at Candaba.

Philippine Duck ◊ *Anas luzonica* (VU) Good numbers at Candaba and a few at Bislig.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata* A few seen at Candaba.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta* 10 birds at Candaba.

Garganey *Anas querquedula* Several at Candaba.

Eurasian Teal *Anas crecca* A few at Candaba Swamp.

Common Pochard *Aythya ferina* Seen at Candaba.

Baer's Pochard (CR) *Aythya baeri* A male seen well at Candaba. A real bonus!
Tufted Duck *Aythya fuligula* Several at Candaba Swamp.
Philippine Megapode ◊ **(Tabon Scrubfowl) *Megapodius cumingii*** Good views of two in St Paul's NP (nominate).
King Quail ◊ ***Excalfactoria chinensis*** Seen very well at Bislig Airstrip (*lineata*).
Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Seen near Subic.
Palawan Peacock-Pheasant ◊ ***Polyplectron napoleonis* (VU)** Great views of the habituated male in St Paul's NP.
Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis* Only seen at Candaba Swamp (*philippensis*).
Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* A few at Candaba, Iwahig and Bislig.
Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* Seen at Candaba, Banaue and Bislig airfield.
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* Good numbers seen at Candaba Swamp (nominate).
Striated Heron *Butorides striata* Several seen (*atricapilla*-group).
Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa* Seen at Palawan.
Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Common and widespread.
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea* First seen at Candaba (*jouyi*).
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Seen at Candaba and Bislig (*manilensis*).
Eastern Great Egret *Ardea [alba] modesta* Widespread. Not yet split by the IOC, which includes in Great Egret.
Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia* Widespread (nominate).
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* Common and widespread (*nigripes*).
Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra* Several seen at Palawan (nominate).
Chinese Egret ◊ ***Egretta eulophotes* (VU)** Good views near to Puerto Princesa.
Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* Two sightings (nominate).
Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* Seen at Palawan and Kitanglad (*philippensis*).
Steere's Honey Buzzard ◊ **(Philippine H B) *Pernis steerei*** Seen well at PICOP (nominate).
Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus* Seen on the drive to Kitanglad (*hypoleucus*).
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* Widespread (*intermedius*).
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela* Seen very well in Palawan (*palawanensis*).
Philippine Serpent Eagle ◊ ***Spilornis holospilus*** Singles and pairs seen throughout the tour.
Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus* A single at Candaba.
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* Scattered sightings.
Besra *Accipiter virgatus* A male seen at Subic
Eastern Buzzard *Buteo japonicus* Seen at Mt Polis.
Philippine Eagle ◊ ***Pithecophaga jefferyi* (CR)** Excellent views at Kitanglad.
Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* Seen very well in Palawan (*limnaeetus*).
Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle ◊ ***Nisaetus pinskeri* (VU)** Seen well at Mt Kitanglad.
Barred Rail ◊ ***Gallirallus torquatus*** Various sightings (nominate).
Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis* Several seen well at Banaue (nominate).
Plain Bush-Hen ◊ ***Amaurornis olivacea*** Seen briefly at Bislig.
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* Widespread (nominate).
White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea* Seen well at Candaba, Bislig and Iwahig.
Philippine Swampfen ◊ ***Porphyrio [porphyrio] pulverulentus*** Seen at Candaba and Bislig. A good potential split.
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* A few at Candaba Swamp and Bislig (*orientalis*).
Eurasian Coot *Fulica atra* A pair at Candaba.
Spotted Buttonquail ◊ ***Turnix ocellatus*** Good scope views of two birds at Mt Makiling (nominate).
Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator* Scope views of 2 birds at Mt Makiling (*fasciatus*).
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Common in the paddies at Iwahig.
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Several at White Beach, Puerto Princesa and Iwahig.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius* First seen in the paddies at Iwahig, Palawan (*curonicus*).
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus* Seen in Palawan (*nihonensis*).
Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii* Seen in Palawan (nominate).
Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis* A female seen well at Candaba.
Bukidnon Woodcock ◊ ***Scolopax bukidnonensis*** A pair put on a great show at Mt Kitanglad.
Pin-tailed/Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago stenura/megala* Flushed at Iwahig and Bislig. Outer tail feathers not seen.
Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago* Good numbers in the paddies at Iwahig (nominate).
