

Birding Trip Report

PHILIPPINES

January-April 2003

Luzon	Bohol
Palawan	Cebu
Panay	Mindanao
Negros	Mindoro
Siquijor	

Sam Woods, Rob Hutchinson & Andy Adcock

CONTACT DETAILS

Sam Woods

Flat 4 Sycamore House

2a Sycamore Grove

New Malden

Surrey KT3 3DQ

ENGLAND

sam@swoods0.freeserve.co.uk

swoods0@hotmail.com

Rob Hutchinson

26 Sutton Avenue

Chellaston

Derby DE73 1RJ

ENGLAND

rob.hutch@talk21.com

rob_hutchinson@btopenworld.com

Andy Adcock

19 Hooton Road

Carlton

Nottingham NG4 1FZ

ENGLAND

andyadcock@hotmail.com

andyadcock@ntlworld.com

GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

The Philippines archipelago comprises of more than 7,000 islands. Although to see many of the localised bird species it is only necessary to visit up to 9 of them—Luzon, Mindanao, Panay, Negros, Bohol, Siquijor, Mindoro, Cebu and Palawan. For shorter trips the main islands usually covered are Luzon, Mindanao, Palawan, and perhaps also Bohol or Cebu. Rajah Sikatuna National Park on Bohol shares many species with PICOP on Mindanao and so this island could be missed, although Rajah is historically the better place to see Steere's Pitta. To get a good feel for Philippine birds, in a short trip it is best to do a lowland and high elevation site on both Luzon (e.g. Makiling and Hamut/Polis respectively) and Mindanao (PICOP and Kitanglad); and perhaps also go to St.Paul's and Balsahan on Palawan as many endemics occur on this island and they are generally fairly easy to see. This gives a chance of seeing some of the star birds¾Luzon Bleeding Heart, Philippine Eagle, Palawan Peacock-Pheasant, Whiskered & Steere's Pittas, and possibly the Monarchs. Time-permitting a short trip to either Bohol or to Casa Roro on Negros could also be added to get some of the Visayan Specialities (Yellow-breasted Tailorbird on Bohol; Flame-templed Babbler on Negros), with the more difficult sites of Panay and Negros and Apaya/Mount Danao of northern Luzon better undertaken on longer trips only. Of over 570 species occurring in the Philippines, between 170 and 190 are endemic (depending on taxonomic line taken). The Philippines is suffering from rapid deforestation¾being one of the worst affected areas in South East Asia with 86% of the endemics being listed as globally threatened¾the highest proportion for any country in Asia. 6 of the 7 Endemic Bird Areas (EBA) designated in the Philippines are given a *critical* level of conservation priority due to the high level of biological importance and the extreme threat to them. In the Cebu EBA 99% of the island's forest cover has already been lost, and only 4% remains on Negros and 8% on Panay (Stattersfield *et al.*1998). On Negros 5 of the endemics are listed as critically endangered¾the highest number for any EBA in Asia. Only Indonesia has a higher number of threatened birds in Asia. Despite this there are still many fantastic birds to be seen there and there is still some 54% forest cover left on the island of Palawan, although this is also similarly threatened. Therefore, the grim message is that in order to appreciate the birds of the Philippines as fully as possible it is better to go there sooner rather than later, and perhaps by doing this we can make them value their natural resources more in the process.

We organised our own ground arrangements for most of the trip as time permitted this. However, most birders visiting the Philippines use the services of Tim Fisher (a Birdquest tour leader) in order to maximise what can be achieved in a short time. Logistically the Philippines is a difficult trip and quite time-consuming, in addition to being physically tough (especially at the sites of Hamut Camp, Apaya, Madja-as and Mount Halcon), with the birding often being slow due to the low densities of birds. Despite this we found the Philippines to be a friendly, enjoyable place with many stunning birds, many of which are at the top of our personal lists for certain families.

VISAS

A 59 day visa (£22, payable by postal order/cash only) was applied for in advance at the consulate, 9a Palace Green, Kensington, London W8 4QE, tel. 020 7937 1600 (nearest tube station is High Street Kensington). This must be applied for IN PERSON and PROOF OF AT LEAST £1000 IN YOUR BANK ACCOUNT MUST BE PROVIDED. The visa was processed and posted back within a week (it is possible to collect it within 2 days if required). To extend our visas beyond 59 days we went to the Bureau of Immigration, Magallanes Dr., Intramuros, Manila tel. 02-527-3265, (there are also offices in Cebu City and Dumaguete on Negros). This involved paying a steep P3,290 (\$59) and as we arrived in the afternoon we had to leave our passports overnight and collect them the following afternoon (it is normally possible to get it done the same day, if the form is processed before 3 p.m.). A photocopy of the flight tickets is required for this.

TRAVELLING AROUND

For travelling short distances around cities tricycles can be used (e.g. for Balsahan, Palawan) or public jeepney. For longer journeys public jeepneys are often the cheapest option, although it can be better to hire one for private use if time is limiting (e.g. for Sabang, St. Paul's on Palawan). Air-con mini-buses are usually the most expensive but quickest option when travelling long distances (e.g. between Narra and Puerto Princesa, for Rasa Island off Palawan), as they stop less frequently than jeepneys, with public buses generally falling between the two in terms of price and speed. There are usually many different bus companies operating along the same routes (e.g. Manila to Tuguegarao, there are Victory Liners & Autobuses), with the choice usually dictated by the convenience of their timetable as prices are generally similar. For travelling between islands internal flights are generally quite cheap on the Philippines with ferries being the cheaper option for shorter crossings. The most expensive flights appear to be between Puerto Princesa, Palawan and Manila (c.\$65 one-way). As there are many companies (Philippine Airlines, Air Philippines, South East Asian Airlines, Cebu Pacific, Asian Spirit) operating domestic flights it is best to check which are offering the best promotions at the time (e.g. Cebu Pacific were offering a promotional price for Cagayan de Oro-Manila of P2,614 when we were there). When crossing between the Visayan islands ferries are the best choice as the distances are so short (e.g. Dumaguete, Negros to Tagbilaran, Bohol was only a 1½ hour journey for a promotional price of P250 on the Supercat). There are usually a number of ferry companies to choose from (Supercat, Delta Fastcraft, Sulpicio etc.), so it is best to shop around for the best deals. Ferries can be booked either at the ports, or in travel agents in shopping centres in the cities.

FLIGHTS

The international flight cost £442 return from London Heathrow to Manila, (with a brief stop in Qatar), with Qatar Airways. This was booked through E-Bookers—Tel: 0208 7001 07000; www.ebookers.com in November (we could have got cheaper flights if we had booked earlier). WHEN LEAVING MANILA ON AN INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT THERE IS A DEPARTURE TAX OF P550 PAYABLE IN LOCAL CURRENCY.

The internal flights were booked on arrival in Manila. It is worth shopping around for the latest deals, although for some islands there are few options. However this is changing all the time—e.g. for Manila-Puerto Princesa, Palawan, Philippine Airlines were the only company flying there when we arrived, but Cebu Pacific has since added it to their list of destinations. We booked the following flights:

Manila to Puerto Princesa, Palawan: P7,441 RETURN with PHILIPPINE AIRLINES
[Philippine Airlines, Manila Tel. 632-855-8888/www.philippineairlines.com (schedules)/ reserve@pal.com (reservations)]

Manila to Caticlan, Panay: P2,600 SINGLE with ASIAN SPIRIT
[Asian Spirit, Manila office tel. 02-851-8888]

Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao to Manila: P2,614 SINGLE with CEBU PACIFIC
[Cebu Pacific, Manila office tel. 02-636-4938/35]

Manila to San Jose, Mindoro: P1798 SINGLE with AIR PHILIPPINES
[Air Philippines, Manila office tel. 02-855-9000/www.airphils.com schedules) /reservations@airphilippines.com (reservations)]

San Jose, Mindoro to Manila: P1513 SINGLE with ASIAN SPIRIT

NB. WHEN TRAVELLING BETWEEN ISLANDS THERE IS A TERMINAL DEPARTURE FEE PAYABLE OUT OF ALL FERRY TERMINALS/AIRPORTS (PRICES VARY UP TO P100, WHEN DEPARTING MANILA!)

For booking internal flights, all the companies have offices at the old domestic terminal A, *EXCEPT* Philippine Airlines whose office is based at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA)—where most international flights fly into. Flights can be booked using credit cards (Visa/Mastercard) and can be changed at short notice (at no extra cost) if required.

MONEY

The currency of the Philippines is the Peso (P), with exchange rates at the time of our visit being £1 = P80; \$1 = P55. Dollars are widely changed, so it is worth carrying some dollars as back up as pounds may not always be exchanged in some places. Travellers cheques are very limiting, they can really only be changed in the airport, and there is a \$200 limit per counter. We also found that some counters would NOT accept Visa OR Mastercard cheques, only American Express ones! Pesos can be pre-ordered from travel agents in the UK.

CREDIT CARDS

It is worth noting that credit cards are generally accepted in the main cities and there are regular ATM's in Manila and other cities (e.g. Bacolod, Davao, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu City, Puerto Princesa). However, MASTERCARD IS MUCH MORE WIDELY ACCEPTED AT ATM'S THAN VISA. It is also worth noting that most ATM's will have a limit per transaction of P4,000 or P5,000, and there is a charge for *every* transaction.

LANGUAGE

The official national language is Tagalog (principally spoken on Luzon), and Visayan is the principle language of the Visayan islands, although most Filipinos speak good English which makes the Philippines a very easy country to travel around.

HEALTH

Chloroquine and Paludrin were taken as an anti-malarial prophylactic, with malaria being most prevalent on Palawan and Mindanao, although we were advised to take it throughout. We experienced many biting insects at St. Paul's on Palawan (chiggers) and also at Hamut Camp on Luzon, although elsewhere they were not problematic. Leeches were only briefly encountered at Hamut on Luzon and at Kitanglad on Mindanao. All the other usual inoculations are necessary (Hepatitis A and B, Polio, Tetanus etc.).

SAFETY

Although we experienced no problems at all throughout our stay, there are a number of trouble areas where extra care is strongly recommended. Mindanao-south and west of Davao, where a number of militant Muslim groups (Abu Sayaf and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front) are very active, are to be avoided (e.g. Zamboanga province, where 28 were killed in May 2003). For this reason we did not visit Sitio Siete. The main birding sites on Mindanao (PICOP & Kitanglad), are well north of these areas and are generally safe. Whilst we were in the Philippines 2 bombs went off in Davao-one in the airport and one in the port killing at least 36 people, which were associated with these groups. Until then Davao had been considered a safe city. Davao can be avoided by travelling via Cagayan de Oro instead when going between Kitanglad and PICOP. The National People's Army is also active in Mindanao and northern Luzon, and during our time in the Philippines they raided an office of PICOP on Mindanao, although this was very far from the birding areas. In May 2003 the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office website advised against ALL travel to southern, central and western Mindanao, against ALL NON-ESSENTIAL travel throughout the rest of Mindanao, and for great care to be taken when travelling on Palawan. Care should be taken at night in Davao and Manila in particular. The Visayas (Panay, Bohol, Negros, Cebu) by comparison are fairly trouble-free.

