

THE PHILIPPINES

2:nd of February –7:th of March 2005



Mindanao Wattled Broadbill ©Göran Andersson

The group

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General information

We owe a lot to Tim Fisher who organised **everything** in the Philippines. (He can be contacted on Fisher@qinet.net). We also had him as guide in the field for 2 days, and he was excellent, and found Celestial Monarch for us. He organised bookings of ferries, flights, hotels, vehicles and if possible local guides. If local guides did not exist he booked drivers to take us to the right spot. He also gave us tapes with many important birdcalls. He charged very little for this and it worked well almost always. We ran into some small incidents, but nothing serious and not because of Tim. He also updated us along the way with info on recently discovered birds, and this gave us Mindanao Wattled Broadbill. Thanks Tim!

Tripreports and Literature

We used the excellent tripreports by Ahlman 1999 and Lagerqvist 2003 because we knew birders in those groups, and could ask further questions if necessary. For maps and comments on locations visited we recommend these reports.

Taxonomic questions could be handled by using Clements and updates. However, we also got some clarifications and very new updates talking to Per Alström about wagtails and warblers. Thanks Per!

For birds in the field we used Kennedy, Fisher et al: *A guide to the Birds of the Philippines*. It was mainly good, especially the text. Some illustrations though are not acceptable.

There is no good mammal fieldguide to the Philippines, but some info can be found in Rabor: *Philippine Birds & Mammals*. We brought a copy but had little use for it. Eric Renman helped us with taxonomic questions after the trip using his extensive mammal library. Thanks Eric!

Our trip report was compiled by Henrik Lind, except for the dairy which was put together by Göran Andersson. Comments and/or questions should firstly be addressed to these gentlemen.

General short itinerary

Luzon (Mt Makiling, Baler-area and Point Polison in the Aurora province)

Palawan (St Pauls National Park, Sabang, Iwahig Penal Colony, Puerto Princesa Beach and Fish/Sewage Ponds, Rasa Island)

Bohol (Rajah Sikatuna National Park)

Cebu (Tabunan National Park)

Mindanao (Mt Kitanglad, PICOP north section, Bislig Old Airport, Mt Talomo)

Luzon (Hamut & Mt Dos Cuernos, Mt Polis, Candaba Marshes, Subic Bay, Orion, Mt Makiling)



Dream-team at Camp 2, Mt Dos Cuernos ©Anders Paulsrud

Day-by-day

2/2

We arrived late afternoon local time in Manila after a long boring transport from Sweden via Holland. We were met at the airport by a chauffeur, arranged by Tim, who took us directly to Trees Lodge at Mount Makiling. We now looked forward to a full day of high quality birding!

3/2

Started at 04:00 for night birding. We walked upwards along the track in a summer tempered morning breeze, armed with MP3-player and spotlight. Some owls and Spotted Wood-Kingfishers later we were confronted by a frustratingly unknown morning chorus by birds impossible to see. This experience was to be repeated throughout our five-week trip, and it proved to be hard work to sort out what bird made what sound. Despite these difficulties we could sum up a good collection of species by noon when we took a short siesta during the hot midday hours. Afternoon was spent at the bridges down by the campus in successful search for the Indigo-banded Kingfisher, and later close to the Husbandry where we tried for the Buttonquails. We scanned the dirt track with our scopes in the last hours of daylight, but with no luck. We later learned from Tim that the Buttonquails nowadays seem to have earlier habits and the best time should be around 15:00. After this good introduction into Philippine birding we headed back to Manila where we checked in at Malate Pensionne, and met with Tim who would accompany us the following two days. The hotel proved to have a good restaurant so we got the opportunity to celebrate the fact that we had some 35 days of focused birding ahead.

4/2

“Early to bed and early to rise, makes the man healthy, wealthy and wise”. I’m not sure if it was healthy I felt when the alarm went off at 03:10. The early morning was necessary since we had a nine hours drive ahead of us. The plan was to get some afternoon birding in the Aurora area. At dawn we reached the mountains where the effects of the typhoons hitting the Philippines in late autumn were still obvious. The road we travelled had been cleared and reopened only days before our arrival, saving us a long detour. After passing the ridge we were back into more or less deforested lowlands again, and after lunch we explored an area outside Baler from where Tim had a report of a claimed Philippine Eagle to check. No eagle was found and this secondary forest seemed unlikely to hold this rare and demanding bird. We stayed the night at a hotel close to the coast and went through the details for the rest of our trip with Tim over one or two beers.

5/2

We drove north along the coast early in order to reach good forest at dawn. The main target species for this trip to Aurora was the rare and hard to see Celestial Monarch. There was a good selection of birds at dawn and Tim started to play the tape with the Monarch to see if the male was around. It took a while before we heard a response from the forest, and after some waiting we managed to spot it high up in some distant trees. We got good views in our scopes, but continued to play the tape. With some patience we finally got the bird within 10 m giving magnificent and extensive views. This meeting with our prime target bird was beyond expectations and we got the feeling that this would be a very successful trip indeed. Time was however limited due to the long drive back to Manila so we left at 9:30 am. We arrived at Malate Pensionne again which already felt like a second home. The good restaurant was now used for celebrating the excellent start of the trip, and we did it thoroughly with whiskey and

cigars. The plane for Palawan didn't leave until 8:00 the next morning so we could look forward to a full good nights sleep.

6/2

We took the morning plane to Palawan where we were met at the airport by our guide Arnell, who would soon prove to be an excellent birdwatcher and guide. We went straight to the beach for the Chinese Egrets. Some confusion occurred regarding the identification of this species and the potential risk of mistaking it with white Eastern Reef Herons. The latter is obviously rare on Palawan and you get few possibilities to compare the two. We also scanned through the waders and ticked off some new species in the scrubs. After lunch we left for Saint Pauls and birdwatched along the road towards our living close to Sabang, wherever the forest looked good. Arnell knows the area very well so we picked up some good birds already this first afternoon. After installation in our simple "bungalows" at Taraw close to the beach we took off for owling and frogmouthing. This evening tour was quite successful and we fell asleep fully satisfied to the sound of the ocean rolling along the beach.

7/2

At dawn we walked to our waiting boat that would take us to the Underground River at Saint Pauls. The prime target species was the Palawan Peacock-Pheasant and after some waiting we got close up views of this impressive creature. We had relaxed birding in the area for a few hours before a short boat trip to the headquarters where we spent the rest of the day. Good birding in the area and we stayed until dark for a try at the Palawan Scops-Owl. We heard it well and got a glimpse of a flying owl in the spotlight. We walked back to our camp in the darkness and some of us, who had managed to keep the feet dry all day, got a good opportunity to fill the shoes with water along the shore. A good days work ends enjoying the best Carbonara in the Philippines.

8/2

Early rise for complementary night birding. We needed good views of the Javan Frogmouth why we left while it was still dark. We spent the morning just outside Sabang and we got the sought after spotlight encounter with the frogmouth, and a beautiful morning with good birding as well. Back for lunch, siesta and packing at midday before leaving for along-the-road-birding on the way back towards Puerto Princesa. We still needed to see the Palawan Tit and just when we had given up hope, and embarked the vehicle for the return drive to the city, Arnell suddenly heard the tit through the open window. Within seconds we were out of the car and admired this beautiful representative of the tit-family. Night in Puerto Princesa at Badjao Inn.



Javan Frogmouth ©Göran Andersson

9/2

Morning birding at the Iwahig penal colony along the Balsahan Trail. Already after some 20 m we discovered a silent Hooded Pitta close to the track. Soon after a Melodius Babbler was added to our growing list of Palawan endemics. The morning walk was very productive and the only species putting up some resistance was the Palawan Flycatcher that was nowhere to be found. While standing still waiting for the flycatcher Altstedt was suddenly covered in small black ants. Understandably he now had some problems standing still silently during his struggle with these ants. The short but intensive ant-war ended with a great victory for Altstedt, and the walk back to the car was less dramatic. Some ex-convicts served us tuna sandwiches with coffee before we continued a short drive to some rice fields containing holarctic migrants like waders and wagtails. By midday we drove down to Narra where we checked in at Alegria. After lunch we went down to the harbour where we embarked a boat for the short trip to Rasa Island. Nowadays this island is the most reliable site for the Philippine Cockatoo which is best seen when it flies in to its roosting trees in late afternoon. From the boat we could see distant cockatoos both sitting and flying and we decided to try to see them from the ground. After a short walk through the mangrove to a little beach (be ware to use some footwear for protection against sharp corals) we continued on a small track through tall grass and bushes. We were lucky to find a small flock of cockatoos in some low trees at reasonable distance. We waited until dusk for a try at the small island specialist Mantanani Scops-Owl. While waiting some Large-tailed Nightjars entertained us. The owl proved to be quite common and we also managed to get good views, again using our super spotlight. One surrealistic boat-trip under a star spangled sky later, we were back at our living and the waiting beers. Going through the list of possible endemics for Palawan in the evening we realised that we only had the elusive Palawan Flycatcher left so the priority for the next day was obvious.

10/2

Approximately one hours drive north of Narra we stopped by a roadside forest supposedly good for the flycatcher. Since it is shy and moves low in dense forest we placed ourselves on

the ground playing the tape. We heard a flycatcher answering, but it refused to get closer. Instead we tried to regroup, something that was easier said than done since the majority of the bushes and small trees seemed to have thorns. After a while the little flycatcher circled us at close range, but it was still frustratingly hard to see. Finally everyone was satisfied and we could continue towards Iwahig fishponds where we scoped some waders and rearranged our stuff before the flight to Cebu. One more boring flight later we landed in Cebu and took a van to the harbour where we were met with the information that the SuperCat ferry for some reason was cancelled. We had to change to OceanJet and waited a few hours extra. The ferry ride was more or less bird free and we arrived in Tagbilaran, Bohol at 19:00 and were met by our driver. It was a 1,5 hour drive to our hotel at Chocolate Hills where we arrived just in time for a beer (it's always a good time for a beer). This would be our home for the coming three days while we explored the nearby Raja Sikatuna National Park (RSNP).

11/2

Half an hours drive to RSNP where we arrived at the scout camp at dawn. We walked the "Steere's Pitta Trail" towards the swimming pool. As before forest birding can be really frustrating when you don't know the calls. Symptomatic for Philippine birding we saw three (3!) birds during the first three hours. The quality was on the other hand ok: Steere's Pitta, Blue Fantail and Rufous-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher. We got fabulous views of the pitta as it hopped past us along the trail. The next time we got an answer to our playback it turned out to be a French birder with a tape recorder. We exchanged information and as it turned out we would bump into each other on several other sites during our stay. We were lucky with the weather, with some clouds but no rain, why the bird activity was good up until 11:00 when we headed back to the hotel for a siesta. It becomes very quiet during the hot midday hours so we decided that it was not worth the effort to stay all day in the forest. Instead we relaxed for a few hours and returned to the park at 15:00. We intended to bird the forest the last hours of daylight and to listen for night birds around the scout camp. It proved to be very quiet in the forest during the afternoon and few new birds were noted. While waiting for dark at the scout clearing we were entertained by some mammals. We saw Philippine Flying Lemur and some unidentified large flying foxes. When it got darker we stood ready with sounds and spotlight when a lemur suddenly flied towards us. Anders pulled the spotlight like a Clint-Eastwood-look-alike and got the light on the lemur while it passed us and landed in a nearby tree. What an observation! It looked like a dirty tossed towel crashing into a tree. Unfortunately it got windy at dusk so despite our efforts with playback of all sorts of nightbirds it continued to be depressingly quiet. When the wind blows through the treetops in the tropics you need to take care. While listening for our night birds we suddenly heard a "crack" above us and a large tree trunk fell down among us. Altstedt got peaces of it in the head, i.e. no damage done. Good to know that we would get a second chance for owling the next day.

