

Birding Philippines

Bohol - Cebu - Mindanao - Manila

March 2014



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The Philippines, March 16th - 29th 2014

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Front cover

Philippine Eagle *Pithecophaga jefferyi*, soaring at distance from the eagle viewpoint at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao on March 23rd. The star, the icon and the one experience you would never trade.

Participants

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Highlights

- Perfect start of the trip with the impressive Philippine Eagle Owl at Angono Petroglyphs, Manila.
- Colugos flying both day-time and night-time at Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol.
- Amazing walk-away views of both Azure-breasted Pitta and Striated Wren-Babbler.
- The gigantic Atlas moth (*Attacus atlas*) at Simply Butterflies, Bilar.
- Finally getting a family party of the small purple-washed Visayan Broadbills at Rajah Sikatuna.
- Visiting the Corella Conservation Center for Tarsiers and seeing four of these adorable creatures.
- In the last remnants of forests on Cebu seeing two shy males Black Shama and a smashing performance of a pair of Cebu Hawk-Owls.
- Rare Mindanao endemics at Davao: Whiskered Flowerpecker and Cryptic Flycatcher staked-out at Eden Resort. Thank you Pete Simpson!
- The incomparable event of watching a Philippine Eagle nest, and especially the panic cries of monkeys in the deep canyon below when the adult birds suddenly left their high perch ambushing down the slope.
- Very few have ever heard it and even fewer have seen it: The ghost bird of Mindanao, Bagobo Babbler.
- Watching a productive fruiting-tree at 1500 masl at Mt Kitanglad where a pair of Island Thrush, one Amethyst Brown-Dove and two slow-moving Mindanao Racket-tails fed.
- Smashing views of Yellow-breasted Fruit-Doves at Mt Kitanglad.
- Giant Scops Owl in torchlight at Del Monte Lodge.
- Not one, not two, but three majestic Philippine Eagles soaring at Mt Kitanglad.
- One of PICOPs most-wanted bird: Wattled Broadbill, put up a great show for us at The Quarry.
- A pair of almost tame King Quails at Bislig Airstrip while waiting for the Eastern Grass Owls.
- That unreal ambiguous moment when the sounds of chainsaws cutting down the last trees of PICOP at road 42 echoed, while simultaneously hearing grievous calls of Rufous Hornbill and watching a splendid male Celestial Monarch...
- A responsive Hooded Pitta and a perched male Black-chinned Fruit-Dove in a small secondary patch at road 1, PICOP.
- The finale of friendly Ashy Thrushes and one co-operative Red-bellied Pitta in La Mesa Eco Park.

General introduction

When you look at a map of the Philippines and consider the 200+ endemic bird species you soon realise you need many trips to cover this amazing archipelago. The pressure on the little areas of remaining natural habitat is still heavy, and we witnessed slash-and-burn farming at the very edge or even within most areas visited. The classic phrase “better now than later” has been used for birding in Mindanao for at least the last 15 years. The former logging concession of eastern Mindanao close to Bislig known as PICOP, have brutally been destroyed and today just a tiny fragment of undisturbed forest is left. We found birding being quite tough with often few individuals, rather shy birds, long transports, little sleep, earthquake(!), hot tropical climate and mean bugs. On the other hand the struggling was most worth-while since almost half of the birds seen were endemics, and some are really five stars birds.

Logistics – Planning the trip – Future aspects

Early in the planning stage we decided to contact a local agency for a full-package tour. The logistics seemed nearly impossible to figure out on our own given limited time available. We had two weeks to spare and after scrutinizing almost every possible route we ended up with this at first strange-looking plan to cover Mindanao, Bohol and Cebu, there is a slight overlap of species between Bohol and Mindanao. It felt crucial to visit Mindanao now and not later. Other optional routes including Luzon and/or Palawan didn't seem appealing since you need a lot of time for both those two endemic-packed islands. In retrospect what could have been more explored was the opportunity to fly from Bangkok directly to Cebu City with Cebu Pacific and thereby avoiding Manila and getting more time on the southern islands. We tried to plan when possible for birding most mornings and evenings. We also consider this trip as the first leg of doing the Philippines with more future trips to come. Originally we had planned three full days at PICOP but had to change that in last minute due to the cancelled flight between Cebu and Cagayan del Oro. One more day at PICOP could have turned up a few of the birds that we actually missed there, although birding at PICOP, especially road 42, was nowhere close to easy. We could highly recommend going with Birdguiding Philippines, Bram knows the birds, the calls and all sites very well and the sudden change of route last minute when deciding to go to Davao could never had happend without him.



Azure-breasted Pitta *Pitta steerii*, on the Loop trail, Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol.



Giant Scops Owl *Otus gurneyi*, calling every night, finally showing, Del Monte Lodge, Mindanao.

Literature

- A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines, RS Kennedy, PC Gonzales, EC Dickinson, HC Miranda Jr, TH Fisher (2000)
- Trip-reports via Cloudbirders including: M Lagerqvist 2003, H Matheve 2005, G Andersson 2005, E Jirle 2006, G Talbot 2009. Reports from Birdquest, Birding2Asia, and Birdtour Asia also helpful.

Itinerary

- 16.3 PM: Arrival at Manila. Angono Petroglyphs. Night: Manila.
- 17.3 AM: Flight to Bohol. PM: Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape. Night: Simply Butterflies, Bilar.
- 18.3 Full day: Rajah Sikatuna (AM: Clearing, Oriole & Brahminy trail. PM: Logerita trail).
- 19.3 AM: Rajah Sikatuna, Loboc Watershed Area PM: Corella, boat to Cebu. Night: Cebu city.
- 20.3 Full day: Tabunan Forest. Night: Cebu city.
- 21.3 AM: Flight to Davao. PM: Eden Mountain Resort and above, east slope of Mt Talomo. Night: Toril.
- 22.3 AM: Southern slope of Mt Talomo, E Mt Apo. PM: Transport to Mt Kitanglad. Night: Del Monte Lodge.
- 23.3 Full day: Mt Kitanglad.
- 24.3 Full day: Mt Kitanglad.
- 25.3 Transport to Bislig. Night: Paper Country Inn, Bislig.
- 26.3 AM: PICOP, The Quarry, Road 4. PM: Bislig Airstrip. Night: Bislig.
- 27.3 Full day: PICOP, Road 42, Road 1. Night: Bislig.
- 28.3 AM: PICOP, The Quarry. Transport to Butuan. PM: Flight to Manila. Night: Manila.
- 29.3 AM: La Mesa Eco Park, Quezon City. PM: Flight to Bangkok, transfer to Stockholm.

Map of Southern Philippines



Our destinations pointed out.

Birding Diary

March 16th

At noon, after fetching our luggage and exchanging some currency we met Bram at Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. It felt good to finally meet in person and head out on our trip after half a year of mail correspondence and planning. We had left Stockholm with Thai Airways the previous day including a three hour transfer in Bangkok. We jumped into our small bus ready for our first stake-out only 1,5 hour away. After a quick pit-stop for some fastfood, we headed east to Angono Petroglyphs. At some sharp steep hairpins on the way, we eased the weight load of our bus by walking along for a couple of hundred meters. In the roadside scrub close to a place called Falcon crest we soon added our first birds of the trip, a pair of Philippine Pygmy Woodpeckers, some calling Lowland White-eyes and Golden-bellied Gerygones and suddenly a sharp call by a Scale-feathered Malkoha, unfortunately it never popped out of cover and remained a heard-only, it was a bonus bird that we have to wait for a future Luzon trip to catch up with. After parking the car (3 PM) we walked a tunnel through a small ridge to reach the Petroglyphs, which is the oldest known work of art of the Philippines dated to 3000 BC. There are some hundred carved humans and figures on a rockwall. However cultural this seem, our main purpose was to find a red-listed owl, the Philippine Eagle Owl which is breeding at the museum in the very same rockwall, known since a few years back. The owls probably feed mainly on city rats. And there it was: a huge adult sat high in a mango tree peering down on us. What a great start, the juvenile bird had recently left the nest and Bram guessed the birds wouldn't be around for much longer, until next season. After taking photos from every possible angle we left the owl and slowly walked back adding a few more birds. Best of all a calling newly split Kamchatka Leaf Warbler which showed nicely. Elegant Tit and Tawny Grassbirds were also found. We walked down to a small pond at the near-by golf course where we soon found Yellow Bittern, Striated Heron, White-breasted Waterhen, Collared and White-throated Kingfisher. The latter being proposed as an endemic split: Brown-breasted Kingfisher. By 5.30 PM we headed back to Manila and checked in at Vieve Hotel in Ermita. At dinner we met up with Brams administrative colleague Arne Jensen, a danish

gentleman and conservationist who is a member of the board of the Wild Bird Club of the Philippines. He had a few wisdoms to share, most importantly he urged us to try to just enjoy the remaining birds of PICOP, which still can be good. PICOP is lost, it cannot be saved, and to go there just to grief wouldn't be worth it. Arne himself had lost all hope when the Blue-backed Parrot-roosting tree was cut down many years ago.



Philippine Eagle-Owl Bubo philippensis, a cracking adult bird at Angono Petroglyphs.



Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo Surniculus velutinus, many heard only a few seen, this one at Simply Butterflies, Bilar.



Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher Rhinomyias ruficauda, endemic subspecies boholensis at Rajah Sikatuna.



Striated Wren-Babbler Ptilocichla mindanensis, fantastic views on Logerita trail, Rajah Sikatuna.

March 17th

The following day we left early to catch our morning flight to Tagbilaran on Bohol at 8.15 AM. After pick-up at Tagbilaran we drove first east along the coastline before turning north. A quick stop at some roadside ponds yielded two Barred Rails and a few waders including Lesser Sand Plover. We had lunch at Simply Butterflies in Bilar, a very nice place where we would stay for the next two nights. In the hotel gardens we had our first Purple-throated Sunbirds and Red-keeled Flowerpeckers, and even better were views of both Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo and Drongo-Cuckoo. This place is a popular tourist destination and there were regular guided tours through the gardens where the staff showed different butterflies to the visitors. The coolest of them all was an enormous Atlas Moth, one of the largest butterflies in the world. Bilar is close to the only larger block of preserved natural forest on Bohol namely Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape.

