



The brilliant Whiskered Pitta was our bird of the trip by some distance! (Pete Morris)

REMOTE PHILIPPINES

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LEADER: PETE MORRIS

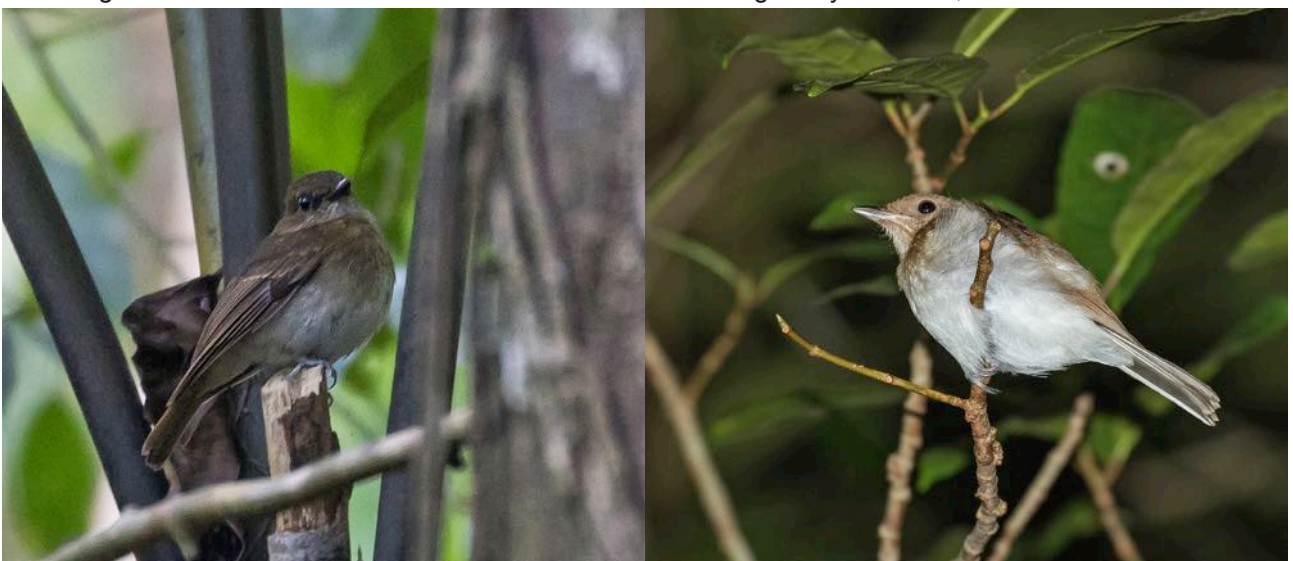
With more and more birds being split and 'available' in the Philippines, we have resurrected our Remote Philippines tour to give us a great shot at finding a good number of endemics not available on our Classic Philippines tour. The two dovetail perfectly and together really do form the Ultimate Philippines tour. Focusing mostly on the Visayas, Mindoro, and more remote areas of Luzon, the tour was never about a big species total, but purely about seeing those important birds. In total we recorded around 220 species (including half a dozen distinct



The stunning Negros Scops Owl is my favourite endemic Philippine Nightbird! (Pete Morris)

allospecies), a high percentage of which were ‘diamond’ birds. These included some truly spectacular species, none more so than the gorgeous Whiskered Pitta which bounded around us at close range! Other stunners included the delightful little Negros Scops Owl, lovely Camiguin and Cebu Hawk-Owls, exquisite Dimorphic Dwarf, Northern Silvery and Southern Indigo-banded Kingfishers, the incomparable Flame-templed Babbler, the very rare Isabela Oriole, and the skulking Bicol Ground Warbler to name just a few!

Our tour began when the Classic Philippines tour ended, and we were straight on to our next flight, this time to Bacolod on Negros, where we arrived in the evening for a comfortable overnight. We were up early the following morning, and arrived at Gawahon Ecopark in the dark, though failed to find any nightbirds before the first rays of light began to penetrate the forest. We found our first localized White-vented Whistlers still roosting and soon began to see other endemics in the mixed flocks including Visayan Bulbul, Lemon-throated Leaf-War-



Two of Negros’s more subtle specialties! White-throated Jungle Flycatcher (left) and White-vented Whistler (Pete Morris)



The gorgeous (Southern) Indigo-banded Kingfisher (Pete Morris)

blers, Visayan Drongo (the white-bellied form of Balicassiao), Elegant Tits, the attractive Visayan Fantail and Yellowish White-eyes, as well as the increasingly scarce Citrine Canary-Flycatcher. Our main focus however was on finding three rarities, and it took some time to track them down. First to fall was the rare White-throated Jungle Flycatcher which gave us a bit of a run-around. We followed this up with Negros's real star, the incredible Flame-templed Babbler, which showed well in a mixed flock, and then a long vigil eventually resulted in great views of a fantastic male Southern Indigo-banded Kingfisher. Flushed with success we headed south on the long drive to Dumaguete.

We then had two and a half days to explore the southern parts of Negros, and attempt to track down a few more key endemics, though rain did hamper our progress at times. It was pretty tough going, and some extra effort was required to see some of the birds! In the end we were pretty successful! One of the best experiences on Negros was our encounter with the beautiful Negros Scops Owl, which was seen virtually alongside a roosting Spotted Wood Kingfisher and a pair of Luzon Hawk-Owls! The visit would have been worth it to see them alone! Our quest for Negros Striped Babbler was somewhat easier this year, and we achieved some great views whilst barely leaving the vehicle! It took some effort to see the distinctive White-browed (Visayan)



The attractive Visayan Fantail (Pete Morris)



Some gorgeous sunbirds from Negros! Maroon-naped (above), and Olive-backed (a potential split as Garden) below (Pete Morris)





An aptly-named Magnificent Sunbird from Negros, the localized Negros Striped Babbler and Visayan White-browed Shama (Pete Morris)





Once you see how distinct the Grey-breasted form of Amethyst Brown Dove is, it's not surprising it is a candidate split! (Pete Morris)

Shama, whereas our intimate encounters with two recently split sunbirds, namely Magnificent Sunbird (split from Crimson) and the colourful Maroon-naped Sunbird (split from Flaming) were somewhat easier! Other targets seen included the endangered Visayan Hornbill, Blue-crowned Racket-tails, the rare White-winged Cuckooshrike, Philippine Tailorbird (endemic to the Visayas), and the delightful Black-belted (or Visayan) Flowerpecker, as well as more widespread endemics such as Philippine Honey Buzzard, Philippine Serpent Eagle, Philippine Nightjar, Philippine Spine-tailed Swift, Philippine Hanging Parrot, Coletto, Bicolored Flowerpecker and Olive-backed (Garden) Sunbird. We also found the rare and very distinctive Grey-breasted (Amethyst) Brown Dove, which was surprisingly different to Amethyst Brown Doves elsewhere!