12/2

We tried to leave earlier this morning in order to give us a possibility for night birds before dawn. We failed however due to a flat tire and arrived at the same time as yesterday. We walked the Tarsier Trail and turned left up at the ridge and soon ended up in lush good-looking forest. Just like yesterday there were many birds calling but few seen. After some work we managed to see both Rufous-lore Kingfisher and Yellow-breasted Tailorbird well. We continued to bird along this trail for a few hours, since we found the bird activity to be good, before we took the same trail as yesterday. We were surprised to find good activity still up until 11:00 this warm and sunny day. Reports we have read complaints about "poor birding" in RSNP, but we instead found it to be "good birding". We met our French friend who informed us about a pair of trogons. Something for the afternoon after our well deserved

siesta. Back at the hotel it was obvious that it was Saturday with lots of tourists. The hotel is one of the best sites to view the famous Chocolate Hills so it's no wonder the place was crowded. In late afternoon we tried for the trogons and succeeded. We birded the last hours of daylight at the scout camp, again waiting for the nightbirds to start. This day there was no wind so we were hoping for some results birdwise, without falling tree trunks. At dusk five Great Eared Nightjars appeared over the clearing. Soon after we heard both Philippine Frogmouth and Philippine Nightjar. We failed however to see them and we also got very confused by some calling ninox owls. The latter proved to be Philippine Hawk-Owls of the race *centralis*. All in all a very pleasant evening under the stars with a lot of nightbirds in competition with frogs and insects.

13/2

This morning we managed to arrive at the scout camp in darkness but no new nightbirds were added. We birded around the clearing at dawn but it was rather quiet today. We walked the Steere's Pitta trail again but for some reason the birding was poor. We thought it was a little hotter this day, compared to the previous two, and perhaps it was this small difference we noticed in bird activity. The only two new birds for the trip were Colasisi and Metallic-winged Sunbird, and we were picked up at 10:00 for packing, shower and lunch before the drive to the ferry. The ferry for Cebu left at 15:30 but was unfortunately of the covered type, i.e. it was impossible to birdwatch from the boat. In Cebu we took a van to the luxury (at least to our standards) hotel Montebello. There was little time to enjoy the nice rooms however since we arrived late and needed to leave at 04:00.

14/2

It was not easy to eat breakfast at 03:30 and it didn't get easier when part of the breakfast was a suspicious looking Philippine sausage. Our driver arrived right on time and we squeezed ourselves into his SUV. Four grown up Swedes with all luggage for five weeks was a little bit more than this vehicle was built for, but off we went. It took about one hour to get to the forest and the home of our guide Oki. When we arrived he informed us that it was too early to walk up the hill so we had to wait for a while in his house (I could think of better ways to spend this time. In bed for instance). At dawn we took off together with Oki and his daughter. Oki turned out to be both a good birder and a very friendly person with a genuine interest to preserve this remnant of forest. We heard the Black Shama singing while heading up to the platform. We spent a couple of hours searching in vain for the Cebu Flowerpecker. Other interesting birds kept us company however with the Crimson Sunbird being the star. We regrouped to the upper viewpoint but the result was the same. We decided instead to try to see the shama so we climbed down the rocks and started the playback. It took a while before everyone had seen the bird since it was highly skulking. During our descend to Okings house it started to rain and the path became very slippery. We reached the car without any mistakes and we organized our things for the ferry to Mindanao. On the way to the harbour we stopped at McDonalds and we all agreed that it tasted like everywhere else in the world, i.e. like shit. We had booked "suites" on the night ferry to Cagayan de Oro on northern Mindanao, and these suites turned out to be surprisingly good. In the rear of the boat they served very basic food and soon enough some of us were asleep while others sorted out the world mysteries over a bottle of whiskey.

15/2

The ferry arrived at 06:45 and in the harbour Willy was waiting. The logistics continued to work fault free! It was a few hours drive to the village from where we should walk up to Mount Kitanglad. We had been informed beforehand that we needed to take part in a small

ritual where we cut the throat of a hen and put blood on wrists and forehead. In the village Willy told us that this ritual was cancelled for unknown reasons and we were quite disappointed. It started to rain a little when we loaded the poor ponies with all our luggage, and the rain continued during our one hour walk up to the "lodge". At the lodge Carlito and his family were waiting for us with all necessary food supplies (including beer). To our surprise our French friend had also arrived a couple of hours before us. We installed ourselves on the second floor with sleeping bags on the available mattresses. Very rustic but it looked quite cosy! The weather improved, so we birdwatched above the lodge in the afternoon with a few new good birds. Carlitos wife cooked really good food considering the circumstances, and it was very pleasant to sit on the veranda in the evening with some coffee, whiskey and a cigar. Not a single man-made sound could be heard in the night. A rare luxury for us westerners who are used to the fact that you always hear a car, train, airplane or some other noise polluting machine. Despite this noise free environment the expected woodcocks refused to show themselves.

16/2

It had rained during the night, but the morning looked fine. No woodcocks at dawn either. Where were they? Instead a Blue-caped Wood-Kingfisher called by the lodge but we failed to see it. After a steady breakfast with porridge, egg, bacon and bread the expedition eagle started and we walked up to the lower viewpoint. We scanned the forest on the other side of the valley with our scopes in search for something large and white. Suddenly we heard an eagle calling from the valley. It sounded as if it was low down and soon our guides found an adult Philippine Eagle sitting in a tree at close range. That was easy! We looked at it for quite some time and we could hear one more bird calling. The bird then flew off down into the valley and disappeared. What a success! We could now enjoy relaxed birding on the mountain since the target bird had been seen already after a couple of hours. This was exactly what we did and during the afternoon we climbed up to Apo Sunbird level, but no sunbird could be seen. Many other good birds though and at about midday we decided to go back towards the lodge. It was quite a long walk back and we started to get hungry. To our big surprise some of the guys from the lodge suddenly appeared with lunch! This was a totally and unexpected but pleasant surprise indeed. Alert again, we birdwatched our way back to the lodge where we arrived at 15:00. We relaxed for a while where we took the opportunity to wash ourselves in a bucket. Most of us handled this without incidents but Henrik, who is not known to be a particularly shy person, decided to take off all clothes. In this way he managed to scare off the only young woman in the neighbourhood (Carlitos daughter) who ran off and disappeared. There are however those who claim that she was not scared off at all, but instead were laughing her lungs out while running to shelter. Late afternoon we walked up to the first clearing in order to improve our chances for the woodcock. Despite this effort we dipped again and we started to get rather nervous about this species. We thought this would be one of the easiest species on the mountain, but we were obviously wrong. A good close spotlight view of the Philippine Frogmouth made us happy again, and back at the veranda we realised once again that we had actually seen the eagle this first day on the mountain, and celebrated this fact with beer, whiskey and cigars. You can always find an excuse for celebrating (we are good at that), but you have to agree that there are few better reasons than this impressive eagle.



Philippine Eagle ©Göran Andersson

17/2

Rain again during the night but ok weather in the morning. Cloudy and a few raindrops but manageable. No woodcock or wood-kingfisher this morning so we decided to try another place for the latter. Unfortunately it was quiet at the other place as well and we started to mistrust since this is a dawn-bird. Carlito suggested that we should try to go down the valley and cross the stream in order to reach the more undisturbed forest on the other side. Perhaps we could find a kingfisher that had never heard a tape recorder before. Said and done, we climbed down a steep and slippery track and crossed the stream. On the other side it was hard to follow the overgrown track, but we didn't have to go far before a Blue-capped Wood-Kingfisher was seen briefly. It flew past silently a couple of times giving only glimpses before Danny found the bird sitting low on a branch. It sat absolutely still for a while and after some debacle (Andersson got a scope in the head. Fortunately the scope didn't brake) everyone got excellent views of this shy bird. We went back to "our" side of the stream and continued the search for mountain species. We were fairly successful and like yesterday our lunch suddenly appeared in the forest. We had no idea how they found us, but we were happy that they did. The weather was by now sunny and warm when we birded our way back to the camp. We rested for a couple of hours and the plan was to head up again at 16:00 for a final try for the elusive woodcock. We walked upwards for some 45 min to a large clearing where we waited for the dusk. While waiting a Grass Owl suddenly appeared close to us. Perhaps a good omen? It started to get dark and Carlito said something about "no woodcocks tonight", but we refused to listen. Finally, when almost all hope was gone, we heard the glorious song of a Bukidnon Woodcock and soon after it came roading along the clearing. After a while it came back together with a friend. One more round and the show was over. We had hoped for closer views in better light but were relieved that the species finally showed up. We walked back to the lodge in moonlight and halfway down we flushed a woodcock from the path. Once again Anders drew faster than his shadow and the spotlight was on the bird when it flew low over a meadow and landed in the grass. Magnificent views once again! We ended this marvellous day with Spaghetti Bolognese with mango for desert. We had become spoiled here, but the next day we were to leave for PICOP.

18/2

Transport day. We left the lodge already at 06:00 and the only new species seen and heard was a Plain Bush-hen on the way down to the village. At the village we once again met with

Willy who would take us the long drive to Bislig. We drove via Davao and the trip took nine hours. We arrived at our hotel in Bislig late afternoon and we used the opportunity for a hot shower before dinner. At the restaurant we met Zardo who would be our guide for the coming five days. Zardo had some good news about recent observations made by Hutchinson et al and we also got a fax from Tim with detailed information of a recent observation of Wattled Broadbill.

19/2

A full day in PICOP with Zardo, chauffer and a jeepney. We started before dawn at road 1-4, but no new nightbirds are heard. It rained this night but by dawn it stopped completely, and we had a fine morning birding along this road. The forest has been cleared but there are quite a few birds and many of them are actually seen well. Here you should take the opportunity to search trees with fruits for fruitdoves. In PICOP we had several good views of doves like Yellow-breasted and Black-chinned Fruitdoves. Along road 1-4 we also had a cooperative pair of Whirled Hornbills who probably breeds close by. After this morning walk we drove to the pool with Silvery Kingfisher. It took a while before we saw one well, but it was really worth the wait for this beautiful bird. Time for our packed lunch brought from the hotel consisting of chicken, hamburger and a banana. After lunch we walked back and forth along the road where Hutchinson et al have had many good birds. We were not as fortunate, but a few good ones were seen. At about 15:00 we went to Bislig airport for some birding in grasslands the last hours of daylight with priority for the Grass Owl. At 17:30, when the sun set below the horizon, the owls started to hunt over the grassland around the old airport. We counted a minimum of four birds, and this memorable sight ended the day.