After lunch we were most eager to get out birding, our first stop was at a military camp by a small creek along the road from Bilar toward Rajah Sikatuna. Between 2 and 3 PM we walked along the creek for several hundred meters but not until our way back we found our target: a stunning pair of very long-billed Silvery Kingfishers. We moved on and soon reached the ranger station at the clearing in Magsaysay Park. The starting point for exploring Rajah Sikatuna. There are many loop trails running from this clearing (there is a good sketch map at Stijn de Wijns site www.birding2asia.com over the trail systems). Despite being mid-afternoon a bit windy and a slight overcast we soon bumped into a small feeding party containing Yellow-bellied Whistlers and Black-naped Monarchs with a calling Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher being the best bird. Another good bird was the endemic Black-capped Babbler. Rufous-fronted Tailorbird called and showed briefly. We explored the Tarsier Trail and parts of Oriole Trail, later in the afternoon activity dropped but suddenly we got a hoped for response on Brams speaker. An Azure-breasted Pitta called not far away, it came in and the views we got were

just astonishing. It's a really chunky bird and the breast was glowing in the dark understorey. We watched the pitta for quite some time getting lots of photos before slowly walking away. Next target was a Colugo which suddenly left a tree above us and glided away landing on the next large trunk. We stayed until dark around the clearing and had Great-eared Nightjars flying across together with several Giant Golden-crowned Flying Foxes. After dark we succeeded in finding both Everett's Scops Owl chewing a green bush-cricket and a too brief Luzon Hawk-Owl along the entrance road.

March 18th

One of many early mornings to come with breakfast at 04.30. From 05.10 we tried for nightbirds along the entrance road. This time a showy pair of Luzon Hawk-Owls and a cool Colugo gliding between trees. As night quickly turned to daylight a Winchell's Kingfisher came in to tape and we had great scope views. We went back to yesterday's Magsaysay Park where the local guide Ryan met us. After half an hour around the clearing hearing a Striated Wren-Babbler singing we went into the trailsystems again. A larger feeding flock was close to Oriole trail but we never really connected with it, a bit frustrating hearing a lot, seeing very little. Black-faced Coucal and a splendid Visayan Blue Fantail were added though, just a little ahead more birds came in: Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher again, and after a lot of struggle the only two shining Philippine Fairy-bluebirds of the trip. We followed the steep Brahminy Kite for a while seeing a party of Brown Tit-Babblers. Before turning back at a larger fruiting tree where we had Amethyst Brown-Dove, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo and the first Colasisi (Philippine Hanging-Parrot) of the trip. Back on Oriole Trail we had another loose flock with Philippine Trogons, a fly-over Samar Hornbill, Yellow-wattled Bulbul, rare endemic Philippine Orioles, Philippine Leaf Warbler, White-bellied Woodpecker, Handsome Sunbird and Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike. Our last new bird of the morning was a glimpsed male Yellow-bellied Fruit-Dove. After that we went back to Bilar for lunch, by now it was sunny and very hot.

One of the staff at Simply Butterflies showed us a male Philippine Frogmouth on nest just 10 minutes away, this was our first stop during our afternoon birding session. A calling Black-chinned Fruit-Dove close-by had our attention until the member of the hotel staff said it came from a caged bird at his neighbours house... Back at Rajah Sikatuna we tried another part of the park. At the entrance road we turned right toward Logerita Waterfalls. We parked the park further on and continued along the forest boarder. We passed some deserted houses, the former DENR office, before reaching a small track going uphill which had been newly cleared, previously being badly overgrown. This track followed a small valley uphill. It was rather quiet but we managed to add a crimson-backed Buff-spotted Flameback, very different from the Mindanao-birds. Higher up a group of Samar Hornbills showed briefly to some of us and suddenly a Striated Wren-Babbler responded to tape and quickly started to circle us. Fantastic views! More frustrating was the endemic Yellow-breasted Tailorbird that we had calling immediately next to the track but being unbelievably skulky, we only had branches and leaves moving... On the way back we had a pair of Philippine Cuckoo-doves and Tomas found an immensely camouflaged Walkingstick.



Everett's Scops Owl *Otus everetti*, calling and feeding on a huge cricket along the entrance road to Rajah Sikatuna.



Visayan Broadbill *Sarcophanops samarensis*, on our last attempt a large family group was seen at Rajah Sikatuna

March 19th

On our last morning in Rajah Sikatuna we had just a few targets left on our list. It was cloudy and after just half an hours birding along the entrance road it started to drizzle. A male Philippine Trogon showed nicely as it was rather wet and didn't look to happy about the wheater. A few more tries for the tailorbird didn't gave anything. Ready to jump into the car and continue Bram suddenly froze as he heard a call. Soon he called out

“Broadbill!”. By now rain was a bit intense, and it took several minutes before Sebbe finally found the calling bird in mid-storey up the slope. For the next 20 minutes we had marvellous views of a family group of broadbills, no less than five. Beside the blue eye-wattled, the purple-washed breast was striking. A really elusive species that is often missed here. Re-vitalized we went to Magsaysay looking for sunbirds and tailorbirds but couldn't add anything new. We had to leave after lunch so time was running short when our driver suggested a supposedly good area for the sunbird across the main road in Bilar, namely the Loboc watershed area. So at 9 AM we left Rajah Sikatuna and drove there, we followed the main gravel track a couple of kilometers into the reserve, with patches of promising forest next to the road. We stopped at a small palm plantation with forest-covered hills surrounding and birded along the track from 09.30 until 11 AM. And amazingly within 5 minutes we connected with a male of the newly split Bohol Sunbird among many Purple-throated Sunbirds. A Blue-tailed Bee-eater and a large *Cuculus*-cuckoo flew past. We walked back toward Bilar but activity was quickly dropping, nonetheless we had good views of another Bohol Sunbird, Samar Hornbill and, at last, a responding Yellow-breasted Tailorbird. Quite happy with our results, we headed back to Simply Butterflies and quickly packed our stuff.

On the way to Tagbilaran we made a detour to visit a well-managed Tarsier Conservation Center at Corella between 2.30-3 PM. A guide showed us around the sheltered garden where we had four animals sleeping. These were semi-wild since they could climb in and out of the gardens, at the parking lot there was a female Philippine Frogmouth on nest.

Although scanning for seabirds all the way from the ferry between Tagbilaran and Cebu at 4.20-6 PM we didn't pick up anything good besides a few Whiskered Terns and some Spinner Dolphins. It was dark when we arrived at our hotel in Cebu city, the second largest town in the Philippines.



Cebu Hawk Owl Ninox rumseyi, nice views of a pair at Tabunan Forest, Cebu.



Black Shama Copsychus cebuensis, charismatic and shy, Tabunan Forest, Cebu. Photo: T Carlberg.



Mangrove Blue Flycatcher Cyornis rufigastra, easily spotted at Tabunan Forest, Cebu.



Streak-breasted Bulbul Hypsipetes siquijorensis, heavily built and increasingly rare, but still survives at Tabunan Forest.

March 20th

Another early start at 4 AM as we wanted to reach Tabunan forest before sunrise. We had devoted a full day here to be able to get two shots on the newly described Cebu Hawk-Owl. It was still pitch dark as we pulled up

at Okings house, we left our daypacks here and walked a short 10 minutes walk uphill to reach one of two stake-outs for the owl. A pair gave a fantastic show and called repeatedly for quite some time. After some photos and recordings we went back to Okings house for some breakfast. A good start of the day.

We then walked back along the same track up a slope to reach the diminishing Tabunan forest which is just a few acres large, the forest covers a steep ridge and some lime-stone pillars is preventing larger machines entering the area, probably one reason for this small patch still being spared. The island of Cebu is one of the worlds most heavily cleared areas with less than 1% natural habitat remaining. The bird diversity was very different from Rajah Sikatuna, still only a short ferry trip between the islands. As we entered some areas with bamboo we soon added the mountaineous Philippine race of Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, glowing red Magnificent Sunbirds, Pied Trillers and an Arctic Warbler. We pushed on as we wanted to reach the forest early. Not long after we entered to lime-stone forest we heard the characteristic call of an endemic Black Shama and soon glimpsed a splendid male, White-vented Whistler was also found. Further on we had one of many noisy pairs of Streak-breasted Bulbuls, a species Bram had experienced difficulties with earlier this season. Suddenly we heard wood-cutting close-by and Okings eyes turned black. He ran off and soon we heard some yelling. As he came back he told us there had been a youngster cutting dead wood and Oking had told him off. A Balicassiao flew in when a gun-shot ran off. Oking once again ran, this time coming back with an home-made air-rifle that the youngster had thrown to the ground as Oking had been after him. Afterward he was quite righteously proud being the protector of the forest.

Around mid-morning we climbed two different pillars for the classic sit-and-wait-in-vain for the mythical Cebu Flowerpecker, one of the worlds most endangered birds. The situation is probably much more critical than the impression one get when reading trip-reports. According to Bram there were frequent sightings here in the early 90ies but after that very sparse reports. Among Philippine bird guides the general belief seem to be that Cebu Flowerpecker is actually extinct from Tabunan, some of them have made 10 or more visits here without seeing one. We soon descended and went uphill a short bit to add the last remaining targets. Amazingly a Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler came in to tape, crimson-faced local race of Coppersmith Barbet was seen in a treetop, a Slaty-legged Crane suddenly called far away and another Black Shama showed briefly.

After a lengthy siesta in the middle of the heat at Okings house we made a short afternoon visit to the same area hoping in vain for a Blue-crowned Racket-tail to fly-by, no parrots but instead a powerful distant Purple Needletail and the only Striated Swallows of the trip. While waiting for our transport later in the afternoon we rested again at Okings house and it was quite amusing to read his log-book where travelling birders have noted their observations since more than 10 years back. At 5 PM we left Tabunan and were back at our hotel in Cebu city by 7 PM.