Next we travelled by express ferry to Tagbilaran on Bohol, and made our way up to Bilar our base from which to explore Rajah Sikatuna National Park and its surroundings. Pre-dawn we had some marvellous encounters with a cute Everett's Scops Owl and an unexpected pair of Chocolate Boobooks, though the stunning pair of



One of very few records of Chocolate Boobook from Bohol, and a fine Everett's Scops Owl from the same spot! (Pete Morris)



This stunning pair of Philippine Frogmouths, protecting their chick, were found roosting on Bohol (Pete Morris)

Philippine Frogmouths we saw were cunningly found on a day roost! Another favourite, though it took some effort, was the stunning Northern Silvery Kingfisher, and we also had great success tracking down the endemic Bohol Sunbird. Much of our time was spent scouring elusive flocks for the even more elusive Visayan Broadbill, and although we heard them, they slipped away, and we sadly missed this much-wanted though often tricky prize! The flocks held other goodies including Visayan Blue Fantails, Black-crowned Babblers, Brown Tit-Babblers, Philippine Leaf Warblers, Rufous-fronted Tailorbirds and Yellow-bellied Whistlers, whilst other species seen included Black-chinned Fruit Doves, Black-faced Coucal, Philippine Trogons, the endemic Samar Hornbill and the attractive endemic Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, as well as Philippine Bulbuls. We also enjoyed some fabulous Colugos (Philippine Flying-Lemurs), both at night and on day roosts!

After our final morning on Bohol, we took a boat across to Cebu City, and settled in for the night. The following day we were up early and made our way up to Tabunan, one of the very few areas with some native forest remaining on Cebu. After a short walk, we managed to find a thrilling pair of Cebu Hawk Owls, which were real show-offs! After a bit more scrambling, we managed some fantastic views of several endemic Black Shamas, as well as a frantic Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo, a smart Philippine Pitta, sultry Mangrove Blue Flycatchers, White-vented Whistlers and ultra-elusive Streak-breasted Bulbuls which eventually showed well to all after

a sickeningly long wait! Needless to say, the virtually extinct Cebu Flowerpecker was nowhere to be seen. There can be few wild birds now that are extant and have never been photographed!?



Cebu Hawk Owl and (Cebu) Black Shama - the two stars of the show on Cebu (Pete Morris)



The following morning we even had a lie-in, before taking a flight over to Camiguin Sur, a new island for Birdquest. Once checked-in and fed, we set about exploring some remnant forest areas to find the few specialities that the island has to offer. Over the course of the afternoon/evening, and the following morning, we did very well with these! Pride of place went to the superb Camiguin Hawk-Owls which showed so well at dusk! Not far behind was the delightful Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher and a perched Camiguin Hanging Parrot which posed at dusk and was surprisingly different! A few other interesting subspecies were noted, including the ultra-distinctive (Camiguin) Yellowish Bulbul, Black-naped Monarch and Yellowish and Everett's White-eyes to name a few, and we also had superb views of a cracking male Winchell's Kingfisher, Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, (Southern) Rufous Paradise Flycatcher and Grey-throated and Purple-throated Sunbirds. After a flying visit, we made our way back to Cebu and on to Manila for a comfortable night and our favourite waist-destroying buffet!



Some of the top-draw birds from Camiguin... (Camiguin) Yellowish Bulbul, Camiguin Hanging Parrot and Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher (Pete Morris)





Mindoro Hawk Owl and Black-hooded Coucal from Mindoro. The latter is seldom seen so well... (Pete Morris)



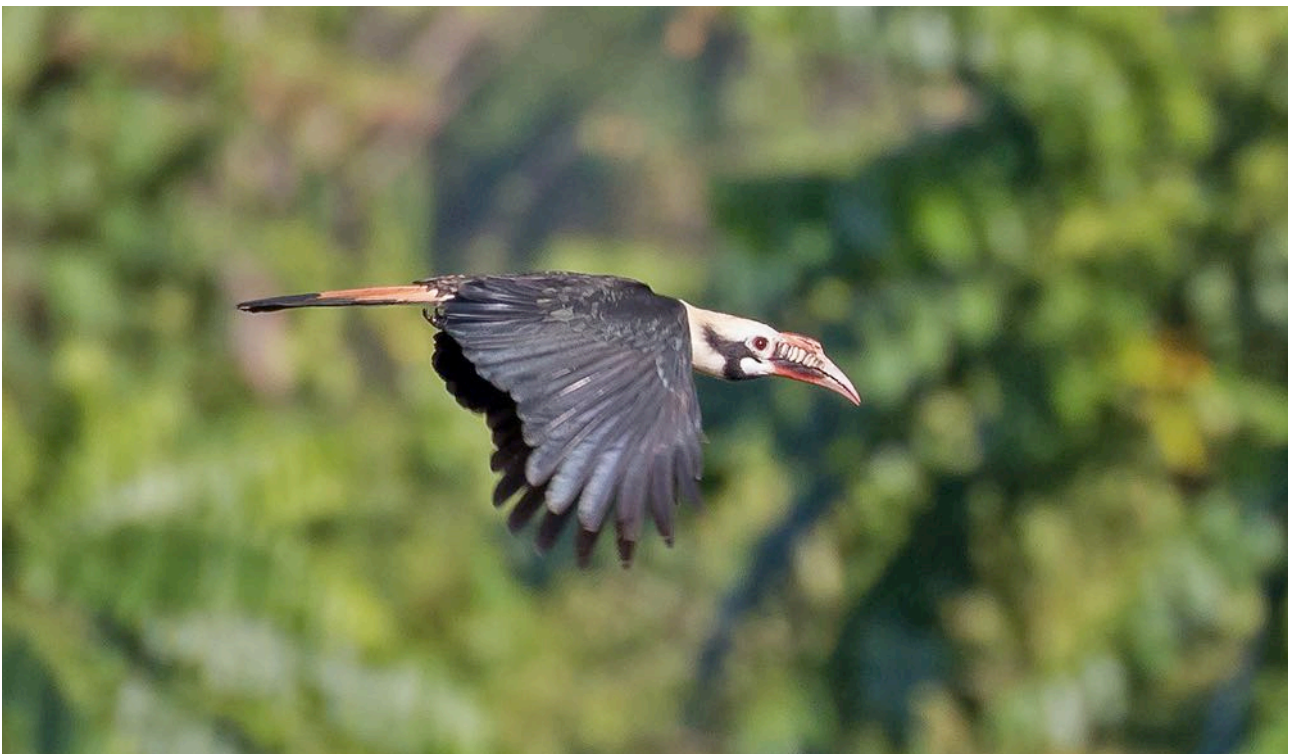
As usual, it was an early start as we made our way to yet another island, this time Mindoro! By the time we'd arrived at our hotel, we had an afternoon and a morning to explore the remnant forest and find Mindoro's smart set of gettable endemics. We began by exploring around a lake where we found Wandering Whistling Ducks and Philippine Ducks, the local black form of Philippine Coucal and our first endemics in the shape of Min-