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus* Seen in Palawan (*variegatus*).
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus* Two seen at Iwahig.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis* Good numbers seen in the paddies at Iwahig, Palawan.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia* First seen in the paddies at Iwahig, Palawan.
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus* Two seen in a rice paddy in Palawan.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* First seen at Candaba Swamp, and lots in Palawan.
Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* About 15 seen well at White Beach.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* A few at scattered sightings during the tour.
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres* Seen at White Beach.
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis* Seen in Palawan.
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* Around 80 in the paddies at Iwahig, Palawan.
Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus* Four birds in Palawan.
Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Several seen off Negros (*longipennis*)
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Lots at Candaba, on the journey to Banaue and off Negros.
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons* Seen off Negros.
Feral Pigeon *Columba livia* 'feral' Introduced birds seen throughout the tour.
Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Scattered sightings (*humilis*).
Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* Widespread.
Philippine Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia* Seen well in Negros (nominate).
Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* Seen a couple of times (nominate).
Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* Fairly common and widespread, even around Manila.
Luzon Bleeding-heart ◊ *Gallicolumba luzonica* (NT) A tour highlight. Great views at Makiling (*luzonica*)
White-eared Brown Dove ◊ *Phapitreron leucotis* Nominate (Luzon), *nigrorum* on Negros and *brevirostris* (Mindanao).
Amethyst Brown Dove ◊ *Phapitreron amethystinus* Seen well on Mt Makiling.
Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* Seen at Palawan (*erimacrus*).
Philippine Green Pigeon ◊ *Treron axillaris* Two forms; nominate (Subic on Luzon) and *canescens* (Mindanao).
Flame-breasted Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus marchei* (V) Excellent scope views at Mt Polis.
Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus occipitalis* Great scope views at PICOP.
Black-chinned Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus leclancheri* Seen very well at PICOP (*leclancheri*).
Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon ◊ *Ducula poliocephala* (NT) Seen well at PICOP.
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* Common at Subic (nominate) and on Palawan; also at PICOP and Mindoro.
Rufous Coucal ◊ *Centropus unirufus* (NT) Good views at Subic Bay.
Black-faced Coucal ◊ *Centropus melanops* Seen at PICOP and Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis* Seen in Palawan.
Philippine Coucal ◊ *Centropus* Seen several times.
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis* Seen a few times.
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris* Seen in Palawan (*harringtoni*).
Rough-crested Malkoha (Red-c M) ◊ *Dasylophus superciliosus* Seen at Subic Bay and Mt Makiling (nominate).
Scale-feathered Malkoha ◊ *Dasylophus cumingi* Seen at Subic, Mt Polis and Mt Makiling.
Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* (H) Heard in Palawan.
Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* (H) Heard a couple of times.
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* Scattered sightings.
Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* Seen well at Kitangland (nominate).
Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo ◊ *Surniculus velutinus* The nominate form was seen well at PICOP.
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* Seen well in Palawan (*brachyurus*).
Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo ◊ *Hierococcyx pectoralis* (E) (H) Heard at Kitangland.
Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus* Seen at the foot of Mt Kitangland.
Giant Scops Owl ◊ *Otus gurneyi* (VU) (H) Glimpsed at dawn at PICOP and heard at Kitangland.
Palawan Scops Owl ◊ *Otus fuliginosus* (NT) Two seen well near to Sabang.
Philippine Scops Owl ◊ *Otus megalotis* Seen well at Subic Bay.
Everett's Scops Owl ◊ *Otus everetti* Seen well at Bohol butterfly gardens. Recently split.
Negros Scops Owl ◊ *Otus nigrorum* (E) Brief views in Negros, after some effort. Another recent split.
Luzon Scops Owl ◊ *Otus longicornis* (NT) It took a few attempts, but eventually 1 seen poorly at Polis.
Mantanani Scops Owl ◊ *Otus mantananensis* (NT) Excellent views on a small offshore islet (nominate).



Mantanani Scops Owl, left, and Luzon Hawk-Owl, right. (DLV and André d'Penha)

Philippine Eagle-Owl ◊ *Bubo philippensis* (VU) Brilliant views of an adult and a chick at Angono near Manila.

