

# Philippines: Endangered Endemics

27 February -15 March, 2017

Palawan extension 24-27 February 15-20 March Visayas extension

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Report by Charley Hesse. Photos by Charley Hesse & Keith Barnes. All photos were taken on this tour



This Palawan Peacock-Pheasant has been entertaining birders for years. (Charley Hesse)

The Philippines has done better than most countries for splits in recent years, and there are now almost 250 endemic species, which is over a third of the total number of species. This incredible level of endemism is due to the complex island biogeography of the archipelago, which is far from being unravelled. We sampled a good proportion of the endemics by visiting the islands of Palawan, Mindanao, Luzon, Bohol, Cebu & Negros. Unfortunately, human population pressure has meant that habitat is being destroyed at an alarming rate, and many of these species found nowhere else in the world are now threatened with extinction. We had a mind-blowing trip and had great views of some of the 'must see' birds, like Palawan Peacock-Pheasant on Palawan, Great Philippine Eagle at Kitanglad, Southern Silvery-Kingfisher at PICOP, Spotted Kingfisher at Makiling, Philippine Eagle-Owl at Angono, Philippine Frogmouth, Azure-breasted Pitta & Visayan Broadbill on Bohol, and Cebu Boobook on Cebu. The Philippines is particularly rich in endemic owls, with each site having different species. With these very early starts throughout the trip and some sites with some pretty steep trails, the Philippines isn't the trip for everyone. But for our avid group, the effort was well rewarded with some of the world's best birds!

## PALAWAN PRE-TOUR EXTENSION

## 24th February - Manila to Sabang

We began our Philippine adventure with an early morning flight to the island of Palawan. With 17 Palawan endemics and some of the best-preserved habitat in the Philippines, it was the perfect place to start. Our flight went smoothly and we were soon at the first birding site of the tour, a beach just near the airport. At low tide it can be great for shorebirds and the rare Chinese Egret, but unfortunately it was high tide, so water birds were a bit thin on the ground. We did have our first White-breasted Woodswallow on a post sticking out of the water, many Ameline Swiftlets flying overhead, and in mangroves nearby: Golden-bellied Gerygone, Philippine Pied-Fantail and Rufous-tailed Tailorbird. Our best 2 birds here though were the flashy Chestnut-breasted Malkoha and the delightful orange-breasted subspecies of **Olive-backed Sunbird**. We drove on to a restaurant where we did some birding before the food came, adding Collared Kingfisher, Common Iora and Plain-throated Sunbird. After lunch, we continued north and stopped at an area of forest with an inordinate amount of flowering trees. The place was alive with sunbirds and we saw Copper-throated, Olive-backed & Lovely Sunbirds as well as Pygmy Flowerpecker and the Palawan endemic Pale Spiderhunter.



Hooded Pitta was roosting right over the trail. (Charley Hesse)

Our next stop was a viewpoint where we saw Olive-backed Sunbird building a nest and the Palawan endemic Sulphur-bellied Bulbul and White-vented Shama. In the late afternoon we did some birding along the road which was very productive, and we saw 3 enormous Great Slaty Woodpeckers vocalizing in a tree, plus Blueheaded Racquet-tail, Blue-naped Parrot, Ashy Drongo, Common Hill Myna, Purple-throated Sunbird, plus the Palawan endemic Palawan Tit, Ashy-fronted & Gray-throated Bulbuls. An hour before sunset, we climbed up to another viewpoint where we hoped to see the endemic **Philippine Cockatoos** flying to roost. As we waited, we saw Pink-necked Pigeon, Green Imperial-Pigeon and had scope views of a perched, dark phase Changeable **Hawk-Eagle**. Every cattle egret was a false alarm, but we finally had a pair of cockatoos flying by which perched in the canopy of the forest below. Back down at the vehicle we also added Asian Fairy-bluebird and the Palawan endemic Yellow-throated Leafbird. It wasn't time to go to our hotel just yet, as we still had some owling to do. We reached a spot along the road where we tried for the Palawan Scops-Owl and Palawan Frogmouth. The frogmouth we had easily and great views too, but of the scops-owl, all we had was a brief fly over, despite the fact that it had been calling right next to the road. We checked out a forest trail where we had a very lucky roosting **Hooded Pitta** which posed beautifully for photos. It had been an excellent start to our Palawan birding.

#### 25th February - Subterranian National Park & Sabang area

Today was our trip to the Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, often just known as the 'Underground River'. After an early breakfast, we drove to the pier where we would take a short boat ride along the coast to the entrance to the park. As we waited for the boat, we spotted our first Pacific Reef-Heron and Pacific Swallows nearby. It is a very popular tourist attraction but we were the first boat to arrive and we had a couple of hours of birding before it started to get busy. It wasn't long after we arrived that we saw our major target of the extension, the Palawan Peacock Pheasant. One individual has become very habituated to people and came in to feed on some rice thrown out to it by the resident park staff. The bird was absolutely gorgeous and posed nicely for photos. Along a trail into the forest, we had more views of Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Ashy-headed Babbler, Whitevented Shama, Grav-throated Bulbul & Lovely Sunbird, plus our first views of Palawan Blue-Flycatcher and brief views of Blue Paradise-Flycatcher. Next, we took a boat ride along the underground river which is what most people come here for. Apart from the crystal-clear water and fascinating rock formations, the very long cave was full of roosting bats which I spent much of the time trying to photograph.



Palawan Flowerpecker is one of many endemic flowerpeckers in the Philippines. (Charley Hesse)

Afterwards we took a look at the resident Long-tailed Macaques and even found a pair of Tabon Scrubfowl. From the boat on the way back, we also had a distant White-bellied Sea-Eagle. Before heading back for lunch, we stopped in at a small marsh where we found some **White-bellied Munias**. We had time to relax in our comfortable rooms after lunch and even saw a few Asian Glossy Starlings in the gardens. In the afternoon, we went out again birding along the road. We saw many of the same birds again, including Black-headed & Sulphur-bellied Bulbuls, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Purple-throated Sunbird, and also a lucky flyby of Philippine Cockatoo. We also added Black-chinned Fruit-Dove and the Palawan endemic Spot-throated Flameback. We still needed Palawan Hornbill, and we went to scan from a hillside where they are regularly seen. We had a perched **Gray-faced** Buzzard which was a lifer for some, plus several Green Imperial-Pigeons, Dollarbird and Palawan Flowerpecker. We went back to the same spot for owling at dusk and saw Palawan Frogmouth and Large-tailed Nightjar, but only heard Spotted Wood-Owl. Palawan Scops-Owl was conspicuous in its absence.

## 26th February - Sabang to Puerto Princesa

It was our last birding in the Sabang area and we spent the morning revisiting some of the sites we had already been to. One patch of forest which had been very quiet the last time was alive and kicking. We saw Chestnutbreasted Malkoha, Spot-throated Flameback, Hair-crested Drongo and Pale Spiderhunter again, but added Fiery Minivet and Pin-striped Tit-Babbler. The latter looking very different than the one on the continent. We only had glimpses of Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher as it flew by, but we finally got good views of the important Palawan endemic Blue Paradise-Flycatcher. We were desperate for hornbills, so went back to the same hillside as yesterday. We saw Blue-naped Parrot, Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike, Black-naped Oriole, Pygmy **Flowerpecker** and even another **Philippine Cockatoo**. We were just about to leave when I spotted some **Palawan Hornbills** flying across the adjacent hillside. I ran full pelt to see where they were landing and we all ended up with fine views of these spectacular birds. We did a bit more birding along the road which gave us Green Imperial-Pigeon, Dollarbird, Ashy Drongo, Common Hill Myna and Purple-throated Sunbird; then made it to a viewpoint where we saw **Crested Serpent-Eagle** and a distant **Oriental Hobby**.

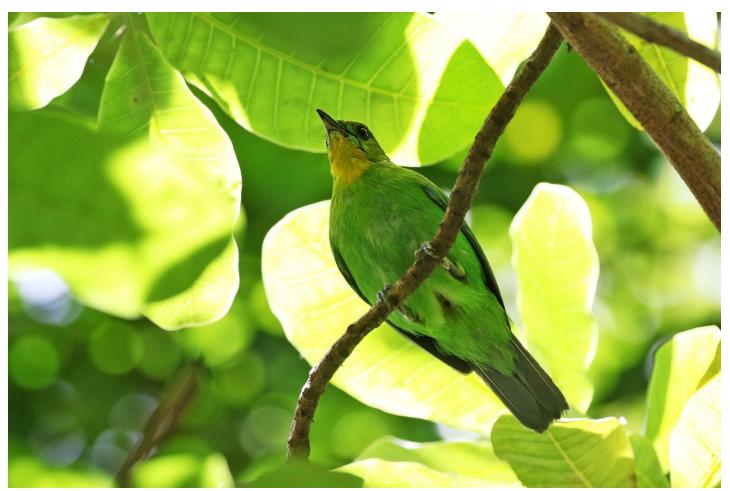


The restricted Mantanani Scops-Owl is only found on small offshore islets. (Charley Hesse)

One of the Palawan endemics we were still missing was the **Falcated Wren-Babbler**. We tried the viewpoint trail again and joined forces with some birders already looking for the species. It responded and came out but we only had brief views. Back at the viewpoint we had our first **Brown-backed Needletails** which came soaring by and a **Pygmy Flowerpecker** calling away from high up in a tree. It was time for lunch and we dropped in at a restaurant but had to drag ourselves away from the fruiting tree in the garden where we had great views of the endemic Yellow-throated Leafbird and Palawan Flowerpecker. We got to our next hotel and relaxed a bit before our evening birding outing. We were taking a boat over to a small offshore islet nearby where Mantanani Scops-Owl was found. We went over a little before sunset and waited for dark. The resident pair starting calling and we followed them around the island, but they were always one step ahead of us. Our local guide took his leave from us and a short while later called us to come down to him. The bird had settled down in a tree and was calling away with no sign of moving. The irony of it was that it was very close to where our boat had first arrived. We took the boat back across with smiles on our faces and we made our way back to the hotel for a late dinner.

#### 27th February - Balsahan Trail

It was our last morning's birding on Palawan and we were going to spend it on the Balsahan Trail at the Iwahig Penal Colony. A rather unconventional-sounding choice for a birding location but the best place for a couple of endemics we were still missing. We got there nice and early but the forest was very quiet. We did see some good birds during the morning and had better views of some, among them: Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, Spotthroated Flameback, Black-naped Monarch, Slender-billed Crow, Ashy-headed Babbler, Yellow-throated **Leafbird & Palawan Flowerpecker**. The 2 species we were most looking for though were Palawan (or Melodious) Babbler and Palawan Flycatcher. No matter how hard we tried, there was no sign of the flycatcher. We found the Palawan Babbler easily enough but it was so skulky in the mid-level bamboo, that it was almost impossible to get a look at it. Our first brief views turned out to be the best despite the time and effort we put in subsequently. The bird that saved the morning for some of us was the Falcated Wren-Babbler. It responded well and came right in, giving some of us great views, and leaving others frustrated.



The bright green Yellow-throated Leafbird blends in to its forest canopy home. (Charley Hesse)

Next, we spent some time exploring paddy fields outside, and had plenty of waterbirds, including Intermediate Egret, White-breasted Waterhen, Black-winged Stilt, Kentish & Little Ringed Plovers, Long-toed & Rednecked Stints, Common Greenshank and Marsh & Wood Sandpipers. One of the best sightings though was Oriental Pratincole. We had many Eastern Yellow Wagtails, a Paddyfield Pipit walking around in the mud and also a Crested Serpent-Eagle soaring over the forest before we had to head back to the hotel for lunch and check out. All that remained was to fly to back to Manila, thereby finishing the Palawan extension and all set to begin the main tour tomorrow.