doro Hornbills, showy Mindoro Bulbuls and delightful Scarlet-collared Flowerpeckers that gave great views. Colourful Blue-naped Parrots and speedy Mindoro Racket-Tails sped by, and at dusk, we set about finding the endemic Mindoro Hawk Owl which proved straightforward as one posed in the spotlight for us!

On the second morning we explored some other forest patches and here we soon tracked down the critically endangered Black-hooded (or Steere's) Coucal, which we watched 'pooping' down at us from a vine tangle. We also enjoyed far better perched views of Mindoro Racket-Tails, and found Black-and-white Trillers and flowering trees full of Philippine Hanging Parrots.



Three more of Mindoro's endemics: Mindoro Bulbul, Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker and Mindoro Hornbill (Pete Morris)



After a night in San José, we took a flight back to Manila, and our island hopping was over. All that remained was to explore a couple of sites on the main island of Luzon. We began by driving east into the southern Sierra Madre mountains. Although much of the accessible forest has been cleared in this area, there is still some good forest along the road, and this forest harboured some highly desired goodies. Perhaps most wanted was the chunky Whiskered Pitta, and although it took a real effort, we did get some stunning looks at this legendary bird. Cream-bellied Fruity Dove, stunning Philippine Fairy Bluebirds and Bicol Ground Warbler were three other goodies which were much appreciated and the supporting cast included the amazing Scale-feathered Malkoha, Guaiaberos, Blue-headed Fantails, Yellow-wattled Bulbuls, sneaky Grey-backed Tailorbirds and Sulphur-billed Nuthatches. On one of our evenings we headed to Angono and enjoyed amazing views of the pair of Philippine Eagle Owls, a great catch up for those not on the Classic Philippines tour, and this theme continued when we headed back to Manila, and a successful Ashy Thrush detour trip was arranged for those that wanted, whilst the rest put their feet up for the final push!



A stunning Philippine Eagle Owl from Angono (Pete Morris)



Philippine Fairy Bluebird and Cream-breasted Fruit Dove - two increasingly uncommon species (Pete Morris)

No great surprise to find ourselves back at Manila Airport the following morning, this time for our delayed flight to Tuguegarao. At least Cebu Pacific were consistent! Upon arrival we drove further north to the Baggao area and checked in. We then had an afternoon, a full day and a morning to explore some forest patches near to Baggao. Our reason for travelling all this way was to track down the ultra-rare and poorly-known Isabela Oriole, and this we achieved successfully, with repeated great views. Also here were the much-wanted Luzon Striped Babbler and Golden-crowned Babbler, though the latter eluded many of us, and we also found an aptly-name Furtive Flycatcher which showed well to all. The Isabela Orioles were generally to be found in mixed flocks which also contained Rufous Coucals, Rough-crested Malkohas, Black-and-white Trillers and Bar-bellied Cuckooshrikes, and even a White-lored Oriole. Rufous-bellied Eagles were noted on a couple of



White-browed Shama and Luzon Striped Babbler - two of the specialities near to Baggao (Pete Morris)

occasions, Plain Bush-hens showed on the trail, Philippine Cuckoo-Doves, Philippine Green Pigeons, Spotted Imperial Pigeons and Green Imperial Pigeons (of the attractive local maroon-naped form) were all noted, and other goodies included Luzon Hornbill, (Northern) Sooty Woodpecker, Ashy Minivets, (Northern) Rufous Paradise Flycatchers, Trilling Tailorbirds, a Striped Flowerpecker and an unbelievably showy White-browed Shama.

All that remained was for our return journey to Manila and the predictably late Cebu Pacific flight. It had been a cracking and successful two and a bit weeks, and for some it concluded a six week odyssey around this endemic-rich country. You always miss a few, but I think we could hold our heads up high and be pleased with what we managed to see!



The critically endangered Isabela Oriole... a Birdquest lifer!! (Pete Morris)



The delightful Camiguin Hawk Owl... Another Birdquest lifer!! (Pete Morris)

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

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

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

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

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>

(EW) = Extinct in the wild, **(CR)** = Critically Endangered, **(EN)** = Endangered, **(VU)** = Vulnerable, **(NT)** = Near Threatened, **(DD)** = Data Deficient.

For polytypic species, the subspecies seen on the tour, where known, is placed in parentheses at the end of the species comment. Generally, species listed with trinomials are not currently split by the IOC.

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **2019. IOC World Bird List (v 9.1)**. This list is updated twice annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>. Please note, this was the current version when the report checklist was created. Some alternative names are given in parentheses.

All of our checklists are powered by our partner iGoTerra (www.igoterra.com) who provide web and mobile applications for bird and wildlife enthusiasts and businesses. Their suite of services cover observations, rankings, lists, photos and trip management tools.