Chocolate Boobook ◊ *Ninox randi* Great views at Subic Bay and PICOP.

Luzon Hawk-Owl ◊ *Ninox philippensis* Seen well at Subic, Negros and Cebu (nominate).

Mindanao Hawk-Owl ◊ *Ninox spilocephala* Good views of two at dawn at PICOP.

Cebu Hawk-Owl ◊ *Ninox rumseyi* (E) Brilliant views at dusk at Tabunan, Cebu.

Philippine Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus septimus* Brilliant views at Mt Kitanglad (nominate).

Palawan Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus chaseni* Great views near Sabang.

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* Seen at Subic, PICOP and Kitanglad. (nominate).

Philippine Nightjar ◊ *Caprimulgus manillensis* Seen at Bislig, PICOP and Mt Kitanglad.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* Seen near Sabang (*johnsoni*).

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata* Seen well at Subic Bay and Mt Kitanglad (*major*).

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* Common.

Grey-rumped Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia [esculenta] marginata* Common in Subic. Not universally split.

Pygmy Swiftlet ◊ *Collocalia troglodytes* First seen at Lagawe, with many at PICOP and seen on Negros and Cebu.

Philippine Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus mearnsi* Birds assumed to be this species at Mt Kitanglad.

Ameline Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus amelis* Widespread, absent from Palawan. Recently split from Uniform Swiftlet.

Palawan Swiftlet ◊ *Aerodramus [vanikorensis] palawanensis* Seen at Palawan. Not universally split.

Philippine Spine-tailed Swift (P Needletail) ◊ *Mearnsia picina* (NT) Good views at PICOP and Negros.

Purple Needletail ◊ *Hirundapus celebensis* Seen briefly at PICOP.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis* Seen at the Banaue Hotel (nominate).

Philippine Trogon ◊ *Harpactes ardens herberti* See Note.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* Scattered sightings (nominate).

Spotted Wood Kingfisher ◊ *Actenoides lindsayi* Seen very well at Mt Makiling (nominate).

Hombron's Kingfisher (Blue-capped K) ◊ *Actenoides hombroni* (VU) Great views at PICOP.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis* (LO) Seen briefly near to Sabang (*gouldi*).

Brown-breasted Kingfisher ◊ *Halcyon gularis* Several seen, the first at Subic Bay. Not yet split by the IOC.

Winchell's Kingfisher ◊ (Rufous-lored K) *Todiramphus winchelli* Good views of two birds at PICOP (*mindanensis*)

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* Widespread. First seen at Subic Bay (*collaris*).

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Scattered sightings (*bengalensis*).

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca* See very well at St Pauls. See note.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher ◊ *Ceyx cyanopectus* Two on the river at Lagawe (nominate).

Southern Silvery Kingfisher ◊ *Ceyx (argentatus) argentatus* (VU) Great views on a small pond at PICOP.

Northern Silvery Kingfisher ◊ *Ceyx (argentatus) flumenicolus* (VU) Excellent views on Bohol.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater ◊ *Merops philippinus* A couple of sightings (nominate).

Rufous-crowned Bee-eater ◊ *Merops americanus* Scattered sightings.

Palawan Hornbill ◊ *Anthracoceros marcheii* (VU) Several showed well in Palawan.

Rufous Hornbill ◊ *Buceros hydrocorax* Good views at PICOP (*mindanensis*).

Tarctic Hornbill (Visayan H) ◊ *Penelopides panini* (E) Great views of several on Negros (nominate).

Luzon Hornbill ◊ *Penelopides manillae* A few seen at Subic Bay (nominate).

Mindanao Hornbill ◊ *Penelopides affinis* Quite common at PICOP.
Samar Hornbill ◊ *Penelopides samarensis* (E) Good scope views at Rajah Sikatuna NP in Bohol.
Writhed Hornbill ◊ *Aceros leucocephalus* (NT) Scarce this year, only one seen at PICOP.
Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala* Scattered sightings, nominate at Luzon, *mindanensis* at Mindanao.
Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker ◊ *Dendrocopos maculatus* *validirostris* on Luzon and *fulvifasciatus* on Mindanao.
White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* Scattered sightings.
Spot-throated Flameback ◊ *Dinopium everetti* Good views on Palawan. A recent split.