TIMING & CLIMATE

Most birders visit between January and April as these are the driest months and towards the end of this period it becomes very humid. Despite this certain areas have frequent rain and this should be expected at any time (e.g. Hamut Camp, PICOP) and the humidity is high in many places all-year round (e.g. St. Paul's). Brian Gee states his Dec³/₄March trip was a month too early for many of the birds to be breeding. The peak period for Whiskered Pittas calling is Feb³/₄May (Lambert *et al.* 1996) and Palawan Peacock-pheasant is also believed to breed in this period (Madge *et al.* 2002).

TELEPHONE/INTERNET

If it is necessary to contact someone locally this can often be done from any local phone free of charge, as local calls are free. There are a number of charge card companies operating, with PLDT being widely

accepted-these can often be used in public phone boxes and with hotel phones. They are available in the airports. Internet is widely available in the main towns and cities-e.g. Manila, Bacolod, Cebu City, Bislig, Dumaguete, Cagayan de Oro, Puerto Princesa, Tuguegarao.

TAPES/REPORTS/BOOKS

We used a number of reports:

Brian Gee 1996

John Hornbuckle 1996/97

Raf Drijvers 1997

M. Guijt, L. Heemskerk & J. van der Laan 2000

Phil Benstead 2001

Sander Lagerveld 2002

For sound recordings we made mini-discs from a number of private collections (Benstead, Lagerveld, Bill Simpson, Nick Gardner); and we also purchased some recordings from Richard Ranft at the **National Sound Archive** (Tel: 020 7412 7440 / nsa@bl.uk) at a cost of £2.50 per recording, although if you have some recordings to trade this may be reduced.

Some of the endemic species are also covered on:

Jelle Scharringa's **Birds of Tropical Asia CD-ROM**

The only comprehensive, good field guide to region is

Kennedy, R.S., Gonzales, P.C., Dickinson, E.C., Miranda Jr., H.C. & Fisher, T.H. (2000) *A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines*. Oxford University Press.

ISBN 0 19 854668 8. £35 from Wildsounds (www.wildsounds.co.uk/ 01263 741 100).

The only reasonably up-to-date and comprehensive travel guide is:

Lonely Planet (7th edition, November 2000), which although not covering many of the sites further afield, was good in its' recommendations within the cities. **A new 2003 edition has just been published.**

GENERAL

If planning an independent trip, CHECK WITH TIM FISHER ABOUT WHEN OTHER GROUPS WILL BE VISITING CERTAIN SITES TO ENSURE THERE IS ENOUGH SPACE TO STAY THERE.

Kitanglad and Hamut, particularly have limited space available.

In terms of general protocol when visiting a remote area it is always best to contact the barangay (village) captain and arrange access through him. (e.g. for Hamut and Madja-as the captain arranges all guides/porters and access to the sites). The captain is paid for such duties although it is sometimes best to offer a gift of cigarettes/Tanduay rum.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank Bill Simpson, Nick Gardner, Phil Benstead and Sander Lagerveld for the loan of personal sound recordings. We would also like to thank Tim Fisher for his advice in planning our itinerary and further advice on sites when in-country. Thank you also to Michael Mills and Remco Hofland for their excellent company on Palawan, and also to Michael for eventually finding us a Mantanani Scops Owl on Rasa Island, which was proving all-too elusive until then!! Also thanks to Aidan Kelly and friends for their company and sound advice on looking for Whiskered Pitta at Hamut Camp! Thanks also to Felizardo (PICOP), Arnel Malleri (Balsahan), Peter Widman (Rasa), Rene Vendiola (Canaway), Carlito (Kitanglad), Merlijn van Weerd & Bernard Tarun (Ambabok/Apaya) for arranging access to these important sites. A further thanks to James McCarthy for arranging a successful trip to Halcon, and allowing to stay at his home.

ITINERARY

Day	Date	Island	Itinerary
1	24-Jan	Luzon	Arrived Manila 15:00. [Bought tickets] Transferred to Mt Makiling .
2	25-Jan	Luzon	Mt Makiling .
3	26-Jan	Luzon	Mt Makiling .
4	27-Jan	Luzon	Mt Makiling .
5	28-Jan	Luzon	AM Mt Makiling . PM transfer > Manila.
6	29-Jan	Palawan	Fly > Puerto Princesa, transferred to Sabang & St Pauls NP .
7	30-Jan	Palawan	St Pauls NP .
8	31-Jan	Palawan	St Pauls NP .
9	01-Feb	Palawan	St Pauls NP .
10	02-Feb	Palawan	AM St Pauls . PM transferred to Puerto Princesa .
11	03-Feb	Palawan	Balsahan trail (Iwahig) .
12	04-Feb	Palawan	AM Transferred to Narra. PM Rasa Island .
13	05-Feb	Palawan	AM Transferred to Puerto Princessa. PM Garceliano Beach .
14	06-Feb	Palawan	Birding around KM 35 along Narra Road .
15	07-Feb	Palawan / Panay	Fly > Manila, connected to Fly > Caticlan, transferred to Culasi.
16	08-Feb	Panay	AM Organised Permits / Guides for Mt Madja-as. PM Transferred to Alijopan.
17	09-Feb	Panay	AM Birding up to c.1000m on Mt Madja-as for Striped Babbler. PM Returned to Culasi.
18	10-Feb	Panay / Negros	Transferred to Iloilo, Ferry to Bacolod.
19	11-Feb	Negros	Transferred to Dumaguete.
20	12-Feb	Negros	Casa Roro .
21	13-Feb	Negros	PNOC Road [Mt Talinis]
22	14-Feb	Negros	Dumaguete.
23	15-Feb	Siquijor	Day trip to Siquijor .
24	16-Feb	Negros	Mt Talinis .
25	17-Feb	Negros	Transferred to Canaway Forest .
26	18-Feb	Negros	Canaway Forest .
27	19-Feb	Negros	AM Canaway Forest . PM Transferred to Dumaguete.
28	20-Feb	Negros / Bohol	AM Ferry Dumaguete > Tagbilaran. Transferred to Rajah Sikatuna National Park .
29	21-Feb	Bohol	Rajah Sikatuna National Park .
30	22-Feb	Bohol	Rajah Sikatuna National Park .
31	23-Feb	Bohol	Rajah Sikatuna National Park .
32	24-Feb	Bohol	Rajah Sikatuna National Park .
33	25-Feb	Bohol	Rajah Sikatuna National Park .
34	26-Feb	Bohol / Cebu	Rajah Sikatuna National Park . Transferred to Cebu City.
35	27-Feb	Cebu	Tabunan Forest .
36	28-Feb	Cebu/Mindanao	AM Gaas Forest then transferred to Cebu City. Overnight ferry to Cagayan de Oro.
37	01-Mar	Mindanao	Transferred to Bislig. Evening birding at Bislig Airfield .
38	02-Mar	Mindanao	PICOP .
39	03-Mar	Mindanao	PICOP / Bislig Airfield .
40	04-Mar	Mindanao	PICOP .
41	05-Mar	Mindanao	PICOP / Bislig Airfield .
42	06-Mar	Mindanao	Transferred to Davao.

43	07-Mar	Mindanao	Mt Salaysay.
44	08-Mar	Mindanao	Davao.
45	09-Mar	Mindanao	Transferred to Malaybalay.
46	10-Mar	Mindanao	Transfer to Mt. Katanglad.
47	11-Mar	Mindanao	Mt Katanglad.
48	12-Mar	Mindanao	Mt Katanglad.
49	13-Mar	Mindanao	Mt Katanglad.
50	14-Mar	Mindanao	Mt Katanglad.
51	15-Mar	Mindanao	AM Mt Katanglad , then transferred to Cagayan de Oro.
52	16-Mar	Mindanao	Cagayan de Oro.
53	17-Mar	Luzon	Fly > Manila. Visa Extension.
54	18-Mar	Luzon	Visa Extension. Overnight coach to Tuguegarao.
55	19-Mar	Luzon	Transferred to Baliuag, then onto Hamut Camp , Camp 1 at Palay.
56	20-Mar	Luzon	Hamut Camp.
57	21-Mar	Luzon	Hamut Camp.
58	22-Mar	Luzon	Hamut Camp.
59	23-Mar	Luzon	AM Hamut Camp . PM Transferred to Camp 1.
60	24-Mar	Luzon	Walked out to Baliuag, then transferred to Tuguegarao.
61	25-Mar	Luzon	Organised visit to Ambabok / Apaya at CVPED offices at ISU, Cabagan.
62	26-Mar	Luzon	Transferred to San Mariano to organise permits, then continued to Ambabok.
63	27-Mar	Luzon	AM Ambabok , transferring to Apaya PM.
64	28-Mar	Luzon	Apaya.
65	29-Mar	Luzon	AM Apaya , transferring to Ambabok PM.
66	30-Mar	Luzon	Transferred to San Mariano then on to Banaue via Bagabag and Lagawe.
67	31-Mar	Luzon	Mt Polis.
68	01-Apr	Luzon	Bay-yu / Mt Polis.
69	02-Apr	Luzon	Mt Polis.
70	03-Apr	Luzon	Transferred to Mt Data Hotel.
71	04-Apr	Luzon	Mt Data Hotel.
72	05-Apr	Luzon	AM Mt Data Hotel , then transferred to Baguio PM.
73	06-	Luzon	Transferred to Manila.

	Apr		
74	07-Apr	Luzon	Manila.
75	08-Apr	Mindoro	AM Fly > San Jose, then transferred to Siburan Sub-prison.
76	09-Apr	Mindoro	Siburan Sub-prison.
77	10-Apr	Mindoro	Siburan Sub-prison.
78	11-Apr	Mindoro	AM Siburan Sub-prison , then transferred to San Jose PM.
79	12-Apr	Mindoro / Luzon	AM Fly > Manila , then transferred to Ayala West Grove Heights, Santa Rosa to meet James McCarthy
80	13-Apr	Luzon / Mindoro	Transferred to Batangas, ferry to Calapan, then transferred to Brg.Lantuyang. Up to 1000m on Mt Halcon.
81	14-Apr	Mindoro	Mt Halcon.
82	15-Apr	Mindoro / Luzon	AM Mt Halcon then walked out & transferred back to West Grove.
83	16-Apr	Luzon	Ayala West Grove.
84	17-Apr	Luzon	AM Transferred to Mt Makiling.
84	18-Apr	Luzon	Mt Makiling.
86	19-Apr	Luzon	AM Mt Makiling. PM transfer > Manila.
87	20-Apr	Luzon	Manila.
88	21-Apr	Luzon	Depart Manila > LHR at 06:30.

SITES

*Denotes a species only recorded at the one site.