#### **MAIN TOUR**

#### 28th February - Manila to Mount Kitanglad

Our main tour was now beginning at Mount Kitanglad in Mindanao with the most physically gruelling birding and most basic accommodation of the trip, but also arguably one of the biggest prizes; the Great Philippine Eagle. Our flight from Manila to Cagayan de Oro in the north of the Philippines' southern main island went smoothly and we then were driven to the base of the mountain which was a further 3 hours. From there we were told it would be another 2 hours walking up to our mountain lodge. We had time for birding breaks and saw plenty of new birds. The forest low down had been mostly cleared but we saw open country species like White-breasted Woodswallow, Long-tailed Shrike, Striated Grassbird, Gray Wagtail and White-bellied Munia. We had Philippine Swiftlets filling the sky and in flowering trees we saw Philippine Hanging-Parrot, Evebrowed Thrush and Olive-backed Sunbird. Higher up, we found some remnant forest patches, where we saw Coppersmith Barbet, Short-tailed Starling, Coleto and Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis. It had been a fairly long and tiring walk, and turned out to be quite representative for what was still to come. After meeting the friendly staff and having a rest in the dining area, we were taken by the local guide to see the recently described **Bukidnon** Woodcock. At dusk, the bird came out on cue and gave us a wonderful show of its display flight.



The unique Apo Myna sports a funky crest. (Charley Hesse)

#### 1st March - Mt Kitanglad

Today was our first full day birding on Kitanglad. Obviously our main target was the Great Philippine-Eagle, but there were plenty of other targets to look for too. After an early breakfast, we set off walking the trail up the mountain. We passed some open areas where agriculture has encroached on the forest. Here we saw Whiskered Treeswift, Pied Triller, Striated Grassbird, Gray Wagtail, Paddyfield Pipit and even Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo which we got to fly over our heads. Many of the targets here are to be found in mixed flocks and we found several on the way up, including great birds like Yellow-bellied Whistler, Black-and-cinnamon Fantail, Black-naped Monarch, Elegant Tit, Sulphur-billed Nuthatch and Brown Tit-Babbler. Some more flowering trees held Olivecapped, White-bellied & Fire-breasted Flowerpeckers, Gray-hooded Sunbird and Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis. It had been overcast first thing and now it began to rain, but we soldiered on adding new birds at a steady rate, with a perched Gray-faced Buzzard, Philippine Cuckoo-Dove, Mindanao Hornbill, Philippine Hanging-Parrot, Rufous-headed Tailorbird, Mountain Warbler, Eyebrowed Thrush and Coleto.

Higher up, our local guide spotted us our first Apo Myna (sporting a very funky crest), Buff-spotted Flameback and a Mindanao Racquet-tail hiding behind some leaves. We passed by the usual viewpoint for scanning for the eagles as the local guides had recently found a nest higher up the trail, and they felt this was our best chance to find the birds. We finally made it up there which was quite a hike. The eagles were not there but their egg was, and as time passed, we started worrying that maybe the nest had been abandoned. As we waited, we saw a few birds passing by, including Island & Mugimaki Flycatchers and many Mountain White-eyes. Mindanao White-eye appeared briefly but disappeared just as quickly and was a guide only bird. In the end, we had to give up and we went back to the lower viewpoint. The sun was out now and we hoped to have some soaring raptors, but all we saw was the other end of the spectrum: a tiny pair of Philippine Falconets. We had missed our main target, but we had seen a lot of other endemics and we still had another full day tomorrow. The trail had dried out considerably but we were still pretty finished by the time we got down. Before dinner we tried again for **Philippine Frogmouth** and this time found this bizarre-looking bird.



Philippine Frogmouth is a common sight around the lodge on Mount Kitanglad. (Charley Hesse)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> March - Mt Kitanglad

It was our second full day on the mountain, but today it was a lot more overcast. As we climbed up back to the viewpoint, it began to rain and the trails became muddy. We still managed some birding through the drizzle and saw our first Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove, Oriental Cuckoo, Philippine Woodpecker and McGregor's Cuckooshrike, plus better views of Mindanao Hornbill, Philippine Hanging-Parrot, Long-tailed Shrike and Sulphur-billed Nuthatch. Our plan of action today was to spend as much time as was needed at the lower viewpoint in order to see our target Philippine Eagle. For this to happen, it needed to stop raining and clear up considerably. The local guide had climbed up before us and put up a tarpaulin to keep us dry. We began our vigil, and it slowly warmed up and the mist started to rise higher on the adjacent slopes. Our hearts leaped with the word, 'raptor' but it was just an **Oriental Honey-buzzard** that flew by. As it cleared, we began scanning the slopes for perched birds and found a nice **Chinese Sparrowhawk**. The closer trees held a few birds, including **Apo Myna**, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis and Chestnut Munia. The local guide also spotted a group of **White-cheeked Bullfinches**, although they flew before everybody got on them.

We had almost given up when the local guide came down the trail saying they had the eagle at the nest, which was about half a mile up the slope. That was a long half mile, believe me, but we all made it and spent another hour enjoying the enormous Great Philippine Eagle through the scope on the other side of the valley. We had all but given up hope. It was the perfect end to our time here. Now we just had to get back down. After all the rain, the trail was now very muddy and slippery. We all made it safely and even managed a few birds, with Buff-spotted Flameback, Philippine Swiftlet, and for the lucky ones, a Long-tailed Bush-Warbler which popped up next to the trail. It was great to be back down and during dinner, we had our nightly Bukidnon Woodcock fly past the lodge. The birding wasn't over yet, as we still had some owling to do. The trick with these owls was to wait until they called near the lodge, at whatever time that was, then jump out of the tent to find them before they moved off. After a couple of false alarms, **Everett's Scops-Owl** showed up at midnight and **Giant Scops-Owl** at 1am. It was a huge success for those that could get out fast enough, although we were a bit bleary-eyed the next morning.



One of the most spectacular raptors in the world, the Great Philippine Eagle. (Charley Hesse)

#### 3rd March - Mt Kitanglad to Eden Resort, Davao

We had time for a spot of pre-breakfast birding before going down the mountain. We walked a short trail behind the lodge looking for Blue-capped Kingfisher. We didn't find it but we did have some other welcome additions, including Amethyst Brown-Dove, Long-tailed Bush-Warbler and Bundok Flycatcher. After breakfast, we packed our bags and loaded them on the horses before setting off ourselves. We were sad to leave after 3 days in this enchanting place, although hot showers and wifi did hold a certain attraction now. On the walk down, we managed a bit of birding and saw Little Pied Flycatcher, a juvenile Barred Honey-buzzard, great views of a pair of Mindanao Hornbills, Sulphur-billed Nuthatch and our first Tawny Grassbird which poked its head out of the grass for us. In a flowering tree, we had great views of Philippine Hanging-Parrot, Eyebrowed Thrush and our first Chestnut-cheeked Starlings.



This male Pied Harrier was a pleasant distraction on our descent from Mount Kitanglad. (Charley Hesse)

Lower down still, we had great views of an adult male **Pied Harrier** which winged its way by. It had been a muddy, slippery walk and by the time we reached the bottom, our trousers and boots were caked with mud and we had to rinse off on the river bank. Before getting on the truck to the bottom we had our first views of Red-keeled Flowerpecker and Rufous-crowned Bee-eaters through the scope. Driving down, we saw a Pied Bushchat perched on a short post, plus Black-shouldered & Brahminy Kites having a dog fight. It was a relief to put some clean clothes on back at our vehicle and enjoy the (relatively) smooth road and AC on our way to Eden Resort, near Davao where we spent the night.

#### 4th March - Eden, Davao to Bislig

This morning we were targeting 2 very restricted endemics for which this was our only chance. Russet-tailed Flycatcher was the first, and we went down to a forest stream, scanning the understory for movement. We heard the high pitch call and soon spotted it. It was a bit tricky to get on, but most of us finally saw this tiny bird. On the way back up, we added a male **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** and an **Arctic Warbler** which was mercifully vocal. After breakfast, we were transported higher up the slopes of the mountain in search of the endemic Whiskered **Flowerpecker**. It was a steep climb, but we persevered, picking up a **Red-keeled Flowerpecker** on the way, and were soon near the top of the hill. The local guide seemed to know exactly where the bird would be and we were soon looking through the scope at our target Whiskered Flowerpecker, which we found to be a rather unusual member of the family.



Philippine Ducks are a common sight at Bislig airfield. (Charley Hesse)

We had a long drive to the town of Bislig, our home for the next 4 nights and our base to explore the famous PICOP birding site. We arrived in time to visit the airport. It was not in use at the present time and we were even permitted to drive along the runway. We found a good spot and spent an hour scanning the grasslands and ponds nearby. We saw flocks of **Wandering Whistling-Ducks**, **Philippine Ducks** plus a few **Purple Herons** in flight. We saw a **Buff-banded Rail** and **Little Ringed Plovers** on the runway itself, and in the nearby vegetation, **Philippine** Swamphen, Philippine Coucal, Oriental Reed-Warbler, Golden-headed Cisticola, Pied Bushchat and Chestnut Munia. We waited until dusk for our target Australasian Grass-Owl and even had a couple of Philippine Nightjars on the runway after dark. It was early to bed in preparation for our early start in the morning.

#### 5th March - PICOP

PICOP was one of the most important locations of the trip. With a long list of tricky endemics to find, we needed three full days to search for them. It is infamous for needing early departures, and sure enough, we were on the road by 3am to get to the birding site in time for some owling. Despite hearing Everett's Scops-Owl, both Chocolate & Mindanao Boobooks and Philippine Frogmouth, we didn't manage any looks. As it started to get lighter, we heard a pair of **Rufous Hornbills** calling in the distance, and we hoped for luck with this species later on. It was overcast and threatened rain, so we wasted no time in starting our birding. There was a good bit of activity early on, and we saw Philippine Spinetailed Swift, Scarlet Minivet, Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike, Yellowish Bulbul, Philippine Leafbird, Everett's White-eye, Writhed Hornbill and White-bellied Woodpecker. We found a tree full of small white flowers on which we saw Orange-bellied Flowerpecker. Handsome Sunbird and the weird-looking Naked-faced Spiderhunter.



The well-named Naked-faced Spiderhunter. (Charley Hesse)

It started to rain lightly so we donned our raincoats, put up our umbrellas and started walking along the gravel road. Despite the rain, we had a good morning and a steady stream of new birds, including Barred Honeybuzzard, a pair of perched Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeons, Black-faced Coucal, Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo, Buff-spotted Flameback, a pair of Philippine Falconets, brief views of Philippine Fairy-bluebird and Pygmy Flowerpecker. We stopped to try for Azure-breasted Pitta at a couple of known territories and had one close, but it wouldn't come out. We had several flocks during the morning, with **Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Philippine** Leaf Warbler, Brown Tit-Babbler, Yellow-bellied Whistler, Mindanao Blue-Fantail, Chestnut-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher, and the rare Mindanao Wattled Broadbill. The rain got heavier and in the end we had to admit defeat and turn back. Despite having our birding time cut short by the rain, we had made a good start on the targets here. On the drive back, we added **Philippine Serpent-Eagle** and had a **Barred Rail** bathing in a puddle in the road. After the long and bumpy ride back to the hotel, we enjoyed some well deserve rest in our rooms.