Philippine Ducks on Mindoro (Pete Morris)

- Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata* Three seen at Sablayan, Mindoro [nominate].
- Philippine Duck** ◇ *Anas luzonica* (VU) Two seen in flight on Bohol. Great looks at five at Sablayan.
- Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus* (H) Heard on Bohol and Mindoro.
- Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis* A few seen at Lake Libuao, Sablayan, Mindoro.
- Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* One seen Lake Libuao, Sablayan, Mindoro.
- Striated Heron** *Butorides striata* A few seen, the first at the Twin Lakes, Negros [*javanica*].
- Javan Pond Heron** *Ardeola speciosa* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros [nominate].
- Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus* Common, first seen in roadside fields on Negros.
- Grey Heron** *Ardea cinerea* One seen Lake Libuao, Sablayan, Mindoro [*jouyi*].
- Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea* Several seen at Lake Libuao, Sablayan, Mindoro [*manilensis*].
- Great Egret (Eastern G E)** *Ardea [alba] modesta* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros.
- Intermediate Egret** *Ardea intermedia* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros [nominate].
- Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros [nominate].
- Western Osprey** *Pandion haliaetus* A few seen, the first at the Twin Lakes, Negros [nominate].
- Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus* One seen near Sablayan, Mindoro [*philippensis*].
- Philippine Honey Buzzard** ◇ *Pernis steerei* One flew over us at the Twin Lakes, Negros [nominate].
- Philippine Serpent Eagle** ◇ *Spilornis holospilus* Several seen well, especially on Negros and Mindoro.
- Rufous-bellied Eagle** *Lophotriorchis kienerii* (NT) An adult seen well near to Baggao, Luzon [*formosus*].
- Brahminy Kite** *Haliastur indus* Fairly common. First seen on Negros [*intermedius*].
- Grey-faced Buzzard** ◇ *Butastur indicus* Singles on Southern Negros, Camiguin Sur and Mindoro.
- Barred Rail** ◇ *Gallirallus torquatus* A few heard and one seen on southern Negros. Also seen on Camiguin Sur [nominate].
- Buff-banded Rail** *Gallirallus philippensis* One seen briefly on Mindoro [nominate].



A Striated Heron from Negros (Pete Morris)

- Plain Bush-hen** ◊ *Amaurornis olivacea* Good views of a pair near to Baggao, Luzon.
- White-breasted Waterhen** *Amaurornis phoenicurus* A few seen on Mindoro [nominate].
- White-browed Crake** *Porzana cinerea* Several seen on Mindoro, especially at Lake Libuao.
- Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus* Heard in paddies on Bohol. A few seen on Mindoro [*orientalis*].
- Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus* Two seen in paddies near Baggao, Luzon.
- Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva* 20+ in paddies near Baggao, Luzon.
- Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius* Several in paddies near Baggao, Luzon [nominate].
- Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos* One seen on Mindoro and another in paddies near Baggao, Luzon.
- Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola* 50+ in paddies near Baggao, Luzon.
- Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida* Plenty seen, the first off Dumaguete, Negros.
- Rock Dove (Feral)** *Columba livia* Introduced.
- Red Turtle Dove** *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Just one noted on a journey [*humilis*].
- Spotted Dove** *Spilopelia chinensis* Common in open country [*tigrina*].
- Philippine Cuckoo-Dove** ◊ *Macropygia tenuirostris* First seen, perched, at Gawahon Eco Park, Negros [nominate].
- Common Emerald Dove** *Chalcophaps indica* (H) Heard on Bohol.
- Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata* Common in open country.
- White-eared Brown Dove** ◊ *Phapitreron [leucotis] leucotis* A couple seen near to Sablayan, Mindoro.
- White-eared Brown Dove** ◊ (Buff-eared B D) *Phapitreron [leucotis] nigrorum* Seen well on Negros and Cebu.
- White-eared Brown Dove** ◊ (Short-billed B D) *Phapitreron [leucotis] brevirostris* Several on Bohol and Camiguin Sur.
- Amethyst Brown Dove** ◊ *Phapitreron [amethystinus] amethystinus* (H) Heard in Rajah Sikatuna National Park.
- Amethyst Brown Dove** ◊ (Grey-breasted B D) *Phapitreron [amethystinus] maculipectus* (NT) Great views of a pair on Negros.
- Philippine Green Pigeon** ◊ *Treron axillaris* Three forms: *amadoni* (Luzon), nominate (Mindoro) and *canescens* Bohol.
- Cream-breasted Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus merrilli* (NT) Great views of a pair in the Southern Sierra Madre, Luzon [*faustinoi*].
- Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus occipitalis* Nominate on Negros and Mindoro *incognitus* seen on Camiguin Sur.
- Black-chinned Fruit Dove** ◊ *Ptilinopus leclancheri* Plenty heard and a few seen on Bohol [nominate].
- Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula poliocephala* (NT) (H) Heard at the forest near Sablayan, Mindoro.
- Spotted Imperial Pigeon** ◊ *Ducula carola* (VU) Three seen well but briefly near Baggao, Luzon.
- Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea* See note.
- Rufous Coucal** ◊ *Centropus unirufus* (NT) Great views of a couple of flocks near to Baggao, Luzon.
- Black-faced Coucal** ◊ *Centropus melanops* Several seen well in Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol.
- Black-hooded Coucal** ◊ *Centropus steerii* (CR) Superb views of one and others heard near to Sablayan, Mindoro.
- Philippine Coucal** ◊ *Centropus viridis* See note.
- Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis* One seen well on Mindoro [*philippinensis*].
- Rough-crested Malkoha** ◊ *Dasylophus superciliosus* Several seen well near to Baggao, Luzon [*cagayanensis*].
- Scale-feathered Malkoha** ◊ *Dasylophus cumingi* Seen along the Infanta Road and near to Baggao, Luzon.



The distinct nuchalis subspecies of Green Imperial Pigeon from Northern Luzon, and a Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo (Pete Morris)