Spot-throated Flameback and Large-tailed Nightjar (DLV and Marc Junio)

Buff-spotted Flameback ◊ *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* Seen well at PICOP and Kitangland (*montanus*).
Luzon Flameback ◊ *Chrysocolaptes haematribon* Seen well at Subic Bay.
Red-headed Flameback ◊ *Chrysocolaptes erythrocephalus* (LO) A leader only bird at St Pauls.
Northern Sooty Woodpecker ◊ *Mulleripicus funebris* Great views at Subic.
Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* A pair gave great views in Palawan.
Philippine Falconet ◊ *Microhierax erythrogenys* Two forms: nominate on Luzon and *meridionalis* in Mindanao.
Common Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus* (NL) One bird seen.
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* Three sightings.
Red-vented Cockatoo (Philippine C) *Cacatua haematuropygia* (CR) Good views of 2 birds near Sabang.
Philippine Hanging Parrot (Colasisi) ◊ *Loriculus philippensis* See note.
Montane Racket-tail ◊ (Luzon R-t) *Prioniturus montanus* (NT) Seen very well at Mt Polis.
Mindanao Racket-tail ◊ *Prioniturus waterstradti* Good numbers at Mt Kitanglad (*malindangensis*).
Blue-headed Racket-tail ◊ *Prioniturus platenae* (VU) Seen well in Palawan.
Green Racket-tail ◊ *Prioniturus luconensis* (VU) Great views at Subic Bay.
Blue-crowned Racket-tail ◊ *Prioniturus discurus* *Whiteheadi* seen on Negros and nominate seen at PICOP.
Blue-naped Parrot ◊ *Tanygnathus lucionensis* Common at Subic Bay (nominate); *salvadorii* in Palawan.
Guaibero ◊ *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus* Two forms seen; nominate (Luzon) and *mindanensis* in Mindanao.
Red-bellied Pitta ◊ *Erythropitta erythrogaster* (H) Heard at PICOP.
Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* Great views in Palawan (*palawanensis*).
Azure-breasted (Steere's) Pitta ◊ *Pitta steerii* (VU) Excellent views at PICOP (nominate) and Bohol (*coelestis*).
Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea* Seen at La Mesa (*simplex*).
White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Widespread (nominate).
Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia* A single bird seen in Palawan (*aequanimis*).
Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata* See Note.
Blackish Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina coerulescens* Several seen well at Subic (nominate).
White-winged Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina ostenta* (E) Great views at Lake Balinsasayao in Negros.
McGregor's Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina mcgregori* A few seen very well at Mt Kitanglad.
Pied Triller *Lalage nigra* Seen at various locations (*chilensis*).
Black-and-white Triller ◊ *Lalage melanoleuca* (H) Heard at PICOP.
Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Seen well at Subic and again at Makiling.