#### 6th March - PICOP

Although not quite as early as yesterday, we did some owling on the way to a different birding site. We tried for several owl species but only heard Chocolate Boobook which was calling close by and gave us a brief fly by. We drove on to the birding site for the morning. After the rain yesterday, we hoped for better weather today, but our hopes were in vain. We did our best under the circumstances and saw a few nice birds early on, including a gorgeous Philippine Trogon plus Writhed & Mindanao Hornbills. The local guide knew of a flowering tree and we spent some time there to see what would come in. After a short while, we had seen Orange-bellied & Whitebellied Flowerpeckers, Plain-throated, Purple-throated, Handsome & Metallic-winged Sunbirds plus Naked-faced Spiderhunter. In the rain, we continued birding along the road and during the morning saw, Whiteeared Brown-Dove, Black-faced Coucal, Dollarbird, Philippine Falconet, Mindanao Blue-Fantail, Yellowwattled & Yellowish Bulbuls and White-browed Tailorbird. One of the best birds of the morning was the Striated Wren-Babbler. Normally a tricky skulker, it came in close we had great views. The rain got heavier and heavier, and in the end we had to take shelter under the roof of a local house. There was no let up, and after our packed lunch, we started making our way back. We had one stop at a pond where Southern Silvery Kingfisher is seen, but it was absent. Maybe sheltering somewhere from the rain, like we should have been. We did have a nice eye level **Red-keeled Flowerpecker** which was our last bird of the day.



Jewels of the forest: Metallic-winged and Plain-throated Sunbirds. (Charley Hesse)

#### 7th March - PICOP

It was back to the site we birded on our first full day at PICOP as most of the species we still needed were found there. We hoped that the rain would ease up today but that didn't happen. It held off long enough to try for some owls in the dark. Our main target was the Mindanao Boobook which called but didn't come close. After our packed breakfast, we set off up the track in the rain. It came and went, sometimes holding off long enough for us to see some birds. We had Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle and Rufous Hornbills calling enticingly close but we didn't manage to locate them. We did see a pair of Crested Goshawks, Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon and Mindanao **Hornbill** perched out though, and the day-roosting **Philippine Nightjar** was in its usual spot. We had a little bit of flocking activity with species such as Yellow-bellied Whistler, Mindanao Blue-Fantail, Black-naped Monarch, Rusty-crowned Babbler, Mindanao Pygmy-Babbler and Brown Tit-Babbler. Some of the group were also lucky enough to see Stripe-sided Rhabdornis and Short-crested Monarch although optics fogging up in the rain was a problem.



Southern Silvery-Kingfisher must be one of the best-looking Kingfishers in the world. (Charley Hesse)

We had another flock with a very different composition including Scarlet Minivet, Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike, Yellowish Bulbul and Philippine Leafbird. We did pretty well for sunbirds and flowerpeckers during the morning and found Olive-backed, Bicolored, Red-keeled & Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers, Plain-throated, Handsome & Metallic-winged Sunbirds and Naked-faced Spiderhunter, many of which we had at a flowering tree which was great for photos. We gave up with the rain in the end and turned back for lunch. After lunch it cleared a little and we had Philippine Spinetailed Swift and Barred Honey-buzzard flying over, and a Coppersmith Barbet showing well. It had been a long, wet morning but at least we a few new birds to show for our effort. We dropped in again at the **Southern Silvery-Kingfisher** pond and this time it was sat on a branch right in the middle like it had never been away. It flew off quickly, but our Mark relocated it and we managed to get close for photos. What a great way to finish the day!

#### 8th March - Tuv-An Falls

It was our last birding on Mindanao and we just had a few hours which we decided to spend at the nearby Tuy-An Falls. We were still missing Mindanao Boobook so we had yet another very early start. It was a shorter drive to get there and we were soon in the familiar position of pre-dawn owling. We soon had our target Mindanao **Boobook** calling nearby, but it was more cooperative than the past few days and gave us a few fly overs, although we didn't manage to find it perched. An Everett's Scops-Owl was calling nearby and we also saw our first Great Eared-Nightjar.



Philippine Green-Pigeon was split and is one of the many new Philippine endemics. (Charley Hesse)

After finishing our packed breakfasts, we started our daytime birding. We found Tuy-An quite good for pigeons and we had good views of White-eared Brown-Dove, Philippine Green-Pigeon and Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove. We also had a lovely pair of **Philippine Trogons** by the gate. We worked on **Rufous-fronted & White-browed** Tailorbirds and finally had good views of both after a lot of effort. We had fruiting trees with Guaiabero, Yellowwattled, Yellowish & Philippine Bulbuls; and mixed flocks with Hair-crested Drongo, Black-naped Monarch, Brown Tit-Babbler and Chestnut-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher. We had our last Mindanao Hornbills of the trip and on our last chance found the Mindanao endemic **Orange-tufted Spiderhunter**. Our time was up, and after a quick look at the Tuy-An Falls themselves, it was back to the hotel to pack up and start the long drive back to Davao Airport and from there back to Manila for the next stage of the tour.

#### 9th March - Manila to Banaue

Today was almost entirely a travel day and a long one at that. Our one little bit of birding we were allowed was some owling at Angono near Manila for Philippine Eagle-Owl. Angono is more famous amongst non-birders for its petroglyphs. We left Manila well before dawn and arrived with enough time to try for the largest of the Philippine owls. We arrived at the spot and I heard a high-pitched screeching sound. I found the sound to be coming from the cliff face next to us and in a shallow burrow, just above eye-level, were 2 large Philippine Scops-Owl chicks. After a quick look at those we turned our attention back to the **Philippine Eagle-Owl**. It didn't take long before we had one flying over and perching for all to see. They changed perches a few times, but gave us a wonderful show. The rest of the day was driving all the way to Banaue, although later in the day we stopped at the well-known Dalton Pass. Mark told us that it was a famous spot for catching birds, both in mist nets to release and illegally to eat. It was cold and drizzly when we were there and all we managed were Philippine Swiftlet, Yellowish White-eye and a **Bicolored Flowerpecker**. The top of the road was some sort of local tourist stop with a zip-line, and a weird menagerie. We didn't linger, and finished off our long drive to Banaue.



Philippine Eagle-Owl & Philippine Scops-Owl chicks. (Charley Hesse)

#### 10th March - Mount Polis

Today we had a full day birding Mount Polis. We started well before dawn and on the way up tried a couple of spots for our target Luzon Scops-Owl. It's a tough bird and we didn't hear a peep out of it although we did hear a distant Philippine Scops-Owl. After our packed breakfast, we made our way to the upper sections of the Mt Polis road. It wasn't raining for a change but it was windy, cold and misty. Not a great combination. We did find some flocks of Chestnut-faced Babblers and Mountain White-eyes although the light was bad and the flocks so fast moving that it was difficult to get good views. The mist started to clear and the sun broke through to warm our chilled bodies. We finally had better views of these and also added Mountain Warbler, Green-backed Whistler, Island Flycatcher and Elegant Tit. We carried on driving down the road and we all jumped out when we saw the scarce **Gray-capped Shrike**. It stuck around and we all had great views of a pair. We had been hearing **Philippine** Bush-Warbler calling all morning and we finally found a responsive pair that gave us great close views. Further down we heard a sunbird calling but it took us a long time before we could locate the singing male Mountain **Sunbird**, which is a recent split from Metallic-winged. We also had a dashing male **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**.



We had fantastic views of the scarce Gray-capped Shrike. (Charley Hesse)

The last target that we had a good chance for was **Luzon Redstart**. We had tried a couple of streams on the way down, but all we saw were numerous **Pacific Swallows** under the bridge. We had our packed lunch at a viewpoint over the distant river but still no redstart, so the only thing left was to go down the steep road towards the river below. The walk was getting a bit long so I went down lower and located the bird quite a distance down. Luckily Mark found a much closer bird which saved us a long, steep walk in the heat of the day. Back up at the main road, we had a **Philippine Serpent-Eagle** in flight which was new for most of the group. It was pretty quiet on the way back, but we had a few birding stops and picked up a female Flame-crowned Flowerpecker, a pair of Pied Bushchats and an Island Thrush. On the way back, we also had a quick stop in at a viewpoint over the worldfamous Banaue rice terraces. Back at the hotel, we did a bit of birding in the gardens and found numerous House Swifts and Striated Swallows zipping to and fro, plus Lemon-throated Warbler, Yellowish White-eye and Long-tailed Shrike from our room balconies. A short walk in the gardens produced White-eared Brown-Dove, Elegant Tit and our target Blue-headed Fantail.

#### 11th March - Banaue to Subic Bay

It was our long drive back south today, although not quite as long as 2 days ago as we only had to go as far as Subic Bay, our next birding destination. We left after breakfast and the only birding we had in the morning was at the bridge in the town of Lagawe that we had tried on the way up for Indigo-banded Kingfisher. We hadn't seen it then, but this time we had better luck and had brief views. Broken up by a lunch stop, the 8 hour drive went surprisingly quickly. We went straight to our first birding site, and we had timed it perfectly with the heat of the day was just starting to cool off. We flushed our first Asian Emerald Dove off the side of the road, and saw many species we had seen previously, such as Coleto, Green Imperial-Pigeon, Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike, Blacknaped Oriole, Whiskered Treeswift and Rufous-crowned Bee-eater, but we also added some of our major targets for Subic, including Rufous Coucal, Luzon Hornbill, Brown-breasted Kingfisher, Luzon Flameback, Northern Sooty-Woodpecker and Blackish Cuckooshrike. At dusk, we drove the short distance to an open area on the edge of the forest and waited around for night birds to start calling. We saw Great Eared-Nightjar flyover but only heard Luzon Boobook. We moved to another site, where we all saw Chocolate Boobook and heard more **Luzon Boobooks** although they eluded us and would have to wait for another day.



Philippine Serpent-Eagle takes to the sky in search of its favourite food. (Charley Hesse)

# 12th March - Subic Bav

We started our full day of birding in the Subic Bay area on the famous and randomly named Hill 394 road. Subic Bay was a US naval base and many of the buildings still stand. We were just birding the roadside and we saw lots of good birds, including Red-crested Malkoha, Luzon Hornbill, White-bellied Woodpecker, Guaiabero, Barbellied & Blackish Cuckooshrikes, Balicassiao and Coleto. One participant had missed Stripe-sided Rhabdornis earlier in the trip, so he got to catch up on that one. We watched a male Philippine Green-Pigeon displaying to 2 females which was fascinating. We finally got our target White-fronted Tit when our local guide saw one perched high up in a tree singing its little heart out. Next, we moved onto our next birding site on the Nabasan Road. This also held a lot of new birds for us and we saw Philippine Serpent-Eagle, Brown-breasted Kingfisher, Northern Sooty-Woodpecker, Philippine Hanging-Parrot and the fantastic Scale-feathered Malkoha. A not quite so spectacular bird was the Green-backed Tailorbird but it perched out nicely which is quite unusual. We had done our homework on the call notes of the recently split Arctic Warbler complex and were able to ID a Japanese Leaf Warbler which was a lifer for all.