- Asian Koel** *Eudynamis scolopaceus* Many heard and a couple seen around Sablayan, Mindoro [*mindanensis*].
- Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sepulcralis* First heard on Negros. Several heard and one seen on Cebu [nominate].
- Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo** ◇ *Surniculus velutinus* Two forms: *chalybaeus* on Mindoro, nominate first heard on Bohol.
- Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo** ◇ *Hierococcyx pectoralis* Heard at a few sites and a couple seen at Tabunan on Cebu.
- Philippine Scops Owl** ◇ *Otus megalotis* (H) Heard at the hotel at Tanay (adult and juvs).
- Everett's Scops Owl** ◇ *Otus everetti* Excellent spotlight views of one on Bohol.
- Negros Scops Owl** ◇ *Otus nigrorum* Brilliant views of an adult at Valencia, Negros. A real cracker!
- Philippine Eagle-Owl** ◇ *Bubo philippensis* (VU) Brilliant views of two at Angono [nominate].
- Chocolate Boobook** ◇ *Ninox randi* (NT) Great views of a pair near Bilar, Bohol. Rarely recorded from Bohol.
- Luzon Hawk-Owl** ◇ *Ninox philippensis* Great views of a pair on Negros. Also near to Baggao, Luzon [nominate].
- Mindoro Hawk-Owl** ◇ *Ninox mindorensis* Superb views of one in the forest near Sablayan, Mindoro.
- Cebu Hawk-Owl** ◇ *Ninox rumseyi* (EN) Brilliant views of a pair at Tabunan, Cebu.
- Camiguin Hawk-Owl** ◇ *Ninox leventisi* (EN) Brilliant views of a pair on Camiguin Sur. Cracking birds with a great call!
- Philippine Frogmouth** ◇ *Batrachostomus septimus* Stunning views of a roosting pair at Rajah Sikatuna [nominate].
- Great Eared Nightjar** *Lyncornis macrotis* Seen at Sablayan, Mindoro and near to Baggao, Luzon [nominate].
- Philippine Nightjar** ◇ *Caprimulgus manillensis* Good views of one on Negros.
- Savanna Nightjar** *Caprimulgus affinis* (H) One heard on Mindoro [*griseatus*].
- Whiskered Treeswift** *Hemiprocne comata* First seen at the Twin Lakes, Negros [*major*].
- Grey-rumped Swiftlet** ◇ *Collocalia marginata* First noted on Negros [nominate].
- Ridgetop Swiftlet** ◇ *Collocalia isonota* Common on Camiguin Sur [*bagobo*].
- Pygmy Swiftlet** ◇ *Collocalia troglodytes* Plenty seen on Bohol and Cebu and very common near Baggao, Luzon.
- Ameline Swiftlet** ◇ *Aerodramus amelis* First noted on Negros, a few on Camiguin Sur and common on Mindoro [nominate].
- Philippine Spine-tailed Swift** ◇ *Mearnsia picina* (NT) A couple seen over the Twin Lakes, Negros.
- Purple Needletail** ◇ *Hirundapus celebensis* Several seen well on Mindoro, and a pair near to Baggao, Luzon.
- Asian Palm Swift** *Cypsiurus balasiensis* (NL) Just a few seen.
- Philippine Trogon** ◇ *Harpactes ardens* Just a couple seen on Bohol [*linae*].
- Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis* One seen at the Twin Lakes, Negros [nominate].
- Spotted Wood Kingfisher** ◇ *Actenoides lindsayi* Nominate heard near Baggao, *moseleyi* seen brilliantly roosting on Negros.



Two cracking endemics: Winchell's Kingfisher and Spotted Wood Kingfisher (Pete Morris)

- White-throated Kingfisher** ◊ (Brown-breasted K) *Halcyon [smyrnensis] gularis* A few, the first on Negros.
- Winchell's Kingfisher** ◊ *Todiramphus winchelli* (VU) *nigrorum* heard on Bohol, *mindanensis* seen well on Camiguin.
- Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris* First seen at the Twin Lakes, Negros [*collaris*].
- Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis* Heard at the Twin Lakes, Negros. Seen well on Mindoro [*bengalensis*].
- Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher** ◊ *Ceyx margarethae* Brilliant views of two dark morphs on Camiguin. Stunning little bird!
- Indigo-banded Kingfisher** ◊ (Southern I-b K) *Ceyx [cyanopectus] nigrirostris* (NT) Great views on Negros. A real cracker!
- Northern Silvery Kingfisher** ◊ *Ceyx flumenicola* (NT) Great looks eventually near Bilar, Bohol.
- Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus* Seen on the journey on Bohol. Plenty seen on Mindoro.
- Blue-throated Bee-eater** ◊ (Rufous-crowned B-e) *Merops [viridis] americanus* One on Camiguin Sur and a few on Mindoro.
- Rufous Hornbill** ◊ (Northern R H) *Buceros [hydrocorax] hydrocorax* (VU) (H) Heard several times near to Baggao.
- Luzon Hornbill** ◊ *Penelopides manillae* A few seen near to Baggao, Luzon.
- Mindoro Hornbill** ◊ *Penelopides mindorensis* (EN) Plenty seen well around Sablayan, Mindoro.
- Samar Hornbill** ◊ *Penelopides samarensis* Great views of several around the clearing in Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol.
- Visayan Hornbill** ◊ *Penelopides panini* (EN) Several seen well at the Twin Lakes, Negros.



Two very similar endemic hornbills! Samar Hornbill on the left and Visayan Hornbill (Pete Morris)

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus* See note.
 Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker ◊ *Yungipicus maculatus* A few seen along the Infanta Road, Luzon [*validirostris*].
 White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* Three forms: *philippinensis* (Negros); *pectoralis* (Bohol); *mindorensis* (Mindoro).
 Buff-spotted Flameback ◊ *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (H) Heard a few times on Bohol, but no luck [*rufopunctatus*].
 Luzon Flameback ◊ *Chrysocolaptes haematribon* (H) Heard along the Infanta Road, Luzon.
 Sooty Woodpecker ◊ (Northern) *Mulleripicus [funnebris] funnebris* (NT) Heard and seen by some near Baggao, Luzon.
 Oriental Hobby ◊ *Falco severus* One seen briefly on Mindoro.
 Mindoro Racket-Tail ◊ *Prioniturus mindorensis* (VU) Great views near to Sablayan, Mindoro.
 Blue-crowned Racket-Tail ◊ *Prioniturus discurus* (VU) Good perched views on Negros [*whiteheadi*].
 Blue-naped Parrot ◊ *Tanygnathus lucionensis* (NT) Seen well on Mindoro [*lucionensis*].
 Guaiabero ◊ *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus* Seen along the Infanta Road, Luzon.
 Philippine Hanging Parrot ◊ *Loriculus philippensis* See note.
 Camiguin Hanging Parrot ◊ *Loriculus camiguinensis* Great views of one on a palm spike on Camiguin Sur. Distinctive.
 Visayan Broadbill ◊ *Sarcophanops samarensis* (H) Heard on Bohol, but sadly it slipped away rather quickly.
 Whiskered Pitta ◊ *Erythropitta kochi* (NT) Brilliant views of one, and another briefly, along the Infanta Road, Luzon.
 Philippine Pitta ◊ *Erythropitta erythrogaster* Excellent views of an adult on Cebu. Others heard [nominate].
 Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* (H) Heard on the side excursion to La Mesa Ecopark.
 Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea* (H) Heard on the side excursion to La Mesa Ecopark. [*simplex*].