Fiery Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus igneus* (NT) Seen well in Palawan (nominate).
Philippine Minivet ◊ *Pericrocotus leytensis* Seen very well in Bohol.
Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala cinerea* Seen very well near Sabang –not in mangroves!-.
Green-backed Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala albiventris* Several at Mt Polis (nominate).
White-vented Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala homeyeri* (E) On Negros, *winchelli* seen well.
Yellow-bellied Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala philippinensis* See Note.
Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Widespread wintering visitor (*lucionensis*).
Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* Fairly common (*nasutus*).
Mountain Shrike ◊ *Lanius validirostris* Very good views at Mt Polis (nominate).
Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus* Seen very well near to Sabang (*persuasus*).
Philippine Oriole ◊ *Oriolus steerii* Seen well at PICOP (*samarensis*).
White-lored Oriole ◊ *Oriolus albiloris* Excellent views at SUBIC.
Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Fairly common and widespread (nominate).
Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus* A few seen in Palawan (nominate).
Balicassiao ◊ *Dicrurus balicassius* Several at Subic and Mt Makiling.
Visayan Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus [balicassius] mirabilis* (E) Seen in Negros. Not yet split by the IOC.
Palawan Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus [hottentottus] palawanensis* A few seen in Palawan. Not yet split by the IOC.
Mindanao Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus [hottentottus] striatus* Nominate on Mindanao, *samarensis* on Bohol.
Mindanao Blue Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura superciliaris* Several seen in mixed flocks at PICOP (*apo*).
Visayan Blue Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura samarensis* Scarce this year. 2 seen well in mixed flocks at Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol.
Blue-headed Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura cyaniceps* Great views at Mt Polis (nominate).
Visayan Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura albiventris* (E) Several in mixed flocks in Negros.
Philippine Pied Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura nigritorquis* Several seen well. A recent split.
Black-and-cinnamon Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea* Fairly common in flocks at Mt Kitanglad, (*hutchinsoni*).
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Fairly common and widespread (nominate).
Short-crested Monarch ◊ *Hypothymis helenae* (NT) Several at PICOP (*agusanae*).
Celestial Monarch ◊ *Hypothymis coelestis* (VU) After much effort, a stunning male seen at PICOP. Getting very rare.
Blue Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone cyanescens* (NT) Seen well in Palawan.
Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◊ *Terpsiphone cinnamomea* Seen well at PICOP (nominate).
Palawan Crow ◊ *Corvus (enca) pusillus* Pretty common on Palawan. Not yet split by the IOC.
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos philippinus* Common and widespread (*philippinus*).
Citrine Canary-Flycatcher ◊ *Culicicapa helianthea* Seen at Polis.
Elegant Tit ◊ *Periparus elegans* Seen at Mt Polis, Mt Kitanglad, Mt Makiling and on Negros. See Note.
Palawan Tit ◊ *Periparus amabilis* (NT) Great views near to Sabang.
White-fronted Tit *Parus semilarvatus* (NT) Seen very well at SUBIC (*semilarvatus*).
Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps* A few seen in Palawan (nominate).
Yellow-wattled Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus urostictus* Nominate seen at Makiling and *philippensis* seen at PICOP.
Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* Common. See Note.
Ashy-fronted Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus* Small numbers in Palawan. A recent split.
Palawan Bulbul ◊ *Alophoixus frater* A few on Palawan. Another recent split.
Sulphur-bellied Bulbul ◊ *Iole palawanensis* Fairly common in Palawan.
Philippine Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes philippinus* Nominate common on Luzon, *saturation* in Mindanao and Bohol.
Visayan Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes guimarasensis* (E) Fairly common in Negros. Another recent split.
Yellowish Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes everetti* Small numbers at PICOP (nominate).
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* First seen at Candaba Swamp, and common throughout (*gutturalis*).
Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* Widespread.
Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* Widespread (nominate).
Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* Seen at Mt Polis (*philippinus*).
Rufous-headed Tailorbird ◊ *Phyllergates heterolaemus* Singles seen at Mt Kitanglad.
Philippine Bush Warbler ◊ *Horornis seebohmi* Seen well at Mt Polis.
Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* Singles recorded at various locations. See Note.
Philippine Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus olivaceus* Seen at PICOP and Bohol.
Negros Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus nigrorum* See Note.
Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus* One at Bay-yo. First documented record in the Philippines?



Yellow-browed Warbler at Bay-yo. (DLV)

- Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus* Seen at Bislig Airfield (*harterti*).
- Oriental Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus orientalis* Only seen at Candaba Swamp
- Long-tailed Bush Warbler** ◇ *Locustella caudata* Glimpsed at Polis(*caudata*), great views at Kitangland(nominate)
- Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** ◇ *Locustella ochotensis* Seen very well at Bislig airfield.
- Benguet Bush Warbler** *Locustella seebohmi* (H) Heard at Mt Polis, but not very responsive this year.
- Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris* Common in open areas. First seen at Candaba (*forbesi*).
- Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis* Seen at Kitangland and Negros.
- Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis* Seen at Candaba (*tinnabulans*).
- Golden-headed Cisticola** ◇ *Cisticola exilis* Seen and heard at Bislig Airfield (*semirufus*).
- Philippine Tailorbird** ◇ *Orthotomus castaneiceps* (E) Seen well in Negros (*rabori*).
- Trilling Tailorbird** *Orthotomus chloronotus* Seen well at Subic and La Mesa.
- Rufous-fronted Tailorbird** ◇ *Orthotomus frontalis* Seen well at PICOP (nominate).
- Grey-backed Tailorbird** ◇ *Orthotomus derbianus* Seen well at Mt Makiling.
- Rufous-tailed Tailorbird** *Orthotomus sericeus* Several in Palawan (nominate).
- Black-headed Tailorbird** ◇ *Orthotomus nigriceps* Seen well at PICOP.
- Yellow-breasted Tailorbird** ◇ *Orthotomus samarensis* (NT) One seen well in Bohol.
- Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** ◇ *Macronus gularis* A few seen well in Palawan (*woodi*).
- Brown Tit-Babbler** ◇ *Macronus striaticeps* Seen at PICOP (*mindanensis*).
- Striated Wren-Babbler** ◇ (Streaked Ground-B) *Ptilocichla mindanensis* Nominate seen very well at PICOP.
- Falcatid Wren-Babbler** ◇ (F Ground-B) *Ptilocichla falcata* (VU) Good views for most of a bird near to Sabang.
- Ashy-headed Babbler** ◇ *Malacocincla cinereiceps* Seen very well at St Pauls.
- Melodious Babbler** ◇ *Malacopteron palawanense* Seen very well at Balsahan.
- Chestnut-faced Babbler** ◇ *Zosterornis whiteheadi* Common at Mt Polis (nominate).
- Negros Striped Babbler** ◇ *Zosterornis nigrorum* (E) Great views of several birds in montane forest above Mantiquil.
- Flame-templed Babbler** ◇ *Dasycrotapha speciosa* (E) After a lot of effort, seen by most of us in Negros.
- Mindanao Pygmy Babbler** ◇ *Dasycrotapha plateni* (LO) Seen briefly at PICOP.
- Black-crowned Babbler** ◇ *Sterrhoptilus nigrocapitatus* Seen on our second morning at Rajah Sikatuna.
- Rusty-crowned Babbler** ◇ *Sterrhoptilus capitalis* Good views in mixed flocks at PICOP (*euroaustralis*).
- Mindanao White-eye** ◇ (Black-masked W-eye) *Lophozosterops goodfellowi* A few at Mt Kitanglad (nominate).
- Lowland White-eye** ◇ *Zosterops meyeri* Seen at La Mesa.
- Everett's White-eye** ◇ *Zosterops everetti* A few at PICOP (*basilanicus*)
- Yellowish White-eye** ◇ *Zosterops nigrorum* Seen several times.
- Mountain White-eye** ◇ *Zosterops montanus* Seen on Mt Polis and Mt Kitanglad. See Note.
- Asian Fairy-bluebird** *Irena puella* Several in Palawan (*tweeddalii*).
- Philippine Fairy-bluebird** ◇ *Irena cyanogastra* Good views at Rajah Sikatuna.
- Sulphur-billed Nuthatch** ◇ *Sitta oenochlamys* Two forms seen; *isarog* in Luzon and *apo* in Mindanao.
- Asian Glossy Starling** *Aplonis panayensis* Common, first seen in Palawan (nominate).
- Short-tailed Starling** ◇ *Aplonis minor* A few at Mt Kitanglad (*todayensis*).
- Apo Myna** ◇ *Basilornis mirandus* (NT) A few seen well at Mt Kitanglad.
- Coledo** ◇ *Sarcops calvus* Two forms. The nominate on Luzon, *melanonotus* in Mindanao and Negros.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* A few seen in Palawan (*palawanensis*).
Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* A couple seen at Subic Bay. Introduced.



Three endemics: Ashy-headed Babbler, left, Montane (Luzon) Racket-tail, centre, and Palawan Tit, right. (Marc Junio and DLV)