20/2

Again early start for owls in the morning at road 1-4 and today we got contact with the mysterious Chocolate Boobook. We heard one well at close range but only managed to get a glimpse of a flying bird. It still remains to sort out the taxonomic status of the ninox-owls in The Philippines, and this bird is a potential future species. After the early dawn-birding we continued to a fairly newly discovered part of the area with good primary forest. On the way we could see a lot of clearings and settlements and it's only too obvious that the last remnants of good forest are disappearing. The prime species this morning was a pair of Short-crested Monarchs. Zardo reacted on a timid bird song and we walked a few meters into dense forest and waited. It took a while before the male Monarch revealed itself and we also discovered the accompanying female. They were part of a bird party and the following days we heard a few more Short-Crested Monarchs, and they were also found in such bird parties. Again we enjoyed a packed lunch (identical to yesterday) and we took half an hour siesta. Slow birding in the heat after lunch before the last two hours before dawn when the temperature dropped a little. By late afternoon we considered the temperature to be comfortable and significantly lower than earlier today, and when we measured it it turned out to be "only" 31° Celsius! Today we gave up at 17:00 and went "home" for an early dinner. We would try a new strategy the next day with earlier (!) departure but with a siesta at the hotel as compensation. We realised that we after two days in PICOP had seen most of the target species and only had the really difficult left.

21/2

We made another try for the Chocolate Boobook at the same place as yesterday, but this morning it was absolutely silent. It was a clear morning with no wind so it was hard to explain these differences between the days. At dawn a Rufous-lored Kingfisher put up a show for us and we got magnificent views. Since we so far only had heard Red-bellied Pitta we spent an

hour or so in order to see this species. We were successful in this task and we made another try for the difficult species seen by Hutchinson et al. We found a bird party and Altstedt was the only lucky one to spot a Little Slaty Flycatcher among them. It had become rather hot this clear day so at 11:00 we headed back to the hotel for siesta. The afternoon was again spent at the Bislig airport in search for quails and crakes, and for additional views of the Grass Owl. When it got dark some Philippine Nightjars occurred and two of them landed on the airport strip. As we turned the spotlight onto them they stayed put and we walked closer. In fact we got so close that Henrik was only centimetres from picking one up. We continued back to road 1-4 for further studies of the local owls, but despite an excellent evening with a full moon it was dead quiet.

22/2

Again we left early enough for one more try for morning owls, but no luck. This morning it was rain in the air and a few drops fell as we drove towards the area for the broadbills. During the morning we got a few showers, but we could continue to bird. After a while we thought that we had pinpointed the place where the broadbills were last seen, and suddenly Anders took off half crawling up a steep slope into dense forest. He disappeared and the rest of us enjoyed some parrots when we suddenly heard "BROADBILL" shouted from the forest. Within seconds the slippery and steep slope was filled with three falling and crawling Swedes trying to find Anders who had vanished into the jungle-like vegetation. Wet, dirty and exhausted we finally found Anders who was pointing some 10 meters ahead. To our great relieve there was a Mindanao Wattled Broadbill sitting there on a branch, and it was soon accompanied by one more. We enjoyed this very special moment for some time, and then headed back through vegetation that seemed to want to hold us back. Back at the car we celebrated with a cup of coffee and praised Anders for his successful initiative. We now realised that Altstedt had gone missing. He turned up after a while and told us that when he followed the birds in order to take photos he found their nest! Two adults building a nest would be good news for Birdquest who would visit this place soon. It was hard to regain focus after this experience and at 11:00 we started the drive back to the hotel just like yesterday. On the road we made one more stop at the Silvery Kingfisher pool. After the siesta we tried an area at road 1 supposedly good for woodpeckers, and the target bird was Sooty Woodpecker. We could only find White-bellied Woodpeckers and not much else. This night it was a full moon again and we made a final try for owls. We heard one more Chocolate Boobook, but once again failed to see it.

23/2

The final morning at PICOP. We made additional searches for some difficult species, but would have to satisfy for some very nice "re-runs" like Short-crested Monarch in a bird party. We returned to the hotel at 10:00 since we had the drive to Davao to look forward to. This drive took some six hours and we checked in at Sampaquita Inn in Davao. No afternoon birding and no owling meant a full nights sleep, something we really needed by now.

24/2

A one hours drive to the village at the base of Mount Talomo from where we walked approximately half an hour to the house of our local guide. We explained that we were interested in some species we missed at Mount Kitanglad, like the Mindanao Lorikeet. He explained that both this species and the Whiskered Flowerpecker could be seen with some luck in the clearings above his house. There was a good viewpoint here to which he showed us and we spent a few hours scanning for these species. No luck, so we gave up and instead walked into the promisingly looking forest in search for flycatchers. The area certainly looked

good and probably have good potential, but we added no new species at all to our list. In late afternoon we went to the airport for the flight to Manila and soon again we sat in our favourite restaurant at Malate Pensionne.

25/2

Again a transport day. We left for the airport late morning, and finally arrived in Tueguro in the afternoon. We were met at the airport by Escobar in his jeepney and after one hour we arrived at his house in the village Baliwag from where we would walk up to camp 1 at Hamut. We rearranged our things since we couldn't carry it all up the mountain, and started our five day trekking. This first part went through open grasslands and it was really hot as we climbed upwards. It took us four hours to reach camp 1 and we were sweaty and tired when we arrived. Our porters put up the tents and started a fire for cooking dinner. This dinner consisted of rice, baked beans and corned beef. Something we would eat each night during this hike. Since it was dark and we were tired we went to sleep early.

26/2

A full days birding around camp 1. We started at a clearing above the camp and among some birds in a bird party we found the elusive and hard-to-see White-fronted Tit. We continued to a clearing where the bamboo had flowered and where parrotfinches have been seen earlier. No finches were around and we took a lunch sandwich and a siesta in the grass. The afternoon birding was really slow and back at the camp there was a possibility to take a "bath" in the nearby creek, a possibility we took. From the camp there was a good view over the lowland below and in the night we could count to more than ten fires burning. Bushes and grass was burned, probably to give grazing for cattle. This means of course that few new trees get an opportunity to grow.

27/2

This morning we packed camp 1 since we would walk up to camp 2 that is situated along the trail towards Mount Dos Cuernos. We birdwatched our way up through both clearings and dense good looking primary forest. As we walked we added new species like Sooty Woodpecker and good views of Spotted Wood-Kingfisher, and we reached camp 2 at 14:00. This walk was less tiring than expected. We made a try for the Whiskered Pitta this afternoon but only heard one shortly. Again we stayed close to a creek with possibilities for washing. After dinner and coffee with rum we hit the sack early since there would be an early morning with high focus on the pitta the next day.

28/2

This was the day when we where supposed to see the Whiskered Pitta. We heard one already from our sleeping bags but in the morning they kept silent. Instead we heard a Luzon Bleeding-heart, but as we tried to see this a pitta started to call intensely nearby, so we regrouped by walking up along the creek on very slippery rocks. We took a strategic position and started to play the tape. The bird came closer but despite our efforts we failed to see it. Instead we walked along the ridge trail and were successful with views of Flame-breasted Fruitdove and Blue-breasted Flycatcher. No calling pittas along this trail however. Back at the camp we heard the pitta again so we climbed the same slippery stones and once again failed to see the bird. Frustrating! Nothing else to do but to make another try tomorrow.

1/3

Packing of camp 2 for the descend to camp 1. We walked up the slope above the camp and started to play the tape with the pitta. We got an answer from the opposite ridge and walked

closer. The pitta continued to call so we climbed the ridge and placed ourselves in a shrubbery. We managed to get the bird very close but only one of us got a short glimpse of a silhouette moving through the vegetation only a few meters away. It had obviously seen us so we had to find a new one! Immediately another bird started to call higher up so we climbed some more. The procedure with lurking in the bushes was repeated but this bird refused to get close. It now started to rain and here we sat among ants, mosquitoes and leaches with long noses. We had to give up this project and started our walk back. It continued to rain as we walked down and on the way we heard a few more distant pittas. All in all we heard some 10 birds but none was seen. This was the one big disappointment of the trip! We reached camp 1 all soaked wet, but it stopped raining and we got a chance to dry up. Fortunately our camping gear was dry so the last night in a sleeping bag would be ok. Tired and disappointed we relaxed the rest of the afternoon unable to refocus on any more birding this day except for some scanning of the trees around the camp. Our porters tried to cheer us up by frying a rooster they had bought from a nearby farmer. As a complement to all the canned food with rice this rooster tasted delicious and it did cheer us up. Counting the endemics we had seen and/or heard so far on the trip also cheered us up, and we realised that we could get a very decent result for our trip if we were successful at Mount Polis and Subic.

2/3

Final morning at Hamut. We started to walk down early since we intended to try for the parrotfinches below camp 1. We again scanned bamboo but with no luck. We saw some more Sooty Woodpeckers and were fortunate with several very good observations of this species. The only new species today was however Crested Myna and we reached civilisation (that is Escobars house) at noon. We were a bit disappointed by Escobars news that it would take 7 hours to drive to Banaue instead of the expected 4 hours. The explanation was that the booked van suddenly was taken and that Escobars plan was to take his own jeepney. We helped Escobar change this plan and an hour late we left Tuegarao in another van and reached Banaue at 20:00. We took a heavenly hot shower and had an excellent dinner at the restaurant Las Vegas, a restaurant we really can recommend.

3/3

We made sure to be at the pass at Mount Polis above Banaue before dawn since we wanted to try for the Luzon Scops-Owl. The drive up to the pass took 45 minutes. It was a clear and rather cold morning and we heard three Luzon Scops at around 5 o'clock just below the pass on the opposite side from Banaue. They were however rather distant so we never got a chance to see one. As dawn broke we added several target species to our growing list. Luzon Bush-Warbler, Long-tailed Ground-Warbler, Mountain Leaf-Warbler and Chestnut-faced Babbler were all rather common. The beautiful morning continued and we walked slowly down along the road in search for the specialities of the area. At about 11:00 we reached pine forest holding very few birds so we decided to take our packed lunch, and thereafter continue down to Bay-Yo to search for the Luzon Water-Redstart. Close to the village we admired the famous rice terraces for a few minutes. At the village there is a path with many stairs going down to the stream below. Going down we met a lot of children who had obviously been down bathing. Hopefully this meant that the stream now belonged to the Water-Redstart. About halfway down we scanned the stream with a scope and immediately found a male Water-Redstart on a rock close to the little bridge. Luckily no children were around so we walked down to the bridge to try for some photos. Close to the bridge a pair of Water-Redstarts were showing off at fairly close range. As we worked with the cameras we heard strange sounds from the vegetation around us. After a while we understood that the sound came from stones being thrown from high up the cliffs. It was four boys throwing these fairly

large stones and it was just pure luck that we were not hit! A stone from that height would definitely cause serious damage. When we turned our cameras towards them they disappeared and we didn't see them any more. After this incident we returned to the car and drove back to the pass for some afternoon birding. We still needed Mountain Shrike, so we focused at the clearings around the pass. Soon we found the shrike and since we were really tired we headed back to the hotel. We ended the day at the same restaurant as yesterday, with the same excellent result. The food in the Philippines is mostly very basic and often rather dull, but occasionally you come across a good restaurant like this one. In the evening we discussed our strategy for the following day. There were still a few birds to see at the mountain, but we also had the opportunity to visit the Candaba Marshes on the way to Subic. There was not time enough to do both, and finally we decided to go for the marshes.