Mindoro Racket-Tail and Black-hooded Coucal from Mindoro (Pete Morris)

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Quite common in open country [nominate].
 Scarlet Minivet ◊ (Philippine M) *Pericrocotus [speciosus] leytenis* Seen by some at the Twin Lakes, Negros.
 Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Some big flocks seen on Mindoro and near Baggao, Luzon.
 Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata* See note.
 White-winged Cuckooshrike ◊ *Edolisoma ostentum* (VU) A few seen from the boat at the Twin Lakes, Negros.
 Blackish Cuckooshrike ◊ *Edolisoma coerulescens* (H) Heard near to Baggao, Luzon.
 Black-and-white Triller ◊ (Northern B-a-w T) *Lalage [melanoleuca] melanoleuca* Brilliant views on Mindoro, and Luzon.
 Pied Triller *Lalage nigra* A few seen at Tubunan, Cebu [nominate].
 White-vented Whistler ◊ (Cebu W-v W) *Pachycephala [homeyeri] major* Good views of a couple at Tabunan, Cebu.
 White-vented Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala [homeyeri] winchelli* Several seen very well on Negros, including roosting!
 Yellow-bellied Whistler ◊ *Pachycephala philippinensis* Two forms: *boholensis* on Bohol; *fallax* near Baggao, Luzon.
 Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Common, first noted on Negros [*lucionensis*].
 Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* One seen along the Infanta Road. Several around Baggao [*nasutus*].
 Philippine Oriole ◊ *Oriolus [steerii] samarensis* (H) Several heard on Bohol [*samarensis*].
 White-lored Oriole ◊ *Oriolus albiloris* One seen near to Baggao, Luzon.
 Isabela Oriole ◊ *Oriolus isabellae* (CR) Brilliant views of 3 or 4 near to Baggao, Luzon. A cracking Birdquest lifer.
 Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Two forms noted: *yamamurae* on Negros; nominate common on Mindoro.
 Balicassiao ◊ *Dicrurus [balicassius] balicassius* Several seen well on Mindoro and Luzon.

Balicassiao ◊ (Visayan D) *Dicrurus [balicassius] mirabilis* Several white-bellied birds seen well on Negros.
Hair-crested Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus [hottentottus] samarensis* Several seen well at both sites on Bohol.
Visayan Blue Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura samarensis* Excellent views of several in mixed flocks in Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.
Blue-headed Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura cyaniceps* Several seen at both sites on Luzon.
Visayan Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura albiventris* Excellent views of several at Gawahon Eco Park, Negros.
Philippine Pied Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura nigritorquis* Plenty seen at various sites.
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* See note.
Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◊ (Northern R P F) *Terpsiphone [cinnamomea] unirufa* Great views near to Baggao, Luzon.
Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◊ (Southern R P F) *Terpsiphone [cinnamomea] cinnamomea* Great views on Camiguin Sur.
Slender-billed Crow ◊ (Palawan C) *Corvus [enca] pusillus* Several seen well on Mindoro.
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* First noted on Negros [*philippinus*].
Citrine Canary-Flycatcher ◊ *Culicicapa helianthea* Several seen well at Gawahon Eco Park, Negros [*panayensis*].
Elegant Tit ◊ *Pardaliparus elegans* Three forms: *albescens* (Negros), *visayanus* (Cebu) and nominate (Luzon).
Yellow-wattled Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus urostictus* The form *atricaudatus* was heard on Bohol, the nominate seen on Luzon.
Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* Common. Two forms: *samarensis* first on Negros; nominate on Luzon.
Philippine Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes philippinus* Two forms: *saturation* first seen on Bohol; nominate common on Luzon.
Mindoro Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes mindorensis* Common at all sites on Mindoro with many seen well.
Visayan Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes guimarasensis* Common on Negros. First seen at Gawahon Eco Park.
Streak-breasted Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes siquijorensis* (EN) Good views in the end on Cebu. A nightmare to see well as usual!!
Yellowish Bulbul ◊ (Camiguin B) *Hypsipetes [everetti] catarmanensis* (NT) Great views on Camiguin Sur. Highly distinctive!



More goodies! Visayan Bulbul, Black-and-white Triller, Rufous Paradise Flycatcher and the rare Isabela Oriole (Pete Morris)



Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common and widespread. First noted on Negros [*gutturalis*].

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* First seen well along the Infanta Road, Luzon [*javanica*].

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* A couple seen on Mindoro [nominate].

Philippine Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus olivaceus* Several seen well in the mixed flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus cebuensis* A few seen well on Negros [nominate].

Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus examinandus* Heard on Cebu; most likely seen on Camiguin Sur but no call heard!

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* Seen and heard at Baggao, Luzon.

Negros Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus nigrorum* (NL) One for some of the group along the Infanta Road.

Bicol Ground Warbler ◇ *Robsonius sorsogonensis* (NT) Great views of one, just metres away, along the Infanta Road.

Tawny Grassbird *Cincloramphus timoriensis* (H) Two forms: *tweeddalei* heard on Negros; *alopex* heard on Cebu.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris* Particularly common on Mindoro [*forbesi*].

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* (H) Heard on Mindoro [*semirufus*].

Philippine Tailorbird ◇ *Orthotomus castaneiceps* Commonly heard and seen well on Negros [*rabori*].

Trilling Tailorbird ◇ *Orthotomus chloronotus* Commonly heard near to Baggao, Luzon, where several seen well.

Rufous-fronted Tailorbird ◇ *Orthotomus frontalis* A couple seen well in mixed flocks on Bohol.

Grey-backed Tailorbird ◇ *Orthotomus derbianus* Many heard and a few seen along the Infanta Road [nominate].

Yellow-breasted Tailorbird ◇ *Orthotomus samarensis* We enjoyed some excellent views in Rajah Sikatuna NP.

Brown Tit-Babbler ◇ *Macronus striaticeps* A few seen in mixed flocks on Bohol [*mindanensis*].

Striated Wren-babbler ◇ *Ptilocichla mindanensis* (H) Only heard at both sites on Bohol [*fortichi*].

Luzon Striped Babbler ◇ *Zosterornis striatus* (NT) Excellent views of several near to Baggao, Luzon.