By mid-morning it was starting to get pretty hot and our local guide took us to a spot to scan for raptors. Just as we got out, we spotted one and it was our hoped for Philippine Hawk-Eagle. We had a none-birding stop before lunch which was to go and look at the huge colony of fruit bats. There were 2 species here: Golden-capped Fruitbat and Large Flying-Fox and they numbered in their thousands. We also had a quick look at a Rufous-crowned Bee-eater nesting colony. On the way back to the hotel we saw dozens of the Philippine Ducks in flight. After lunch and a bit of a rest back at the hotel, we went out to the Hospital road to have one more try for better looks at Green Racquet-tail. It was still pretty hot and slow birding, but things picked up and we saw Brahminy Kite, Luzon Hornbill, White-bellied Woodpecker, Luzon Flameback, Philippine Falconet and Blue-naped Parrot before finally getting good views of our target Green Racquet-tail. We moved on to another site for some more owling. We still hadn't managed to get on Luzon Boobook but we tried hard this time and finally all got brief views. We also had a nice close Great Eared-Nightjar fly by. With all the main targets under our belts, we could now leave early tomorrow with a clear conscience.



Green Racquet-tail is common, but not always easy to see at Subic Bay. (Charley Hesse)

## 13th March - Candaba Marsh to Los Banos

Having cleaned up on most targets at Subic, this morning would be spent at Candaba Marsh which was a 2 hour drive. After we were finally beyond the congested highways we started birding rice fields on the way in, and we saw White-browed Crake, Common Kingfisher, Striated Grassbird, Red Collared-Dove and many Chestnut **Munias**. Most of the water from the reserve had been drained away for the local rice fields, but when we got there, there were still plenty of birds around and we had Yellow & Cinnamon Bitterns, Purple Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, several Eastern Marsh-Harriers (including a rather splendid male), White-breasted Waterhen, Common Snipe, Lesser Coucal and Blue-tailed Bee-eater. We started to concentrate on the smaller birds, and Stuart reached his 6000th species milestone with the Clamorous Reed-Warbler. Congratulations Stuart! After some effort, we also managed views of the skulking Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler. We parked and checked out some flooded fields which were being prepared for rice-planting and here we saw numerous Wood Sandpipers, Oriental Pratincoles and Whiskered Tern. On the way out, we added Philippine Pied-Fantail, **Long-tailed Shrike** and **Zitting Cisticolas** before continuing on to lunch and then to the campus of the University of the Philippines at Los Banos. We spent a couple of hours in the afternoon waiting for Spotted Buttonquail to turn up, but we had little to show for our efforts.

## 14th March - Mount Makiling Los Banos

We had the whole morning to explore the slopes of Mount Makiling and we had some very special birds to look for. We were driven up by a jeepney as far as the road would take us. Our main target of the morning was the **Spotted Kingfisher** and we spent quite a while searching for this elusive bird. We finally had a response and Mark felt that it must be somewhere close by. It took a good deal of scanning before Carol found it much closer than we had imagined. Another important bird for us was the strange-looking Scale-feathered Malkoha and we found this along with the shy Gray-backed Tailorbird in a forest clearing. As we worked our way down the mountain, we picked up birds at a steady rate, including Chinese Sparrowhawk, Yellow-wattled Bulbul, Ashy Minivet and Balicassiao. We tried hard to pick out the other Arctic Warbler splits, but their calls told us they were just the regular variety. One common bird that we heard all the way along the road was the White-browed Shama, but seeing one was another thing altogether. Some of us finally caught a glimpse of this mega skulker after a lot of time peering into the dark forest. Another previously missed bird by some was the Black-chinned Fruit-Dove, and luckily we found a nest and had scope views of a male showing off its best feature.



This view of Spotted Kingfisher was one of the highlights at Makiling. (Charley Hesse)

On the way down we saw Thick-billed Flowerpeckers and Flaming Sunbird. After a nice lunch and short rest back at the hotel, we visited the Los Banos Botanical Gardens. We walked up a steep hill to a flowering tree where we hoped for better views of Flaming Sunbird, but had to be content with Red-keeled Flowerpecker and Plainthroated Sunbird. Other birds seen were Philippine Falconet, Guaiabero, Philippine Hanging-Parrot, Stripesided Rhabdornis, Gray Wagtail and the surprisingly scarce Asian Palm-Swift. We went back to a bridge over a stream in the campus to try again for better views of the Indigo-banded Kingfisher. It wasn't there but Mark spotted a **Plain Bush-hen** bathing in a puddle further along the stream. I thought it was worth walking along to another viewpoint and when we got there, we were able to get views of a pair of these skulking, unfortunatelynamed birds. Our last bird to try for was the **Spotted Buttonquail**. We revisited the same area as yesterday but tried a different spot, and they were already walking around in the middle of the road. Yesterday we waited almost 2 hours but today we were done in 5 minutes. What a great day it been!

## 14th March - La Mesa Ecopark, Luzon

Our last birding of the main tour was at La Mesa Ecopark which we did on the way to the airport. There was one main target, Ashy Thrush, but it was a nice park to see a few different birds. After picking up Keith, who was joining us for the Visayas extension, we ate our packed breakfasts in the parking lot before setting off on the path with all the early morning joggers and walkers. We found a quieter corner of the park which had some nice habitat. On the way in, we had a fairly tame pair of Barred Rails before entering the forest. As we walked slowly around scanning the forest floor for Ashy Thrushes, we came across a nice Hooded Pitta. Up in the trees were Bluetailed Bee-eater, Ashy Minivet, Pied Triller, Philippine Pied-Fantail, Lowland White-eye and Olive-backed Sunbird. Gray-backed Tailorbird was calling and one person in the group was hoping for better views but it refused to come in. After not too long, we had an **Ashy Thrush** fly across the trail and perch on a low root. We got everybody in the group on it and had good views but it took off before we were able to take photos. The morning went quickly and it was soon time to head to the airport.



Bohol Tarsier was one of the mammal highlights of the trip. (Charley Hesse)

## VISAYAS EXTENSION

Again, our flights went smoothly and we were met at Tagbilaran, the main town on Bohol, by our new driver. We set off towards our hotel but stopped on the way at the Tarsier Centre. Bohol Tarsier is one of the world's smallest primates. The local guide had several individuals staked out under leaves and we had great views and photo opps. Outside the entrance we were also shown a **Philippine Frogmouth** on a nest. It started to rain and we continued our drive. Along the road, we saw Brown-breasted Kingfisher, plus several White-breasted Woodswallows and Asian Glossy Starlings. We had just enough time to hit one birding site before dusk and took a short walk along a forest road. We saw Pygmy Swiftlet, Bicolored & Pygmy Flowerpeckers but it soon started to rain heavily so we had to abandon our efforts, although we did see a **Red Junglefowl** running across the road. We were soon at our next lodge which was set in beautiful gardens full of butterflies.

#### 16th March - Bohol

We had a full day birding on Bohol and quite a list of targets to find. We went back to the same forest road as yesterday, although today it was dryer. We walked several stretches of road, and had pretty good activity to begin with. We had good views of Black-faced Coucal, Brush Cuckoo, Whiskered Treeswift, Philippine Trogon, White-bellied Woodpecker, Black-naped Oriole, Hair-crested Drongo, Yellow-wattled Bulbul and Coleto. We found some flowering trees and found Red-keeled, Orange-bellied & Pygmy Flowerpeckers, plus Purplethroated, Handsome & the island endemic Bohol Sunbird, which was split from Metallic-winged. Another of our important targets was another of the Tarictic Hornbill splits, Samar Hornbill. We had a very brief view of a pair flying away, but subsequent birds showed much better. We had a very different-looking race of Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike which were nesting. The highlight of the morning though was the stunning Azure-breasted Pitta which gave us the run around for a while but finally we managed to get into the scope. We also heard a Blue**breasted Pitta** but it was down a steep slope and it refused to come in any closer.



Rufous-lored Kingfisher is a fairly common but inconspicuous endemic. (Charley Hesse)

The morning birding wasn't over yet and we were taken to a muddy road by a small stream. Here we had a **Northern Silvery-Kingfisher** zip by, but it perched a short distance downstream and we got it in the scope. Next we turned our attention to the **Rufous-lored Kingfisher**. The local guide had a good spot for it and sure enough it replied straight away. After a couple of fly-overs we found it in the canopy and had great scope views. We drove on to the Chocolate Hills, a local tourist attraction, for lunch. On the drive there, we had several Collared Kingfishers and **Asian Glossy Starlings** in the open areas. It was a nice scenic diversion, but in the afternoon it was back to the serious business of birding. We drove into the Rajah Sikatuna National Park and tried a spot for Yellow-breasted **Tailorbird** but it remained as elusive as ever. Next, we walked along a trail, but it started to rain and birds were few and far between. We did see Philippine Trogon, several Samar Hornbills in a fruiting tree, the back end of a **Striated Wren-Babbler** but only heard the **Philippine Oriole**. It was beautiful forest but unproductive for birds. Our efforts were finally rewarded at the end of the trail with a couple of **Philippine Flying-lemurs** which were roosting on the truck of a tree. At the end of the day, it was back to our lodge for another delicious dinner.

#### 17th March - Bohol to Cebu

On our last morning birding Bohol, we went back to our usual forest road where we hoped to pick up some of our remaining targets. The weather was much better today, blue skies, and we started off well with some good birds like: Philippine Cuckoo-Dove, Amethyst Brown-Dove, Black-faced Coucal, Samar Hornbill, Black-naped Oriole, Coleto, Red-keeled Flowerpecker and even a pair of Hair-crested Drongos on a nest. Next, Mark found us the fantastic Visayan Broadbill. We had brief views, but managed to draw them back for better. We had 3 females clicking, buzzing and jumping around in what looked very much like lekking behaviour. A male was nowhere in sight, and what was going on could only be guessed at. It was an amazing display and one of the highlights of the trip. We saw White-bellied Woodpecker and Buff-spotted Flameback but our search for flocking species only resulted in a pair of **Black-naped Monarchs**. Our target Visayan Blue Fantail had apparently become much rarer in the past few years.



We were able to observe the Visayan Broadbill's behaviour at length. (Keith Barnes)

One bird that was becoming a real pain to find was the Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, which although common, was devilishly difficult to see. It eluded us all morning but we finally caught glimpses of it barely inches off the ground. We still had a bit of time left, so some of us chased the **Blue-breasted Pitta** which was calling in exactly the same place as yesterday. This involved walking down a steep, slippery slope, then bush-whacking a bit. Keith earned his supper by locating this elusive bird and rewarding those that had undertaken the endeavour with a show of its bright colours through gaps in the leaves. It was a great bird to finish on, but back at the lodge, one of the local guides had found us a pair of **Everett's Scops-Owl** which we put in the scope and spent some time photographing. After lunch, we checked out and started our drive to the harbour, where we would get on a fast passenger boat to Cebu. On the way, we stopped at a muddy pond which several shorebirds, including Lesser & Greater Sand-, Kentish & Little Ringed Plovers, Common & Wood Sandpipers and Gray-tailed Tattler. The ferry ride was bumpy but painless and we were soon in Cebu to start the next leg of our adventure.

#### 18th March - Tabunan, Cebu

We only had a single morning on Cebu at a patch of forest called Tabunan, so we had to make it count. We arrived in the dark to try for the recently split Cebu Boobook. We had a bit of a walk in the dark along a muddy path but we arrived in time and started calling it out. A pair of **Plain Bush-hens** were calling nearby, but the **Cebu Boobook** soon turned up and gave us quite a show. For those expecting a bird looking and sounding like the other boobooks we had seen, we were pleasantly surprised at such a distinctive species. We ate our breakfasts and waited for it to become fully light before continuing along the trail through the jagged, limestone rock-strewn forest. Our next target was the Cebu endemic **Black Shama**, and we found a responsive individual which flew by a few times and perched briefly.