4/3

Mainly a transport day from Banaue to Subic where the drive was supposed to take 8-10 hours. Since none of us (the driver included) knew the way to the marches we had to ask for the way from Candaba. When we drove along a dirt track with rice fields at both sides we stopped and asked a local farmer for the way. To our big surprise he started to talk Norwegian when he understood that we were from Sweden. He explained that he had lived 15 years in Norway, and he told us the way to a small lake nearby where there were "many birds". It turned out that he was right and we found this little lake/marsh full with ducks. Good views of some 50 Philippine Ducks and impressive numbers of Garganeys. Close views of Yellow Bitterns, White-browed Crakes and some waders in nearby ditches meant that we finally after almost five weeks got some birding we knew from home, as a change to the tough forest birding you normally meet in the Philippines. Satisfied with this break we continued to Subic where we arrived at 20:00. It was a surreal feeling to cross the checkpoint for Subic entering this area that looked more like being a part of the states rather than a part of the Philippines. Good and wide roads with signs and traffic lights. Not a jeepney or chicken in site and modern shops, hotels and restaurants with casinos, all in bright neon lights.

5/3

We stayed close to the birding area so it took us less than half an hour to drive to the "track to hill 394". In several trip reports we had read that the birding is slow here, but we instead found the birding very good. One of the first birds we saw was a White-fronted Tit, and after about 1 km along the track we saw one more! We got excellent views of many good birds, among them the target species Green Racquet-tail. Very satisfied with the morning we left this protected area and the contrast was even more obvious as we entered the mild chaos of the third world. We headed for Balaga for the ferry to Manila as it was planned in our itinerary. Our driver dropped us at the ferry terminal and disappeared quickly, and we had to wait for a couple of hours for the ferry. While waiting we looked through the many Common Terns outside the small harbour and found a few Roseate Terns. The ferry trip took one hour so we arrived according to plan at 18:30. According to our itinerary we were supposed to be met in Manila Harbour for a transport directly to Mount Makiling. What we didn't know was that Tim had agreed on with our Subic-driver that he should drive us all the way to Makiling, instead of us going with the ferry. Obviously there had been some kind of misunderstanding. When we realised that no one was picking us up we tried to reach Tims sons, but failed to arrange a transport this way. Instead we took a taxi to our second home, the Malate Pensionne. The negative side of this was that we would miss one morning at Makiling, the positive side was of course that we got one more decent meal on these islands. We understood from the hotel personal that there would be a person renting vans at the hotel the next morning. Hopefully we would be able to arrange a transport for some afternoon birding.

6/3

The “van-man” arrived at 8:00 and he managed to arrange a transport to 9:00 on a Sunday! We picked up our things and arrived at Makiling at 11:00 after some breakfast shopping on the way. We tried for some photos of the Indigo-banded Kingfisher but only got short glimpses of the bird. Instead we birded the area around the Husbandry in the afternoon in search for the Spotted Buttonquail. We listened to Tims advice to check the dirt track a little earlier in the afternoon. Best time should be between 15:00 and 16:00, and at 15:15 a male Buttonquail walked along the track. One more endemic to the long list of Philippine specialities! Night at Trees Lodge where we ended the day by checking the trip list and counting our endemics.

7/3

The last morning of birding of the trip. We walked slowly up the mounting from the lodge at dawn. We tried for the Spotted Wood-Kingfisher and got several very good views of this charismatic species. No new birds were added this day, but still fairly good birding this cloudy and rather windy day. We gave up at midday and started to prepare for the looong trip home.

Short notes on some places visited

In general most places have been described in above given trip-reports. Some small notes could be helpful?

Hamut & Mt. Dos Cuernos is a rather primitive tour and the guide here – Escobar - is not a born English linguist. You should be fairly healthy to undertake this rather demanding several day hike. It might be a good idea to buy some extras such as beer, candy and extra food. But no horses are involved and porters limited, and we had to leave a lot of stuff behind. Water is obtained from small forest-streams and cocked along the way. But this is an area rich in birds! Note that camp 1 is called Hamut and that camp 2, that is situated along the trail towards Mount Dos Cuernos, in this report is called by the mountains name.

Rajah Sikatuna No birding guide exists here. Trails can be a bit tricky to follow but are rather good mostly. We did not find birding slow as did Ahlman and Lagerqvist. Quite birdy along Trogon Trail - can be found after Tarsier Trail. At Sikatuna it is easy to see Philippine Flying Lemur at dusk at the campground. We where warned for monkeys that would come close and run of with things like bins. Monkeys came close here but not in an aggressive manner. Chocolate Hills is good accommodation. At the Guesthouse close to the pool another birder was victim of thives and he did not recommend it.

Mt Kitanglad. We found Carlito and Danny very good. Not only as guides but as birdfinders. They seemed to know most birds well and how to find the tricky stuff. Rather primitive but excellent cocking by Carlitos wife. It is demanding to walk to the Apo Sunbird. A warning; the Woodcock may have become difficult. Feathers have been found indicating hunting of the species. We found it higher up at the Upper Eagle View Point where Grass Owl also is around. It might be a less good idea to wait for the Woodcock by the lodge these days.

PICOP Depressing development with fast deforestation going on, as well as obvious illegal logging. Do not wait if You want to visit this place. Zardo is a rather good bird guide.

Mt Talomo We spent one morning birding here but no target species was seen.

Palawan Just leave everything to the bird guide Arnell and he will not let You get away without seeing all endemics within reach.

Aurora-province We birded here in the Baler area. Some problems after the typhoon struck here but Tim managed to make it happen. The road was just reopened. Some good birding here with jewels like Indigo-banded Kingfisher and Celestial Monarch. We could not have done this without going with Tim. And we would not have seen anything.

Other locations Luzon. Mt Makiling, Mt Polis, Subic Bay and Candaba Marshes. As expected.

General comments to list of species

The following list is based on classification as listed by Clements including up-dates. Species within brackets are not fully identified.

Some comments on endemism:

E = endemic or near-endemic

Some near-endemics appear only on small Islets just outside Philippine national borders. These are Mantanani Scops Owl, White-vented Whistler and Coletto.

Some near-endemic are by tradition classified near-endemics although they appear on larger inhabited Islands in Indonesia (Talud Island) and Taiwan (Lan Yu):

For Talud these are Chocklate Boobook, Plain Bush-Hen, Blue-naped Parrot and Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher.

For Lan Yu these are Black-chinned Fruit-Dove, Philippine Cuckoo-Dove and Lowland White-eye.

We did not alter the classification of endemics and near-endemics in this tripreport. Thus, we choosed to follow the Philippine tradition.

We recorded 326 species and 145 near endemics/endemic species. (8 endemics heard-only).

Threatened species are indicated as follows:

CE= critically endangered as classified by BirdLife International

EN=endangered as classified by BirdLife International

VU= vulnerable as classified by BirdLife International

NT= near-threatened as classified by BirdLife International

We saw 58 species classified by BirdLife International

List of species recorded

Birds

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*
5-10 ind. at St Pauls.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
2 en route Tuegurao/Banaue and 5 at Candaba Marshes.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
10 at Candaba Marshes. 2 at PICOP.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*
3 at the beach close to Puerto Princessa. 10 at Candaba Marshes.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Roadside sigles often seen in Palawan , Bohol and som days in Luzon. In Mindanao only one seen in PICOP.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*
3 at the fish/sewage ponds close to Puerto Princessa. 1 at PICOP, 1 at Candaba Marshes.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotus*
Only in Palawan where 35+ where seen at the beach close to Puerto Princessa. Singles close to Rasa.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*
Generally common.

Little Heron *Butorides striata*
1 at Rajah Sikatuna and 2 at the ferry port in Balanga.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*
10 at Candaba Marshes.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
2-3 at Candaba Marshes. 1 ricefields close to Sabang.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*
1 at Sabang ricefields.

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*
A few seen at Bislig.

Northern Pintail *Anas acuta*
10-15 at Candaba Marshes.

Green-winged Teal *Anas crecce*
5-10 at Candaba Marshes.

Philippine Duck *Anas luzonica* **E/VU**
50 at Candaba Marshes, 10 at Bislig.

Eurasian Wigeon *Anas penelope*
1 at Candaba Marshes.

Garganey *Anas querquedula*
Estimate: 1000 at Candaba Marshes.

Northern Shovler *Anas clypeata*
Estimate: 300 at Candaba Marshes.

Tufted Duck *Anas fuligula*
7 at Candaba Marshes.

Oriental Honeybuzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
1 in Point Polison, 1 at Mt Polis, 1 young at Mt Kitanglad and 1 in PICOP, all endemic race *philippensis*.

Barred Honeybuzzard *Pernis celebensis*
2 ad at Mt Kitanglad, 1 ad+ 1 younger ind. circling with a bee/wasp nest, PICOP. An additional 3 more birds observed in PICOP. Only the southern endemic race *steeri* seen.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
4 seen in Chocolate Hills + Rajah Sikatuna. 1 in Tabunan. 1 in Subic Bay.

White-bellied See-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
1 ad at Rasa Island.

Eastern Marsh-Harrier *Circus spilonotus*
3 at Candaba Marshes

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*
1 ad male over the grassland on the way to Camp 1, Hamut.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
1 on Rd 1 / 4 PICOP, endemic race *quagga*.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
3-4 seen at Sabang, endemic race *palawanus*, and 2-3 at PICOP, endemic race *extimus*.

Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis*
1 individual (presumed second calendar year bird) at the Campground Rajah Sikatuna.

Grey-faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*
3 in the Aurora province en route, 1 at Hamut. In Palawan 2 at Sabang and 1 at Rasa.

Philippine Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis holospilus* **E**
A rather common bird in forested areas in Luzon, Mindanao, Bohol.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

A few seen in forested areas Palawan.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*

1 at Mt Polis.

Philippine Monkey-eating Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi* E/CE

1 seen well at close range, upper view point. 1 more heard at the same location.

Philippine Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* E/VU

1 ad Point Polison, 1 ad at Subic allowing scope-views. 1 young bird seen well at Hamut bellow Camp 1. Brief views of young bird en route between Camp 1 and Camp 2. All these race *philippensis*. 2 young birds seen at Mt Kitanglad, race *pinskeri*.

Philippine Falconet *Microhierax erythrogenys* E

More common then expected. A few birds seen in all forested locations on Luzon (*erythrogenys*) and Mindanao (*meridionalis*). A total of more then 20 individuals recorded.

Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*

1 ad at the lodge Mt Kitanglad. Looked like a dark bird thus possibly *ernesti*.

Tabon Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii*

5 at St Pauls. Non endemic race *cumingii*.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

2 seen at Subic Bay, heard according to the guide in Iwahig Penal Colony. Endemic race *philippensis*.

Palawan Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron napoleonis* E/VU

1 male seen at St Pauls Headquarter, 1 heard on Streamtrail, St Pauls.

Blue-breasted Quail *Coturnix chinensis*

Heard and glimpsed at Bislig old Airport. Endemic race *lineata*.

Barred Buttonquail *Turnix suscitator*

1 in front of the car Sabang. This endemic race is *haynaldi*.

Spotted Buttonquail *Turnix ocellatus* E

2 males Animal Husbandry-track, Mt Makiling. Nominant race in S Luzon *ocellata*.

Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus*

2 flushed at Bislig, 2 en route to Camp 1, Hamut. Endemic race *torquatus*.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*

3 seen Candaba Marshes, 1 seen at Bislig. Endemic race *ocularis*.

Plain Bush-Hen *Amaurornis olivacea* E

Seen at Mt Kitanglad and PICOP. Heard at many locations in Hamut and PICOP.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

50 ind. seen at ponds close to Puerto Princessa. Endemic race *lozanoi*. About 20 at Candaba Marshes. In Luzon birds can be migrant *indica* as well as the endemic race.

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*

2 at Candaba Marshes.

Greater Painted-Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

2 females at Candaba Marshes.

Asian Golden-Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

5 on the mudflats and a flyby flock of 50 at Candaba Marshes.

Little Ringed-Plover *Charadrius dubius*

10 at Bislig, 10 at Candaba Marshes. More than 10 at Fishponds close to Puerto Princessa.

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii* NT

A pair at St Pauls.

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus*

1 at Candaba Marshes.

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*

3 at the beach close to Puerto Princessa. Probably more than 25 but not within range to see.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaepus*

5 at the beach close to Puerto Princessa.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*

2 at the ponds close to Puerto Princessa.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

A few at the ponds close to Puerto Princessa and a few at the ricefields in Sabang.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

The most common palearctic sandpiper at Candaba and on wetlands in Palawan.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Seen on Palawan and Luzon in suitable habitat. Not uncommon.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

1 at the ponds close to Puerto Princessa.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

10-20 at the beach close to Puerto Princessa.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

15 at Candaba Marshes, 1 at the ricefields close to Iwahig.

Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago megala*

10 at the ricefields in Sabang, 1 at Animal Husbandry, Mt Makiling.

Bukidnon Woodcock *Scolopax bukidnonensis* **E**

1 seen well when flushed on the track Mt Kitanglad, 2-3 in display flight same place. We found feathers at Mt Kitanglad suggesting hunting of the species. Zardo told us that he also had found feathers here and suspected hunting to be common. The species seemed more rare at the mountain this year. No individual was seen around the lodge, only at higher elevation.

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

A few seen at the beach close to Puerto Princessa and at the Iwahig fishponds.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

Over 50 at the ponds close to Iwahig, 1 at Candaba Marshes.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

10 at Candaba Marshes.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

4-5 en route on the ricefields Between Tuguegarao and Mt Polis.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

Several hundreds at the Orion Ferry Harbour at Balanga.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

Estimate: 500 in a big gathering outside the Orion ferry harbour at Balanga.

Rosate Tern *Sterna dougallii*

10 at Orion ferry harbour at Balanga.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

2-3 seen at Candaba Marshes.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Most terns at Candaba, 20 or so, belonged to this species. A few seen at Orion.

Feral Pigeon *Columba livia*

Seen at all visited islands.

Pompadour Green-Pigeon *Treron pompadora*

15 in PICOP. Race *canescens*.

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

5 in Sabang. Race *erimacra*.

Pink-necked Green-Pigeon *Treron vernans*

1 female in Sabang. Race *vernans*.

Amethyst Brown-Dove *Phapitreron amethystinus* **E**

Seen well in PICOP Rd 2 / 4. In Luzon at Hamut and in Subic Bay. Heard Mt Makiling. Only nominant race *amethystina*.

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

Most common of the doves in forested habitat. All forested areas. In Cebu *nigrorum*, in Bohol and Mindanao *brevirostris*. In Luzon *leucotis*.

Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus marchei* **E/VU**

Rarest of the Fruit-Doves. 1 seen on the ridge above Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos.

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

1 gave brilliant views Rd 1 / 4 in PICOP, brief views in Rd 1 and 4. Race *incognitos*. At least 1 seen at Hamut, race *occipitalis*.

Cream-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus merrilli* **E/NT**

5 seen at Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. Only heard at Camp 1, Hamut. Northern race *faustinoi*.

Black-chinned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus leclancheri* **E**

13 seen in the PICOP area. Heard Mt Makiling, both on Luzon and Mindanao endemic race *leclancheri*. At St Pauls *gironieri* heard only.

Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula poliocephala* **E/NT**

Only heard at Rd 2 / 4 and Rd 4 in PICOP. A species getting increasingly rare due to hunting.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Common in Sabang, non endemic *palawalensis*-race. 5-10 seen Subic Bay. 5-10 seen in PICOP. Race *aenea*.

Phillipine Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia tenuirostris* **E**

Heard Palawan and seen Mt Kitanglad, PICOP and Rajah Sikatuna. All *tenuirostris*.

Island Collared-Dove *Streptopelia bitorquata*

1 at Candaba Marshes.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Common in most habitats, except in primary forest. Race *tigrina*.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

Seen up to 1400 m in Mt Kitanglad agricultural area. Common roadside dove. Race *striata*.

Common Emerald-Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Singles seen at Tabunan, PICOP, Hamut, Iwahig. Race *indica*.

Luzon Bleeding-heart *Gallicolumba crinigera* **E/NT**

Sadly only heard at the ridge Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. Race *griseolateralis*.

Guaiabero *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus* **E**

Singles in PICOP, race *mindanensis*, and in Luzon in Aurora region and Hamut, race *lunulatus*.

Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia* **E/CE**

10 birds where seen at Rasa at reasonable range.

Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus lucionensis* **E/NT**

1 young bird of the almost extinct Luzon race *lucionensis* seen very well in Subic Bay. Also singles in Sabang and in PICOP 10, race *salvadori*.

Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

3+1 seen in PICOP Rd 2 / 4. Race *everetti*.

Green Racquet-tail *Prioniturus luconensis* **E/VU**

2 seen and up to 10 heard at the trail to hill 394 in Subic Bay.

Blue-crowned Racquet-tail *Prioniturus discurus* **E**

Seen well in PICOP Rd 4, flyby individuals in Tabunan, PICOP and probably at lower elevation on Mt Kitanglad. The *discurus* race in Mindanao, and *whiteheadi* in Cebu.

Blue-headed Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platenae* **E/VU**

3 seen well at Sabang. Several heard at this location.

Mindanao Racquet-tail *Prioniturus waterstradti* **E/NT**

1 seen by one person in the group at 1600 m in Mt Kitanglad and additional individuals heard.

(Luzon Racquet-tail *Prioniturus montanus* **E/NT**

Heard by Escobar at the ridge above Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. We could not verify this and did not have recordings to compare with. Thus, unverified and within brackets)

Colasisi *Loriculus philippensis* **E**

Frequent in most forested habitat up to more than 1000 m. Several seen Luzon - *philippensis*, 1 individual at Bohol - *worchesteri*, and several in Mindanao - *apicalis*.

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides*

1 seen at Iwahig Penal Colony. Heard at Rajah Sikatuna. If this was a correct id it might be a new record to Bohol!?

Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus pectoralis* **E**

Heard at Mt Makiling.

Oriental/Himalayan Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus/micropterus*

1 seen well in Rd 4 PICOP. Can only be separated to species by call in spring.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*

Commonly seen and heard in forested and semi-forested habitat through out the Philippines. The Philippine race is *merulinus*.

Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus*

Commonly seen and heard in forested and semi-forested habitat through out the Philippines. The Philippine form split as Rusty-breasted Cuckoo is not a valid species according to Clements. Thus, an endemic race *sepulcralis*.

Violett Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

Nice views of a female at Sabang, the non endemic race *xanthorhynchus*. A displaying male was seen at Rd 4 PICOP. Race *amethystinus*, endemic.

Asian Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

Heard in Palawan at St Pauls. The endemic race *minimumus*.

Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus velutinus* **E**

Anders managed to playback one into view in Mt. Dos Cuernos at Camp 2. Race *chalybaeus*. Heard at most forested locations outside Palawan. On Bohol and Mindanao race *velutinus*.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus*

1 seen in the grassland on the way up to Camp 1 Hamut. Heard at Hamut and Subic Bay but not common. Race *mindanensis* endemic.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

2 showed well in Sabang. Endemic race *harringtoni*.

Scale-feathered Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus cumingi* **E**

Appeared common but difficult to see. Most gave brief views at Hamut, Mt Makiling, and Point Polison.

Red-crested Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus superciliosus* **E**

Rather common in forest at Mt Makiling, Subic Bay, race *superciliosus*. Individuals at Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos, race *cagayanensis*.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Seen at the airport at Tuguegarao. Seen in grassland habitat en route to Camp 1, Hamut. Heard PICOP. Race *philippensis* endemic.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

2-4 heard at Sabang and Iwahig Penal Colony. Non endemic race *bubutus*.

Philippine Coucal *Centropus viridis* **E**

Commonly heard and sometimes seen in forest Bohol, Cebu, Luzon and Mindanao. Race *viridis*.

Black-faced Coucal *Centropus melanops* **E**

10 –15 seen on Tarsier, Steeries Pitta and Trogon Trail in Rajah Sikatuna, race *banken*. About 10 seen in different locations in PICOP, race *melanops*.

Rufous Coucal *Centropus unirufus* **E/NT**

5-10 Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos and 3 Subic Bay.

Australasian Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

1 seen at 1400 m in Mt Kitanglad, 4 seen hunting on Bislig Old Airport. *Amauonota* endemic race.

Mindanao Scops Owl *Otus mirus* **E/NT**

1 heard around the lodge Mt Kitanglad.

Luzon Scops Owl *Otus longicornis* **E/NT**

3 heard at the pass in Mt Polis close to 2000 m.

Palawan Scops Owl *Otus fuliginosus* **E/NT**

1 seen and 1 more heard at St Paul's.

Mantanani Scops Owl *Otus mantananensis* **E/NT**

2 seen and some further individuals heard on Rasa Island. The race *mantananani*.

Philippine Scops Owl *Otus megalotis* **E**

Heard at Mt Makiling (nominant race) and Bohol (this race belongs to the *everetti*-complex). This Scops owl is probably three or more species in the Philippines according to DNA tests.

Giant Scops Owl *Mimizuku gurneyi* **E/VU**

Heard by the lodge Mt Kitanglad.

Northern (Brown) Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata*

Heard in Sabang. Endemic race *palawanensis*.