Saint Paul's Underground River National Park, PALAWAN

The lowland coastal forests of St. Paul's hold all but 2 of the Palawan endemics and most of these can be readily seen here. This is one of the few sites on the Philippines where the densities of birds are relatively high, being on the only island with considerable forest cover remaining. It is home to one of the most stunning, sought-after birds on the Philippines^{3/4}**Palawan Peacock-pheasant**, which in recent years has proved relatively easy due to a regular male coming in to feed on rice scraps around the Underground River ranger station. A few days here gives a good chance of seeing most of the other Palawan endemics^{3/4}**Palawan Hornbill, Blue-headed Racquet-tail, 'Palawan' Frogmouth, Palawan Scops Owl, Yellow-throated Leafbird, Palawan Tit, White-vented Shama, Sulphur-bellied Bulbul, Falcated Ground Babbler, Ashy-headed Babbler, Blue Paradise Flycatcher, Palawan Blue Flycatcher and Palawan Flowerpecker.**

Access

We flew to Puerto Princesa from Manila (with Philippine Airways, P7441 return; 1¼ hours). The morning flight we took arrived at 09.15 that meant we had already missed the morning jeepneys to Sabang (the coastal town stayed in for visiting St. Paul's), with the next one not being until 2 p.m.! Instead of waiting we decided to hire a jeepney for P1500 one-way, which then left straight away (it took 2½ hours with a ½ hour stop when we broke down!) When we travelled back on the public jeepney (P100 each) it took a very arduous 3½ hours on a very cramped vehicle (the jeepneys run every 2 hours all morning, with the last at noon, and a bus goes back at 2 p.m.) Jeepneys and buses run to and from the

pier in Sabang. To access the park from Sabang, either walk from Sabang, along the beach initially and then along the forest trails, or hire a pumpboat ('banca') to get straight to the underground river (P500 return for boat, 20 minute ride). To walk to the Underground River from Sabang takes around 3 hours, although as it takes in good birding trails on the way (e.g. jungle trail) so it can take all morning! It took around 45 minutes to get to the main trails each morning and so we left prior to first light each day. As we arrived at Sabang at lunchtime on our first day we decided to get a boat to the Underground River ranger station straight away on the off-chance of seeing the pheasant within hours of arriving on Palawan. This paid off and we saw the bird within ½ hour of landing by the station. When taking the boats it was necessary to wade to and from the boat. The tide can mean wading quite deep in strong currents. It is also worth taking a dry bag for any camera gear as most of the boat got wet! For our stay we paid P120 each for a permit (fee dependent on length of stay) at the park office on the pier at Sabang. Rangers at the Central Park Station asked to see this permit when we first entered the park.

Facilities

We stayed in Sabang as the park staff were not allowing anyone to camp at the Central Park Station, as people have done in the past. (Food would need to be brought in from Sabang). The usual place for birders to stay in Sabang-Mary's Resort was closed when we were there, although it appeared near to re-opening. This site is furthest along the beach towards the park and so is most convenient for the park, if staying in Sabang. We stayed at Roberts just along the beach (2 mins walk), towards the park, to the right of the pier (P600 for basic 3-bed room, with electricity which turns off at 9pm nightly, bucket, shower). There are a number of similar places to stay around the pier^{3/4}people approached us when we arrived at the pier. There were a few basic places to eat in town near the pier, although the best (& most expensive) place was along the beach towards the park where non-local foods such as pizzas and curries could be bought. Another good place was the Blue Bamboo, along the beach away from the park from the pier, which was good and cheap (accommodation was also available there).

Birding

The best birding seemed to be along the jungle/orange trail (trees marked with orange paint along the route), mostly towards the underground river end-there were many **parrots** and some **hornbills** in this area and so there were presumably some fruiting trees around. All the endemics recorded, with the exception of the pheasant and nightbirds, were seen along there. The Central Park Station (CPS) can be good for frugivores if there are trees in fruit (there wasn't when we were there). The stream trail was formerly good, but this was very overgrown having not been recently maintained. The regular male **Palawan Peacock-pheasant**, comes into feed on food scraps immediately around the ranger station at the Underground River. We saw it there in the afternoon (16.00) and morning (08.00), although we were told afternoons were best by staff. For nightbirds the first 200-300m of the stream trail was good for calling birds. In addition there is a trail that runs behind the Last Frontier resort (located on the right-side of the road heading out of Sabang, a short walk from the town). We simply walked along the long, open trail and listened for calling birds.

Key Species Recorded

Palawan Peacock-pheasant PALAWAN ENDEMIC. A stunning male was seen by the Underground River ranger station. It fed out in the open unconcerned by our presence under 20 metres away. Good photos (on OBC website) were obtained from inside the station's kitchen (the staff were only too happy to let us in). This bird has, unbelievably, been coming in to feed on rice scraps by this station for the last 2 years. It did not seem to be especially associated with the scrubfowls (as often reported) feeding there, although it did come in to feed a short time after they had finished feeding. We were told by the ranger that mid-late afternoon is the best time for the bird, although we saw it in both the afternoon and morning visits to the station. It was also heard calling regularly and sound recorded. A mega bird which was arguably **bird of the trip**.

Malaysian Plover 1 seen on the beach by the entrance to the underground river-a regular site.

Palawan Hornbill PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Seen on only 2 days-surprisingly difficult compared to older reports. Both times seen along the orange/jungle trail, underground river end (1 was in an area of fruiting trees with parrots near the final climb before reaching the ranger station).

Blue-naped Parrot 2 sightings, 1 flew over the road out of Sabang (within first 3 km), and 3 along the orange/jungle trail, close to the end by the underground river. Just after the steps up through the limestone ridge from the underground river.

Blue-headed Raquet-tail PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 3 sightings-2 along the jungle-/orange trail (underground river end) and another flew over the road out of Sabang (3km along). The first ones seen were taped-in.

'Palawan' Frogmouth Several were heard distantly along the stream trail, behind the central park station. 1 was eventually seen in an area of forest/scrub along the trail leading behind the Last Frontier resort. The bird was about 15 mins walk along this trail and when located was about 40m off the right side of the trail. It took 2½ hours of taping due to the bird giving the very difficult-to-locate whistle call until the bird came close enough for us to locate it!

The taxonomy of this species is still unclear-classified as either a Javan *B. javensis* /Sunda *B. cornutus* or a new undescribed species. The bird calls very like Javan but also has additional whistling calls that Javan does not give.

Palawan Scops Owl PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Only heard¾ behind the Central Park Station, 200-300m along the stream trail. Up to 4 birds were calling and despite coming into tape the cover was too dense to locate them.

Yellow-throated Leafbird PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Recorded regularly.

White-vented Shama PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Heard daily and although only seen 3-4 times, they were immediately tape responsive when attempted. Seen along the ridge trail, at the underground river ranger station and along the stream trail.

Palawan Tit PALAWAN ENDEMIC. This proved a very difficult bird when we were there¾unlike in previous reports where people were seeing them in good numbers daily. We only saw them once (at least 2 males), along the jungle/orange trail (along the long flat section before the rise up to the limestone ridge by the underground station). We also only heard them once, despite extensive tape playing and familiarity with the call.

Sulphur-bellied Bulbul PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Several seen along the stream trail and along the jungle/orange trail. The birds came in quickly to playback.

Slender-billed ('Palawan') Crow Several seen and heard around the Central Park Station. This Palawan race *pusillus* has a very distinctive, high-pitched call, unlike most other Slender-billed, and therefore may represent a distinct species (Tim Fisher pers. comm.)

Falcated Ground Babbler PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 3 sightings of this stunning babbler¾twice when 2 taped-in, in the same area along the jungle/orange trail, and a single behind the Central Park Station. The birds along the jungle trail were on the left side of the trail, near the start of the trail, as it leads uphill towards the ridge, from the entrance to the trail just beyond the Central Park Station. The bird seen behind the CPS was behind the second section (i.e. further away from Sabang) of the staff accommodation blocks, where it was taped-in just behind the signed sewage-treatment works.

Ashy-headed Babbler PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 1 small party (4+) seen several times in the same area (also seen in the same area by another group of birders). They were along the jungle/orange trail at the top of the first ridge when climbing from the start of the trail which begins just beyond the CPS. After coming in quickly to the tape the birds were seen giving aggressive displays, agitatedly flicking their fanned wings while facing each other.

Palawan Blue Flycatcher PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Pairs recorded several times around the Underground River ranger station and also along the jungle/orange trail (Underground River end). They were always seen in pairs and would readily come-into playback.

Blue Paradise Flycatcher PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Recorded a few times along the first 100-200m of the stream trail that runs behind the CPS, and also along the jungle/orange trail. All birds responded vocally to playback, although they were generally very mobile when coming in making them difficult to see well.

Palawan Flowerpecker PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Recorded daily in good numbers.

Shelley's Sunbird PALAWAN ENDEMIC. A few seen on most days.

Garceliano Beach, Puerto Princesa, PALAWAN

This area of tidal mudflats and mangroves in close-proximity to central Puerto Princesa, is a good site for waders and principally for the endangered **Chinese Egret**.

Access

We took a tricycle from the Puerto Pension to the beach (P100 return; 20 minute ride with an hour's wait arranged at site). The best way to access the site is through the Puerto Adventura Resort.

Facilities

None-we just made short trips from the Puerto Pension in Puerto, Princesa.

Birding

Walk the small concrete jetties through the mangroves and view the mudflats on the other side.

Key Species Recorded

Chinese Egret At least 9 seen on our second visit, and at least 2 seen on the first.
Grey Tailed Tattler & Red-necked Stint also seen there.

Balsahan Trail/Iwahig Penal Farm, PALAWAN

The Iwahig Penal Farm can easily be day-tripped from Puerto Princesa. The Balsahan trail heads out from the public swimming pool on site. The area was historically important for seeing 2 Palawan endemics that are rarely seen at St. Paul's^{3/4}**Melodious Babbler** and the endangered **Palawan Flycatcher**. However, the flycatcher has not now been seen in the area for the last 2 years so this site seems to have gone for this species. It also holds a number of other Palawan endemics also found at St. Paul's, in case they are missed there^{3/4}**Palawan Scops Owl, 'Palawan' Frogmouth, Palawan Hornbill, Palawan Tit, White-vented Shama, Yellow-throated Leafbird, Ashy-headed Babbler, Falcated Ground Babbler, Palawan Blue Flycatcher, Blue Paradise Flycatcher & Palawan Flowerpecker.**

Access

Day-tripped by hired jeepney and tricycle (P300 return for whole vehicle; 1 hour). There is a P10 entry charge per person to the public swimming pool area, where the Balsahan trail starts. We arranged access to Iwahig with Arnel Malleri in advance (Iwahig Prison & Penal Farm, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, tel. 433-39-20, weekends/0919-228-8420, mobile), by sending him a letter from the UK. This needs to be done well in advance (c. 2 months before)-we sent a letter one month before leaving but this was insufficient time to receive a reply from him. Despite this he had arranged permits for our access by the time we arrived in Puerto, and came to our hotel to give us this the night before we went there. He also arranged a private jeepney for our morning there (P1500 for the day). He is often very busy at this time of year, acting as a bird guide for groups at all sites on Palawan, and so, as when we were there, he can be unavailable to act as a guide, although he can still arrange access.

Facilities

There are none here, so bring in food for the morning if required (the trail is quite short so only necessary to do a half day here). We stayed in Puerto Princesa and day-tripped from there, where we stayed at the Puerto Pension, 35 Malvar Street (P460 for double en-suite, fan room). Cheaper doubles were available for P360 with a shared bathroom. There are many places to eat in Puerto Princesa.