March 21st

Much travelling today with surely an unexpected turn of the trip, and a stressful day for Bram. After breakfast we went directly to the airport to catch the morning flight at 7.20 AM to Cagayan del Oro and our Mindanao leg of our trip. We had planned a three night stay at Del Monte Lodge at Mt Kitanglad then on to Bislig for 3,5 days at PICOP. However things not always turns out as planned... We had been following the weather reports closely last days as a deep low pressure was turning to northern Mindanao heading east to west. Prior to take off the aircraft captain told us there was bad visibility at Cagayan del Oro and they still didn't have allowance to take-off. After another 30 tense minutes we were in the air flying over Olango Island, a nice-looking wetland habitat just off shore Cebu. The skies turned darker as we approached northern Mindanao and the plane started to circle, "bad visibility" was the announcement again... Another turn over Cagayan when suddenly the plane thrusted gaining speed and height and heading... north again! Back to Cebu! Oh no, what to do? We quickly scrutinized our alternatives. After hectic two hours at Cebu Airport we were in the air again by 10.50AM, this time heading for Davao in southern Mindanao! Bram had been texting different people constantly for the last two hours and had came up with a last minute solution.

After arrival at Davao Airport we took a cab to a hotel at Toril, 7 km south of Davao along the coast along AH26. We checked in and had lunch before our saviour, Pete Simpson picked us up in his SUV. Pete, a friend of Brams, is an English birder who has settled down in Davao. And to our great appreciation Pete was able to help us out for some unplanned birding in southern Mindanao. Rain started to pour down as we went uphill toward Eden Resort on the eastern slopes of Mt Talomo. But luckily just as we arrived at the the end of the road at a small village it stopped. We continued on foot through the village and past a military gate entering a small green valley with some spared patches of forest. There was really good bird-activity after the rain, a flock of Eyebrowed Thrushes foraged, we added our first Turquoise and Little Pied Flycatchers of the trip, a Mindanao Hornbill perched, and two Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis showed really well. The muddy path went further up the grassy slope and Pete soon stopped at a particular tree where he had a rare southern Mindanao endemic staked-out: Whiskered Flowerpecker. Within a few minutes it was there, calling repeatedly. What a

success. We had one more place to cover and as we came back to the car skies opened once more, luckily it soon stopped again as we parked at Eden Resort further downhill. Eden Resort is a popular amusement park, in the remote southern outskirts of the park there is some habitat left along a small creek. This was Pete's second stake-out for the day, this time we waited for a small LBJ. A secretive and discrete flycatcher, all brown above with a slight cinnamon touch, and quite appropriately named: Cryptic Flycatcher. After walking back and forth along the small stream too many times we were ready to give up, when a small interesting-looking passerine crossed the water. Within a minute it was there giving nice views in some boardering bamboos, even singing shortly. For the rest of the evening it rained constantly, and by now we were very worried about the rest of our trip. The latest forecast showed heavy rains at Mt Kitanglad for the next couple of days...



Cryptic Flycatcher Ficedula crypta, a discrete bird of southern and western Mindanao. Eden Resort, Davao.



Whiskered Flowerpecker Dicaeum proprium, seen well above Eden Resort, Davao. Photo: T Carlberg.



Philippine Eagle Pithecophaga jefferyi, nestling at Mt Talomo, Davao, with the adult birds in nearby trees.



Red-eared Parrotfinch Erythrura coloria, two birds feeding in a field of sunflowers, Mt Kitanglad.

March 22nd

Next morning Pete was with us again to guide us to the southern slopes of Mt Talomo where there was a newly discovered nest of Philippine Eagle! He picked us up where we stayed at Hotel Carmelita. Tomas and Anders had woken up during late night as the bookshelf in their room was vibrating, it kept shaking for a minute or so but thankfully nothing more, wow, an earthquake!

Along the way Pete told us about the quite political situation around the nest. An eagle nest is big business in the Philippines, eagles means eager birdwatchers, photographers and lots of visitors as it is THE very icon of Philippine wildlife. Many people means money, lots of money, and everyone wants a part of the cake. The locals close to the nest, the nearest village, all villages along the road at different road-gates, the tribe leaders, local policemen, the Philippine Eagle Foundation, the DENR, well you get the picture. It seemed Pete thankfully had made tremendous amounts of negotiations before being allowed to bring foreign birders here. Birdtour Asia had been here earlier in the spring, and a lot of Philippine bird-photographers, and today was our turn.

Anticipation was on top as we parked the car, paid the final "ticket" at a local house who served us black coffee. Amazingly the skies had cleared during the night and it was a perfect setting as we walk a kilometer or so further on a smaller gravel road with the barren crater of distant Mt Apo in the background. We

went over a ridge at the edge of a very steep valley and arrived at the last house. A small platform had been built over-viewing the valley and not far away, maybe 200-300 meters down the slope an impressive fully grown chick waited for its parents to bring food. Not long after we found both adult birds across the valley in the morning sunshine. The beak, the crest and the strong feet were most impressive. There were quite few other raptors around, we had Crested Goshawk, Besra, Crested Honey Buzzard and endemic Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle. A flock of waxwing-like birds flew overhead, we couldn't really figure out what it was until another small flock appeared closer. It was starlings, migrant Chestnut-cheeked, altogether three larger flocks with 50 birds, an unexpected bonus. Time was running short as we had a long drive ahead. We decided to give the eagles a few more minutes, and that was it, as the both hunters left their high grounds and burst down the narrow valley. Alarm calls from monkeys echoed, the panic was not to be mistaken. One eagle soared briefly as it aborted the ambush, before it landed hidden. It was a great ending of this once in a lifetime experience, and the eagles even called a few times as we left the platform and went back to Toril to change car. We said farewell to Pete with our warmest cheers, and started our uneventful trip north to Mount Kitanglad in Bukidnon province. The forecast had us prepared for three days of pouring rain (thankfully this forecast couldn't have been more wrong...) as the low pressure was reported to have parked over northern Mindanao. This depressing forecast had us thinking again of changing the itinerary, but it was just impossible and there were no good alternatives.

Anyway, hours passed, 6,5 more precisely, and we finally made it to Malaybalay at the (north-)eastern base of Mount Kitanglad. It was misty with a slight drizzle as we walked uphill, within an hour through plantations and fields we reached the famous Del Monte Lodge at 1270 masl. Along the way we had a Plain Bush-hen calling close to the track and amazing numbers of Eyebrowed Thrushes. We were greeted by Carlito and family, had dinner and went early to sleep after a long day travelling. Giant Scops Owl called late in the evening but we never managed to see it.



Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove Ptilinopus occipitalis, no comments needed. Mt Kitanglad at its best.



Island Thrush Turdus poliocephalus, feeding on berries around 1500 masl on Mt Kitanglad.

March 23rd

Breakfast at 5 AM with porridge and bacon, accompanied by the dog Blackie and a cat. Our first day to explore Mt Kitanglad. The walk uphill was mostly through fields and slashed habitat, it was only after the eagle watchpoint we reached larger areas of proper forest. Thankfully, the air was crisp and skies were blue, as the low pressure took an unexpected more northern route. Our first stop was at a small field with sunflowers. Within a few minutes we found our target: the colourful Red-eared Parrotfinch. They were surprisingly hard to pick out, but at least one bird showed closely in the open for a short while. The bird-life up here in the mountaineous forest was totally new and we added new species all morning: Cinnamon Ibon, Black-and-cinnamon Fantail, calling Long-tailed Bush Warblers, Rufous-headed Tailorbird, Negros Leaf Warbler, Sulphur-billed Nuthatch, Grey-hooded Sunbird, Olive-capped Flowerpecker and some cool endemic McGregor's Cuckooshrikes. It was about late morning when we reached the eagle watchpoint, and it felt so good that we already had connected with eagle. Usually groups go here and stay until they see the eagle, one day or two days, and only after that go for the other montane birds. We stayed not long but managed to see both Crested Honey Buzzard, a close-by immature Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle and two distant soaring Pinsker's Hawk-Eagles. After a few more hours uphill we reached areas with obviously older forest partly moss-covered, this was around 1600 masl and above of that. Here we found the real specialities: the freaky-looking Apo Myna and Apo Sunbird. We had reached a bit below 1800 masl when staff from Del Monte Lodge suddenly appeared on the track with our lunchbags and we had a well-deserved break. Just about to pack up to catch the last high-elevation species Bram made us aware of a high-pitched song near-by: Bagobo Babbler! The bird was

extremely skulky but circled us a few times distantly but showed openly a few times for some of us and very briefly for some of us. Fantastic, this was a true success, not many trips to Mt Kitanglad score this elusive and fascinating species which recently has strangely enough been proposed as a *Muscicapidae* with Jungle Flycatchers being its closest relatives... Happy as ever we struggled on upwards for the remaining targets and soon we found another Apo Sunbird and at last a White-cheeked Bullfinch. Goodfellow's (Slaty-backed) Jungle Flycatcher have to wait... The habitat here looked interesting but it got really tough to follow the paths up here. Apparently the southern side of Mt Kitanglad at Mt Dulang Dulang is more reliable for the flycatcher. We turned down after reaching approximately 1820 masl.

We all agreed to turn around as it was turning into afternoon and clouds started to move in. On the way down Carlito heard the call of an Island Thrush and we soon found a pair in a fruiting tree. While watching the thrushes we suddenly became aware of a mostly hidden Mindanao Racket-tail and an Amethyst Brown-Dove in the same tree! We also had some good views of Buff-spotted Woodpecker here. Birding was a bit slower on the way down, we added only a female Mugimaki Flycatcher. Not long after we reached Del Monte Lodge in the late afternoon skies opened impairing any further owling. No woodcocks!



Turquoise Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis*, regularly seen at Mt Kitanglad.



Hombron's Kingfisher *Actenoides hombroni*, a calling male close to Del Monte Lodge, Mt Kitanglad.

March 24th

After nailing most of our targets yesterday, this day was devoted to catch up with birds only heard so far, spend some time eagle-watching and just enjoy the mountain birds. Before breakfast we tried for the woodcock without any success, Philippine and Great-eared Nightjar displayed. We worked our way upward slowly, after some serious play-back most of us had a decent view of a real skulker: the Long-tailed Bush Warbler! But that was nothing compared to the struggle to see White-browed Shortwing. We had one bird calling intensely just meters away showing as a jumping shadow in the dark after at least 30 minutes! It was clear skies and temperature rose. We spent two hours around lunchtime at the eagle watchpoint, some casual scanning in the warmth of the day gave us many Philippine Swiftlets, just a few the day before and also the same Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle as yesterday.