Chocklate Boobook *Ninox randi* **E**

Seen briefly and heard at Rd 1 / 4 PICOP. Race *randi* as in Talud Island.

Philippine Hawk-Owl *Ninox philippensis* **E**

5-10 heard at Hamut, 3-5 heard at Mt Makiling, these represent the race *philippensis*. The race *centralis* 3-4 heard Rajah Sikatuna. Not recorded on Mindanao.

Philippine Frogmouth *Batrachostomus septimus* **E**

Seen well close to the lodge Mt Kitanglad. Heard Rajah Sikatuna, PICOP. Race *septimus*.

Javan (Palawan) Frogmouth *Batrachostomus javensis*

1 seen for 10 minutes well exposed in Sabang, 2-3 heard at this location. This race *chaseni* may be a species in its own right and thus a Palawan endemic but still not accepted by Clements. It has also been treated as a Sunda Frogmouth race by some.

Philippine Nightjar *Caprimulgus manillensis* **E**

Incredible views of a pair (male/female?) at the runway in Bislig where we almost did catch one. 2-3 seen at Mt Kitanglad. Heard at Rajah Sikatuna and Hamut.

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Nice views of 3-5 at Rasa Island. Heard at Sabang. This race - *johnsoni* - is endemic.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*

Heard at the forest edge on the lower slope at Mt Makiling. The race – *griceatus* – endemic northern Philippines.

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*

Common in Rajah Sikatuna, Mt Kitanglad, PICOP and Hamut. The Philippine race - *macrotis* – is endemic.

Island Swift *Aerodramus vanikorensis*

Seen at Sabang – endemic race *palawanensis* - and Point Polison in good numbers and later in groups of 10-20 in PICOP and a few at Mt Makiling. No endemic race *amelis* outside Palawan.

Philippine Swiftlet *Aerodramus mearnsi* **E**

Up to 10 each day recorded above 1300 m in Mt Kitanglad.

Palawan Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus* **E**

Common in Sabang and seen at a few other locations in Palawan only.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Common. Three races seen. *Bagobo* in Mindanao reaching 1500 m in Mt Kitanglad, a pair was nesting in the Lodge. *Isonota* seen in Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos in small numbers. *Marginata*, with pale upper tailcoverts, seen in Cebu, Bohol, S. Luzon.

Pygmy Swiftlet *Collocalia troglodytes* **E**

Common. Seen on all visited elevations and in all visited Islands in natural habitat. In Cebu we looked into a breeding cave that was surprisingly small.

Philippine Needle-tail *Mearnsia picina* **E/NT**

2 at Rd 2 / 4 in PICOP came close, 1-2 darted overhead in Mt Talomo.

Brown-backed Needle-tail *Hirundapus giganteus*

5-10 seen close to the beach in Puerto Princessa.

Purple Needle-tail *Hirundapus celebensis*

Groups of up to 10 seen on Mt Makiling. 5 close to Mt Kitanglad. 2 in PICOP.

Fork-tailed Swift *Apus pacificus*

1 seen our first day at Mt Makiling by one person in the group.

Asian Palm-swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Surprisingly uncommon, only 2 at Subic Bay.

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*

3 pairs in Subic Bay. 1 pair along Rd 1 / 4 PICOP. Pairs seen at two different locations in Hamut.

Philippine Trogon *Harpactes ardens* **E**

The race *linae*: 2 males in Rajah Sikatuna. The race *luzoniensis*: 1 female in Mt Makiling. The race *herberti*: 1 male Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. The race *ardens*: 1 male in Rd 42 in PICOP. Heard at several other locations.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

5-10 seen at Sabang, 1 in Rajah Sikatuna, 1 in PICOP, 3 in Hamut. Race *cyanocollis*.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

1 seen at St Pauls of the endemic race *gouldi*. 2 Bilar in the Rahja Sikatuna area of the endemic race *gigantea*.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*

1 heard at the headquarter St Pauls, endemic race *linae*.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Seen Hamut, Subic Bay, Rajah Sikatuna, PICOP (>5). Not seen Cebu or Palawan. The distinctive endemic *gularis* race seen through out the Philippines. Some birds showed very little white and at the base of the lower mandible only.

White-collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris*

4 close to Bilar in the Rajah Sikatuna area. 2 Tabunan and 2 at Candaba Marshes. All of the endemic race *collaris*.

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

1 male seen well in Trogon-trail Rajah Sikatuna, and further individuals heard there. Race *nigrorum*. 1 pair giving excellent scope views in Rd 1 / 4 in PICOP, even mating. About 5 other individuals heard PICOP. Race *mindanensis*.

Spotted Wood Kingfisher *Actenoides lindsayi* E

1 (poor view) in the Baler area. 1 (poor view) close to Camp 1, Hamut. Then luck turned and we had excellent views. 2 males and 1 female close to Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. Five scope views of 3 males and 2 females on Mt Makiling. Heard every morning in Hamut and Mt Makiling. The species sometimes called in the evenings. All representing the northern race *lindsayi*.

Blue-capped Wood Kingfisher *Actenoides hombroni* E/VU

Heard at the lodge in Mt Kitanglad at dawn, and one male seen well at two occasions in the primary forest a couple of 100 m V of the valley in Mt Kitanglad. Heard at Rd 42 and at Rd 4 in PICOP.



Spotted Wood-Kingfisher © Göran Andersson

River Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

3 seen at the beach close to Puerto Princessa. 5 seen at Candaba Marshes. Race *bengalensis*. Appeared more light blue in head, wings and wing coverts compared to indigo-banded.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo cyanopectus* **E**

3-4 seen in the Baler area. A pair at Makiling University Campus. Race *cyanopecta*. As flushed this species escaped into the forest, not along the stream as the River Kingfishers did.

Silvery Kingfisher *Alcedo argentata* **E/VU**

2-3 individuals in PICOP. Several excellent views of a splendid bird. Race *argentata*.

Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus*

1 seen well at the Streamtrail St Pauls.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

2 in Bilar in the Rajah Sikatuna area. 25+ at the Animal Husbandry-track in Mt Makiling. 20+ at Candaba Marshes. Endemic race *philippinus*.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*

A flock of 25+ and several small flocks (2-6) mainly around Camp 1 at Hamut. 2 at the entrance to the trail to hill 394 in Subic Bay. Endemic race *americanus*.

Luzon Hornbill *Penelopides manillae* **E**

2 pairs seen well at Point Polison. Less good views at Hamut and heard at Mt Makiling.

Mindanao Hornbill *Penelopides affinis* **E**

Brief but at one time good views obtained of different pairs in PICOP e.g. Rd 4. Obviously hunted and shy. Heard every day at PICOP.

Samar Hornbill *Penelopides samarensis* **E**

Elusive and hard to see, but some kind of views were obtained in Rajah Sikatuna several times. We felt this bird was a doubtful species since we could not confirm the differences to Mindanao Hornbill as shown in the HBW illustrations. (Anders brought a handy copy of those into the field).

Writhed Hornbill *Aceros leucocephalus* **E/NT**

A pair seen well at the nesthole in Rd 1 / 4. Göran Andersson scoped 10-15 far away in a fruiting tree at Rd 4. All PICOP.

Rufous Hornbill *Buceros hydrocorax* **E/NT**

Good view of two adults feeding a young bird at the ridge Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. Bad flyby views here at two or three times and often heard. Heard at Point Polison and in Subic Bay. Race *hydrocorax*. Seen briefly but well two times in PICOP, 3 ad and 1 young bird on Rd 4. Race *mindanensis*.

Palawan Hornbill *Anthracoceros marchei* **E/VU**

Some 10-12 birds seen very well in the Sabang area.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

Common in wooded areas in all islands visited except Palawan. Three endemic races seen, in Cebu 2 was seen, (*cebuensis*), common in Mindanao (*mindanensis*) and in Luzon (*haemacephala*). Does not occur in Bohol or Palawan.

Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos maculatus* E

About 7 - 10 seen well in Subic Bay and Mt Makiling, race *validrostris*. 1 glimpsed at Tabunan, race *maculates*. 3 seen at Mt Kitanglad, race *fulvifasciatus*.

Sooty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus funebris* E

Three individuals (female, young and unclassified bird) seen below Camp 1 Hamut, close to hole in dead main trunk. Approx 7-10 m above ground. The nest hole was somewhat elliptical, broader horizontally. Moreover, one female and one unclassified bird were seen at the ridge just before Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. Two birds came in just over our heads (probably the same ones?) when Göran Altstedt used his referee pipe to call out attention to a Blackish Cuckoo-Shrike. Sooty Woodpecker- the only bird in the world you can call in using the Club300 whistle-pipe! The race in question in Hamut area is *mayri*. A distant bird was heard at Subic Bay of the race *funebris*.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

2 seen at Sabang in Palawan. Race *pulverulentus*.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*

3 seen Rd 1 at PICOP, race *multilunatus*, 1 seen Steeris Pitta Trail at Rajah Sikatuna, race *pectoralis*, 3 seen Subic Bay, *confuses* and 1 seen Iwahig Penal Colony, race *hargitti*.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

3 seen in Camp 2 area and 1 in Camp 1 area, Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos of the very reddish race *haematribon*. 1-2 seen at the lower end Steeris Pitta Trail at Rajah Sikatuna of the golden reddish race *rufopunctatis*. 1 male seen at Iwahig Penal Colony of the the very green race *erythrocephalus*. 2-3 seen in PICOP Rd 1 and 4 of the golden race *montanus*.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*

At least 4 seen in the Sabang area. The distinctive endemic Palawan race *everetti* where the female also have red crest.

Mindanao Wattled Broadbill *Eurylaimus steerii* E/VU

1 ad male, 1 ad female and 1 younger bird seen along Rd 4 PICOP. Thanks to the discovery made by R Hutchinson, the info from Tim and some good attitude and hard work by Anders we all enjoyed fabulous views in the end. Race *mayri*.

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*

1 seen well by all in Rd 1 / 4 PICOP. 1 heard along the same road but another location. Race endemic *erythrogaster*.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*

2 seen well by all in Iwahig Penal Colony. Heard at St Pauls. Endemic race *palawanensis*.

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

1 seen very well for a long period at Steere's Pitta Trail and 1 at Trogon Trail at Rajah Sikatuna. 3 heard in Rajah Sikatuna. Race *coelestis*. 2 seen at Rd 4, and 1 at Rd 42 PICOP, 5-10 heard at PICOP, race *steerii*.

Whiskered Pitta *Pitta kochi* **E/VU**

The sad bird of the trip. Non of the 10 or so birds we heard around Camp 2 at Mt. Dos Cuernos did show, except for a glimpse for one person in the group.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Common in open habitat on all Islands visited.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Singles or small groups seen well especially close to the coast on Palawan. Also Cagayan de Oro in Mindanao, in Cebu City and Tagbilaran on Bohol. Race *javanica*.

Striated Swallow *Hirundo striolata*

About 10-20 Animal Husbandry and Trees lodge at Mt Makiling. Singles at Point Polison, en route from Banaue to Candaba 5. In the grassland bellow Camp at Hamut 5. No records outside Luzon.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula*

8 seen at Candaba Marshes, endemic race *wolfei*.