Birding

Follow the short trail from behind the public swimming pool. The **Melodious Babbler**s^{3/4}were seen near the beginning of the trail between the first and second stream crossings. The **Palawan Scops Owls** were in the area between the second and third stream crossings (all three crossings are within a kilometre of the start of the trail). All the best birds can be seen within this 1 kilometre stretch of trail.

Key Species Recorded

Palawan Peacock-pheasant PALAWAN ENDEMIC. A sad sight was two inmates coming back along the trail with a freshly trapped female Peacock-Pheasant. The bird was still alive and tethered by the leg. We passed this information onto Peter Widman at the Cockatoo programme, who was not surprised as Iwahig has been approached in the past concerning such incidents but the prison authorities maintain that inmate's activities are tightly controlled and that they only ever capture common birds.

Palawan Scops Owl PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 1 seen between the second and third streams in the morning and evening sessions. The birds were initially highly responsive to playback, coming in very close, although they very quickly lost interest and continued to call distantly.

Palawan Tit PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 2 seen by the third stream.

Melodious Babbler PALAWAN ENDEMIC. A very responsive party were seen in both the morning and evening between the 1st and 2nd streams.

Palawan Flowerpecker PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Seen regularly along the trail.

Binturong (Bear-Cat) *Arctictis binturong* A surprise find, one seen curling-up and going to roost high in the trees by the trail. Unfortunately the edge was taken off this the next day when we saw one in a tiny cage bus in on a public Puerto Princesa.

Rasa Island, PALAWAN

Just off the coast from Narra, in Palawan this is now the main site for the critically endangered **Philippine Cockatoo** (they are now very rarely recorded at St. Paul's), which fly into roost on the north side of the island. It is also a good site for **Mantanani Scops Owl**.

Access

We hired an air-con min-bus from Puerto Princesa to the town of Narra (P1500 one-way; 2 hours). For the return trip we took a public mini-bus from the main road (the staff in the guesthouse took us to the bus), at a cost of P90 per person and an extra P90 between us for an extra seat for the bags. The Cockatoo Conservation Programme has an office IN the gymnasium in Narra (on the left-side of the building). We contacted Peter Widman, who works in the programme, before going there and he arranged for people from the programme to book our accommodation in Narra and arrange boats to take us there. It was P1500 for the use of both boats-the large and small one were required; 20-30 min. ride. For booking he requires 24 hours notice. It is necessary to check with him before going, as the boats are susceptible to the weather. When we were there we made it to Rasa OK, but could not get round the island to the roost due to the high waves. Peter can be contacted on e-mail: idlacerna@yahoo.com or tel. 048-434-5267. To get from our accommodation in Narra to the pier, for the boats, tricycles were arranged by our guide (P50 for 2 people, one way). NB. IT IS NECESSARY TO WADE THE LAST SECTION TO THE ISLAND SO BRING PROTECTIVE FOOTWEAR AS THE SEABED IS ROUGH ON YOUR FEET HERE (footwear can be bought in Narra).

Facilities

We stayed at La Vista in the town of Narra (booked by Peter Widman) for P350 for a double, en-suite fan room, with good on-site restaurant. This is the cheaper of 2 places to stay in Narra.

Birding

When landing on the island we were taken to a nearby clearing (literally just behind the trees ahead of the landing site)-this is the place to look for the **Mantanani Scops Owl** and was also where we had 4 cockatoos land briefly before heading to roost. The guides know regular spots for **Great-billed Heron**, which breeds on the island. For the **cockatoos** it is necessary to take the boat around the north side of the island. THIS SIDE IS VERY SUSCEPTIBLE TO HIGH WINDS/WAVES AND IT IS NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO GET THE BOAT TO THE ROOST. Therefore it is best to allow an extra day in case this happens. It is possible to see the birds flying across the island to roost, although they are not guaranteed this way.

Key Species Recorded

***Great-billed Heron** 1 seen feeding along the western shore of the island when attempting to reach the cockatoo roost, shortly after turning the bend from the landing area, towards the roost site.

***Philippine Cockatoo** 4 seen perched briefly in a tree at the edge of the owl clearing, at 16.00 whilst on the island.

***Mantanani Scops Owl** 3-4 heard, and one seen eventually, in low trees at the edge of the large clearing (near the landing area).

New PALAWAN FLYCATCHER Site^{3/4}en-route to Narra

As **Palawan Flycatcher** is now unreliable on the Balsahan Trail (no sightings for 2 years), another site to look for this threatened species is in the roadside forest between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

Access

We initially used our hired vehicle and stopped on the way to Narra at KM35 in the middle of the day, but recorded nothing. There is a yellow KM35 marker on the right side of the road when coming from Puerto Princesa. Opposite this marker is a sign marked NGO monitoring station (dis-used now). The forest alongside the road in this area is the area to look for it. On our second visit we took a bus towards Narra from Puerto Princesa and just got the driver to stop when we saw the marker.

Facilities

None, day-trip (half-day) from Puerto (see Balsahan for accom. Details etc.), bring food/drink if required.

Birding

Check out the roadside forest around the KM35 marker^{3/4}we heard one calling distantly once in response to tape, from behind the NGO monitoring station sign, but despite checking along the trail which runs beyond the fence there we never saw the bird. We have since discovered that others have had success along the first 1-2km section of road back towards Puerto Princesa. There are a few indistinct (hunting?) trails which lead off the road in places, we also tried some of these with no luck.

Key species Recorded

[Palawan Flycatcher] PALAWAN ENDEMIC. Heard only, behind the NGO monitoring station.

Blue Paradise Flycatcher PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 2E seen along one of the small trails heading left off the road, beyond the monitoring station.

Yellow-throated Leafbird PALAWAN ENDEMIC. 1 seen along one of the small trails heading left off the road, beyond the monitoring station.

Palawan Flowerpecker PALAWAN ENDEMIC. A few seen along the road.

Mount Madja-as, PANAY

Mount Madja-as, in the province of Antique, on the western side of Panay is one of only three sites for the recently discovered **Panay Striped Babbler**. The bird is found in forest from approx. 1,000m upwards. As Panay is rarely on most birders itineraries there surely must be potential for making more discoveries in the area.

Access

We flew into Caticlan on Panay from Manila (P2,600 one-way with Asian Spirit, plus P100 terminal fee; 55 mins). We then hired a mini-bus to take us to the access town for Madja-as^{3/4}Culasi (P1500 one-way; 1^{3/4} hours). In Culasi we arranged a permit for Mount Madja-as with the police (the station is just off the main square). This took about 1^{1/4} hrs and involved going to the mayor's house for her signature. However, we were never asked for the permit and this seems to be totally unnecessary! The police also arranged a guide to walk us from the tricycle drop-off point at Camancigan to the village of Alijopan, at the base of the mountain. The tricycles can only go so far as a fence by the village of Camancigan, (P40; 20 mins, along a difficult track where it was necessary to push the tricycles up the steepest sections due to weight of our bags!) From there it is a 45-minute walk to Alijopan. In Alijopan we were taken to the barangay captain's house by our guide^{3/4}basically the last house on the right at the back of the village (up the steep slope at the top of the village).

We stayed here and then climbed up the mountain in the morning with the barangay captain's son as guide. It took around 3-4 hours to get to 1,000m, the required altitude for the babbler. This walk up the mountain was quite tough, involving many steep climbs and descents in both directions. It was especially difficult as it rained continually and made the vague trail very slippery underfoot. Because of this the hardest section was coming back down the mountain, where in some areas it was only possible to safely come down by crawling on your hands and knees. After seeing the babbler we came straight down within 3 hours and then straight out to Culasi by mid-afternoon on the day we climbed the mountain. When coming out from Camancigan it is necessary to walk out a further 15 mins from the fence where we were dropped off, in order to find a tricycle. It is best to allow at least two days around Culasi-travel to Alijopan in the afternoon on the first day, allowing an early start to be made up the mountain the following morning. Then either come down the mountain on the second day, staying in Culasi that night or camp on the mountain if desired in case the bird proves difficult. If camping it is necessary to take water, as there are no streams near the trail on the mountain. Initially we had planned to camp but as we saw the bird before lunchtime and were completely soaked, we decided to get back to the comfort of Culasi.

Facilities

We stayed at 'Casa Juancho' in Culasi, (P700 for a triple, en-suite, air-con room), for the night before arranging to go to the mountain the next day. It is best to buy food in Culasi to take to Alijopan-there are a few well-stocked shops for noodles, biscuits etc. In the village of Alijopan we stayed in the barangay captain's house, (a very basic, uncomfortable night's sleep due to being harassed by unseen insects in very cramped conditions!). This was arranged by his son as the captain was not there at the time. They cooked an evening meal for us and we cooked our own food for breakfast.

Birding

Climb to 1,000m and then search the steep forested ridges from there-the babblers are found from 1,000m upwards and are said to be not uncommon. We found them shortly after reaching 1,000m.

Key Species Recorded

(Visayan Tarictic Hornbill) Heard in the first forested valleys on the way up and down.

Purple Needletail Excellent views of 2 birds on the way up the mountain.

***Panay Striped Babbler** PANAY ENDEMIC. 6-10 birds seen in a mixed species feeding flock, with Elegant Tits and Mountain White-eyes. The birds were seen feeding on small green berries on a forested ridge shortly after reaching 1,000m. The trees here were quite stunted, and the birds were feeding in the mid-storey to canopy. They responded well to pishing.

Salagdoong Beach, SQUIJOR

The forest flanking the beach on the small island of Siquijor, is one of the few remaining areas for the endangered Streak-breasted Bulbul, with this endemic *siquijorensis* race potentially being split from the Cebu race in the future (Collar *et al.* 1999).

Access

Siquijor can be easily day-tripped from Dumaguete on Negros. We took the Delta fastcraft ferry (P100 one-way; 1¼ hours) at around 08.30 from Dumaguete to the town of Siquijor. From there we hired a mini-jeepney to take us the 45 minute journey to Salagdoong beach, and wait for us for a few hours before heading back for the afternoon ferry (14.30) to Dumaguete.

Facilities

There is a restaurant on-site by Salagdoong beach. We stayed in Openas in Dumaguete (see Negros sites for details).

Birding

We checked out the forest immediately by the car park at Salagdoong beach and quickly found the **Bulbuls** (within 10 minutes of searching).

Key Species Recorded

Streak-breasted Bulbul (*siquijorensis* race) Common in the forest beside the beach car park.

St. Moritz, Dumaguete, NEGROS

We stumbled across this wader site when going to a bar on the outskirts of Dumaguete on Negros and thought it should be mentioned as with more people visiting it may hold more wader species than we recorded as we were unprepared when visiting the site initially in early March (when the most waders were seen), and therefore had no optics!! All tricycle drivers know the site, very near Dumaguete airport (in Sibulan). They drop you at a pool bar and waders were seen on the sandy beach in front of the bar and also on the pools behind the bar. The numbers here were in the hundreds, exceeding numbers seen at Garceliano on Palawan and therefore may deserve more attention? All we managed to identify were **Marsh Sandpipers, Black-winged Stilts, Wood Sandpipers, Pacific Golden Plovers, Long-toed Stints and Red-necked Stints** in our limited time there (2 visits-in March and April-1 without optics). But with more dedicated watching the site may prove worthwhile. As it is so close to Dumaguete it can be done in a few hours if there is any spare time on a trip. Obviously the waders are tidal although the presence of seemingly non-tidal pools at the back may mean this is less important than at some other sites?