The endangered endemic Cebu Boobook gave us quite a show (Charley Hesse)

We picked up many common birds, like Black-naped Monarch, Elegant Tit, Philippine Bulbul, Asian Glossy Starling, Coleto, Red-keeled Flowerpecker, Olive-backed Sunbird and Pied Triller. The Balicassiaos here are the very distinctive white-bellied Visayan race, and the **Coppersmith Barbet** the red-faced Cebu race. The star bird at Tabunan used to be the Cebu Flowerpecker but it hasn't been seen for some years and may actually have gone extinct. We climbed up to the viewpoint where they used to be seen just in case, but unsurprisingly we didn't see one. With much of the forest here difficult to get to, it is always possible that such a tiny bird could be hanging on in an inaccessible corner of the reserve. We were looking out for the endemic Streak-breasted Bulbul but only heard and glimpsed them flying over. We also had our first White-vented Whistler, another Visayan endemic, and our last new bird on the way down was a Magnificent Sunbird. Having finished our birding on Cebu, we made our way to the airport for our flight to Negros, the final location on the tour.

## 19th March - Mt Kanlaon & Mambukal, Negros

It was over an hour's drive to Mount Kanlaon. There were 2 ways to bird the mountain, the hard way, and the easy way. Luckily Mark had obtained us permission to enter the upper protected area that was accessible by car. After he had shown the necessary paperwork at a checkpoint, we drove past a non-functioning geothermal power station and up a rough track which passed through quality forest. Negros is another island that has suffered severe habitat loss, here, mainly due to deforestation for sugar cane plantations. To see such good habitat with big trees being conserved was a pleasure. We got out at the top and started birding, accompanied by members of the Department of the Environment and a couple of security guards. We had blue skies for a change and there were plenty of birds calling. The first species we saw were several Blue-crowned Racquet-tails which showed very well, a pair of Brush Cuckoos and then great views of a Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon which seemed to be carrying nesting material. We got to an open area and we scanned the surrounding trees to find the white-bellied Visayan form of **Balicassiao** and a pair of **White-winged Cuckooshrikes**.



A nemesis of Keith's, Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon, is finally laid to rest. (Keith Barnes)

Coming down the mountain we had a great time birding and saw a soaring Philippine Serpent-Eagle, lots of Mountain White-eyes, Bicolored Flowerpecker and Visayan Tailorbird. Many of the subspecies here were very distinctive and we saw interesting races of Coppersmith Barbet, Philippine Woodpecker and Scarlet Minivet. We had good flocking activity lower down with Visayan Fantail, Citrine Canary-Flycatcher, Elegant Tit, Lemonthroated Warbler, Island Flycatcher and Yellowish White-eye. The bird of the morning though was Flametempled Babbler, which after considerable effort and teamwork, we all got great views of. What a bird! We had a late lunch at the Mambukal hot spring resort after which we birded the grounds. After looking at hundreds of **Glossy Swiftlets** nesting under the bridge, and 3 species of fruit bats filling the trees, we started searching for our main target of the afternoon, Black-belted Flowerpecker. Our local guide knew just where to look and we were soon enjoying extended scope views of this distinctive recent split from Red-keeled Flowerpecker. We also had great views of Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo and Visayan Bulbul. The last bird of the day was the Dimorphic Dwarf-**Kingfisher**. The local guide had a stakeout, but it didn't come in, only giving us a very quick fly by. Our penultimate birding day of the trip had been a very productive one.

## 20th March - Gawahon Ecopark, Negros.

It was our final morning of the trip and we were hoping for another couple of new species. After an hour and a half's drive, we arrived at the entrance to the ecopark and were met by the local guide. First of all, he showed us the nest of the Visayan form of White-eared Brown-Dove which actually has buff ears! Our main target here though was the rare and localised **Negros Jungle-Flycatcher**. Luckily the guide seemed to now a good spot for it. To get there we had to walk around the edge of stream just below a picturesque waterfall. We reached the spot and started our vigil. While we waited, some of us saw a female Mugimaki Flycatcher. After waiting for quite a while, the jungle-flycatcher still hadn't shown, and we decided that we really needed to see some birds on our final morning so we carried on up the trail. Luckily our target was in full song higher up and Keith spotted it for us. It's not going to win any beauty contests, but it was a nice to see nevertheless.



Negros Jungle-Flycatcher was our final target species of the extension. (Keith Barnes)

Main target in the bag, we walked down the trail and back to the road in search of other birds. The other species most people still needed was the Magnificent Sunbird. We had a false alarm with an Olive-backed Sunbird but soon after we found a stunning male **Magnificent Sunbird**. Walking down the road, we saw several of the locally common birds, like Visayan Bulbul, (white-bellied) Balicassiao and Black-belted Flowerpecker, but also found flocks with species some of us had missed previously or wanted better views of. We saw Lemon-throated Warbler, White-vented Whistler, Visayan Fantail, Black-naped Monarch and Elegant Tit. We thanked our local guide and drove out but finished the tour in a splash of color, with Blue-tailed Bee-eater and Collared Kingfisher on wires. After lunch, we headed to the airport for our flights to Manila. Air traffic congestion in Manila meant our flight was delayed an hour which raised some heartbeats for those with international connections, but everyone made their flights. It had been a tremendously successful trip and unforgettable experience.

## PHILIPPINES FEBRUARY-MARCH, 2017

**BIRD LIST** 

Taxonomy follows eBird/Clements online checklist v2016.

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl (Anatidae)

Wandering Whistling-Duck Dendrocygna a. arcuata

Seen at Bislig Airport.

Philippine Duck Anas luzonica Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Bislig Airport & Subic Bay.

Megapodes (Megapodiidae)

Tabon Scrubfowl Megapodius c. cumingii Endemic subspecies

Seen at Subterranean River NP.

Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies (Phasianidae)

Palawan Peacock-Pheasant Polyplectron napoleonis Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Subterranean River NP.

**Red Junglefowl**Introduced. Seen on Bohol, Kanlaon & heard at Subic Bay.

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns (Ardeidae)

Yellow Bittern Ixobrychus sinensis

Seen on the way to Bislig & at Candaba.

Cinnamon Bittern Ixobrychus cinnamomeus

Seen at Candaba.

Black Bittern Ixobrychus flavicollis

Seen by one of the clients at Candaba.

Gray Heron Ardea cinerea

Seen on the way to Banaue, at Candaba & Subic.

Purple Heron Ardea purpurea

Seen at Bislig Airport & Candaba.

Great Egret Ardea alba

Commonly seen throughout.

Intermediate Egret Mesophoyx intermedia

Commonly seen throughout.

Little Egret Egretta garzetta

Commonly seen throughout.

Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Commonly seen throughout.

Javan Pond-Heron Ardeola speciosa

Seen on the way to Bislig, Banaue & Candaba.

Striated Heron Butorides striata

Seen at Lagawe.

Black-crowned Night-Heron Nycticorax nycticorax

Seen at Candaba. Heard at Bislig & Subic.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (Accipitridae)

Black-shouldered Kite Elanus caeruleus

Seen near Kitanglad.

Barred Honey-buzzard Pernis celebensis steerei Endemic subspecies

Seen at Kitanglad & PICOP. This is a potential split.

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Oriental Honey-buzzard Pernis ptilorhynchus philippinensis Endemic subspecies

Seen at Kitanglad & Subic Bay.

Crested Serpent-Eagle Spilornis cheela palawanensis Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang & Iwahig. This is a potential split.

Philippine Serpent-Eagle Spilornis holospilus Endemic

Seen at PICOP & Subic Bay. Heard at Kitanglad, Makiling, Bohol & Gawahon.

Great Philippine Eagle Pithecophaga jefferyi Endemic

Critically endangered. Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle Nisaetus l. limnaeetus

A dark morph individual seen at Sabang.

Philippine Hawk-Eagle Nisaetus philippensis Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Subic Bay.

Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle Nisaetus pinskeri Endemic

Endangered. Heard at Kitanglad & PICOP.

Gray-faced Buzzard Butastur indicus

Seen at Sabang.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier Circus spilonotus

Seen at Candaba.

Pied Harrier Circus melanoleucos

Seen at Kitanglad.

Crested Goshawk Accipiter trivirgatus

Seen at Iwahig & PICOP.

Chinese Sparrowhawk Accipiter soloensis

Seen at Kitanglad & Makiling.

Brahminy Kite Haliastur indus

Seen at Kitanglad, Subic, Gawahon & several times between sites.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

Haliaeetus leucogaster

Seen at Subterranean River NP.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots (Rallidae)

Buff-banded Rail Gallirallus philippensis

Seen at Bislig Airport.

Barred Rail Gallirallus torquatus

Seen at Eden, PICOP, Subic & La Mesa.

Plain Bush-hen Amaurornis olivacea Endemic

A pair seen well in Los Banos. Heard at Kitanglad, Subic Bay, La Mesa & Tabunan.

White-breasted Waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus

Seen at Iwahig & Candaba.

White-browed Crake Amaurornis cinerea

Seen at Candaba.

Philippine Swamphen Porphyrio pulverulentus Near endemic

Seen at Bislig Airport.

Stilts and Avocets (Recurvirostridae)

Black-winged Stilt Himantopus himantopus

Seen at Iwahig & Candaba.

**Plovers and Lapwings (Charadriidae)** 

Lesser Sand-Plover Charadrius mongolus

Seen near Tagbilaran.

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Greater Sand-Plover Charadrius leschenaultii

Seen near Tagbilaran.

Kentish Plover Charadrius alexandrinus

Seen at Iwahig & near Tagbilaran.

Little Ringed Plover Charadrius dubius

Seen at Iwahig, Bislig & near Tagbilaran.

Sandpipers and Allies (Scolopacidae)

Whimbrel Numenius phaeopus

Seen on the way to Bislig.

Long-toed Stint Calidris subminuta

Seen at Iwahig.

Red-necked Stint Calidris ruficollis

Near-threatened. Seen at Iwahig.

Common Snipe Gallinago gallinago

Seen at Bislig & Candaba.

Bukidnon Woodcock Scolopax bukidnonensis Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad.

Common SandpiperActitis hypoleucosSeen Puerto Princesa, Sabang, Iwahig & near Tagbilaran.Gray-tailed TattlerTringa brevipes

Near-threatened. Seen near Tagbilaran.

Common Greenshank Tringa nebularia

Seen at Iwahig.

Marsh Sandpiper Tringa stagnatilis

Seen at Iwahig.

Wood Sandpiper Tringa glareola

Seen at Iwahig, Candaba & near Tagbilaran.

**Buttonguail (Turnicidae)** 

Spotted Buttonquail Turnix o. ocellatus Endemic

Seen at Los Banos.

Pratincoles and Coursers (Glareolidae)

Oriental Pratincole Glareola maldivarum

Seen at Iwahig & Candaba.

Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers (Laridae)

Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybrida

Seen at Bislig, Candaba & Bohol.

Pigeons and Doves (Columbidae)

Rock Pigeon Columba livia

Introduced. Seen in some urban areas.

Red Collared-Dove Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis

Seen at Candaba.

Spotted Dove Streptopelia chinensis tigrina

Commonly seen throughout.

Philippine Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia t. tenuirostris* 

Seen at Kitanglad, PICOP & Bohol.

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Asian Emerald Dove Chalcophaps i. indica

Seen at Subic.

Zebra Dove Geopelia s. striata

Commonly seen throughout.

White-eared Brown-Dove Phapitreron leucotis Endemic

*P.l.leucotis* seen at Mt Polis. Heard at Subic, Makiling & Los Banos. *P.l.nigrorum* (Buff-eared) seen at Tabunan & Gawahon. Heard at Canlaon. *P.l.brevirostris* (Short-billed) seen at PICOP, Tuy-Ann Falls & Bohol. Heard at Kitanglad.