Bar-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina striata*

A few seen at Rd 42 PICOP. Race *kochii*. Small flocks at Mt Makiling and at Subic Bay. Race *striata*.

Blackish Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina coerulescens* **E**

2-3 at Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos and 3 at Subic Bay. Race *coerulescens*.

Black-bibbed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina mindanensis* **E/NT**

1 male seen in at Rd 42 in PICOP. Race *mindanensis*.

McGregor's Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina mcgregori* **E/NT**

6-7 in the mossy forest at Mt Kitanglad.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*

2-3 in Tabunan. 1 at Mt Kitanglad. 2 at PICOP. Race *chilensis*.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*

5 at Rd 1, and singles at other locations in PICOP. The endemic *gonzalesii*-race seen in which the male is not red but more orange.

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus* **NT**

10-15 in Sabang and Iwahig Penal Colony, only on Palawan in the Philippines.

Philippine Leafbird *Chloropsis flavipennis* **E/VU**

Only in PICOP, 2-3 on Rd 42 seen well.

Yellow-throated Leafbird *Chloropsis palawanensis* **E**

Common on Palawan especially in Sabang.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

Seen in Sabang where common.

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*

Seen in Palawan at Iwahig, Sabang and St Pauls.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Common in disturbed habitats like in Bislig, farmland Mt Makiling, race *suluensis*. In agricultural areas Sabang. No race given. In Luzon, on Mt Makiling and Hamut, race *goiavier*.

Yellow-wattled Bulbul *Pycnonotus urostictus* **E**

Seen at Baler and at Point Polison at the Aurora province. Seen at Subic Bay. Race *urostictus*. In northern Luzon at Hamut seen daily, race *ilokensis*. In PICOP common as race *philippensis*. Not common in Rajah Sikatuna but recorded, race *atricaudatus*.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Criniger bres*

Seen at St Pauls and Sabang 10-15 in total. Endemic race *frater*.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*

1 seen at Sabang. Endemic race *cinereifrons*.

Sulphur-bellied Bulbul *Iole palawanensis* **E**

1 close to Puerto Princesa. 1 at St Pauls. 3 at Sabang.

Philippine Bulbul *Ixos philippinus* **E**

Most common bird in all areas with trees. In Luzon race *philippinus*, on Mindanao, Bohol and Cebu race *saturator*.

Streak-breasted Bulbul *Ixos siquijorensis* **E/EN**

2-3 seen at Tabunan. Race *monticola*.

Yellowish Bulbul *Ixos everetti* **E**

All together 10-15 seen in different locations in PICOP. Race *everetti*.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*

3-4 seen at Sabang. Race *leucophaeus*.

Balicassiao *Dicrurus balicassius* **E**

Seen Hamut and 4-5 Mt Makeling, race *balicassio*. 5 in Tabunan of the black-and-white race *mirabilis*.

Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Common at Palawan in Iwahig, Sabang and St Pauls. Race *palawansis*. Common at Rajah Sikatuna race *samarensis* and common in PICOP, Mt Kitanglad and Mt Talomo, race *striatus*.

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus* NT

1 male seen nicely in Sabang. Endemic race *persuasus*.

Philippine Oriole *Oriolus steerii* E

5 in PICOP on Rd 4 and on Rd 42. Race *samarensis*.

White-lored Oriole *Oriolus albiloris* E

2 at Camp 1, Hamut was all.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

2 seen at Sabang, 1 Mt Makiling, 2 Subic Bay. Race *chinensis*. Common in PICOP eg 10 Rd 1 / 4. Race *yamamurae*.

Philippine Fairy Bluebird *Irena cyanogastra* E

2 at Point Polison, 2 at Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos and 1 at Subic Bay, race *cyanogaster*. 2 in Rajah Sikatuna, race *ellae*.

Asian Fairy Blurbird *Irena puella*

A few birds every day at Palawan, in Sabang, St Pauls, Iwahig. Endemic race *tweedalei*.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

10-15 in Sabang, a few Point Polison, Mt Makiling, Hamut. Common on Mt Kitanglad and in PICOP, a few at Mt Talomo. Endemic race *philippinus*.

Palawan Tit *Parus amabilis* E/NT

2-3 seen at Sabang, 3 at Iwahig Penal Colony.

Elegant Tit *Parus elegans* E

A canopy species common in Luzon and in Mindanao in forested areas. Not in Bohol. Heard at tabunan in Cebu.

White-fronted Tit *Parus semilarvatus* E/NT

1 at Camp 1, Hamut. 1 at the entrance to the forest, trail to hill 394, Subic Bay. 1 on the trail to hill 394 appr. 1 km from entrance. Better than expected with so many seen. Only race *semilarvatus*.

Sulphur-billed Nuthatch *Sitta oenochlamys* E

Seen at Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos 5-10, race *isarog*, and on Mt Kitanglad 7-10, race *apo*.

Stripe-headed Rhabdornis *Rhabdornis mystacalis* E

The famous endemic family of the Philippines. A common bird at Luzon in Mt Makiling and at Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos. 10-15 seen. Race *mystacalis*. 1 at Rajah Sikatuna, 2-4 at Mt Kitanglad. Race *minor*.

Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis *Rhabdornis inornatus* E

4 at Mt Kitanglad. Race *alaris*.

Bagobo Babbler *Leonardina woodi* E

Heard at Mt Kitanglad.

Ashy-headed Babbler *Malacocincla cinereiceps* **E**

5 seen well at Sabang as they came in to playback.

Melodious Babbler *Malacopteron palawanense* **E/NT**

After an epic battle between Arnell and this bird we saw 2 at Iwahig Penal Colony.

Falcated Ground-Babbler *Ptilocichla falcata* **E/VU**

1 at Streamtrail St Pauls seen well.

Streaked Ground-Babbler *Ptilocichla mindanensis* **E**

2 at Trogon Trail, Rajah Sikatuna. Prolonged and nice observation of this enigmatic bird. The Bohol-race *fortichi*. Heard several times in PICOP. Race *mindanensis*.

Pygmy Babbler *Stachyris plateni* **E/NT**

A nest building pair + 2 more individuals seen at close range Rd 42 in PICOP. Race *plateni*.

Rusty-crowned Babbler *Stachyris capitalis* **E**

3-4 birds in a mixed species flock at Rd 4 in PICOP. Race *euroaustralis*.

Golden-crowned babbler *Stachyris dennistouni* **E/NT**

1 seen briefly at Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos was all this time.

Chestnut-faced Babbler *Stachyris whiteheadi* **E**

The most common bird at Mt Polis, but not seen anywhere else. Race *whiteheadi*.

Luzon Striped-Babbler *Stachyris striata* **E/NT**

Some sort of view of 2 birds between at Camp 1, Hamut and Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos.

Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*

Common on Palawan. Endemic race *woodi*.

Brown Tit-Babbler *Macronous striaticeps* **E**

Small groups 2-4 birds seen at three occasions in Mt Kitanglad. Race *mindanensis*.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*

1 was glimpsed by one person in the group, heard at 5-6 locations on Mt Kitanglad. May involve two species separated by altitude in the Philippines. All birds recorded by us where noted above 1200 m.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

A few seen and heard in PICOP Rd 1 / 4. Race *mindanensis*.

White-browed Shama *Copsychus luzoniensis* **E**

1 seen singing at Mt Makiling and 1 passed by flying above Camp 1 Hamut. We heard several singing mainly at the locations mentioned. Race *luzoniensis*.

White-vented Shama *Copsychus niger* **E**

Elusive but in the end we all saw 2 individuals at Streamtrail St Paul's.

Black Shama *Copsychus cebuensis* **E/EN**

3 seen and an additional 2-3 heard at Tabunan, cebu.

Luzon Water Redstart *Rhyacornis bicolor* **E/VU**

A pair seen well at the river bellow the Mt Polis pass.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

Most individuals seen in grassland at 1000 m elevation in Hamut (race *caprata*) and Mt Kitanglad (race *anderseni*).

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

3 seen close to Point Polison Aurora province in Luzon, race *philippinensis*.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

15 seen Mt Kitanglad.

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*

2 seen at Mt Polis. Endemic race *thomassoni*.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Common in all visited forested areas up to 1500 m. Races not separable in the field.

Philippine Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus olivaceus* **E**

1 odd looking individual seen Rajah Sikatuna, 6-10 seen at PICOP.

Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus* **E?**

Rather common 50+ seen at Mt Polis. The Philippine races are now separated (recent publication Alström et al) from the Sulawesi population, making this bird an endemic species?

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus*

10 seen at Candaba Marshes and 10 at Bislig Old Airport.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Singles seen at Mt Makiling (race *tweedalei*) and at Bislig Old Airport (race *alopex*).

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*

Common in suitable grassy habitat at Mt Makiling, Bislig Airport, Mt Kitanglad, Mt Talomo. Race *forbesi*.

Philippine Tailorbird *Orthotomus castaneiceps* **E**

Some seen at Hamut and Point Polison. Race *chloronotus*.

Rufous-lored/Rufous-fronted Tailorbird *Orthotomus frontalis* **E**

A few singles seen at PICOP. Race *frontalis*.

Grey-backed Tailorbird *Orthotomus derbianus* **E**

Singles seen at Mt Makiling. Race *derbianus*.

Rufous-headed Tailorbird *Orthotomus heterolaemus* **E**
Common on Mt Kitanglad where seen but more often heard.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*
Common on Palawan. Race *sericeus*.

Yellow-breasted Tailorbird *Orthotomus samarensis* **E/NT**
2 males of this Visayan endemic seen well Rajah Sikatuna on Bohol.

Black-headed Tailorbird *Orthotomus nigriceps* **E**
5-6 seen well at PICOP Rd 1 / 4 and Rd 4.

Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*
A few seen at Bislig old Airport. Race *semirufa*.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Seen in the lowlands on Palawan mainly in rice fields and wet habitat. Race *nigrostriata*.
Several at Bislig Old Airport. Race *tinnabulans*.

Luzon Bush-Warbler *Cettia seebohmi* **E**
15 heard and 3 seen early morning at Mt Polis.

Long-tailed Ground-Warbler *Bradypterus caudatus* **E**
15 heard but only a glimpse was seen of 1 bird by one person in the group.

Rufous-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias ruficauda*
1 at Steere's Pitta Trail in Rajah Sikatuna, race *boholensis*. 1 at Rd 4 PICOP, race *samarensis*.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*
Common and obvious in all forested or partly forested areas.

Mountain Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis*
10+ seen on Mt Kitanglad, race *nigriloris*, and singles recorded at Mt Polis, race *nigrimentalis*.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*
1 male at Mt Kitanglad, race *montigena*.

Little Slaty Flycatcher *Ficedula basilanica* **E/VU**
1 male seen by one person in the group on Rd 4 in PICOP, race *basilanica*.

Palawan Flycatcher *Ficedula platenae* **E/VU**
2 close to Iwahig.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
2 males at Mt Kitanglad of race *westermanni* and 1 pair Mt Polis of endemic race *abori*.