Casa Roro, NEGROS

Casa Roro is the site of a well-visited waterfall in a forested valley a short way from Valencia, near Dumaguete. There is not much forest but the little that remains is an important area for the threatened Visayan endemics **Flame-templed Babbler, Visayan Tarictic** and **Visayan Flowerpecker**.

Access

Initially we arrived at Bacolod on Negros by Supercat ferry from Iloilo on Panay (1 hour; P260 & P10 terminal fee). After a nights stay we travelled to Dumaguete by Ceres Liner bus (5 hours via Mabinay). We day-tripped the site from there, travelling initially by hiring a tricycle for P150 one-way. The drivers all seemed to know of Casa Roro waterfall as it is a popular area for locals. The ride only took 25 minutes to reach the signed left-hand track to Casa Roro waterfalls. The driver took us via Valencia and then through the well-signed Tejeros resort (where there is a swimming pool, that all the locals know well), and dropped us at the bottom of the wide track on the left signed 'Casa Roro'. From here we walked up the wide muddy track through cultivated gardens and wooden huts for about 25 mins, until we reached a shelter on the left signposted as the entrance to Casa Roro. There is a P10 entrance fee per person. From behind the shelter there are steps going down to the river (the falls are beyond the river). When we were there the bridge across the fast-flowing river had come down and it was not possible to reach the falls. It is only a slow 15-minute walk down to the river. When returning it can be difficult to find transport between Casa Roro and Valencia-it is best to try and get a lift on a motorbike from the Tejeros resort swimming pool either to Valencia or Dumaguete (P100). Alternatively it may be necessary (as it was for 2 of us) to walk from the resort the 2km to Valencia and get a public jeepney from there (P6 per person).

Facilities

There are no facilities so bring water and drink for the day/half day. We day-tripped from Dumaguete, staying in the good Openã Pension (P390 for double en-suite fan room). There are many fast food places around town and the pension house has a good on-site restaurant.

Birding

As the bridge was down, there was only limited areas to look for birds-basically alongside the steps on the way down to the river, where good views across the valley can be seen to look for hornbills (we saw the **Flame-templed Babbler** from the steps looking across the valley). We also tried walking along the valley top but had little success there as there are few areas where good forest can be viewed and most of the habitat there was being cultivated.

Key Species Recorded

***Flame-templed Babbler** NEGROS/PANAY ENDEMIC 2-3 seen in a mixed species feeding flock with Philippine Tailorbirds, Elegant Tits and Blue-headed Fantails. They were watched from the metal steps heading down to the sign-posted waterfall, feeding in the tops and sub-canopy of the trees on the other side of the river valley.

Visayan Flowerpecker (*D. haemostictum*) NEGROS/PANAY ENDEMIC Commonly seen and heard in the valley around the steps heading to the waterfall. This species is only considered a Visayan endemic if split from Red-keeled Flowerpecker (*D. australe*) which occurs on Luzon, Bohol, Cebu, Mindanao and Samar.

Philippine Needle-tail Stunning views of up to 5 birds flying low over our heads along the path running along the top of the valley.

Mount Talinis, NEGROS

This mountain near Valencia on the outskirts of Dumaguete, still holds small numbers of the endangered **Negros Striped Babbler** in the remaining forested areas. The PNOC Road here was one of the most depressing sites we visited-massive areas of forest had been cleared to make way for huge geothermal power stations, with enormous smoking metal pipes dominating the landscape. The only remaining pockets of forest are high on the mountain (Geothermal station 6 upwards) and are not easy to view due to a lack of any real trails. We would think that this site has a very limited lifespan remaining.

We later visited another area on the mountain with Rene Vendiola (the guide used for Canaway forest-see contact details there) which held excellent, accessible forest where the Striped Babblers appear to be much more reliable, we would recommend visiting this alternative site if possible.

Access

On our first visit: we took a jeepney (P11) from Independencia Street in Dumaguete for 30 minute ride to the PNOC (Philippine National Oil Corporation) offices in Ticala (17 km from Dumaguete, via Valencia). The jeepney had a sign with PNOC written on it-everyone seemed to know where PNOC was. The jeepney stopped within view of the gates to the PNOC offices. On arriving there we tried to arrange access and transport up the mountain. They were very helpful and willing to issue a permit for us to go up to geothermal station 6, although it was very difficult to get transport for the 26 km drive to the station. The man we spoke to suggested we return to Dumaguete and hire motorbikes and drive ourselves up the mountain. After much deliberation and insistence that we could not do this (c. 30 mins) he managed to arrange a jeepney to take us to geothermal station 5 (the furthest jeepneys are permitted to go) for an expensive P400 one-way. We then walked a further hour (constant, non-birding walk) to get to station 6, where the remaining forest begins. To get back down the mountain we walked for a while and then hitched with the first vehicle heading down the mountain to the offices. We had no problem getting a jeepney back to Dumaguete, from a few hundred metres down the road from the offices.

On our second visit we went to a nearby area with Rene Vendiola who arranged transport to the site (P250 for return motorbike trip). It is a 40 min motorbike ride from Dumaguete to the start of the trail at 670m.

Facilities

See details for Casa Roro.

Birding

Get to geothermal station 6 and then check any forest patches from there upwards for **Babblers** (the babblers are found from 1,000m up, and this is where the first sections of remaining forest begin)^{3/4}RH

saw one in the first forest patch on the bank on left behind station 6 itself. There is a wide track bordering this small forest patch, although the viewing there is difficult as the understorey is so dense. We also saw another 2 birds fly over the road further on which may have been the babblers. There is more forest alongside the road further up but it again has quite dense understorey and there are no trails going into it. At Renes' site it is a 30 min uphill walk to the forest edge at 950m from here the trail continues into the forest and the trail soon becomes steep eventually climbing up onto a ridge where the birds are usually found. We saw 2 Babblers at 1200m near the top of the steep section so didn't continue onto the ridge.

Key Species Recorded

Negros Striped Babbler NEGROS ENDEMIC. 1 seen by RH behind geothermal station 6 along the PNOC Road, c.200m along the track which leads off left immediately before geothermal station 6 (signed NUSUJI control centre).

On our second visit to the area we easily saw 2 birds at 1200m, the birds responded well to pishing and to Renes' imitations.

Canaway Forest, NEGROS

Canaway Forest and surrounding areas hold some of the last remaining patches of forest on Southern Negros and probably still holds most of the Negros and Panay specialities. During our visit we recorded amongst others **Negros Bleeding-heart**, **Visayan Hornbill**, **White-throated Jungle-Flycatcher** and **White-winged Cuckooshrike**. Rene Vendiola believes that **Walden's Hornbill** can still be found nearby and also claims to have recorded **Negros Fruit Dove** in recent years but this obviously requires confirmation.

Access

To visit the site it is necessary to contact Rene Vendiola who will arrange transport and guide you into the forest. He can be contacted on (035) 225-2120 or 092 03040623 (Cell phone). It took us a long time to contact Rene so it would be worth trying to make arrangements in advance. At the time of our visit Rene was charging P400/day for guiding.

The journey involves transferring to Siaton, 1 hour in hired jeepney (P1000) south from Dumaguete, then taking motorbikes (P200 / bike) for 1 1/4 hours along rough tracks to the village of Mantakil where Rene will organise guides and porters. From here it is a 2 - 2 1/2 hour walk to the forest edge then a further 1/2 km to the camping spot (at c.980m) by a small stream.

Facilities

There is a small area suitable for camping next to a small stream which provides water for drinking and cooking. We provided our own tents but this is not vital as Rene can provide them.

It is necessary to bring in food from Dumaguete/Siaton, we bought some supplies from Dumaguete and gave Rene some money for Rice and extra food for the guides/porters.

Rene will arrange guides/porters at Mantakil Village, we paid P300/day for a forest guide/porter and P200/day for porters.

Birding

There are 3 trails leading away from the camp which is at 980m, the access trail which heads back out towards the forest edge, one which leads uphill behind the camp and another which can be accessed by following the gully down from the camp then cutting up the bank on the right hand side to reach a ridge which can be followed either up (right) or down (left). The camp itself and all these trails are in good forest so most of the specialities can be found close to the camp.

Key Species Recorded

***Negros Bleeding-heart** NEGROS/PANAY ENDEMIC. The Bleeding-heart was seen late afternoon c.80m along the broad gully which leads down west from the camp. The bird was watched feeding briefly on the forest floor before it flushed c.30m onto the bank of the gully. It was again flushed from a perch c.1m off the ground but was not relocated again despite only flushing a short distance. (Rene apparently heard a Bleeding-heart calling above the camp soon after we arrived). **One of the trip highlights.**

***White-throated Jungle Flycatcher** NEGROS/PANAY ENDEMIC. 1 early am along the same gully c.40m further down just beyond the area where another stream joins from the right, apparently the first record for this area.

Negros Striped-babbler NEGROS ENDEMIC The trail leading down the gully mentioned above leaves the gully on the RHS leading up onto a ridge. At least 2 Striped-babblers were heard and one seen very well with a feeding flock a short distance up this ridge (c.990m altitude). This appears to be the first modern day record from the area.

***White-winged Cuckoo-shrike** NEGROS/PANAY ENDEMIC. Commonly heard & a few sightings.

***Visayan Hornbill** NEGROS/PANAY ENDEMIC. Frequently heard but shy, only 2 sightings. Rene reports that hunting in the area has greatly reduced the numbers here.

Metallic Pigeon Excellent views of a perched bird back along the access trail from the camp.

Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon Heard daily, 1 seen back along the access trail from the camp.

Rajah Sikatuna National Park, BOHOL

This site holds a number speciality species, being the only regular site for the Visayan endemics **Yellow-breasted Tailorbird** and **Visayan Wattled Broadbill**. It is also a good site for **Rufous-lored (Winchell's) Kingfisher**, **Black-faced Coucal**, **Philippine Nightjar** & **Philippine Frogmouth**, **Samar (a form of Mindanao Tarictic) Hornbill**, **Steere's (Azure-breasted) Pitta**, and **Streaked Ground-babbler**.

Access

We travelled from Dumaguete on Negros to the port of Tagbilaran on Bohol by the Supercat ferry, which at the time was doing a special offer of P250 one-way for the 1½ hour crossing (tickets should be booked in advance at the office, near the pier in Dumaguete). From the ferry port we hired a taxi to take us to the park (P1500 one-way; 2-2½ hours). When reaching the park it is necessary to first register and pay park fees at the HQ by the large clearing at Magsaysay. From there it is a 20 minute walk to the cottage at Logarita. If travelling by public transport: First get a tricycle to the bus station from the ferry port (P30; 15 mins); then take a bus to Bilar (P20; 1¼ hrs) and from Bilar either walk the 25 minute walk to Logarita or hire a 'hubble-hubble' motorbike ride (P20 per person; 5mins).