White-shouldered Starling ◇ *Sturnia sinensis* Six seen at Candaba Swamp.
Stripe-headed Rhabdornis ◇ *Rhabdornis mystacalis* Nominate ssp at SUBIC and *minor* at PICOP.
Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis ◇ *Rhabdornis inornatus* A few seen very well at Mt Kitanglad (*alaris*)
Ashy Thrush ◇ *Geokichla cinerea* (VU) Two birds showed superbly at La Mesa.
Island Thrush ◇ *Turdus poliocephalus* One seen at Mt Polis.
Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* Common at Mt Polis and Mt Kitanglad.
White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* (H) Heard only a few times.
Philippine Magpie-Robin ◇ *Copsychus mindanensis* Two sightings.
White-browed Shama ◇ *Copsychus luzoniensis* Great views at Subic (nominate).
Visayan Shama ◇ *Copsychus superciliaris* (E) Stunning views in Negros.
White-vented Shama ◇ *Copsychus niger* Great views in Palawan.
Black Shama ◇ *Copsychus cebuensis* (E) Two seen at Tabunan, Cebu, although rather shy.
Luzon Water Redstart ◇ *Rhyacornis bicolor* (VU) Distant views of a pair at Mt Polis.
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Two forms: nominate in Luzon; *anderseni* in Mindanao.
Asian Rock Thrush (Red-bellied R T) *Monticola (solitarius) philippensis* A male at Lagawe. Not split by the IOC.
Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* A widespread wintering species.
Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher ◇ *Rhinomyias ruficauda* Seen at PICOP.
Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra* (LO) One at Kitanglad.
Palawan Flycatcher ◇ *Ficedula platenae* (VU) Good views of one along the Balsahan Trail.
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* Two forms; *rabori* in Luzon and nominate in Mindanao.
Turquoise Flycatcher ◇ (Mtn Verditer) *Eumyias panayensis* Ssp *nigriloris* seen in Mindanao.
Palawan Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis lemprieri* (NT) One male seen well in Palawan.
Mangrove Blue Flycatcher ◇ *Cyornis rufigastra* (E) Seen well in Cebu (*philippinensis*).
Philippine Leafbird ◇ *Chloropsis flavipennis* (VU) Good views at PICOP.
Yellow-throated Leafbird ◇ *Chloropsis palawanensis* Several seen well in Palawan.
Olive-backed Flowerpecker ◇ *Prionochilus olivaceus* Seen at PICOP.
Palawan Flowerpecker ◇ *Prionochilus plateni* Seen well in Palawan (nominate).
Striped Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum aeruginosum* Two sightings (*striatissimum*).
Olive-capped Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum nigrilore* Seen at Mt Kitanglad (nominate).
Flame-crowned Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum anthonyi* Great views of a couple at Mt Polis (nominate)
Bicolored Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum bicolor* Seen a few times (nominate).
Red-keeled Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum australe* Many seen, but particularly common at PICOP.
Black-belted Flowerpecker ◇ (Visayan F) *Dicaeum haematostictum* (VU) Good views in Negros.
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma* *Cinereigulare* in Mindanao and Bohol; *dorsale* in Negros.
Buzzing Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum hypoleucum* Seen well at PICOP (*pontifex*) and Makiling (*obscurum*).
Pygmy Flowerpecker ◇ *Dicaeum pygmaeum* Scattered sightings.
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* Two forms seen: *luzoniense* at Mt Polis, and *apo* at Mt Kitanglad.
Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-t S) *Anthreptes malacensis* One seen in Palawan (*paraguae*).

Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata* Seen well in Palawan, Bohol, PICOP and Makiling.
Copper-throated Sunbird ◊ *Leptocoma calcostetha* One seen in Palawan.
Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis* Common in open country. See Note.
Grey-hooded Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga primigenia* (NT) A few at Mt Kitanglad (nominate).
Apo Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga boltoni* (NT) Two seen at Mt Kitanglad (nominate).
Flaming Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga flagrans* A pair at Mt Makiling (nominate).
Maroon-naped Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga daphoenonota* (E) Great views in Negros.
Metallic-winged Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga pulcherrima* Small numbers recorded at PICOP.
Luzon Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga jefferyi* Common at Mt Polis. A recent split from Metallic-winged.
Bohol Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga decorosa* (E) A pair seen well in Bohol. Another recent split.
Lovely Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga shelleyi* A few seen in Palawan.
Handsome Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga bella* Two sightings.
Magnificent Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga magnifica* (E) Great views in Negros. A recent split from Crimson Sunbird.
Orange-tufted Spiderhunter ◊ *Arachnothera flammifera* Two seen at PICOP (nominate).
Pale Spiderhunter ◊ *Arachnothera dilutior* Great views near to Sabang.
Naked-faced Spiderhunter ◊ *Arachnothera clarae* ◊ A pair seen very well at PICOP (nominate).
Cinnamon Ibon ◊ *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus* Many seen well at Mt Kitanglad.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Common and widespread (*malaccensis*).
Red-eared Parrotfinch ◊ *Erythrura coloria* (NT) Brief sightings at Mt Kitanglad.
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata* Seen in Palawan (*cabanisi*).
White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra* 2 forms: *palawana* at Iwahig and *manueli* in Mindanao.
Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* First seen at Candaba, with one lots at Bislig airfield (*jagori*).
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tshutschensis* Several sightings; 100+ on the first visit to Bislig.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* Scattered sightings.
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* Recorded at Kitanglad (*lugubris*).
Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni* Several seen well at Mt Polis.
Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* One seen well at Makiling.
Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus* Seen at Iwahig rice fields.
White-cheeked Bullfinch ◊ *Pyrrhula leucogenis* Good views at Makiling (*leucogenis*) and Kitanglad (*steerei*).
Red Crossbill *Loxia curvirostra* A small flock seen in pine forest at Mt Polis (*luzoniensis*).