Negros Striped Babbler ◇ *Zosterornis nigrorum* (EN) Excellent views of a pair northwest of Dumaguete. No walk required!

Flame-templed Babbler ◇ *Dasycrotapha speciosa* (EN) Great views of a pair, then a single at Gawahon, Negros.

Golden-crowned Babbler ◇ *Sterrhoptilus dennistouni* (NT) (NL) Seen briefly in a mixed flock near to Baggao, Luzon.

Black-crowned Babbler ◇ *Sterrhoptilus nigrocapitatus* Great in mixed flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP [*boholensis*].

Warbling White-eye *Zosterops japonicus* A few seen high up near Dumaguete [*pectoralis*].

Everett's White-eye ◇ *Zosterops everetti* See note.

Yellowish White-eye ◇ *Zosterops nigrorum* See note.

Philippine Fairy-bluebird ◇ *Irena cyanogastra* Several seen well and more heard along the Infanta Road.

Sulphur-billed Nuthatch ◇ *Sitta oenochlamys* A few seen along the Infanta Road, Luzon [*isarog*].

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis* Common in open country on Negros [*panayensis*].

Coledo ◇ *Sarcops calvus* Two forms seen: *melanonotus* Negros, Bohol etc., nominate seen on Mindoro and Luzon.

Ashy Thrush ◇ *Geokichla cinerea* (VU) An unexpected taxi detour for one client led to excellent views at La Mesa.

Philippine Magpie-Robin ◇ *Copsychus mindanensis* Seen well on Negros, Cebu, and Camiguin Sur.

White-browed Shama ◇ *Copsychus [luzoniensis] luzoniensis* Brilliant views of a couple near to Baggao, Luzon.

White-browed Shama ◇ (Visayan S) *Copsychus [luzoniensis] superciliaris* Excellent views of a male on Negros.

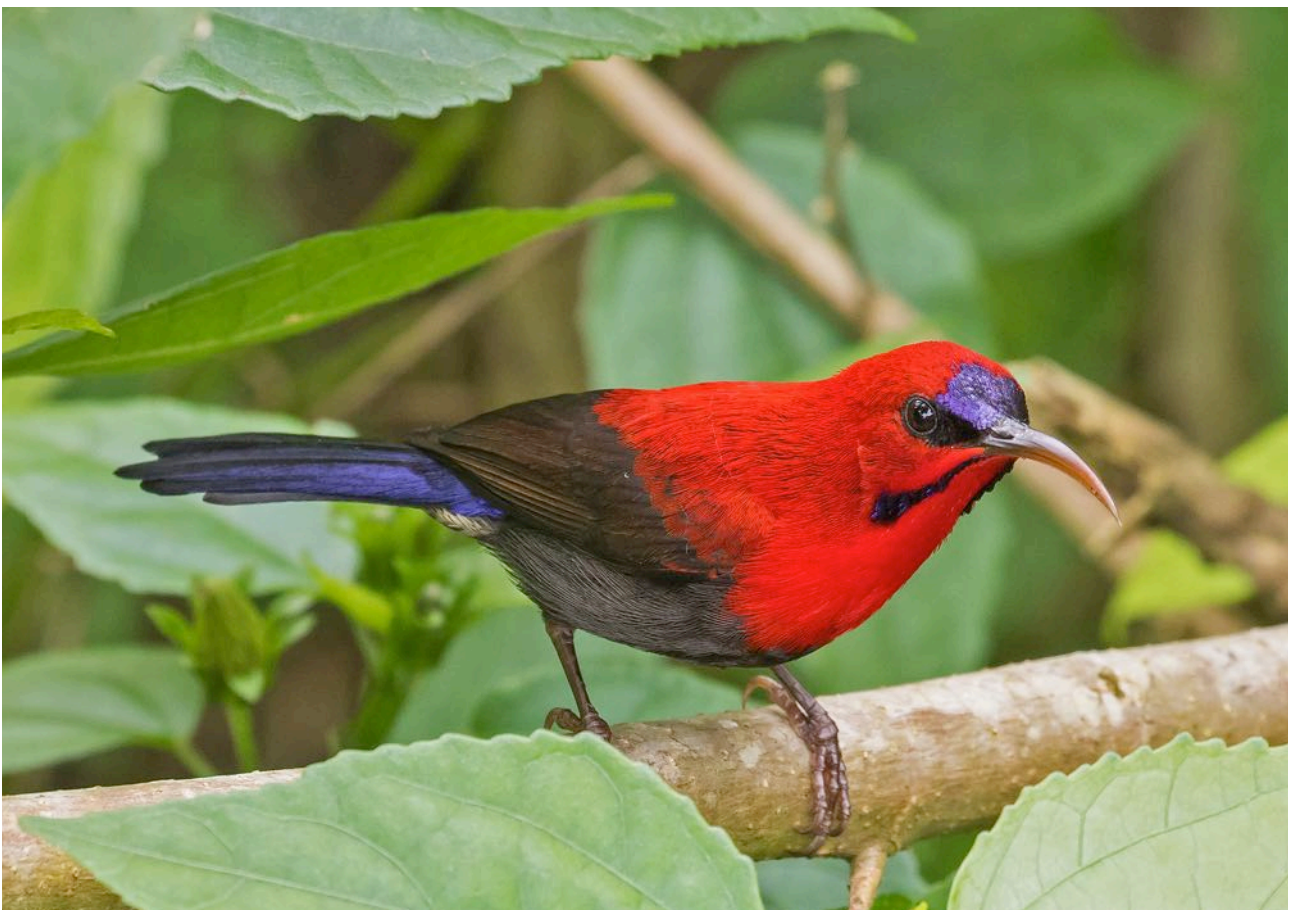
Black Shama ◇ *Copsychus cebuensis* (EN) Brilliant views of at least four at Tabunan, Cebu.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta* A few seen. First noted on Negros.