Facilities

There is cottage accommodation (P100 per person per night) at Logarita (near the public swimming pool there). There are 3 rooms in the cottage¾1 with a double bed and the other two with twin beds. There are also showers here. Food needs to be brought in from the nearby market town of Bilar (25 min. walk/5 min., P20 motorbike ride), and cooked on the gas stove. In previous years a caretaker, John, was present and cooked for people staying there but he was not here when we stayed so we cooked for ourselves.

Birding

There are a number of poorly signed trails in the area. Brian Gee's valley trail was good, which leads left off the main track going right from outside the cottage (Yellow-breasted Tailorbirds were regularly heard along there). It is now signposted as 'Brahiminy' trail (their spelling!). If this is followed the whole way round it comes out at Logarita swimming pool. The Magsaysay clearing is a good area for night birds at dusk (**Philippine Nightjar**, and in the past **Philippine Eagle Owl**). There are a number of trails leading off this clearing. The area around the cottage is good for **Philippine Hawk-Owls** at night. There are also several unnamed trails heading off the main trail that runs past the cottage-1 off to the left a short way after heading right from the cottage held **Philippine Frogmouth** when we were there, and the trail off to the right of the main track between the cottage and the swimming pool held a **Steere's Pitta**.

Key Species Recorded

Plain Bush-hen Several sightings of a bird which came into tape in the paddies behind the accommodation block at Logarita, with 2 birds responding on one occasion.

Black-faced Coucal several sightings of this superb coucal along the Valley/ 'Brahiminy' trail and 'Tarictic' trail. Although they were heard daily in good numbers they were generally quite skulking.

Philippine Frogmouth Commonly heard around the clearing at Magsaysay and along the road leading to there. 1 seen well after being taped-in for over 1½ hrs, along the Cockatoo trail, above the steep hill at the start of the trail. Another seen really well (spotlighted for 20 mins) alongside the road to the Magsaysay clearing.

Philippine Nightjar A bird performed well on several evenings around Magsaysay clearing, even perching on the roof of the HQ and calling.

Rufous-lored (Winchell's) Kingfisher 1♂ seen well, when taped-in, and perched high in the trees at the edge of the clearing around the cottage at Logarita

***Samar Hornbill (a form of Mindanao Tarictic *P affinis samarensis*)** Several sightings, including a pair seen prospecting on a few occasions at the same hole beside the 'tarictic' trail (just to the right of the trail, along the metal railed section of the trail). NB. Some authors list this as a separate species Samar Hornbill *Penelopides samarensis*, restricted to Samar, Leyte and Bohol.

***Visayan Wattled Broadbill (*Euylaimas samarensis*)** ENDEMIC TO BOHOL/SAMAR/LEYTE. Several sightings, including a party of at least 4 birds in a mixed species feeding flock (with Tit-babblers) near the first tree fall on the Valley/ 'Brahiminy' trail (within first 250m). This is treated as conspecific with Mindanao Wattled by some authors (e.g. Kennedy *et al.* 2000).

Streaked Ground Babbler 4-5 sightings, several along the valley trail near, the section that starts from the Logarita swimming pool (both along the section just beyond the metal railings, in the area of the small marshy pools). 2 were also seen along the main trail between the cottage at Logarita and the start of the valley/Brahiminy trail. Another 2 were also seen alongside the main road-a short way from the rock tunnel leading to Magsaysay clearing from Logarita. Most of the sightings were chance sightings although the ones along the main trail came into playback.

***Yellow-breasted Tailorbird** ENDEMIC TO BOHOL/SAMAR/LEYTE. Only seen on one occasion^{3/4}taped-in on the Valley/ 'Brahiminy' trail, on the left-hand side where there is very dense vegetation cloaking the high rocks at the start of the trail. They were heard regularly.

Philippine Colugo (Flying Lemur) *Cynocephalus volans* 4 sightings of these bizarre animals around the Magsaysay clearing and also 2 along the main trail heading from Logarita to the Valley trail at dusk. A single and 2 seen beside the road between the Magsaysay and Logarita. Looking particularly strange when gliding around the clearing at dusk. Very variable head markings noted-some with random large patches of white on the head and some with little or no white at all. Colugos constitute 90% of the diet of Philippines Eagles.

Leopard (Bengal) Cat *Felis bengalensis minuta* 1 spotlighted in the paddies behind the accommodation at Logarita. Note: Leopard Cat is sometimes split into 2 species: Iriomote Cat (*Felis Iriomotensis*) and Amur Cat *Felis leuptilura* (also known as Amur Leopard Cat/Far-eastern Forest Cat), with this Philippine *minuta* subspecies included within Amur Cat.

Tabunan Forest, CEBU

This small fragment of forest on the largely deforested island of Cebu holds small populations of the 2 Cebu endemics^{3/4}**Cebu Flowerpecker** (now critically endangered with under 50 birds left) and the endangered **Black Shama**. The endangered endemic *monticola* race of **Streak-breasted Bulbul** was also rediscovered there recently and is seen fairly regularly.

There is another area nearby- Gaas Forest where the Flowerpecker has been seen recently ask CBCF/Oking for details.

Access

We took a ferry from Tagbilaran, Bohol to Cebu City (P200??; 1½ hours). We contacted the Cebu Conservation Foundation (CBCF), tel. 032-2317-146/cbcf98@gsilink.com, before arriving in Cebu and arranged to meet them at their offices in Cebu City. On arriving at the offices the lady arranged for us to be taken to Tabunan the next morning, although as they had another group from Holland going as well she said she would have to arrange motorbikes as their vehicles were already taken. The next morning however, we were picked up by a 4-wheel drive vehicle (motorbikes had a problem we were told) and another person from CBCF and driven the 1 hour drive to Oking's house at Tabunan (Oking is the local guide). We had arranged to camp the night at Oking's in case we missed the bird. From there Oking walked us up to the second viewing platform (20 minutes). To return from the site Oking can arrange a vehicle for P1500 one-way to Cebu City (as there is difficulty carrying large bags on bikes only this vehicle is an option if staying overnight there). If only day-tripping with little baggage, it would be possible to get cheaper motorbikes back.

Gaas forest was visited on our second morning, transport arranged by Oking, a 30 min drive from his home.

The guide fee for Oking was P300 in total for 3 of us.

Facilities

There are no facilities if wishing to stay there-a tent is required to camp under a shelter and all food needs to be brought in from Cebu City.

Birding

Simply look for the **flowerpecker** in the trees around platforms 1 or 2. Generally speaking more people seem to see it from the higher platform 2. It should be noted that the platforms are nothing more than outcrops of very uncomfortable rocks to sit on, with limited viewing of the surrounding forest, making this bird very difficult to see. The **shamas** were easily taped-in at the base of the rock climbed to the 2nd platform (they were also heard and taped-in from on the platform also). The **Bulbuls** are also recorded from the platforms.

Key Species Recorded

Blue-crowned Raquet-tail A few sightings, of mostly flying, birds from platform 2.

***Black Shama** CEBU ENDEMIC. 1 seen easily around the second platform. Initially heard singing and taped-in at the bottom of the platform and then later from the platform itself. It was very responsive to playback, coming in really close. Also heard at Gaas forest.

Streak-breasted Bulbul A few sightings from the second platform of this endemic race, which in time may be split from the races occurring on Siquijor, Tablas and Romblon.

***Cebu Flowerpecker** CEBU ENDEMIC. Frustratingly seen 3 hours after 2 of us had given-up looking by RH, who then saw it twice from the second platform, looking back towards the trail in.

PICOP, MINDANAO

PICOP (Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines), is a huge logging concession based near the city of Bislig. Although fast disappearing, the remaining fragments of forest still hold some very localised species, many of which are undoubtedly some of the most stunning birds in the Philippines. These include some globally threatened species¾**Silvery Kingfisher**, **Mindanao Wattled Broadbill**, **Steere's Pitta**, **Philippine Leafbird**, **Celestial Monarch** and **Little Slaty Flycatcher**, in addition to **Rufous, Writhed & Mindanao Tarictic Hornbills**, **Red-bellied Pitta**, **Short-crested Monarch**, **Rufous Paradise Flycatcher**, and **Black-headed Tailorbird**.

Access

We travelled to Mindanao from Cebu, taking the overnight Sulpicio ferry (P700 per person for a bed in a 4-bed cabin), which left Cebu City at 19.00, and arrived in Cagayan de Oro at 5.30 the next morning. This ferry was booked in a travel agent in the Ayala shopping plaza in Cebu City, where there several places for booking ferries and internal flights. On arriving in Cagayan we took an air-con bus to Butuan initially (P150; 4 hours) and from there a non air-con bus to Mangagoy (P143; 4 hours), a district within the small city of Bislig. Due to a bridge being down, the bus terminated just outside the city and we had

to walk across the bridge and get a tricycle to the Paper Country Inn, in Bislig (P50 for whole tricycle). FELIZARDO GORING NEEDS TO BE CONTACTED IN ADVANCE, he works at PICOP and can arrange access and vehicles to the site. He can be contacted at the Paper Country Inn tel. 086-628-2412 (messages for him can be left there). It is best to contact well in advance as he can be fully-booked, (he was with a Birdquest tour group when we were there) and although he can still arrange an alternative driver to take you into PICOP we found that he knew little about the birds or the best areas. (His regular driver took us for a few days and he knew the best bird areas along the roads). To get to the forest each day, we were driven from our accommodation each day by a hired jeepney (pre-arranged by Felizardo), the 2-2½ hour journey to the good birding areas (this took longer than usual due to the bridge being down).

Facilities

We stayed and ate at the Paper Country Inn (P570 for 3 bedroom, en-suite cramped, budget air-con room³/₄better P700 double rooms are also available). It was necessary to order food in advance, and they were fine about cooking very early breakfasts if pre-ordered (i.e. 3-4 am !)

Birding

If you can book Felizardo Goring as your guide he will take you to the best areas along road 1 / 4, road 1, road 4a and road 4. There is a regular roost of the rare **Blue-backed Parrot** at the junctions of Rd 1 and Rd 4a. This is also a good area for roosting **hornbills**. The area of forest behind the first small shelter on the left of Rd 1 / 4 is traditionally a good area for **Little Slaty Flycatcher**. Rd 1 / 4 in general is very good as is the small patch of good forest along Rd 4a good area for the **Monarchs**. **Silvery Kingfishers** are virtually guaranteed at the small pool on the right of Rd 1 (when approaching from Rd 1 / 4)³/₄the pool is clearly visible from the road itself, approximately 2 miles from the junction with Rd 1 / 4.

Key Species Recorded

***Silvery Kingfisher** Seen daily on the small roadside pool alongside road 1 (a guaranteed site for this species, one of the best-looking kingfishers in Asia), with 2 being seen together on one day.

One of the trip highlights.

Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon 1 seen in trees around the Blue-backed Parrot roost site (junction of Rds 1 & 4a).

***Blue-backed parrot** 5-10 very vocal birds seen around the junction between Rd 1 and Rd 4. They were seen at around 9 in the morning, just after the sun first broke through the morning mist, (this is a regular roost site for the species).