Blue-breasted Flycatcher *Cyornis herioti* **E**
Male and female at the ridge above Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos, race *herioti*.

Palawan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis lemprieri* **E/NT**

1 female seen and a few heard at the Streamtrail St. Pauls.

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*

Only heard at Tabunan.

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*

2 seen well en route to the ridge from Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

Some at the beach close to Puerto Princessa, seen at Candaba Marshes. Race *nigritorquis*.

Blue Fantail *Rhipidura superciliaris* **E**

Common in PICOP, race *apo*, and in Rajah Sikatuna, race *samarensis*.

Blue-headed Fantail *Rhipidura cyaniceps* **E**

10 in Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos, race *cyaniceps*. A few at Mt Polis.

Black-and-cinnamon Fantail *Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea* **E**

20+ on Mt Kitanglad, race *huchinsoni*, and singles at Mt Talomo, race *nigrocinnamomea*.
Only recorded over 1000 m.

Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone atrocaudata* **E**

20+ in PICOP on Rd 4, 1 / 4, and 42. Race *cinnamomea*.

Blue Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone cyanescens* **E/NT**

2 at St Pauls, 3-4 in Sabang, 2 at Iwahig Penal Colony.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Singles seen at most forested sites.

Celestial Monarch *Hypothymis coelestis* **E/VU**

1 male allowed excellent views at Point Polison. Race *coelestis*. Heard briefly in Rd 4 in PICOP.



Celestial Monarch ©Göran Andersson

Short-crested Monarch *Hypothymis helenae* **E/NT**

1 male and 1 female allowing scope views at Rd 42. 1 male seen briefly but close Rd 4. PICOP. Additional males heard singing at Rd 42 and Rd 4. Race *agusanae*. Zardo showed us an old nest. This was located in a fork in a free branch hanging in a wine. Tim told us that both nests he ever found of Celestial Monarch were located in detached branches hanging in tangle or wines. Also Celestial Monarch place the nest in forks in such branches. Is that why these species are rare?

Green-backed Whistler *Pachycephala albiventris* **E**

1 seen by one person in a mixed species flock at Mt Polis. Race *albiventris*.

White-vented Whistler *Pachycephala homeyeri* **E**

1-2 at 1500 m in Mt Kitanglad. Race *homeyeri*.

Yellow-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala philippinensis* **E**

5 on Mt Makiling, a few at Hamut. Race *philippinensis*. 2 at Mt Kitanglad, 1 at PICOP, race *apoensis*. 1 in Rajah Sikatuna, race *boholensis*.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Common in all wooded areas.

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis*

All birds at Palawan in the ricefields, and 10 in Mt Kitanglad, had white eye-browe indicating this recently split species.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

A single bird with very yellow eye-browe seen in Mt Kitanglad. This indicates *taivana* according to the book not found on Mindanao previously.

Oriental Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

A few seen in agricultural environment, e.g. at Palawan close to ricefields and close to Candaba Marshes on Luzon. Singles seen en route in disturbed habitat. Migrant race *lugubris*.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

1 seen at the ridge Mt. Dos Cuernos. 1 seen on Mt Kitanglad.

(Red-throated Pipit *Anthus cervinus*

Possibly heard at the ricefields by Sabang independently by two persons. But since only one call was heard we are not claiming this bird.)

White-breasted Wood-Swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Our first was seen over ricefields Palawan. Groups recorded at Bilar on Bohol, over the grassland bellow Camp 1 Hamut, by the Animal Husbandry, Mt Makiling, at Candaba Marshes and on other open or lightly wooded areas.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Common in open habitat, more so in Mindanao than Luzon. The beautiful endemic race *nasutus*.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Very common in most habitats including less closed forest and even in big cities. Seen on all Islands visited.

Mountain Shrike *Lanius validirostris* **E/NT**

Only 1 probably young bird at the pass, Mt Polis. Race *validirostris*.

Short-tailed Glossy starling *Aplonis minor*

20+ seen on Mt Kitanglad. Endemic race *todayensis*.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

5 Chocklate Hills, a few in PICOP, 25 at Tabunan, 10 at Sabang, 2 at Iwahig Penal Colony. Race *panayensis* through out.

Coleto *Sarcops calvus* **E**

A few at Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos and on Mt Makiling. Race *calvus*. 1 at Tabunan. 10 at Mt Talomo, 7 in PICOP. Race *melanotus*.

Apo Myna *Basilornis miranda* **E/NT**

At least 3 seen above 1500 m at Mt Kitanglad.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Introduced. 2 seen bellow Camp 1 in the agricultural areas in Hamut.

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

On Palawan 2 seen and a few heard Sabang. *Palawanensis* endemic race.

Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

1 male Camp 1 Hamut, 1 male and 2-3 females at Mt Makiling, race *birgita*. 1-2 in PICOP, race *griseigularis*.

Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata*

1 male in the Baler-area, race *sperata*. 10 seen well in Sabang, 1 male in PICOP, 2 males in Rajah Sikatuna, race *trochilus*.

Copper-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma calcostetha*

15 seen well in Sabang-area and along the beach close to Puerto Princessa.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

15 seen well in Sabang and along the beach close to Perto Princessa. Race *aurora*.

Flaming Sunbird *Aethopyga flagrans* **E**

1 male Mt Makiling and 1 male Point Polison, race *flagrans*.

Grey-hooded Sunbird *Aethopyga primigenia* **E/NT**

5-10 in Mt Kitanglad at 1300 m. Race *primigenius*.

(Apo Sunbird *Aethopyga boltoni* **E/NT**

Danny and Carlito heard this species three times in Mt Kitanglad but we could not verify this and had no recording so we are not claiming the species.)

Metallic-winged Sunbird *Aethopyga pulcherrima* **E**

A few at Mt Polis. Race *jeffrey*. 5 in PICOP. Race *pulcherrima*. 1-2 in Rajah Sikatuna. Race *decorosa*.

Handsome Sunbird *Aethopyga bella* **E**

6 seen well at Sabang.

Lovely Sunbird *Aethopyga shelleyi* **E**

5 in Mt Makiling. Race *minuta*. 3 in PICOP. Race *bella*.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

2 males and 2 females seen very well at Tabunan. Race *magnifica*.

Naked-faced Spiderhunter *Arachnothera clarae* **E**

10 seen in PICOP mostly flying Rd 42 and Rd 1 / 4. Race *clarae*.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*

Heard in St Pauls and seen in Sabang. Race *dilutior*. 5-10 in PICOP. Race *flammifera*.

Olive-backed Flowerpecker *Prionochilus olivaceus* **E**

3 PICOP Rd 1 / 4 and Rd 4. Race *olivaceus*. 1 unexpectedly high on the ridge above Camp 2, Mt. Dos Cuernos. Race *parsoni*.

Palawan Flowerpecker *Prionochilus plateni* **E**

Common in all forested habitats in Palawan.

Thick-billed/Striped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aeruginosum*

1 seen by one person in Mt Makiling. This former endemic species has been lumped by Clements with asian Thick-billed Flowerpecker recently. Endemic race *striatissimum*.

Olive-capped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nigrilore* **E**

1 seen by most participants at Mt Kitanglad, 1400 m. Race *nigrilore*.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum anthonyi* **E/NT**

2 seen by most participants at Mt Polis. Race *anthonyi*.

Bicolored Flowerpecker *Dicaeum bicolour* **E**

Should be rare compared to similar Buzzing Flowerpecker but we found it to be more common on Mt Kitanglad above 1000m where 3 were seen. 1-2 seen PICOP. Race *bicolour*.

1 Hamut, race *inexpectatum*.

Buzzing Flowerpecker *Dicaeum hypoleucum* **E**

1 male at Mt Kitanglad. 1 in PICOP, race *pontifex*. 3 around Camp 1, Hamut. Race *obscurum*.

Pygmy Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pygmaeum* **E**

1 seen at Sabang. Race *palawanorum*.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

5 at Mt Makiling, endemic race *xanthopygium*. 3 at Rajah Sikatuna, 7 in PICOP, endemic race *cinerigularis*.

Fiery-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

3 at Mt Kitanglad. Race *apo*.

Red-keeled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum australe* **E**

Common at Tabunan with 25 seen. 3 at Mt Makiling, 3 at Point Polison and 25 PICOP. Singles at other locations. Race *australe*.

Lowland White-eye *Zosterops meyeri* **E**

3+10 seen in partly cultivated areas Mt Makiling. Race *meyeri*.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*

15 in Tabunan, endemic race *everetti*. 30+ in PICOP, endemic race *basilanicus*.

Yellowish White-eye *Zosterops nigrorum* **E**

50+ at Hamut/ Mt. Dos Cuernos over 1000 m. Race *inominnatus*.

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*

100+ in Mt Kitanglad. Endemic race *vulcani*. Common Mt Polis, endemic race *whiteheadi*.

Black-masked White-eye *Lophozosterops goodfellowi* **E**

10 at Mt Kitanglad in mossy forest. Race *goodfellowi*.

Cinnamon Ibon *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus* **E**

10 at Mt Kitanglad in mossy forest.

Eurasian Tree-Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Common in all disturbed habitats. Candaba Marshes must be one of the best locations in the world for this species.

Red-eared Parrotfinch *Erythrura coloria* **E/NT**

2+3 birds seen at Mt Kitanglad.

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra*

Pairs and small flocks seen in PICOP, endemic race *manueli*, and in the grassland close to Camp 1 Hamut, endemic race *everetti*. Flock of 30+ in Sabang, non endemic race *palawana*.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

10 in the grassland bellow Camp 1 Hamut, 2 Rd 1 PICOP.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura malacca*

50+ Bislig Old Airport. 50+ at Candaba Marshes. +40 in the ricefields Palawan. Singles and small flocks in grassy habitat and ricefields. At most locations race *jagori*. Common in the grassland bellow Camp 1 Hamut, northern race *formosana*.

White-cheeked Bullfinch *Pyrrhula leucogenis* **E**

5 in 1600 m in Mt Kitanglad. Additional individuals heard. Race *steerei*.

Escapes

Chattering Lory *Lori garrullus*

One rather unshy bird calling loud and seen close at the campground Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol. It was of the southernmost race *flavopalliatus* indicating an escaped bird. According to persons in the staff at the campground it had been caught in the forest and handled as a pet afterwards. Now it was not always at the campground.

Mammals

Long-tailed Macaque

15 in Subic Bay, 2 Mt Makiling, 5-10 Rajah Sikatuna, heard at Hamut and Mt Kitanglad.

Philippine Flying Lemur **E**

1 sleeping in a tree hanging from branch at Mt Kitanglad at 1600 m. 10 seen and some flying very close at the Campground Rajah Sikatuna.

Philippine Pygmy Squirrel **E**

Most of us saw this stunningly small squirrel that appeared close at Mt Talomo 1000 m.

Mindanao Squirrel **E**

1 seen Rd 4 PICOP. 1 seen I lower part of steereis Pitta Trail, Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol

Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel **E/EN**

A few at St Pauls.

House Rat

1 seen on two nights in the Restaurant in Malate Pensionne which is located outside.