Bohol Sunbird and Black-belted Flowerpecker from Negros (Pete Morris)

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher ◊ *Cyornis rufigastra* See note.
Turquoise Flycatcher ◊ *Eumyias panayensis* One seen high up near Dumaguete, Negros [nominate].
White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* (H) One heard high up near Dumaguete, Negros [*brunneiceps*].
White-throated Jungle Flycatcher ◊ *Vauriella albigularis* (EN) After some effort, great views of one on Negros.
Furtive Flycatcher ◊ *Ficedula disposita* (NT) Excellent views of one near to Baggao, Luzon.
Blue Rock Thrush (Red-bellied R T) *Monticola [solitarius] philippensis* One briefly along the Infanta Road, Luzon.
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* A singing male at Sablayan [nominate].
Philippine Leafbird ◊ *Chloropsis flavipennis* (VU) (H) Heard at Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol.
Striped Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum aeruginosum* One seen near to Baggao, Luzon [*striatissimum*].
Bicolored Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum bicolor* One scoped at the Twin Lakes, Negros [*viridissimum*].
Red-keeled Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum australe* Seen at several sites, the first on Bohol.
Black-belted Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum haematostictum* (VU) Great views of a couple on Negros.
Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum retrocinctum* (VU) Stunning views of a couple at Sablayan, Mindoro.
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma* See note.
Buzzing Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum hypoleucum* (H) Heard on Bohol [*pontifex*].
Pygmy Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum pygmaeum* Good views of on Negros and several near to Baggao, Luzon [nominate].
Grey-throated Sunbird ◊ *Anthreptes griseigularis* Nominate seen on Camiguin Sur, *birgita* near to Baggao, Luzon.
Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata* First seen well on Negros. Conspicuous on Camiguin Sur [*trochilus*].
Olive-backed Sunbird ◊ (Garden S) *Cinnyris [jugularis] jugularis* Several seen well on Negros, and Camiguin Sur.
Flaming Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga flagrans* (NL) A pair for some at the Infanta Road.
Maroon-naped Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga guimarasensis* Stunning views on Negros. A real belter [*daphoenonota*].
Bohol Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga decorosa* Brilliant views of several, including 2 males together, near Bilar, Bohol.
Magnificent Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga magnifica* Several seen superbly on Negros, especially at the Twin Lakes. **Eur-Asian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus* Common and widespread.
Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* Seen at a few spots including on Cebu [*jagori*].
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* A few on Bohol and Mindoro and several in paddies near Baggao, Luzon.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* First seen near Dumaguete, Negros [nominate].
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* One seen on Mindoro [*lugubris*].



An amazing Magnificent Sunbird from Negros (Pete Morris)



An amazing Philippine Flying Lemur from Bohol (Pete Morris)

MAMMALS

Philippine Flying Lemur *Cynocephalus volans* Some great looks on Bohol.

Crab-eating Macaque (Long-tailed M) *Macaca fascicularis* Seen at a few sites, the first on Negros.

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* One seen on Mindoro.

Golden-capped Fruit Bat (G-crowned Flying Fox) *Acerodon jubatus* A few seen at Tabunan.



A Common Palm Civet from Mindoro (Pete Morris)

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

The most up to date referenced taxonomic list referred to in the Tour Report is that of the IOC World Bird Names. (Gill, F and Donsker, D Eds). 2019. IOC World Bird Names v9.1. Available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

The nominate form was heard on Bohol and then several seen at Sablayan on Mindoro. The distinctive maroon-naped form, *nuchalis*, gave great views near to Baggao on Luzon.

Philippine Coucal *Centropus viridis*

The nominate form was first heard on Negros, and we saw a few seen along the road on Camiguin Sur. Of greater interest was the form on Mindoro [*mindorensis*] which are essentially all dark and in some ways quite similar to the endemic Black-hooded Coucal.

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

We recorded three forms of this widespread species. The form *intermedius* was first heard on Negros, the form *cebuensis* was heard and seen in flight at Tabunan, Cebu, whilst the nominate form was seen on Mindoro and again near to Baggao on Luzon.

Philippine Hanging Parrot *Loriculus philippensis*

We noted five forms of this species during our wanderings. On Negros we saw the form *regulus*, *worcesteri* was seen well on Bohol, *chrysonotus* was heard and seen in flight at Tabunan, Cebu, we saw plenty of *mindorensis* near Sablayan, Mindoro, including nice males and one covered in yellow blotches, and the nominate form was recorded on Luzon.

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata*

We noted four forms of this widespread and variable species. We had good scope views of the form *panayensis* at the Twin Lakes, Negros, the form *boholensis* was heard and seen briefly on Bohol, the virtually unbarred form *mindorensis* was seen well on Mindoro, whilst the form *striata* was seen near to Baggao, Luzon.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

We first noted the nominate form at Gawahon Ecopark on Negros. On Camiguin Sur, we saw the distinctive form *catarmansensis* which lacks the black nape band.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*

We noted three forms on the tour: *boholensis* was heard on Bohol; the nominate was seen on Cebu, and *basilanicus* was very common along the road on Camiguin Sur.



Mangrove Blue Flycatchers from Camiguin (left) and Cebu (Pete Morris)

Yellowish White-eye *Zosterops nigrorum*

Another species with seemingly a subspecies on every island! We first saw the nominate form on Negros, followed by *catarmanensis* on Camiguin Sur, and *innominatus* along the Infanta Road, Luzon.

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*

Brilliant views of several at Tabunan, Cebu. Also great views of several along the road on Camiguin Sur where the birds here looked a little whiter on their underparts. On both islands they are supposedly of the form *philippensis*. In addition, the form *blythi* was heard along the Infanta Road. I wouldn't be at all surprised if the birds in the Philippines were split off at some stage in the future.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

Another species with plenty of subspecies! We saw four of them on this tour alone: *dorsale* was seen on Negros, the first at Gawahon Ecopark; *cinereigulare* was first seen well on Bohol; *isidroi* quite a smart, and pale-throated form was seen well along the road on Camiguin Sur, and finally *xanthopygium* was seen well along the Infanta Road, Luzon.



A Luzon Hawk Owl from Negros (Pete Morris)

APPENDIX 1

TOP 10 BIRDS OF THE TOUR



Another view of the fabulous Negros Scops Owl and Southern Indigo-banded Kingfisher (Pete Morris)

- 1st WHISKERED PITTA
- 2nd NEGROS SCOPS OWL
- 3rd FLAME-TEMPLED BABBLER
- 4th Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher
- 5th Maroon-naped Sunbird
- 6th Northern Silvery Kingfisher
- 7th Isabela Oriole
- 8th Cream-breasted Fruit Dove
- 9th Camiguin Hawk Owl
- 10th Bicol Ground Warbler

A total of 25 species received at least one vote!





More of our favourites... Whiskered Pitta, and Maroon-naped Sunbird (Pete Morris) and Bicol Ground Warbler taken just before we were at the site, courtesy of Julien Mazenauer