***Mindanao Wattled Broadbill (*Eurylaimas mayri*)** MINDANAO ENDEMIC. A single imm./E bird seen in a mixed feeding flock (with Blue Fantails & Yellow-bellied Whistlers) along road 4, was a surprise find as other groups seemed to have missed the species this year. The bird was heard loudly bill-snapping twice. This is treated as conspecific with Visayan Wattled Broadbill by some authors (e.g. Kennedy *et al.* 2000) **One of the trip highlights.**

Red-bellied Pitta Stunning views of a single male just off road 1/4, calling back to the tape from a low perch.

Steere's (Azure-breasted) Pitta 3-4 Sightings of this brilliant bird. The sight of 3 birds flying low across road 4a in single file to join a fourth bird was one of the highlights of the trip. We recorded them twice along road 1/4³/₄near the first small shelter on the left (with the small trail running behind it). Whilst here the pittas were very vocal, as there seemed to be regular rainfalls, whereas at Rajah Sikatuna the pittas were not very vocal at all in dry weather, and consequently were much harder to see there. **One of the trip highlights.**

Rufous Hornbill 2 sightings of what is surely, one of the best hornbills in Asia! A group of 4 flew over the road, near dusk near the junction of roads 1 and 4a, in the area of the regular Blue-backed Parrot roost. Another group flew over a large clearing at the edge of the good forest along road 4, and 1 of these was scoped well and photographed perched when the characteristic broad yellow last third to the bill of this *mindanensis* race could be appreciated.

One of the trip highlights.

***Writhed Hornbill** MINDANAO ENDEMIC. A few recorded on most days, along road 1 / 4, and especially around the large clearings on the edge of the good forest along road 4 with Tarictics.

***Mindanao Tarictic Hornbill** (MINDANAO ENDEMIC, if split from Samar Hornbill). Seen on two days at the edge of the large clearing, beside the good forest along road 4, in company with taritics.

Short-crested Monarch A brilliant ♂ was scoped calling back to the tape from the sub-canopy, along road 4. In the same area up to 5 or 6 birds were heard calling throughout the same morning, with up to 3 birds (2E) being seen together, feeding in the understorey in a mixed species flock, which also included Celestial Monarch, Black-naped Monarchs and Philippine Leafbirds.

Celestial Monarch At least 2 (1♂, 1E) seen feeding high in the canopy, in a mixed feeding flock with Short-crested & Black-naped Monarchs. Several others also heard in this area on the same morning.

***Little Slaty Flycatcher** 1♂ in territory seen on two days^{3/4}along road 1 / 4, from the first shelter on the left, take the trail behind the hut and take the first fork right after less than 20 m. The bird was holding territory just off this on the right-hand side (just over the small raised bank)^{3/4}apparently this has historically been a good area for the species (Felizardo pers. comm.). The bird came readily into the tape, remaining on or near the ground for most of the time.

***Rusty-crowned Babbler** MINDANAO ENDEMIC. 2 sightings, of up to 3 birds, feeding in the canopy in mixed feeding flocks, along Rd 4-near the junction with Rd 1.

***Black-headed Tailorbird** MINDANAO ENDEMIC. Seen and heard daily here^{3/4}being very tape responsive, although always skulking, remaining on or near the ground.

Bislig Airfield (near PICOP), MINDANAO

This disused airfield on the outskirts of Bislig city in eastern Mindanao, is a short distance from the hotels used when birding PICOP. It is a good area to see **Grass Owl** and also is one of the few regular areas left for the endemic, globally threatened **Philippine Duck**. The pools here are also good for more widespread bitterns and crakes.

Access

We hired a tricycle from the Paper Country Inn for P100 for a return trip, for the whole tricycle with an hour birding at the site.

Facilities

There are no facilities here, stay at the Paper Country Inn in Bislig (P570, for small, 3-bed, air-con budget room), and bird the airfield if returning from PICOP early one day, or if arriving in Bislig late in the day (as we did).

Birding

It is sometimes possible for the vehicles to enter the airfield and drive along the disused runway, otherwise just walk in and check the pools alongside the runway. We did not see any ducks on the small pools, which were quite low when we were there. These pools are good for crakes and bitterns at dusk. Look for the ducks flying around late in the afternoon.

***Philippine Duck** 1 flew over the runway on our second visit there^{3/4} only this one was seen in 3 visits to the airfield.

***Grass Owl** 1 seen on both occasions we stayed until dusk, on the last occasion flying over the runway.

***Blue-Breasted Quail** 2 seen along the edge of the runway on 1 visit.

***Black Bittern** Recorded on 2 of 3 visits, up to 2 seen.

***Painted Snipe** 1 seen feeding late one evening on one of the small pools beside the runway.

Mount Macabul, Salaysay, MINDANAO

This **Philippine Eagle** nest site, a short way from Davao in southern Mindanao, was only visited as the regular birds were not nesting (as they should ordinarily have been) at Kitanglad this year. This nest site

is monitored by the Philippine Eagle Foundation, who are keen to minimise visitors and disturbance. Generally in most years Kitanglad would still be the best site to see them, as there are many other important endemics there also, and the nest at Macabul may be less easy to view in another year as the birds change sites every season. We were given the details for visiting this site by Felizardo Goring and Tim Fisher, and it would be best to contact them first if intending to visit this site. **Mindanao Brown-Dove** has been heard here by Tim Fisher and **Whiskered Flowerpecker** is a possibility.

Access

We hired a taxi from Davao (P250; 30 minutes) to take us to the village of Calinan (people in Davao knew of this village), on the outskirts of Davao. We arranged by telephone the day before to meet someone from Salaysay village in Calinan, who would take us to the barangay captain at Salaysay. The Lumbeyan residence in Calinan, (where we phoned) had a radio link-up with the barangay captain's house in Salaysay. Someone then met us (it turned out to be the captain's son) and guided us by motorbike to the furthest point towards Salaysay where cars could go (this took a further 20 mins). From there a motorbike each was arranged (after a short period of negotiation) to take us to the captain's house in Salaysay (20 mins). The captain then arranged 4 bikes (1 for each of us and 1 for him as our guide) to take us the 10km journey up the mountain to the nest (P600 per bike return). We had to pay a further P150 (P50 each) for bikes to return us to Calinan from Salaysay when we returned. From Calinan we returned by taxi to Davao. The 10km journey to the nest took around 1½ hours of very treacherous riding through very wet, muddy, slippery, and sometimes-rocky terrain (with a high risk of limbs being broken the whole time!). On arriving at the top of the valley we were then taken down a very narrow, very steep trail for a few hundred metres to overlook the nest, approximately 100m away. As this area was very difficult to stay upright on-the track is really steep and the bird was so close we did not spend long here for fear of disturbance. The viewing here was also very restricted¾the bird could only be viewed through a small gap in the canopy by standing in a particular spot.

Facilities

None, we brought in food and drink from Davao. We day-tripped from Davao and stayed in the expensive but very pristine Manor Hotel (P900 for 3 bedroom, air-con room), as we wanted to be sure to stay somewhere safe in Davao as a bombing had only recently occurred.

Birding

There are no real areas to go birding as time is limited due to the reliance on bikes. We did spend sometime looking from the valley top but saw little of note.

Key Species Recorded

***Philippine Eagle** A 4-5 month-old, fully-grown 'chick' seen on the nest. The bird could be viewed down to less than 100 metres allowing good photographs (see OBC gallery), but we minimised time spent here due to worries over disturbance. Despite looking from the valley top we didn't manage to see the adults. This year most groups were visiting these birds as the regular pair at Kitanglad were not breeding, as they had been due to. **One of the trip highlights.**

Barred Honey Buzzard A few seen circling around the valley.

Naked-faced Spiderhunter 1 seen at the top of the valley.

Mount Kitanglad, MINDANAO

Undoubtedly one of the key sites on any Philippines trip, it is usually the most reliable place to see **Philippine Eagle** together with most of the Mindanao montane endemics including **Bukidnon Woodcock, Red-eared Parrotfinch, Blue-capped Wood-kingfisher, Bagobo Babbler, Mindanao Raquet-tail, McGregor's Cuckooshrike, Apo Sunbird, Apo Myna and both Giant and Mindanao Scops Owls.** **Goodfellow's Jungle-flycatcher** and **Mindanao Lorikeet** also occur but are rarely seen.

Access

Contact Tim Fisher before visiting to avoid clashing with any tour groups e.g. Birdquest, Kingbird.

Access and accommodation at the Del Monte Lodge is still organised by Carlito Gayramara although he no longer guides people up the mountain. He lives in Dalwangan Village north of Malaybalay, at the south end of the village near the school.

We paid P200/night each plus P200/day for cooking, P150 for a jeepney to the village at the base of the hill (from where it is a 1 ½ - 2 hour walk to the Lodge) and P150/journey for horses to transport our bags and food up and down the mountain.

Carlitos' son-in-law Danny can act as a guide for P250/day, and will be probably be needed initially as the trail up the mountain is not always obvious, he knows sites for some of the rarer birds including Blue-capped Wood-kingfisher and we showed him our site for Bagobo Babbler.

Unfortunately Danny tried to overcharge us when we came to leave, we may just have been unlucky but it would be wise to be absolutely clear on the costs from the outset.

There are many buses covering the route between Cagayan de Oro and Davao, we took an air-con 'Rural Tours' coach from Davao to Dalwangan (4 ¾ hours, P286), it is probably best to visit Carlito in Dalwangan initially before returning to Malaybalay (15 mins, P8 by Jeepney). Returning we took a non air-con bus from Dalwangan to Cagayan de Oro (1 ½ hours, P56)

A permit is required to enter the Park, this costs P525 / person and can be obtained from the DENR offices in Malaybalay, we were unfortunate enough to arrive in Malaybalay on a Sunday when the offices are closed (bad planning!) and since the following day was a public holiday Carlito kindly offered to sort out our permits allowing us to make our way up the mountain. These permits will be organised in advanced for anyone organising their visit through Tim Fisher.

It is also necessary to perform a small ceremony for the local tribe to allow access to the mountain, Carlito will advise any visitors and make arrangements for this. The ceremony requires 'gifts' of two 1m² pieces of cloth, one red, one white, three white chickens and 3 bottles of white wine. For the short ceremony we were taken to a house in Dalwangan village where one of the chickens was killed and its' blood drained into a bowl, a feather was then removed, dipped in the blood and wiped briefly over the front and backs of our hands.

Facilities

Food must be provided for your stay at Kitanglad, this can be bought in Malaybalay when obtaining permits at the DENR offices or brought from Cagayan de Oro or Davao. There are cooking facilities at the Lodge and Carlito can organise for someone to cook for you if required.

Accommodation is at the Del Monte Lodge, unfortunately the roof of the Lodge is now in disrepair and leaks badly, we were fortunate that during our visit the roof was covered with a massive tarpaulin which has been provide by Tim Fisher but it is probably best to bring tents if visiting the site independently.

If you have to overnight in Malaybalay as we did then there are several options, we stayed at the rather expensive Malibu House Hotel, P700 for a twin room with air con & Cable TV.

Birding

Key Species Recorded

Philippine Eagle 2 adult birds seen well coming out of the valley, watched from c.1km above the lodge. The birds were not breeding there this year as they had been due to at this time.