Amethyst Brown-Dove Phapitreron a. amethystinus Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & Bohol. Heard at PICOP.

Pink-necked Pigeon Treron v. vernans

Seen at Sabang.

Philippine Green-Pigeon Treron axillaris Endemic

C.a.canascens seen at Tuy-An Falls. T.a.axillaris seen at Subic.

Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove Ptilinopus occipitalis Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & Tuy-An Falls. Heard at PICOP, Subic & Bohol.

**Black-chinned Fruit-Dove** *Ptilinopus leclancheri* Near endemic *P.l.gironieri* seen at Sabang. *P.l.leclancheri* seen on a nest at Makiling. Heard at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.

Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon Ducula poliocephala Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at PICOP & Kanlaon.

Green Imperial-Pigeon Ducula aenea

D.a.palawanensis seen at Sabang & Iwahig. D.a.aenea Tuy-An Falls & Bohol.

Cuckoos (Cuculidae)

Rufous Coucal Centropus unirufus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Subic.

Black-faced Coucal Centropus melanops Endemic

C.m.melanops seen at PICOP & heard at Tuy-An. C.m.banken seen on Bohol.

Greater Coucal Centropus sinensis bubutus

Seen at Subterranean River NP & Sabang.

Philippine Coucal Centropus v. viridis Endemic

Seen or heard at many sites outside of Palawan.

Lesser Coucal Centropus bengalensis javanensis

Seen at Iwahig & Candaba.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha Phaenicophaeus curvirostris harringtoni Endemic subspecies

Seen at Puerto Princesa & Sabang.

Red-crested Malkoha Dasylophus s. superciliosus Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay & Los Banos.

Scale-feathered Malkoha Dasylophus cumingi Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay, Makiling & Los Banos.

Asian Koel Eudynamys scolopaceus mindanensis

Seen at Sabang & PICOP. Heard at Subic Bay & Bohol.

Violet Cuckoo Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus amethystinus Endemic subspecies

Heard at PICOP.

Banded Bay Cuckoo Cacomantis sonneratii fasciolatus

Heard at Sabang.

Plaintive Cuckoo Cacomantis m. merulinus Endemic subspecies

Heard at Puerto Princesa & Bislig.

Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo Cacomantis variolosus sepulcralis

Seen at Bohol & Kanlaon. Heard at Kitanglad & Tabunan.

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Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo Surniculus v. velutinus Endemic

Seen at PICOP & heard at Bohol.

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo Surniculus lugubris brachyurus

Heard at Sabang.

Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo Hierococcyx pectoralis Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & Mambukal. Heard at Gawahon.

Oriental Cuckoo

Cuculus optatus

Seen at Kitanglad.

**Barn-Owls (Tytonidae)** 

Australasian Grass-Owl Tyto longimembris amauronota Endemic subspecies

Seen at Bislig.

Owls (Strigidae)

Giant Scops-Owl Otus gurneyi Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Kitanglad.

Palawan Scops-Owl Otus fuliginosus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen briefly at Sabang.

Philippine Scops-Owl Otus megalotis Endemic

Seen at Angono. Heard at Mt Polis & Subic.

Everett's Scops-Owl Otus everetti Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & Bohol. Heard at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.

Mantanani Scops-Owl Otus m. mantananensis Near endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Cana Island.

Philippine Eagle-Owl Bubo p. philippensis Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Angono.

Spotted Wood-Owl Strix seloputo wiepkeni Endemic subspecies

Heard at Sabang.

Chocolate Boobook Ninox randi Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Subic Bay & Banaue. Heard at PICOP.

Luzon Boobook Ninox p. philippensis Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay.

Mindanao Boobook Ninox spilocephala Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Tuy-An Falls & heard at PICOP.

Cebu Boobook Ninox rumseyi Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Tabunan.

Frogmouths (Podargidae)

Philippine FrogmouthBatrachostomus septimusEndemicB.s.microrhynchus seen at Kitanglad.B.s.septimus seen at Bohol. Heard at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.Palawan FrogmouthBatrachostomus chaseniNear endemic

Talawan Frogmouth Buttuchostomus chusem Near enuer

Seen at Sabang.

Nightjars and Allies (Caprimulgidae)

Great Eared-Nightjar Lyncornis m. macrotis Endemic subspecies

Seen at Tuy-An Falls & Subic. Heard at Kitanglad & PICOP.

Large-tailed Nightjar Caprimulgus macrurus johnsoni Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang.

Philippine Nightjar Caprimulgus manillensis Endemic

Seen at Bislig & PICOP. Heard at Kitanglad, Angono & Mt Polis.

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Swifts (Apodidae)

Philippine Spinetailed Swift Mearnsia picina Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Eden & PICOP.

Brown-backed Needletail Hirundapus g. giganteus

Seen at Sabang.

Purple Needletail Hirundapus celebensis

Seen at Kanlaon.

Glossy Swiftlet Collocalia esculenta Endemic subspecies
C.e.marginata seen on Palawan, Luzon & Visayas. C.e.bagobo seen on Mindanao. C.e.isonota (?) seen at Mt Polis.

Pygmy Swiftlet Collocalia troglodytes Endemic

Seen at Sabang, Subic Bay & Bohol.

Philippine Swiftlet Aerodramus mearnsi Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & Dalton Pass.

Ameline Swiftlet Aerodramus amelis Endemic

A.a.amelis seen at PICOP. A.a.palawanensis seen at Puerto Princesa, Subterranean River NP & Sabang.

Pacific Swift Apus pacificus

Seen by one client at Banaue.

House Swift *Apus n. nipalensis* 

Seen at Banaue.

Asian Palm-Swift Cypsiurus balasiensis pallidior Endemic subspecies

Seen at Los Banos

**Treeswifts (Hemiprocnidae)** 

Whiskered Treeswift Hemiprocne comate major

Seen at Kitanglad, Subic Bay & Bohol.

**Trogons (Trogonidae)** 

Philippine Trogon Harpactes ardens Endemic

H.a.ardens seen at PICOP & Tuy-An. H.a.linae seen on Bohol.

**Hornbills (Bucerotidae)** 

Rufous Hornbill Buceros hydrocorax mindanensis Endemic

Vulnerable. Heard at PICOP.

Palawan Hornbill Anthracoceros marchei Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Sabang.

Writhed Hornbill Rhabdotorrhinus leucocephalus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at PICOP.

Luzon Hornbill Penelopides manillae Endemic

Seen at Sabang & heard at Makiling.

Samar Hornbill Penelopides samarensis Endemic

Seen on Bohol.

Mindanao Hornbill Penelopides a. affinis Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad, PICOP & Tuy-An.

**Kingfishers (Alcedinidae)** 

Common Kingfisher Alcedo atthis

Seen at Sabang, Cana & Candaba Marsh.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher Ceyx c. cyanopectus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Lagawe.

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Northern Silvery-Kingfisher Ceyx flumenicolus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen on Bohol.

Southern Silvery-Kingfisher Ceyx argentatus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at PICOP.

**Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher** *Ceyx rufidorsa* Seen at Sabang and heard at Subterranean River NP.

Dimorphic Dwarf-Kingfisher Ceyx margarethae Endemic

Seen at Mambukal resort.

Ruddy Kingfisher Halcyon coromanda

Seen on Bohol.

Brown-breasted Kingfisher Halcyon gularis Endemic

Seen at PICOP, Subic Bay & Bohol.

Rufous-lored Kingfisher Todiramphus winchelli Endemic

Vulnerable. *T.w.nigrorum* seen on Bohol. *T.w.mindanensis* heard at PICOP.

Collared Kingfisher Todiramphus chloris collaris

Seen at Puerto Princesa. Los Banos, Bohol, Tabunan & Gawahon. Heard at Cana, Kitanglad & La Mesa.

Spotted Kingfisher Actenoides I. lindsayi Endemic

Seen at Makiling & heard at Subic Bay.

Blue-capped Kingfisher Actenoides hombroni Endemic

Vulnerable. Heard at Kitanglad & PICOP.

**Bee-eaters** (Meropidae)

Rufous-crowned Bee-eater Merops americanus Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & Subic Bay.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater Merops philippinus

Seen at Candaba, La Mesa & Gawahon.

Rollers (Coraciidae)

Dollarbird Eurystomus o. orientalis

Seen at Sabang, PICOP & Subic Bay.

Asian Barbets (Megalaimidae)

Coppersmith Barbet Psilopogon haemacephalus Endemic subspecies

*P.h.haemacephalus* seen at Subic Bay. *P.h.intermedius* seen at Kanlaon. *P.h.mindanensis* seen at Kitanglad & PICOP. *P.h.cebuensis* seen at Tabunan. Race seen on Bohol is unclear. These distinctive races are potential splits.

**Woodpeckers (Picidae)** 

Philippine Woodpecker Dendrocopos maculatus Endemic

D.m.validirostris seen at Los Banos & heard at La Mesa. D.m.maculatus seen at Kanlaon. D.m.fulvifasciatus seen at

Kitanglad.

White-bellied Woodpecker Dryocopus javensis Endemic subspecies

D.j.confusus seen at Subic Bay. D.j.pectoralis seen on Bohol. D.j.multilunatus seen at PICOP. D.j.hargitti seen at

Sabang,

Spot-throated Flameback Dinopium everetti Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Sabang & Iwahig.

Luzon Flameback Chrysocolaptes haematribon Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay.

Yellow-faced Flameback Chrysocolaptes xanthocephalus Endemic

Endangered. Heard at Kanlaon.

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Buff-spotted Flameback Chrysocolaptes lucidus Endemic

C.l.rufopunctatus seen on Bohol. C.l.montanus seen at Kitanglad & PICOP.

Northern Sooty-Woodpecker Mulleripicus f. funebris Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Subic Bay.

Great Slaty Woodpecker Mulleripicus p. pulverulentus Vulnerable

Seen at Sabang.

Falcons and Caracaras (Falconidae)

**Philippine Falconet** *Microhierax erythrogenys* **Endemic** *M.e.erythrogenys* seen at Subic Bay & Los Banos. *M.e.meridionalis* seen at Kitanglad & PICOP.

Oriental Hobby Falco severus

Seen at Sabang.

Cockatoos (Cacatuidae)

Philippine Cockatoo Cacatua haematuropygia Endemic

Critically endangered. Seen at Sabang.

Old World Parrots (Psittaculidae)

Mindanao Racquet-tail Prioniturus waterstradti Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Kitanglad.

Blue-headed Racquet-tail Prioniturus platenae Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Sabang.

Green Racquet-tail Prioniturus luconensis Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Subic Bay.

Blue-crowned Racquet-tail Prioniturus discurus whiteheadi Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Kanlaon.

Blue-naped Parrot Tanygnathus l. lucionensis Endemic subspecies

Near-threatened. Seen at Sabang, Iwahig & Subic Bay.

Guaiabero Bolbopsittacus lunulatus Endemic

B.l.lunulatus seen at Subic Bay, Los Banos, Makiling & La Mesa. B.l.mindanensis seen at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.

Philippine Hanging-Parrot Loriculus philippensis Endemic

L.p.philippensis seen at Subic Bay, Los Banos & Makiling. L.p.worcestori seen on Bohol. L.p.apicalis seen at Kitanglad,

PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.

Asian and Grauer's Broadbills (Eurylaimidae)

Wattled Broadbill Eurylaimus steerii mayri Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at PICOP.

Visayan Broadbill Eurylaimus samarensis Endemic

Vulnerable, Seen at Bohol,

Pittas (Pittidae)

Blue-breasted Pitta Erythropitta e. erythrogaster Endemic subspecies

Seen on Bohol.