Then Tomas called it out: Eagle! A magnificent Philippine Eagle soared distantly across the valley slowly gaining height and after a few minutes it dropped north beyond the mountain ridge. And just when we thought the show was over, two more eagles were called out! This was most likely a pair. It was fantastic to see these creatures flying in formation just above tree-tops following the slope west and disappearing. After having our prolonged views at Mt Talomo these observations of soaring birds above mountain forest was a great complement. After the eagle show we still had a forest-dwelling kingfisher to pin down. We had heard a Hombron's Kingfisher calling distantly the first morning, but after that nothing. We tried at most of Carlitos and Brams spots along the path but it didn't pay off. Anders had another Mindanao Racket-tail, the rest of us just saw it taking off. Some Buzzing Flowerpeckers including one strange-looking Flowerpecker that we still have not fully figured out, probably some kind of juvenile or immature plumage, beak leans to Buzzing but colour-setting might point to Olive-capped, and strange whiteish marking in front of and slightly above the eyes. Closer to Del Monte we had splendid views of a perched Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, a stonker! There were some light showers before we gave Hombron's a last try. We walked a small track going just at the backside of Del Monte Lodge, close to a field, passing some bamboo before running down to a small stream. And here it was! A male and it finally showed off in spite interrupted by another small shower. Quite happy with the day we made another try for the woodcock, rain spoiled most of the evening. Obviously no woodcocks were roaming at this time of year. A Philippine Frogmouth was heard. After dinner and having went to bed, a Giant Scops Owl woke

some of us, also Carlito woke up and went out with a flashlight he returned soon and woke all of us. After a few nervous minutes we thought about giving up again since we didn't get a response, we went to the exact spot from where Carlito had seen the bird, and...wow... it was right there! We had smashing views until we left it and went back to bed.

March 25th

Not much to say about this long travelling day. After another early breakfast and another fruitless attempt predawn for the woodcock we packed our bags on horses and started the descent. A close-by pair of Buff-spotted Woodpeckers just next to the lodge gave nice views, and also some last views of Little Pied Flycatcher and Turquoise Flycatcher before reaching the more open areas below. It was sunny and hot today, the only noteworthy observation along the fields downhill was a Pied Triller.

From Malaybalay it was an exhausting drive first north to the eastern outskirts of Cagayan del Oro before turning east following the northern shoreline of Mindanao. There was as expected nothing to be seen along the way. We had late lunch at Jolly Bees in Butuan and after that drove the last hours south reaching Bislig and the famous Paper Country Inn just after sunset. A Philippine Nightjar called outside the window. We met legendary local guide Zardo for dinner and agreed to meet him and the jeepney at 03.45 tomorrow morning.



A beautiful longhorn beetle at road 4, PICOP, possibly *Glenea beatrix*, comments welcome!



Wattle Broadbill *Sarcophanops steerii*, one of PICOPs most sought-after birds, three birds seen at Quarry road. Photo: T Carlberg.

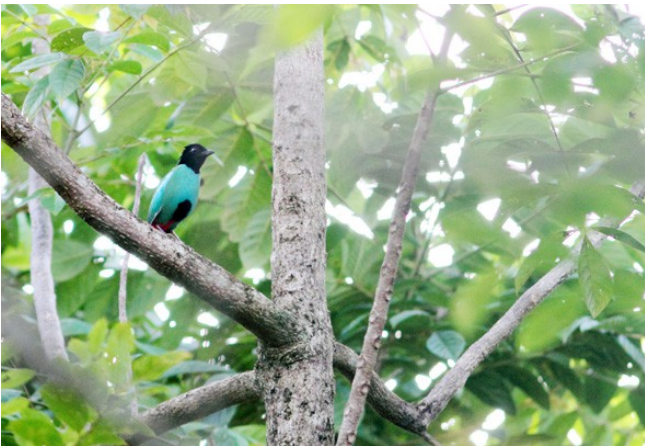
March 26th

As we had expected birding in former PICOP logging concession was a very ambivalent experience. Only two small pockets of forest worth some lengthy exploration remains. On our first morning we concentrated on the forest close to the former quarry. We left Bislig at 03.45 AM and drove for approximately 1h30min before reaching the quarry. We continued around 1 km and it was still dark. A Chocolate Boobook called distantly and never came close, on the other hand a pair of Mindanao Hawk-Owls responded and showed very briefly. Just as dawn broke there were quite a lot of bird-activity along this stretch of heavily degraded forest. White-bellied Woodpecker flew across the road and a few *Guaiaberos* bulleted past. An extremely deep reverberating call was picked up as a pigeon and fortunately we found the source, a Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon! Among some overhead swiftlets we also picked up a Philippine Spine-tailed Swift. We went back to the quarry and started walking down the track, called Quarry Road. Along the first parts ground was burnt but still we managed to pick up some good stuff, the only Philippine Leafbirds of the trip, calling Hooded and Red-bellied Pittas, Grey-throated Sunbird, Naked-faced Spiderhunter, Philippine Honey Buzzard were all added. Zardo showed us a Philippine Frogmouth at nest very close to the track at eye-level. When we reached the small area of more intact forest we had to struggle a lot to find any feeding flocks. A few Rufous Paradise Flycatchers were promising since they often lead the parties. We heard the distinct call of Yellowish Bulbul and saw a few of them. At a dead end side track we finally found a small party with just astonishing birds, more than well compensating for the lack of numbers. A radiant Mindanao Blue Fantail was first, then some flycatchers appeared, the first one only a regular Black-naped Monarch, but the second one had a slightly different shade of blue revealing a male Short-crested Monarch! Joy turned to almost panic when Sebbe called out a broadbill in the same flock, and soon we had fantastic views of a pair of Wattle Broadbills, both Zardo and Bram were most content since this usually is a very tricky bird to get but still very sought-after. Thrilled with the morning so far we continued to open areas where we happily added the two larger hornbills, many Writhed and a majestic pair of Rufous. By the time we were back at the car, morning had turned into hot mid-day, the surrounding

sounds of chainsaws roamed and the climate was sultry. After a lunch sandwich Anders managed to find a showy pair of Stripe-headed Rhabdornis, a really good bird at PICOP nowadays.

We now moved on to road 4, a formerly good area, now too degraded. A few hours mid-day didn't produce much, a couple of Philippine Falconets and Philippine Spine-tailed Swifts stood out. On the way to the next stop our jeepney got stuck in a mudhole, and it took us at least 40 minutes to get out. At a famous puddle close to road 1 we easily found the resident Silvery Kingfisher now of the southern race.

We reached Bislig Airstrip at 4.20PM only to find out two guys were motorbiking across the runway in lunatic speed without helmets doing crazy acrobatic manoeuvres, luckily the madness stopped soon and we could enjoy a fantastic evening birding session. Right away we flushed one of several heavy-looking Swinhoe's/Pintail Snipes, maybe pro the former. A few flocks of flying ducks revealed both Wandering Whistling Ducks and the hoped for endemic Philippine Ducks. Many Clamorous Reed Warblers and Middendorff's Grasshopper Warblers called although seeing any seemed impossible. Walking slowly along the bordering ditch was productive and we flushed many birds best being both White-browed Crake, Buff-banded Rail and Purple Swampphen. A distant male Pink-necked Green Pigeon was found in a tree. At the far end of the airstrip where the tarmac stops and dry dustroad starts there are some dry areas with little grass. Almost ridiculously, after walking just a few meters, a splendid male King Quail was flushed but soon dropped again, and found his mate, we could watch the pair tamely walking back and forth at close distance. Back to the airstrip Tomas heroically found a Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler perched openly on top of a straw and we had a long scope-view. Cinnamon Bittern and unexpectedly a female Watercock were also added. At last light two Grass Owls appeared distantly over the wetlands (resembling Short-eared Owls!) unfortunately going away most of the time. Very pleased with the evening we slowly strolled back to the jeepney when suddenly a Grass Owl flew across the airstrip extremely close and when we got the torch on it. It lit up and became the ghost we had dreamt of.



Hooded Pitta Pitta sordida, at a secondary (or rather tertiary!) patch, road 1, PICOP.



Stripe-headed Rhabdornis Rhabdornis mystacalis, unexpectedly a pair showed up mid-day at the Quarry.



Black-chinned Fruit Dove Ptilinopus leclancheri, next to the Hooded Pitta above! Road 1, PICOP.



Rufous Hornbill Buceros hydrocorax, doomed as PICOP shrinks by the minute. Here at the Quarry.

March 27th

Today Zardo unfortunately had to guide some Chinese bird photographers at the Quarry so one of his co-guides joined us instead. Departure time was set at 03.30, and it was a grueling two hour drive mostly uphill to reach road 42 at dawn. Road 42 is the largest area of uncleared forest remaining. It is located along a few ridges, and the mere topography prevent any big-scale machines from entering the area. It was a cloudy day and moist was thick in the air. Just as we jumped out of the car a warbling song penetrated through. It was a Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher which gave good views and let us make some fine recordings, this race *samarensis* was song-wise a bit different from the ssp *boholensis* at Rajah Sikatuna. It was a pretty sight as the mist partly covered the opposite forested hillside. Some of us were lucky enough to have an Azure-breasted Pitta jumping the trail ahead, it disappeared quickly though. Overcast and showers on and off hampered bird activity for most of the morning. There was a Philippine Nightjar on ground which allowed close looks. And we only found one good feeding flock with another Short-crested Monarch, but only Bram scored Rusty-crowned Babbler. Violet Cuckoo and Scarlet Minivet were new birds. During a particular heavy shower I took shelter beneath a muddy shelf next to the track, while others used their umbrellas. I thought I found a good spot and was able to repack some stuff in my bag without getting soaked, when suddenly a large black wasp flew close to me, I waved it away quickly as it was close to my head, and also since yesterday at road 4 a similar wasp had bitten Sebbe on his left shoulder, leaving aching pain. One minute hard drizzle went by, when I from nowhere like a bolt of lightning felt a horribel stroke on my head, I completely panicked, screamed in pain as I furiously waved above my head again to get away the murder-wasp the clearly had in mind to kill me. Only to get bitten four times on my arms leaving small bleeding aching wounds. Appalled I ran out on the track, the other guys thought I had been snake bitten given the screaming. For the next 4 hours I had a tremendous pulsating headache, my worst rainforest experience so far.