MAMMALS

Philippine Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus concinnus* One seen at Kitanglad.
Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel *Sundasciurus juvencus* Seen in Palawan.
Mindanao Squirrel *Sundasciurus mindanensis* Seen at PICOP.
Asian Palm Civet *Paradosurus hermaphroditus* One seen at Palawan (*philippinus*).
Oriental Small-clawed Otter *Amblonyx cinereus* Two showed well on Palawan.
Golden-capped Acerodon (Golden-crowned Flying Fox) *Acerodon jubatus* Great looks at Subic Bay.
Large Flying-Fox *Pteropus vampyrus* Great looks in the colony at Subic Bay with the above.
Philippine Flying Lemur (Colugo) *Cynocephalus volans* Two seen well on Bohol.
Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating M) *Macaca fascicularis* Seen at several sites.

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

Philippine Hanging Parrot (Colasisi) *Loriculus philippensis*

Three forms were seen during the tour. The nominate form was found on Luzon, *apicalis* on Mindanao, *chrysonotus* on Cebu.

Philippine Trogon *Harpactes ardens*

Two subspecies were noted. The nominate, *ardens*, showed well at PICOP. In Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol we had great views of the subspecies *linae*.

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca*

The rufous-backed forms (like those seen on Palawan) are sometimes split off as a separate species, Rufous-backed Kingfisher *C. rufidorsa*. However, the IOC do not recognise *rufidorsa* as a subspecies even. They list the form in the Philippines as *motleyi*.

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata*

No fewer than 5 subspecies noted! Nominate on Luzon, *difficilis* on Palawan, *kochii* on Mindanao, *panayensis* on Negros and the rather plain and different-looking *boholensis* on Bohol.

Yellow-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala philippinensis*

We saw two forms. On Mindanao, *apoensis* was fairly common in mixed flocks at PICOP and Mt Kitanglad. On Bohol, *boholensis* was seen at Rajah Sikatuna National Park.

Elegant Tit *Periparus elegans*

No fewer than 4 subspecies noted. First site for each form as follows: Subic Bay (*gilliardi*), Mt Polis (*montigenus*), Mt Kitanglad (*mindanensis*) and Negros (*albescens*).

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Nominate (Luzon and Negros), *suluensis* (Mindanao), *samarensis* (Cebu and Bohol).

Negros Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus nigrorum*

We saw three forms of this recently split species. On Luzon, we saw *benguetensis* at Mt Polis, on Mindanao we saw *flavostratus* at Mt Kitanglad and on Negros we saw the nominate form above Mantaquil.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

With the recent splitting of Japanese Leaf Warbler *P. Xanthodryas* and Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *P. examinandus*, the possibility (or even probability) that some or all of our records refer to these cannot be discounted.

Long-tailed Bush Warbler *Locustella caudata*

Two forms were recorded. The nominate was common by voice at Mt Polis where a single bird was glimpsed, whilst the form *unicolor* was seen exceedingly well Mt Kitanglad. The two forms are vocally and morphologically different and could well be regarded as good species.

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*

Three forms seen - *whiteheadi* was common on Mt Polis, *vulcani* was common at Mt Kitanglad and *pectoralis* was seen on Negros.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

We saw two forms during the tour. On Luzon, we saw the nominate form at Subic Bay. On Palawan, we saw the form *aurora* which is distinctive as it shows an orange breast.