Hooded Pitta Pitta sordida Endemic subspecies

P.s.sordida seen at La Mesa & heard on Bohol. P.s.palawanensis seen at Sabang.

Azure-breasted Pitta Pitta steerii Endemic

Vulnerable. P.s.coelestis heard at PICOP. P.s.steeri seen on Bohol.

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Thornbills and Allies (Acanthizidae)

Golden-bellied Gerygone Gerygone sulphurea Endemic subspecies

Race seen at Puerto Princesa unclear. G.s.simplex seen at Candaba & heard at La Mesa.

Woodswallows (Artamidae)

White-breasted Woodswallow Artamus l. leucorynchus

Commonly seen throughout.

Ioras (Aegithinidae)

Common Iora Aegithina tiphia aequanimis

Seen near Puerto Princesa.

**Cuckooshrikes (Campephagidae)** 

Fiery Minivet Pericrocotus i. igneus

Near-threatened Seen at Sabang.

**Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus P.s.novus* seen at Kanlaon. *P.s.gonzalesi* seen at PICOP. The distinctive races of this species are potential splits.

Ashy Minivet Pericrocotus divaricatus

Seen at Los Banos, Makiling & La Mesa.

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike Coracina striata Endemic subspecies

C.s.striata seen at Subic Bay. C.s.boholensis seen on Bohol. C.s.dificilis seen at Sabang.

McGregor's Cuckooshrike Malindangia mcgregori Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Kitanglad.

Pied Triller Lalage n. nigra

Seen at Kitanglad, La Mesa & Tabunan.

Blackish Cuckooshrike Analisoma c. coerulescens Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay.

White-winged Cuckooshrike Analisoma ostenta Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Kanlaon.

Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike Edolisoma m. mindanense Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at PICOP.

Whistlers and Allies (Pachycephalidae)

Yellow-bellied Whistler Pachycephala philippinensis apoensis Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad & PICOP.

Green-backed Whistler Pachycephala albiventris Endemic

Seen at Mt Polis.

White-vented Whistler Pachycephala homeyeri Near endemic

P.h.major seen at Tabunan. P.h.winchelli seen at Gawahon.

Shrikes (Laniidae)

Brown Shrike Lanius cristatus

Commonly seen throughout.

Long-tailed Shrike Lanius schach nasutus Endemic subspecies

Seen at Kitanglad, Banaue, Candaba & Los Banos.

Gray-capped Shrike Lanius v. validirostris Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Mt Polis.

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Old World Orioles (Oriolidae)

Dark-throated Oriole Oriolus xanthonotus persuasus Endemic subspecies

Near-threatened. Heard at Sabang.

Philippine Oriole Oriolus steerii samarensis Endemic

Heard at PICOP & Rajah Sikatuna NP.

Black-naped Oriole Oriolus c. chinensis Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang, Subic Bay, La Mesa & Bohol. Heard at Tuy-An.

**Drongos (Dicruridae)** 

Ashy Drongo Dicrurus leucophaeus

Seen at Sabang.

Hair-crested Drongo Dicrurus hottentottus Endemic subspecies

D.h.samarensis seen on Bohol. D.h.palawanensis seen at Subterranean River NP, Sabang & Iwahig. D.h.striatus seen

at PICOP & Tuy-An. *D.h.palawanensis* is a potential split as Palawan Drongo.

Balicassiao Dicrurus balicassius Endemic

*D.b.balicassius* seen at Subic Bay, Los Banos & Makiling. The distinctive white-bellied form, *D,b,mirabilis* seen Tabunan, Kanlaon & Gawahon. This is a strong candidate to be split.

Fantails (Rhipiduridae)

Black-and-cinnamon Fantail Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea hutchinsoni Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad.

Mindanao Blue-Fantail Rhipidura superciliaris apo Endemic

Seen at PICOP.

Visayan Fantail Rhipidura albiventris Endemic

Seen at Kanlaon & Gawahon.

Blue-headed Fantail Rhipidura cyaniceps pinicola Endemic

Seen at Banaue.

Philippine Pied-Fantail Rhipidura nigritorquis Endemic

Seen at Puerto Princesa, Candaba, La Mesa & Tabunan.

Monarch Flycatchers (Monarchidae)

Short-crested Monarch Hypothymis helenae agusanae Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen by some at PICOP.

Black-naped Monarch Hypothymis a. azurea Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang, Iwahig, Kitanglad, PICOP, Tuy-An, Bohol, Tabunan, Canlao & Mambukal.

Celestial Monarch Hypothymis coelestis Endemic

Vulnerable. Heard at PICOP.

Blue Paradise-Flycatcher Terpsiphone cyanescens Endemic

Seen at Subterranean River NP & Sabang.

Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher Terpsiphone c. cinnamomea Near endemic

Seen at PICOP.

**Crows, Jays, and Magpies (Corvidae)** 

Slender-billed Crow Corvus enca pusillus Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang & Iwahig.

Large-billed Crow Corvus macrorhynchos philippinus Endemic subspecies

Seen at Kitanglad, Eden, PICOP, Subic Bay, Candaba, Los Banos & Makiling.

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Swallows (Hirundinidae)

Barn Swallow Hirundo rustica

Commonly seen throughout.

Pacific Swallow Hirundo tahitica javanica

Seen at Subterranean River NP, Mt Polis, Candaba & Bohol.

Striated Swallow

Cecropis s. striolata

Seen at Banaue. Los Banos & Bohol.

Fairy Flycatchers (Stenostiridae)

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher Culicicapa helianthea panayensis Endemic subspecies

Seen at Mt Kanlaon.

Tits, Chickadees, and Titmice (Paridae)

Elegant Tit Periparus elegans Endemic

P.e.edithae seen at Mt Polis & Banaue. P.e.elegans heard at Subic Bay. P.e.albescens seen at Kanlaon & Gawahon.

P.e.visayanus seen at Tabunan. P.e.mindanensis seen at Kitanglad.

Palawan Tit Periparus amabilis Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Sabang.

White-fronted Tit Sittiparus s. semilarvatus Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Subic Bay.

**Nuthatches (Sittidae)** 

Sulphur-billed Nuthatch Sitta oenochlamys Endemic

S.o.oenochlamys seen at Kanlaon. S.o.apo seen at Kitanglad.

**Bulbuls (Pycnonotidae)** 

Black-headed Bulbul Pycnonotus a. atriceps

Seen at Sabang & Iwahig.

Yellow-wattled Bulbul Pycnonotus urostictus Endemic

P.u.urostictus seen at Mt Makiling. P.u.atricaudatus seen on Bohol. P.u.philippensis seen at PICOP & Tuy-An.

Yellow-vented Bulbul Pycnonotus goiavier Endemic subspecies

P.g.goiavier seen at Subic Bay, Candaba, Los Banos & La Mesa. P.g.suluensis seen at Kitanglad & Eden.

Ashy-fronted Bulbul Pycnonotus cinereifrons Endemic

Seen at Sabang.

Gray-throated Bulbul Alophoixus frater Endemic

Seen at Sabang.

Sulphur-bellied Bulbul Iole palawanensis Endemic

Seen at Sabang.

Visayan Bulbul Hypsipetes guimarasensis Endemic

Seen at Kanlaon, Mambukal & Gawahon.

Yellowish Bulbul Hypsipetes e. everetti Endemic

Seen at PICOP.

Streak-breasted Bulbul Hypsipetes siquijorensis Endemic

Endangered. Seen briefly at Tabunan.

**Philippine Bulbul** *Hypsipetes philippinus* **Endemic** *H.p.philippinus* commonly seen Luzon. *H.p.saturatior* commonly seen on Mindanao, Cebu & Bohol.

**Bush-Warblers and Allies (Cettiidae)** 

Mountain Tailorbird Phyllergates cucullatus philippinus Endemic subspecies

Seen at Mt Polis.

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Rufous-headed Tailorbird Phyllergates heterolaemus Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad.

Philippine Bush-Warbler Horornis seebohmi Endemic

Seen at Mt Polis.

<u>Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)</u>

Arctic Warbler Phylloscopus borealis

Seen at Eden & Makiling. Heard at Kitanglad.

Kamchatka Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus examinandus

Seen at Los Banos.

Japanese Leaf Warbler Phylloscopus xanthodryas

Seen at Subic Bay.

**Lemon-throated Warbler** *Phylloscopus cebuensis* **Endemic** Vulnerable. *P.c.luzonensis* seen at Banaue. *P.c.cebuensis* seen at Tabunan, Kanlaon & Gawahon.

Mountain Warbler Phylloscopus trivirgatus Endemic subspecies

P.t.flavostriatus seen at Kitanglad. P.t.benguetensis seen at Mt Polis. IOC splits the Philippine endemic Negros Leaf-

Warbler from Mountain Leaf-Warbler.

Philippine Leaf-Warbler Phylloscopus olivaceus Endemic

Seen at PICOP & heard on Bohol.

Reed-Warblers and Allies (Acrocephalidae)

Oriental Reed-Warbler Acrocephalus orientalis

Seen at Bislig.

Clamorous Reed-Warbler Acrocephalus stentoreus harterti Endemic subspecies

Seen at Candaba.

**Grassbirds and Allies (Locustellidae)** 

Tawny Grassbird Megalurus timoriensis Endemic subspecies

*M.t.tweeddalei* heard at Mt Polis. *M.t.alopex* heard at Tabunan. *M.t.crex* seen at Kitanglad.

Striated Grassbird Megalurus palustris forbesi Endemic subspecies

Seen at Kitanglad, Los Banos, La Mesa, Bohol & on Negros. Heard at Bislig.

Middendorff's Grasshopper-Warbler Locustella ochotensis

Seen at Candaba.

Long-tailed Bush-Warbler Locustella caudata Endemic

L.c.caudata heard at Mt Polis. L.c.malindangensis (?) seen at Kitanglad. Potential split.

Benguet Bush-Warbler Locustella seebohmi Endemic

Heard at Mt Polis.

<u>Cisticolas and Allies (Cisticolidae)</u>

Zitting Cisticola Cisticola juncidis

Seen at Candaba.

Golden-headed Cisticola Cisticola exilis semirufus

Seen at Bislig.

Rufous-fronted Tailorbird Orthotomus f. frontalis Endemic

Seen at Tuy-An Falls. Heard at PICOP & Bohol.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird Orthotomus sericeus nuntius Endemic subspecies

Seen at Puerto Princesa, Subterranean River NP, Sabang & Iwahig.

Visayan Tailorbird Orthotomus castaneiceps rabori Endemic

Seen at Kanlaon.

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Gray-backed Tailorbird Orthotomus d. derbianus Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay & heard at Dalton's Pass.

Green-backed Tailorbird Orthotomus chloronotus Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay & heard at Dalton Pass.

Yellow-breasted Tailorbird Orthotomus samarensis Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen on Bohol.

White-browed Tailorbird Orthotomus nigriceps Endemic

Seen at PICOP & Tuy-An.

White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies (Zosteropidae)

Chestnut-faced Babbler Zosterornis w. whiteheadi Endemic

Seen at Polis.

Mindanao White-eye Lophozosterops g. goodfellowi Endemic

Seen by the guide at Kitanglad.

Rusty-crowned Babbler Sterrhoptilus capitalis euroaustralis Endemic

Seen at PICOP.

Flame-templed Babbler Dasycrotapha speciosa Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Kanlaon.

Mindanao Pygmy-Babbler Dasycrotapha plateni Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at PICOP.

Lowland White-eye Zosterops m. meyeni Near endemic

Seen at La Mesa.