Luck changed as on our way back to the car for lunch Bram at last heard a Celestial Monarch calling, it responded well and we all got great views of this glowing gem. Where will people see Celestial Monarch after PICOP is gone? A return walk later in the day was extremely quiet. Best sighting was a responsive Black-headed Tailorbird close to the car. By 2 PM we left road 42. On the way back to Bislig we tried one more stop where Bram had seen a Hooded Pitta on his previous tour. This was road 1, trees were at best secondary and habitat didn't look too promising, but after playback a Hooded Pitta responded immediately and the colourful bird performed for a long time. While trying to get a decent shot Tomas noticed a dove landing in a nearby small tree, and to our big joy it was a beautiful male Black-chinned Fruit Dove! A bird we had heard every other day but hadn't got a sniff off before. A great way to end the day.

March 28th

When I woke up the next day I got a bit worried, my left hand was warm, swollen and red... Not good, clearly an infection. But since I knew we were flying to Manila this afternoon I thought I could get my hands on some antibiotics there. We started dead early as usual with a few target-birds left to see. Our goal was to try for Chocolate Boobok again at the quarry, walk the quarry road then leave early at latest 08.15 to catch our mid-day flight from Butuan to Manila. After a wrong turn (the driver did not know that part of the road was closed) we ended up at a fallen bridge. We had to turn back, we lost at least 40 minutes and thereby any chance for owling. Another hot day, even early in the morning it was pretty sweaty. We walked the quarry road but found activity much lower than on our last visit. Not a single feeding flock was encountered. Good views of Guaiabero was nice since we only had fly-bys previously. It was hard to get anything new, both Azure-breasted and Red-bellied Pittas called but never showed. On the way back some of us were lucky enough to see a pair of Blue-crowned Racket-tails flying, another bird called closer but never showed. As we packed the car for our long journey a female-type cuckooshrike was seen distantly unclear if it was a Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike or a Cicadabird...

There was a long sauna-like drive to Butuan since the minivans AC was out of order. By now all my left underarm was swollen and warm and there was a red line going along the lymph veins up to my armpit. So I was rather thankful when I finally was able to buy some amoxicillin at a pharmacy in Manila the same evening. We had a tasty last dinner to celebrate all the good stuff, Arne showed up again to hear about our trip and also told us the story of a Danish birder who got stung by a bee in the Sulus many years ago, he died three days later... We said good night to Arne and had a comfortable nights sleep at Hotel Vieve.

March 29th

Last morning! We drove north across Manila into Quezon City where there is an unlikely spot to see one of Luzons more elusive endemics. A recreational park next to the huge water reservoir that supplies the city with fresh water. Its called La Mesa Eco Park and have been popular among visiting birder eager to see Ashy Thrush. A small patch of forest just below the large dam hold a healthy population and it was like stealing candy from a child, within minutes an almost tame Ashy Thrush jumped the path. At least 4 birds performed, a few

more targets was nailed down: Grey-backed Tailorbird was good, Indigo-banded Kingfisher proved more difficult, as it called but only darted past us. We had almost given up on the pitta, apparently one individual had been fed with worms from photographers until becoming really fat. A last try gave close views of a slow-moving but unresponsive bird. At 8.45 AM we left the park dropping off Bram close to his home in Quezon before heading to the airport for our international flight.



Ashy Thrush *Geokichla cinerea*, "Billy" - the nice one!
At the unlikely La Mesa Eco Park.



Red-bellied Pitta *Erythropitta erythrogaster*, a worthy
ending of our tour at La Mesa Eco Park.

List of birds: The Philippines, March 16th - 29th 2014

Compiled by Tomas Carlberg and Måns Grundsten. Following IOC World Bird List 4.2 (April 2014) (www.worldbirdnames.org). In total: 214 species, including 7 heard onlys (31 species on the IUCN Red List, 106 endemics and another 7 near-endemics). Subspecies notations are foremost literature-based.

- 1. King Quail** *Coturnix chinensis lineata*
Excellent views of a pair at the far end of the Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 2. Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus*
A female seen and male heard at Rajah Sikatuna 19.3. Disputable origin.
- 3. Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata arcuata*
4 e.r. Rajah Sikatuna 17.3, and 10 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 4. Philippine Duck** *Anas luzonica* **VU Endemic to Philippines**
25 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 5. Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis*
1 at a pond at the golf course at Angono Petroglyphs 16.3, 1 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 6. Cinnamon Bittern** *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
3 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 7. Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*
Flying Night Herons at Bislig Airstrip (5) 26.3 and Manila (10) 28.3 were assumed to be this species.
- 8. Striated Heron** *Butorides striatus javanica*
1 at a pond at the golf course at Angono Petroglyphs 16.3, 2 Tagbilaran harbor, Bohol 19.3.
- 9. Eastern Cattle Egret** *Bubulcus coromandus*
Common and widespread.
- 10. Purple Heron** *Ardea purpurea manilensis*
4 Bislig Airstrip 26.3, 1 N Bislig 27.3.
- 11. Intermediate Egret** *Egretta intermedia intermedia*
2 e.r. Bilar 17.3, 1 e.r. Corella 19.3, 2 Bislig Airstrip 26.3, 2 e.r. Butuan 28.3.
- 12. Little Egret** *Egretta garzetta garzetta*
Widespread.
- 13. Crested Honey Buzzard** *Pernis ptilorhynchus philippensis*
1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 3 Mt Kitanglad 23.3.
- 14. Philippine Honey Buzzard** *Pernis steerei steerei* **Endemic to Philippines**
1 or 2 seen daily PICOP 26-28.3.
- 15. Philippine Serpent Eagle** *Spilornis holospilus* **Endemic to Philippines**
1 Logerita trail, Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 Tabunan 20.3, 1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1 Mt Kitanglad 23.3, and

1+1+2 PICOP 26-28.3.

16. Philippine Eagle *Pithechophaga jefferyi* CR Endemic to Philippines

2 adults and 1 grown juvenile at nest at Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1+2 soaring at Mt Kitanglad 24.3.

17. Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus pinskeri* VU Endemic to Philippines

1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 2 adult Mt Kitanglad 23.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.

18. Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus*

1 immature Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3. Presumed same bird.

19. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus extimus*

1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3.

20. Besra *Accipiter virgatus quagga*

1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1 perched at The Quarry, PICOP 28.3.

21. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus intermedius*

Singles seen throughout.

22. Philippine Falconet *Microhierax erythrogenys meridionalis* Endemic to Philippines

1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 3 road 4, PICOP 26.3, 4 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

23. Slaty-legged Crane *Rallina eurizonoides eurizonoides*

1 heard only at Tabunan forest 20.3.

24. Barred Rail *Gallirallus torquatus torquatus*

2 e.r. Bilar 17.3, 1 Tabunan 20.3, heard at Talomo 22.3 and La Mesa 29.3.

25. Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis philippensis*

Flight-views of one flogged individual at Bislig Airstrip 26.3.

26. Plain Bush-hen *Amaurornis olivacea* Endemic to Philippines

1 heard only during evening hike up to Del Monte Lodge, Mt Kitanglad from Malaybalay 22.3.

27. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

1 seen at a pond at the golf course at Angono Petroglyphs 16.3.

28. White-browed Crane *Porzana cinerea*

1 seen and 2 heard at Bislig Airstrip 26.3.

29. Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*

1 female-type Bislig Airstrip 26.3.

30. Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio pulverulentus*

2 seen Bislig Airstrip 26.3. (NOTE: A potential endemic split: Philippine Swamphen *Porphyrio pulverulentus*)

31. Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus orientalis*

2 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.

32. Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius dubius*

1 e.r. Bilar 17.3, 1 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.

33. Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus mongolus/stegmanni*

3 e.r. Bilar in roadside pool 17.3.

Snipe sp. *Gallinago stenura/megala*

10 Bislig Airstrip 26.3, most were assumed to be Swinhoe's based on size and call, but better left unidentified.

34. Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

30 e.r. Bilar 17.3, 80 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.

35. Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

10 e.r. Bilar 17.3, 2 Tagbilaran harbor 19.3.

36. Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Common in suitable habitat, e.g. 50 between Bohol and Cebu 19.3 and 15 Manila 29.3.

37. Rock Dove *Columba livia*

Common...

38. Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*

3 e.r. to Malaybalay 22.3.

39. Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*

Few seen roadside on 5 days.

40. Philippine Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia tenuirostris tenuirostris* Near-endemic

2 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 2 daily at Talomo, Mt Apo 21-22.3 and 4 Mt Kitanglad 23.3.

41. Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Brief views of totally 10 individuals at Angono Petroglyphs, Talomo, Mt Apo; PICOP and La Mesa Eco Park.

42. Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

Few seen in Tagbilaran, Davao and Manila.