Everett's White-eye Zosterops everetti basilianicus Endemic subspecies

Seen at PICOP, Tuy-An & Bohol.

Yellowish White-eye Zosterops nigrorum Endemic

*Z.n.innominatus* seen at Dalton's Pass & Mt Polis. *Z.n.nigrorum* seen at Kanlaon & Gawahon.

Mountain White-eye Zosterops montanus Endemic subspecies

Z.m.whiteheadi seen at Mt Polis. Z.m.pectoralis seen at Kanlaon. Z.m.vulcani seen at Kitanglad.

Tree-Babblers, Scimitar-Babblers, and Allies (Timaliidae)

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler Mixornis gularis woodi Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang & Iwahig. This distinctive race is a potential split.

Brown Tit-Babbler Macronus striaticeps mindanensis Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad, PICOP & Bohol.

**Ground Babblers and Allies (Pellorneidae)** 

Palawan Babbler Malacopteron palawanense Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Iwahig.

Ashy-headed Babbler Pellorneum cinereiceps Endemic

Seen at Subterranean River NP, Sabang & Iwahig.

Striated Wren-Babbler Ptilocichla mindanensis Endemic

P.m.fortichi seen on Bohol. P.m.mindanensis seen at PICOP.

Falcated Wren-Babbler Ptilocichla falcata Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Sabang & Iwahig.

Fairy-bluebirds (Irenidae)

Asian Fairy-bluebird Irena puella tweeddalii Endemic subspecies

Near-threatened (if split). Seen at Sabang. This is a potential split.

Philippine Fairy-bluebird Irena cyanogastra Endemic

Near-threatened. I.c.hoogstraali seen at PICOP. I.c.ellae heard on Bohol.

Old World Flycatchers (Muscicapidae)

Gray-streaked Flycatcher Muscicapa griseisticta

Commonly seen throughout.

Philippine Magpie-Robin Copsychus mindanensis Endemic

Seen at Los Banos.

White-browed Shama Copsychus I. luzoniensis Endemic

Seen at Subic Bay & Makiling.

White-vented Shama Copsychus niger Endemic

Seen at Subterranean River NP & Sabang.

Black Shama Copsychus cebuensis Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Tabunan.

Palawan Blue-Flycatcher Cyornis lemprieri Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Subterranean River NP & heard at Iwahig.

Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher Cyornis rufigastra philippinensis Endemic subspecies

Heard at Tabunan.

Chestnut-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher Cyornis ruficauda samarensis Endemic subspecies

Seen at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.

Island Flycatcher Eumyias panayensis Endemic subspecies

E.p.nigrimentalis seen at Mt Polis. E.p.panayensis seen at Kanlaon. E.p.nigriloris seen at Mt Kitanglad.

Negros Jungle-Flycatcher Vauriella albigularis Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Gawahon.

White-browed Shortwing Brachypteryx montana Endemic subspecies

B.m.brunneiceps seen at Mt Kanlaon. B.m.poliogyna heard at Mt Polis. Race heard at Kitanglad is unclear. This is a

potential split.

Mugimaki Flycatcher Ficedula mugimaki

Seen at Kitanglad & Gawahon.

Little Pied Flycatcher Ficedula westermanni Endemic subspecies

F.w.westermanni seen at Mt Kitanglad. F.c.rabori seen at Kanlaon & heard at Mt Polis.

Little Slaty Flycatcher Ficedula b. basilanica

Heard at PICOP.

Russet-tailed Flycatcher Ficedula crypta Endemic

Seen at Eden.

Bundok Flycatcher Ficedula luzoniensis daggayana Endemic

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

Luzon Redstart Phoenicurus bicolor Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at Mt Polis.

Pied Bushchat Saxicola caprata Endemic subspecies

S.c.caprata seen at Los Banos. S.c.randi seen at Kanlaon. S.c.anderseni seen at Bislig & PICOP.

**Thrushes and Allies (Turdidae)** 

Ashy Thrush Geokichla cinerea Endemic

Vulnerable. La Mesa.

Island Thrush Turdus poliocephalus thomassoni Endemic subspecies

Seen at Mt Polis.

Eyebrowed Thrush Turdus obscurus

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

**Starlings (Sturnidae)** 

Stripe-sided Rhabdornis Rhabdornis mystacalis Endemic

R.m.mystacalis seen at Subic Bay, Los Banos & Makiling. R.m.minor seen at PICOP.

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**Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis** Rhabdornis inornatus alaris Endemic

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

**Asian Glossy Starling** Aplonis p. panayensis Seen at Sabang. Puerto Princesa, Bohol, Tabunan & Kanlaon. **Short-tailed Starling** Aplonis minor

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

Apo Myna Goodfellowia miranda Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

**Endemic** Sarcops calvus

S.c.calvus seen at Subic Bay. S.c.melanonotus seen at Mt Kitanglad, Eden, PICOP, Tuy-An Falls, Bohol & Tabunan. Gracula religiosa palawanensis

**Common Hill Myna** 

Seen at Sabang.

**Chestnut-cheeked Starling** 

Agropsar philippensis

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

**Crested Myna** Acridotheres cristatellus

Introduced. Seen in Manila.

Leafbirds (Chloropseidae)

Philippine Leafbird Chloropsis flavipennis Endemic

Vulnerable. Seen at PICOP.

Yellow-throated Leafbird Chloropsis palawanensis Endemic

Seen at Sabang.

Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)

**Olive-backed Flowerpecker** Prionochilus o. olivaceus Endemic

Seen at PICOP.

Palawan Flowerpecker Endemic Prionochilus p. plateni

Seen at Sabang.

Thick-billed (Striped) Flowerpecker Dicaeum agile striatissimum **Endemic subspecies** 

Seen at Makiling. This is a potential split.

**Whiskered Flowerpecker** Dicaeum proprium Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Eden.

**Olive-capped Flowerpecker** Dicaeum n. nigrilore Endemic

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker **Endemic** Dicaeum a. anthonyi

Near-threatened. Seen at Mt Polis.

**Bicolored Flowerpecker** Dicaeum bicolor Endemic

D.b.inexpectatum seen at Dalton's Pass. D.b.virisissimum seen at Kanlaon. D.b.bicolor seen at PICOP & Bohol.

**Red-keeled Flowerpecker** Dicaeum australe Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad, Eden, PICOP, Tuy-An, Makiling, Bohol & Tabunan.

**Black-belted Flowerpecker** Dicaeum haematostictum **Endemic** 

Vulnerable. Seen at Mambukal & Gawahon.

Dicaeum trigonostigma **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker Endemic subspecies** D.t.cinereigulare seen at Eden, PICOP, Tuy-An Falls & Bohol. D.t.dorsale seen at Kanlaon & Mambukal. Heard at

Gawahon.

White-bellied Flowerpecker Dicaeum hypoleucum pontifex **Endemic** 

Seen at Kitanglad & PICOP.

**Pygmy Flowerpecker** Dicaeum pygmaeum Endemic

D.p.pygmaeum seen at Bohol. D.p.davao seen on PICOP. D.p.palawanorum seen at Sabang.

**Endemic subspecies** 

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Fire-breasted Flowerpecker Dicaeum ignipectus Endemic subspecies

D.i.luzoniense seen at Mt Polis. D.i.apo seen at Kitanglad.

Sunbirds and Spiderhunters (Nectariniidae)

Plain-throated Sunbird Anthreptes malacensis Endemic subspecies

A.m.paraguae (Brown-throated) seen near Puerto Princesa. A.m.griseigularis (Gray-throated) seen at PICOP & Tuy-

An Falls. Race found on Bohol unclear. This is a potential split.

Purple-throated Sunbird Leptocoma sperata trochilus Endemic

Seen at Sabang, Iwahig, Bislig, PICOP & Bohol.

Copper-throated Sunbird Leptocoma calcostetha

Seen at Sabang.

Olive-backed Sunbird Cinnyris jugularis Endemic subspecies

C.j.aurora (Orange-breasted) seen on Palawan. C.j.jugularis commonly seen in the rest of the Philippines.

Lovely Sunbird Aethopyga shelleyi Endemic

Seen at Subterranean River NP & Sabang.

Magnificent Sunbird Aethopyga magnifica Endemic

Seen at Tabunan & Gawahon.

Handsome Sunbird Aethopyga b. bella Endemic

Seen at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls. Race seen on Bohol unclear.

Flaming Sunbird Aethopyga f. flagrans Endemic

Seen at Makiling.

Metallic-winged Sunbird Aethopyga pulcherrima Endemic

Seen at PICOP & Tuy-An Falls.

Mountain Sunbird Aethopyga jefferyi Endemic

Seen at Mt Polis.

Bohol Sunbird Aethopyga decorosa Endemic

Seen on Bohol.

Gray-hooded Sunbird Aethopyga p. primigenia Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Kitanglad.

Orange-tufted Spiderhunter Arachnothera f. flammifera Endemic

Seen at Tuy-An Falls.

Pale Spiderhunter Arachnothera dilutior Endemic

Seen at Sabang.

Naked-faced Spiderhunter Arachnothera c. clarae Endemic

Seen at PICOP.

Wagtails and Pipits (Motacillidae)

Eastern Yellow Wagtail Motacilla tschutschensis

Seen at Iwahig.

**Gray Wagtail**Motacilla c. cinerea
Seen at Kitanglad, PICOP, Los Banos, Makiling & Kanlaon.

Paddyfield Pipit Anthus rufulus lugubris

Seen at Iwahig, Kitanglad, Bislig & Bohol.

Finches, Euphonias, and Allies (Fringillidae)

White-cheeked Bullfinch Pyrrhula leucogenis steerei Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad.

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Old World Sparrows (Passeridae)

Cinnamon Ibon Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus Endemic

Seen at Kitanglad.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow Passer montanus

Commonly seen throughout.

Waxbills and Allies (Estrildidae)

Scaly-breasted Munia Lonchura punctulata cabanisi Endemic subspecies

Seen at Sabang, Bislig, Candaba & Tabunan.

White-bellied Munia Lonchura leucogastra Endemic subspecies

L.l.palawana seen at Sabang. L.l.manueli seen near Tuy-An Falls, Kitanglad & Candaba. Heard at Tabunan.

Chestnut Munia Lonchura atricapilla jagori

Seen at Kitanglad, Bislig, Candaba & Negros.

**MAMMALS** 

**Squirrels (Sciuridae)** 

Philippine Pygmy Squirrel Exilisciurus cocinnus Endemic

Seen at PICOP & Raja Sikatuna NP.

Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel Sundasciurus juvencus Endemic

Seen at Sabang.

Mindanao Flying-Squirrel Petinomys mindanensis Endemic

Seen at Mt Kitanglad.

Flying Foxes (Pteropodidae)

Golden-crowned Flying Fox Acerodon jubatus Endemic

Endangered. Seen at Subic Bay & Mambukal.

Large Flying Fox Pteropus vampyrus

Near-threatened. Seen at Subic Bay & Mambukal.

Island Flying Fox Pteropus hypomelanus

Seen at Mambukal.

Flying Lemurs (Cynocephalidae)

Philippine Flying Lemur Cynocephalus volans Endemic

Seen at Raja Sikatuna NP.

Old World Monkeys (Cercopithecidae)

Long-tailed Macaque Macaca fascicularis philippensis Endemic subspecies

Near-threatened. Seen at Subterranean River NP & Raja Sikatuna NP.

**Tarsiers (Tarsiidae)** 

Philippine Tarsier Tarsius philippensis Endemic

Near-threatened. Seen at Raja Sikatuna NP.