43. White-eared Brown Dove *Phapitreron leucotis* Endemic to Philippines

Up to 3 seen and 10 heard in Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 1 seen and 3 heard Tabunan 20.3, 2 seen and 1 heard

- Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3, 1-2 daily PICOP 26-28.3, and 1 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3. (ssp *brevirostris* on Bohol and Mindanao, ssp *nigrorum* on Cebu, ssp *leucotis* on Luzon)
- 44. Amethyst Brown Dove** *Phapitreron amethystinus* Endemic to Philippines
1 seen and 3 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, 1 seen Mt Kitanglad 23.3, 1 seen and 2 heard PICOP 26-27.3.
- 45. Pink-necked Green Pigeon** *Treron vernans*
1 male Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 46. Philippine Green Pigeon** *Treron axillaris canescens* Endemic to Philippines
3+6 seen and 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 5 road 42, PICOP 27.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 28.3.
- 47. Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus occipitalis* Endemic to Philippines
1 seen and 3 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, 2 seen and max 2 heard Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3. (ssp *occipitalis* on Bohol, ssp *incognitus* on Mindanao)
- 48. Black-chinned Fruit Dove** *Ptilinopus leclancheri leclancheri* Near-endemic
Max 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 1 heard Corella 19.3, 1 heard Tabunan 20.3, 1 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 male seen road 1, PICOP 27.3.
- 49. Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula poliocephala* NT Endemic to Philippines
2 seen The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 50. Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea aenea*
1 seen flying and max 2 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3.
- 51. Philippine Hanging Parrot** *Loriculus philippensis* Endemic to Philippines
1 seen daily Rajah Sikatuna 18-19.3, 2 Tabunan 20.3, max 5 Mt Kitanglad 23-25.1 and 1 The Quarry, PICOP 28.3. (ssp *worcesteri* on Bohol, ssp *chrysonotus* on Cebu (however Cebu birds might have originated from escaped birds of other subspecies), ssp *apicalis* on Mindanao)
- 52. Mindanao Racket-tail** NT *Prioniturus waterstradti malindangensis* Endemic to Mindanao
2+1 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 53. Blue-crowned Racket-tail** *Prioniturus discurus discurus* Endemic to Philippines
2 The Quarry, PICOP 28.3.
- 54. Guaiabero** *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus mindanensis* Endemic to Philippines
Max 5 The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3.
- 55. Black-faced Coucal** *Centropus melanops* Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao
Max 3 seen and 3 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 1 seen and 2 heard PICOP 26-28.3.
- 56. Philippine Coucal** *Centropus viridis viridis* Endemic to Philippines
Seen well and widespread: 2 Angono Petroglyphs, up to 5 daily Rajah Sikatuna, 1 seen 2 heard Talomo, Mt Apo, 1-2 seen and heard Mt Kitanglad and 1 seen daily PICOP.
- 57. Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis philippensis*
1 heard only e.r. Del Monte Lodge 23.3.
- 58. Scale-feathered Malkoha** *Dasylophus cumingi* Endemic to Luzon
1 heard only e.r. Angono Petroglyphs (at a place called "Falcon Crest") 16.3.
- 59. Asian Koel** *Eudynamys scolopaceus mindanensis*
2-3 heard only at Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3 and up to 3 heard only PICOP 26-28.3.
- 60. Violet Cuckoo** *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus amethystinus*
1 road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 61. Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*
Max 2 PICOP 26-28.3.
- 62. Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sepulcralis sepulcralis*
2 seen and 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 seen 2 heard Tabunan 20.3, max 1 seen and 5 heard Mt Kitanglad 22-24.3.
- 63. Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus velutinus velutinus* Endemic to Philippines
2 seen and 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 1 heard Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 2 seen and 2 heard daily PICOP.
- 64. Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx pectoralis pectoralis* Endemic to Philippines
1 seen Simply Butterflies 17.3, 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18-19.3, 1 heard Tabunan 20.3, 2 heard Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3
- Cuckoo sp** *Cuculus saturates/optatus*
1 Oriental/Himalayan Cuckoo seen flying Loboc watershed area, Bohol 19.3.
- 65. Eastern Grass Owl** *Tyto longimembris amauronota*
3 seen at dusk at Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 66. Giant Scops Owl** *Otus gurneyi* VU Endemic to Mindanao
1 seen one night, heard other nights at Del Monte Lodge, Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3.
- 67. Everett's Scops Owl** *Otus everetti* Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao
1 Rajah Sikatuna at two occasions 17-18.3.

- 68. Philippine Eagle-Owl** *Bubo philippensis philippensis* **VU Endemic to Philippines**
1 adult Angono Petroglyphs 16.3.
- 69. Chocolate Boobok** *Ninox randi* **Near-endemic**
1 heard only at The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 70. Luzon Hawk-Owl** *Ninox philippensis centralis* **Endemic to Philippines**
Max 2 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3.
- 71. Mindanao Hawk-Owl** *Ninox spilocephala* **Endemic to Mindanao**
1 seen and another heard at dawn, The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 72. Cebu Hawk-Owl** *Ninox rumseyi* **Endemic to Cebu**
A pair at dawn at Tabunan 20.3.
- 73. Philippine Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus septimus septimus* **Endemic to Philippines**
1 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17.3, 1 male at nest 5 km from Simply Butterflies 18.3, 1 female at nest at Corella Tarsier Conservation Center, Bohol 19.3, 1 heard Mt Kitanglad 22 & 24.3, and 1 at nest at The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 74. Great Eared Nightjar** *Lyncornis macrotis macrotis*
Max 3 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, max 2 Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3, 1 seen and 1 heard at The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 75. Philippine Nightjar** *Caprimulgus manillensis* **Endemic to Philippines**
2 flushed roadside e.r. Angono Petroglyphs ("Falcon Crest") 16.3, 2 seen and 2 heard Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3, 1 heard Bislig 25.3, 2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 bird on nest at road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 76. Whiskered Treeswift** *Hemiprocne comata major*
Max 2 Rajah Sikatuna 18-19.3, max 2 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 77. Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*
Common and widespread, 20+ noted on many days. (ssp *marginata* on Bohol and Cebu, ssp *bagobo* on Mindanao)
- 78. Pygmy Swiftlet** *Collocalia troglodytes* **Endemic to Philippines**
Max 15 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 20+ at Tabunan 20.3, 20+ PICOP 26-28.3.
- 79. Philippine Swiftlet** *Aerodramus mearnsi* **Endemic to Philippines**
Max 20+ Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 80. Ameline Swiftlet** *Aerodramus amelis* **Endemic to Philippines**
Max 10 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 10+ Davao 21.3, 10 e.r. Bislig 25.3, 20-50 PICOP 26-28.3.
- 81. Philippine Spine-tailed Swift** *Mearnsia picina* **NT Endemic to Philippines**
5 road 4, PICOP 26.3, 2 road 42, PICOP 27.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 28.3.
- 82. Purple Needletail** *Hirundapus celebensis*
1+2 Tabunan 20.3, 2 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 2 Mt Kitanglad 23.3.
- 83. Philippine Trogon** *Harpactes ardens* **Endemic to Philippines**
2 pairs and 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 1 heard Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 3-4 PICOP 26-28.3. (ssp *linae* on Bohol, ssp *ardens* on Mindanao)
- 84. Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis orientalis*
1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, MG only.
- 85. Hombron's Kingfisher** *Actenoides hombroni* **VU Endemic to Mindanao**
1 male close to Del Monte Lodge, Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 86. White-throated Kingfisher** *Halcyon smyrnensis gularis*
1 at Angono Petroglyphs 16.3, 1 at Mt Kitanglad 23.3, 1+1 at PICOP 26-28.3. (NOTE: endemic split in Clements as Brown-breasted Kingfisher *Halcyon gularis*)
- 87. Winchell's Kingfisher** *Todiramphus winchelli* **VU Endemic to Visayas, Mindanao and Sulu**
1 pair at the entrance road, Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26.3. (ssp *nigrorum* on Bohol, ssp *mindanensis* on Mindanao)
- 88. Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris collaris*
1 Angono 16.3, 2 e.r. Bilar 17.3, 4-5 Talomo, Mt Apo 21-22.3, 2 e.r. Butuan 28.3, 3 around Manila 29.3.
- 89. Philippine Dwarf Kingfisher** *Ceyx melanurus mindanensis* **VU Endemic to Philippines**
1 darted past the track calling glimpsed once at The Quarry, PICOP at the same spot on two days 26 & 28.3.
- 90. Indigo-banded Kingfisher** *Ceyx cyanopectus cyanopectus* **Endemic to Luzon and Visayas**
1 glimpsed and heard at La Mesa Eco Park 29.3
- 91. Silvery Kingfisher** *Ceyx argentatus* **VU Endemic to Philippines**
1 pair at a small creek e.r. Rajah Sikatuna from Bilar (Northern Silvery Kingfisher *flumenicolus*) 17.3, 1 at a roadside puddle, road 4, PICOP (Southern Silvery Kingfisher *argentatus*) 26.3. (NOTE: Proposed split, yet to be accepted by IOC.)
- 92. Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus philippinus*
1 Loboc watershed area, Bohol 19.3, 4 Tagbilaran harbor 19.3.

- 93. Rufous Hornbill** *Buceros hydrocorax mindanensis* **NT Endemic to Philippines**
3 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 seen and another 3 heard road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 94. Mindanao Hornbill** *Penelopides affinis* **Endemic to Mindanao**
1 male above Eden Resort 21.3, 8 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1 female Mt Kitanglad 23.3, max 5 PICOP 26-28.3.
- 95. Samar Hornbill** *Penelopides samarensis* **Endemic to eastern Visayas**
1 seen in flight and 4 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 3 seen Loboc watershed area 19.3
- 96. Writhed Hornbill** *Aceros leucocephalus* **NT Endemic to Mindanao**
6 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 4 road 4, PICOP 26.3.
- 97. Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*
1 seen and 1 heard Tabunan 20.3, 4 above Eden Resort 21.3, 1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1-2 PICOP 26-28.3.
(red-faced ssp *cebuensis* on Cebu, ssp *mindanensis* on Mindanao)
- 98. Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos maculatus* **Endemic to Philippines**
2 e.r. Angono 16.3, 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 3 Tabunan 20.3, 2 above Eden Resort 21.3, max 2 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3, 3 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3. (ssp *validirostris* on Luzon, ssp *leytensis* on Bohol, ssp *maculatus* on Cebu, and ssp *fulvifasciatus* on Mindanao)
- 99. White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis*
2 males seen and 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3. (ssp *pectoralis* on Bohol, ssp *multilunatus* on Mindanao)
- 100. Buff-spotted Flameback** *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* **Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao**
1 Logerita trail, Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 2+2 Mt Kitanglad 23-25.3. (crimson-backed ssp *rufopunctatus* on Bohol and golden-backed ssp *montanus* on Mindanao)
- 101. Wattled Broadbill** *Sarcophanops steerii* **VU Endemic to Mindanao**
3 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 102. Visayan Broadbill** *Sarcophanops samarensis* **VU Endemic to eastern Visayas**
A family party including 5 birds at Rajah Sikatuna 19.3.
- 103. Red-bellied Pitta** *Erythropitta erythrogaster erythrogaster*
2 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 heard The Quarry, PICOP 28.3, 1 seen La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.
- 104. Hooded Pitta** *Pitta sordida sordida*
1 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 seen road 4, PICOP 27.3.
- 105. Azure-breasted Pitta** *Pitta steerii* **VU Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao**
1 seen Rajah Sikatuna 17.3, 1 glimpsed road 42, PICOP 27.3, 1 heard The Quarry 28.3. (ssp *coelestis* on Bohol, ssp *steerii* on Mindanao)
- 106. Golden-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone sulphurea simplex*
6 e.r. Angono 16.3, 10+ La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.
- 107. White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus leucorhynchus*
Widespread and fairly common, e.g. 50 Davao area.
- 108. Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina striata boholensis*
2 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3.
- Cuckooshrike sp** *Coracina sp*
1 distant bird at The Quarry 28.3 was either a Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike or a Black-bibbed Cicadabird.
- 109. McGregor's Cuckooshrike** *Coracina mcgregori* **NT Endemic to Mindanao**
Max 5 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 110. Pied Triller** *Lalage nigra nigra*
5 Tabunan 20.3, 1 when descending from Del Monte Lodge, Mt Kitanglad 25.3.
- 111. Scarlet Minivet** *Pericrocotus speciosus gonzalesi*
1 female road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 112. White-vented Whistler** *Pachycephala homeyeri major* **Near-endemic**
1 seen and 3 heard Tabunan 20.3.
- 113. Yellow-bellied Whistler** *Pachycephala philippinensis* **Endemic to Philippines**
1-2 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, max 2 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3, and 2 heard at The Quarry, PICOP 26.3. (ssp *boholensis* on Bohol, ssp *apoensis* on Mindanao)
- 114. Brown Shrike** *Lanius cristatus lucionensis*
Widespread and common; seen on Luzon, Bohol, Cebu and Mindanao.
- 115. Long-tailed Shrike** *Lanius schach nasutus*
2 Angono 16.3, 3 Talomo, Mt Apo 21.3, 1-3 daily at Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3.
- 116. Philippine Oriole** *Oriolus steerii samarensis* **Endemic to Philippines**
2 seen well and 5 heard at Rajah Sikatuna 18.3 and 1 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3, 1 heard road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 117. Black-naped Oriole** *Oriolus chinensis chinensis*

6 Angono 16.3, 1 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, max 3 The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3, 1 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.

118. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Max 10 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 1 above Eden Resort 20.3, max 5 PICOP 26-28.3. (ssp *samarensis* on Bohol, ssp *striatus* on Mindanao)

119. Balicassiao *Dicrurus balicassius mirabilis* Endemic to Philippines

2 white-bellied birds at Tabunan 20.3.

120. Mindanao Blue Fantail *Rhipidura superciliaris apo* Endemic to Mindanao

1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

121. Visayan Blue Fantail *Rhipidura samarensis* Endemic to eastern Visayas

3 seen and 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18.3.

122. Philippine Pied Fantail *Rhipidura nigritorquis* Endemic to Philippines

4 Tabunan 20.3, 5 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.

123. Black-and-cinnamon Fantail *Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea hutchinsoni* Endemic to Mindanao

Max 8 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

124. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea azurea*

2+5 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, 2 Tabunan 20.3, 1 at Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 4 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

125. Short-crested Monarch *Hypothymis helenae agusanae* NT Endemic to Philippines

1 male The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 1 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

126. Celestial Monarch *Hypothymis coelestis coelestis* VU Endemic to Philippines

1 male road 42, PICOP 27.3.

127. Rufous Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone cinnamomea cinnamomea* Near-endemic

3 seen The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 3 heard road 42, PICOP 27.3.

128. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos philippinus*

Widespread, up to 5 seen daily on all visited islands.

129. Elegant Tit *Pardaliparus elegans* Endemic to Philippines

3 Angono Petroglyphs 16.3, 3 Tabunan 20.3, 1 above Eden resort 21.3, max 15 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3. (ssp *elegans* on EC and S Luzon, ssp *visayanus* on Cebu, and ssp *mindanensis* on Mindanao)

130. Yellow-wattled Bulbul *Pycnonotus urostictus* Endemic to Philippines

1 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, max 5 The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3, 10 road 42, PICOP 27.3. (ssp *atricaudatus* on Bohol, ssp *philippensis* on Mindanao)

131. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Up to 20+ seen on 10 days. (ssp *goiavier* on Luzon, ssp *samarensis* on Bohol and Cebu, and ssp *suluensis* on Mindanao)

132. Philippine Bulbul *Hypsipetes philippinus* Endemic to Philippines

Common and widespread; Noted daily and up to 20+ at all visited places (except La Mesa Eco Park). (ssp *philippinus* on Luzon, ssp *saturator* on Bohol, Cebu and Mindanao)

133. Streak-breasted Bulbul *Hypsipetes siquijorensis monticola* EN Endemic to Romblon, Siquijor and Cebu

5 Tabunan 20.3. (NOTE: Proposed split Cebu Bulbul *Hypsipetes monticola*)

134. Yellowish Bulbul *Hypsipetes everetti everetti* Endemic to eastern Visayas, Mindanao and Sulu

Max 2 The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3, 5 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

135. Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

Common and widespread, seen on Luzon, Bohol, and Mindanao.

136. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica javanica*

Fairly common around Manila and roadside throughout.

137. Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata striolata*

2 Tabunan 20.3.

138. Rufous-headed Tailorbird *Phyllergates heterolaemus* Endemic to Mindanao

Max 5 seen and 3 heard Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

139. Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

2 Tabunan 20.3.

140. Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus examinandus*

1 seen and heard at Angono Petroglyphs 16.3.

141. Philippine Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus olivaceus* Endemic to Visayas, Mindanao and Sulu

5 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 4 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

142. Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus cebuensis cebuensis* Endemic to Luzon, Negros and Cebu

1 Tabunan 20.3.

143. Negros Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus nigrorum flavostriatus* Endemic to Philippines

Up to 5 daily at Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

- 144. Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus harterti*
5 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 145. Long-tailed Bush Warbler** *Locustella caudata unicolor* Endemic to Luzon and Mindanao
1 seen and up to 10 heard Mt Kitanglad 23-25.3.
- 146. Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** *Locustella ochotensis*
1 seen and 5-6 heard Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 147. Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris forbesi*
1 above Eden resort 21.3, max 4 Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3, 5 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 148. Tawny Grassbird** *Megalurus timoriensis*
3 Angono 16.3, 5 Tabunan 20.3, 4 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, max 6 Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3, 1 Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
(ssp *tweeddalei* on Luzon, ssp *alopez* on Cebu, and ssp *crex* on Mindanao)
- 149. Zitting Cisticola** *Cisticola juncidis tinnabulans*
1 heard only at Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 150. Rufous-fronted Tailorbird** *Orthotomus frontalis frontalis* Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao
Max 3 seen max 5 heard Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 3 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 2 heard road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 151. Grey-backed Tailorbird** *Orthotomus derbianus derbianus* Endemic to Luzon
1 heard e.r. Angono 16.3, 1 seen and 2 heard La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.
- 152. Black-headed Tailorbird** *Orthotomus nigriceps* Endemic to eastern Mindanao
Max 4 heard The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3, 1 seen and 3 heard road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 153. Yellow-breasted Tailorbird** *Orthotomus samarensis* NT Endemic to eastern Visayas
5 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 seen and 4 heard Loboc watershed area 19.3.
- 154. Brown Tit-Babbler** *Macronus striaticeps mindanensis* Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao
4+1 Rajah Sikatuna 18-19.3, max 3 heard Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3, 1 The Quarry 26.3, 5 road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 155. Striated Wren-Babbler** *Ptilocichla mindanensis* Endemic to eastern Visayas and Mindanao
1 seen and 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 1 heard road 42, PICOP 27.3. (ssp *fortichi* on Bohol, ssp *mindanensis* on Mindanao)
- 156. Black-crowned Babbler** *Sterrhoptilus nigrocapitatus boholensis* Endemic to S Luzon & eastern Visayas
1+2 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3.
- 157. Rusty-crowned Babbler** *Sterrhoptilus capitalis euroaustralis* Endemic to Mindanao
1 road 42, PICOP 27.3, BD only.
- 158. Mindanao White-eye** *Lophozosterops goodfellowi goodfellowi* Endemic to Mindanao
5+3 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 159. Lowland White-eye** *Zosterops meyeri meyeri* Near-endemic
2 e.r. Angono 16.3, 20+ La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.
- 160. Everett's White-eye** *Zosterops everetti*
2 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 5 Tabunan 20.3, 15 above Eden resort 21.3, 2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 2 road 42, PICOP 27.3. (ssp *boholensis* on Bohol, ssp *everetti* on Cebu, and ssp *basilanicus* on Mindanao)
- 161. Mountain White-eye** *Zosterops montanus vulcani*
Up to 80 daily at Mt Kitanglad 22-25.3.
- 162. Philippine Fairy-bluebird** *Irena cyanogastra ellae* NT Endemic to Philippines
2 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3. Not a sniff at PICOP...
- 163. Sulphur-billed Nuthatch** *Sitta oenochlamys apo* Endemic to Philippines
Max 8 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 164. Asian Glossy Starling** *Aplonis panayensis panayensis*
Common throughout.
- 165. Short-tailed Starling** *Aplonis minor todayensis*
Max 5 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 166. Apo Myna** *Basilornis mirandus* NT Endemic to Mindanao
6 above 1600 masl Mt Kitanglad 23.3.
- 167. Coletto** *Sarcops calvus melanonotus* Near-endemic
Max 4 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 3 above Eden resort 21.3, 2+8+6 PICOP 26-28.3.
- 168. Crested Myna** *Acridotheres cristatellus*
1 Manila 16.3. Introduced.
- 169. Chestnut-cheeked Starling** *Agropsar philippensis*
Three flocks with totally 50 flew past at Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3.
- 170. Stripe-headed Rhabdornis** *Rhabdornis mystacalis minor* Endemic to Philippines
2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.
- 171. Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis** *Rhabdornis inornatus alaris* Endemic to Philippines

2 above Eden resort 21.3, 1+4 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

172. Ashy Thrush *Geokichla cinerea* VU Endemic to Luzon and Mindoro

4 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.

173. Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus katanglad*

1 pair Mt Kitanglad 23.3.

174. Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

15 above Eden resort 21.3, up to 125+ daily at Mt Kitanglad 22-24.3.

175. Bagobo Babbler *Leonardina woodi* Endemic to Mindanao

1 at 1.800 masl Mt Kitanglad 23.3. (NOTE: According to new research this species may belong to the family Muscicapidae(!))

176. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana mindanensis*

1 heard Eden resort 21.3, 1 seen and 10 heard Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

177. Philippine Magpie-Robin *Copsychus mindanensis* Endemic to Philippines

3 Simply Butterflies, Bilar 17-18.3, 4 Tabunan 20.3, 2 road 4, PICOP 26.3, 1 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.

178. Black Shama *Copsychus cebuensis* EN Endemic to Cebu

2 males Tabunan 20.3.

179. Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias ruficauda*

1+2 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, 1 road 42, PICOP 27.3. (ssp *boholensis* on Bohol, and ssp *samarensis* at PICOP)

180. Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*

3 above Eden resort 21.3, 1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, max 2 Mt Kitanglad 22-24.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 26 & 28.3.

181. Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*

1 female Mt Kitanglad 23.3.

182. Cryptic Flycatcher *Ficedula crypta* Endemic to Mindanao

1 Eden resort 21.3.

183. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni westermanni*

1 male above Eden resort 21.3, max 5 Mt Kitanglad 23-26.3.

184. Turquoise Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis nigriloris*

5 above Eden resort 21.3, max 5 Mt Kitanglad 23-25.3.

185. Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*

2 Tabunan 20.3, 2 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3. (ssp *philippinensis* on Cebu, and ssp *blythi* on Luzon)

186. Philippine Leafbird *Chloropsis flavipennis* VU Endemic to Mindanao, Leyte and Cebu

2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.

187. Olive-backed Flowerpecker *Prionochilus olivaceus* Endemic to Philippines

1+1 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3. (ssp *samarensis* on Bohol, and ssp *olivaceus* on Mindanao)

188. Whiskered Flowerpecker *Dicaeum proprium* NT Endemic to Mindanao

1 above Eden resort 21.3.

189. Olive-capped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nigrilore nigrilore* Endemic to Mindanao

Max 7 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

190. Bicolored Flowerpecker *Dicaeum bicolor bicolor* Endemic to Philippines

3 at Loboc watershed area 19.3, 2 Mt Kitanglad 24.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.

191. Red-keeled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum australe australe* Endemic to Philippines

Widespread but not common. 3-4 seen daily Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 4 Tabunan 20.3, 1 Eden resort 21.3, 2 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 1-4 daily PICOP 26-28.3.

192. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma cinereigulare*

1 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 3 Loboc watershed area 19.3, 4 Eden resort 21.3, 4 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 4 road 42, PICOP 27.3.

193. Buzzing Flowerpecker *Dicaeum hypoleucum pontifex* Endemic to Philippines

Max 5 Mt Kitanglad 23-25.3, 2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.

194. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus apo*

Max 2 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.

195. Grey-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes griseigularis griseigularis* Endemic to Philippines

1-3 daily PICOP 26-28.3.

196. Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata trochilus* Endemic to Philippines

Max 4 Rajah Sikatuna 17-18.3, 8 Loboc watershed area 19.3, 5 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3.

197. Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis jugularis*

2 Angono 16.3, 2-6 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 6 Tabunan 20.3, 1 e.r. Malaybalay 25.3, 2 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 3 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.

- 198. Grey-hooded Sunbird** *Aethopyga primigenia primigenia* NT Endemic to Mindanao
Max 4 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 199. Apo Sunbird** *Aethopyga boltoni boltoni* NT Endemic to Mindanao
2 at 1800 masl Mt Kitanglad 23.3.
- 200. Metallic-winged Sunbird** *Aethopyga pulcherrima* Endemic to Mindanao, Leyte and Samar
3 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 4 road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 201. Bohol Sunbird** *Aethopyga decorosa* Endemic to Bohol
3 Loboc watershed area 19.3.
- 202. Handsome Sunbird** *Aethopyga bella bella* Endemic to Philippines
2 Rajah Sikatuna 18.3, 2 Loboc watershed area 19.3, 1 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, 2 road 42, PICOP 27.3.
(NOTE: Handsome Sunbird is not listed from Bohol in Kennedy *et al*)
- 203. Magnificent Sunbird** *Aethopyga magnifica* Endemic to Tablas, Panay, Negros and Cebu
3 Tabunan 20.3.
- 204. Naked-faced Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera clarae clarae* Endemic to Philippines
1 The Quarry, PICOP 26.3, 2 road 42, PICOP 27.3.
- 205. Cinnamon Ibon** *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus* Endemic to Mindanao
Max 15 Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3. (NOTE: According to new research this is a sparrow(!))
- 206. Eurasian Tree Sparrow** *Passer montanus malaccensis*
Common and widespread.
- 207. Red-eared Parrotfinch** *Erythrura coloria* NT Endemic to Mindanao
2 Mt Kitanglad 23.3.
- 208. Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata cabanisi*
6 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3.
- 209. White-bellied Munia** *Lonchura leucogastra manueli*
2 Rajah Sikatuna 17.3, 1 Tabunan 20.3, 5 Mt Kitanglad 24.3, 1 The Quarry, PICOP 28.3.
- 210. Chestnut Munia** *Lonchura atricapilla jagori*
Max 6 Rajah Sikatuna 17-19.3, 4 Tabunan 20.3, 1 above Eden resort 21.3, 2 Talomo, E Mt Apo 22.3, max 7 Mt Kitanglad 23-25.3, 20+ Bislig Airstrip 26.3, 1 PICOP 28.3, 1 La Mesa Eco Park 29.3.
- 211. Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla tschutschensis*
1 Mt Kitanglad 24.3, 30+ Bislig Airstrip 26.3.
- 212. Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*
1 Tabunan 20.3, 1 above Eden resort 21.3, 1 Mt Kitanglad 22.3, 1 road 4, PICOP 27.3.
- 213. Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus lugubris*
2 daily Mt Kitanglad 23-24.3.
- 214. White-cheeked Bullfinch** *Pyrrhula leucogenis steerei* Endemic to Philippines
2 seen and 2 heard at 1800 masl Mt Kitanglad 23.3.



Early morning birding at the clearing at Magsaysay park, Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape.



Walk uphill through natural forest above the high eagle watchpoint on Mt Kitanglad.

List of mammals: The Philippines, March 16th - 29th 2014

Compiled by Tomas Carlberg.

1. **Philippine Pygmy Squirrel** *Exilisciurus concinnus* Endemic to Philippines
Excellent views of 1+1 at Rajah Sikatuna. 1 at the Quarry, PICOP.
2. **Philippine Squirrel** *Sundasciurus philippinensis* Endemic to Philippines
1+1 at Rajah Sikatuna.
3. **Philippine Flying Lemur (Colugo)** *Cynocephalus volans* Endemic to Philippines
3+1 at Rajah Sikatuna, and 1 at Mt Kitanglad.
4. **Crab-eating Macaque** *Macaca fascicularis*
Seen at Rajah Sikatuna.
5. **Philippine Tarsier** *Carlito syrichta fraterculus* Endemic to Philippines
4 at Corella Tarsier Conservation Center, Bohol. The Philippine Tarsier is the only species recognized in the genus *Carlito*. Taxonomic variation within *Carlito* is poorly understood, and the genus is in need of detailed phylogeographic research (source: Handbook of the Mammals of the World, Vol. 3).
6. **Giant Golden-crowned Flying Fox** *Acerodon jubatus*
20 at Rajah Sikatuna.
7. **Spinner Dolphin** *Sternella longirostris*
35 seen in four groups at sea between Bohol and Cebu.

List of reptiles: The Philippines, March 16th - 29th 2014

Compiled by Tomas Carlberg.

1. **Non-banded Philippine Burrowing Snake** (Philippine Shrub Snake) *Oxyrhabdium modestum*
1 at Butterfly Garden, Bohol.
2. **Emerald Tree Skink** *Lamprolepis smaragdina philippinica*
1 at Tabunan, Cebu.
3. **Black-spotted Sphenomorphus** *Sphenomorphus variegatus*
1 at Rajah Sikatuna. Rare forest species (a skink) with short round snout found on the forest floor, along rocky stream banks and sometimes in tree trunks near the ground. Malaysia (Borneo), Philippines (incl. Sulu, Mindanao, Leyte and Bohol).
4. **Tokay Gecko** *Gekko gekko* Heard at Tabunan, Cebu.
5. **Common House Gecko** *Hemidactylus frenatus* Seen at several places, e.g. Luzon.

Comments on some birds NOT seen

<i>Mindanao Scops Owl</i>	Only higher parts of mountains on Mindanao, no longer occurs at Del Monte Lodge part of Mt Kitanglad.
<i>Bukidnon Woodcock</i>	Apparently quiet period with non displaying at Del Monte Lodge.
<i>Orange-tufted Spiderhunter</i>	Possible, PICOP
<i>Mindanao Pygmy Babbler</i>	Possible, increasingly rare, PICOP
<i>Black-and-white Triller</i>	Rare, PICOP
<i>Black-bibbed Cicadabird</i>	Rare, PICOP
<i>Cebu Flowerpecker</i>	Extinct?
<i>Little Slaty Flycatcher</i>	Very rare, PICOP
<i>Slaty-backed Jungle Flycatcher</i>	Very few observations from the highest parts of Mt Kitanglad, more likely at the southern slopes (Mt Dulang Dulang)

Birds apparently lost from PICOP

Mindanao Bleeding-heart
Spotted Imperial Pigeon
Blue-backed Parrot
Southern Sooty Woodpecker

Epilogue

Just as we arrived in Bislig on the 25th and got connected to the WiFi of Paper Country Inn we received news of a unidentified *Charadrius*-plover in Sweden, the observers thought it was a Lesser Sand Plover or a Caspian Plover, the latter one would be a new bird for Sweden completely unseasonal and unexpected. The id was confirmed later the same day. And as the days in PICOP went by it seemed like the bird still was hanging around the same area where it had been found on Mörkö just an hour south of Stockholm. Eventually when transferring flights in Bangkok the situation hadn't change, and on our return day we had arranged for a pick-up at the train station in Stockholm. After a nervous luggage pick-up and shuttle train journey we were on our way. In marvellous clear skies and with the first Skylarks singing continuously we had a splendid male Caspian Plover feeding around a small puddle. A superb ending of our long twitch!



Caspian Plover Charadrius asiatica, Mörkö, South of Stockholm, March 30th 2014.