***Bukidnon Woodcock** (only formally described in 2001) Recorded daily, roding at both dawn and dusk, with the best views available from the first clearing above the lodge.

***MindanaoRacquet-tail** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Recorded on 3 dates-2 fly-overs on one day with another 3 also seen flying over, and good views of 15+ birds beyond the 'upper viewpoint'.

Philippine Nightjar Regularly heard around the lodge, with one seen in that area.

***Blue-capped Wood Kingfisher** MINDANAO ENDEMIC 3 sightings³/₄excellent, prolonged views of a female which flew in silently to tape in a patch of wood above the 'lower eagle viewpoint'; a vocal pair gave stunning views in 'Bagobo wood' early AM on another date; and another single seen further down the trail into the valley, near the first stream. This species was being recorded regularly by various groups at this time.

Mindanao Tarictic Hornbill (MINDANAO ENDEMIC, if split from Samar Hornbill). 3 sightings, with a maximum of 7 birds on one date.

***McGregor's Cuckoo-shrike** MINDANAO ENDEMIC seen on 2 dates, with a maximum of 4 there on 11/03.

Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis 2 sightings, with a maximum of 3 there on 14/03.

***Bagobo Babbler** MINDANAO ENDEMIC A very tape-responsive bird picked-up on call whilst watching Blue-capped Wood-Kingfishers. It was generally very difficult to see-circling continually, although it did sit still and call back from a low perch, for nearly a minute on one occasion. Another bird also heard in a patch of wood on the right-hand side of the large cultivated clearing a little further up the mountain.

Island Thrush Singles of the race *katanglad* seen above the 'upper viewpoint' on 2 dates.

***Rufous-headed Tailorbird** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Many heard, with several sightings in mixed feeding flocks.

Long-tailed Ground-Warbler Many heard, although only 2 sightings, in response to playback, of single birds above the lodge.

***Black-and-cinnamon Fantail** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Commonly recorded in feeding flocks.

Mountain Shrike 1 seen above the 'upper eagle viewpoint'.

***Apo Myna** MINDANAO ENDEMIC 15+ seen on one date only, mostly above the 'upper viewpoint'.

***Grey-hooded Sunbird** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Recorded on 4 days, with a maximum of 3 on 14/03.

***Apo Sunbird** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Only 1 seen, a very tape-responsive bird above the 'upper viewpoint', which showed down to just 1m.

***Olive-capped Flowerpecker** MINDANAO ENDEMIC 4+ on one date, with a single and 2 recorded on other dates there.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker Singles seen on 3 dates there.

***Black-masked White-eye** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Only recorded on 2 dates with 10+ there on 10/03.

***Cinnamon Ibon** MINDANAO ENDEMIC Commonly seen in mixed feeding flocks.

***Red-eared Parrotfinch** MINDANAO ENDEMIC 3 sightings^{3/4}1 in flight and 2 sightings in dense vegetation (max. of 2 birds).

White-cheeked Bullfinch 3 seen on one date above the 'upper viewpoint'.

Hamut Camp, LUZON

This area of forest in north Luzon is very important ornithologically, as part of the Sierra Madre mountain range, it is a key region within the Luzon endemic bird area, holding a number of restricted range species. Most notably the globally threatened, highly sought-after, **Whiskered (Koch's) Pitta**. Hamut is the only reliable, accessible site for *seeing* this Luzon endemic. Other threatened species regularly occurring here are **Flame-breasted Fruit Dove** and **Ashy-breasted Flycatcher**. Many other key Luzon endemics are also found at Hamut, many of which are very difficult elsewhere^{3/4}**Luzon Bleeding-heart, Rufous Coucal, White-lored Oriole, Blue-breasted Flycatcher, Furtive Flycatcher, Grand Rhabdornis, Golden-crowned Babbler, Luzon Striped Babbler, and Rabor's Wren-Babbler**. Some of the more widespread endemics are also found here^{3/4}e.g. **Spotted Buttonquail, Scale-feathered Malkoha, Rufous Hornbill, White-fronted Tit** (seemingly now very localised).

Access

We took an overnight air-con Autobus bus from Manila (P300 one-way; 11 hours), to Tuguegarao in northern Luzon. It should be noted that the air-con buses are extremely cold at night and 3 layers were needed! In Tuguegarao we hired a jeepney (P500) to take us first to the shops to stock up on food, and then to the village of Baliuag (25 mins), where guides and porters were arranged for the trek to Hamut. In Baliuag we were taken directly to the barangay captain's house, where his daughter swiftly arranged porters and guides for our journey. The captain himself was already at Hamut Camp with another group of birders. We hired 5 porters^{3/4}1 each for our large bags, and an additional 2 porters to carry the food for the 3 of us and them (it is necessary to buy food for the porters also) We also bought additional supplies in the village^{3/4}cabbages, rice, tins of sardines, onions, eggs and dried fish were all available, although how much this supply varies was unclear so it is safer to buy the bulk of the food in Tuguegarao.

On the day we travelled into Tuguegarao, and then Baliuag we walked out to camp 1 at Palay in the afternoon, arriving there at around 4pm having set off at noon from Baliuag. This was a very bad plan as the walk is very exposed and best not undertaken in the heat of the day. Consequently the walk took a lot longer than expected-it should have taken 2½-3 hours.

The next day we set off at dawn for Hamut, easily arriving there by lunchtime (taking around 6 hours birding all the way, slowly). This second section could be done in much quicker time if not birding. However, the good forest starts just beyond camp 1 and so there is good birding for almost all the way between the camps. When we came down from Hamut we walked very fast without birding and it only took 2 hours 10 mins to reach Palay (Camp 1). It also took around the same time from camp 1 back to Baliuag, in cool conditions. We probably could have walked all the way from Hamut to Baliuag in one day if necessary, although the porters were reluctant to do this. We were very lucky with the weather when we were there which made the walks much, much easier than they otherwise would have been. In wet weather, which is frequent in the region, the trek-in is VERY PHYSICALLY DEMANDING as the trail becomes very waterlogged and progress through the mud is slow and slippery. In summary, to be safe it is best to assume that Hamut can be reached comfortably in 2 days from Tuguegarao (which still allows for some quality time birding on the way-in), and if the pitta is the main priority then it can be arranged to walk out quickly in one day from Hamut if time is limited (Aidan Kelly & Co. did this), once the pitta has been seen!

Facilities

There are no facilities at Hamut, except a small stream for drinking and bathing. So a tent and camping gear is required, and all food must be brought in from Tuguegarao ideally (although some supplies can be bought in Baliuag). Porters for the trek can all be arranged by the barangay captain in Baliuag.

Birding

Some of the best birding is immediately around the camp at Hamut (this area is where most people encounter **Whiskered Pitta**), and on the trail in from camp 1 at Palay. Some of the birds are only found at lower altitudes than Hamut itself and so must be looked for on the way-in. The forest birding between Camp 1 at Palay and Camp 2 at Hamut is very good, and time should be taken when travelling to Hamut from camp 1 in order to get some of the low altitude specialities. **White-fronted Tits** are best looked for just before, and around camp 1 itself. **White-lored Orioles** are found just beyond the first camp-in the more open forest, just beyond the start of the forest from camp 1. **Luzon Striped Babblers** are best looked for in the good forest between camp 1 and Hamut, particularly in the lower sections as they only occur *below* 1,000m so need to be seen well before reaching Hamut. It is worth noting that many people also see the **pitta** on the way-in (we glimpsed 2 unidentified pittas briefly ourselves, and heard up to 4 calling).

Key Species Recorded

***Spotted Buttonquail** 1 female seen well as it crossed the path 100m before camp 1. We were pleased to get this after initially missing it at the more reliable site, Mt.Makiling. A. Kelly also recorded it here.

Scale-feathered Malkoha LUZON ENDEMIC. A few seen around the camp.

Rufous Coucal LUZON ENDEMIC. A noisy flock of 6-10 birds was seen high in the trees, just after seeing the Whiskered Pitta in the area of forest on the hill behind the campsite, (accessed by going further up the trail towards the ridge first and then turning up the stream-bed shortly after on the left of the trail). What was presumably the same flock was seen later that day right beside the camp-announcing its presence noisily as before. As a flocking species they were very responsive to playback of their calls.

Rufous Hornbill 1 seen flying over a clearing on the walk in, c. 1½ hours slow walk from the camp.

***Whiskered (Koch's) Pitta** LUZON ENDEMIC. Brilliant views of upto 3 birds near the camp, which came into the tape one one date (including an adult and an immature together). Sometimes the birds could be located from the sound they made hopping on the dry leaf litter, as they came towards us. They were in the forest on the hill behind where the tents are always set up (i.e. just beyond the stream for washing). To get up onto the hill it was necessary to walk further along the trail away from camp towards the ridge trail for less than a 100 metres, and walk up the first gully on the left of the trail, for a short while before climbing the muddy bank onto the hilltop on the left of the dried stream-bed. A bird had

also been seen in the same area a few days before by Aidan Kelly, and Thais & Howard Armstrong. The birds were temperamental in deciding when to call despite extensive taping in the same area in early morning there was no response at all and calling only started around midday, when the birds then became highly responsive! Kelly & company also had their bird here around the same time of day, having spent all morning with no responses from around the camp area. An immature was also seen along the ridge trail on another date. We also heard 4 birds on the way into camp, although all were a fair way off the trail. In addition to this 2 pittas were glimpsed on the way to Hamut from Camp 1 although on the brief views Red-bellied could not be ruled out. The physical effort required, rarity value and sheer beauty of the bird made this **one of the trip highlights**.

Blackish Cuckoo-shrike LUZON ENDEMIC. 2+ seen and heard giving their distinctive, high-pitched calls a short way into the good forest, not far beyond camp 1.

Black-and-White Triller 1 seen in the same area of open forest as the Orioles, just past the start of forest, just beyond camp 1.

***White-lored Oriole** LUZON ENDEMIC. 2-3 seen, and several others heard, in the first area of open forest just beyond the start of the forest shortly after leaving camp 1 for Hamut (within 15 minutes walk of the camp). 1 of the birds was seen visiting a nest beside the trail to feed the noisy chicks inside. NB. Some authors treat this as a Luzon race of Philippine Oriole (Kennedy *et al.* 2000).

White-fronted Tit 2 of these now very localised birds seen on the approach to camp 1, in open secondary growth, and later 1 was seen around camp 1 itself, perching in trees on the edge of the clearing and flying over the camp calling on a few occasions.

***Rabor's Wren Babbler** LUZON ENDEMIC. 1 ad. seen a short way from camp towards camp 1, and an imm. disturbed off the trail and seen briefly. Up to 4 birds heard daily.

Golden-crowned Babbler LUZON ENDEMIC. A really stunning babbler, encountered daily around the camp-commonly recorded in mixed feeding flocks.

Luzon Striped Babbler LUZON ENDEMIC. 2 groups seen (of 5+ birds in total), about 2 hours slow walk from camp 1, on the way to Hamut. They were in mixed feeding flocks in the understorey with Elegant Tits.

White-browed Shama Commonly heard around the camp at Hamut and seen regularly there.

Brown-headed Thrush When walking down from camp 1 at Palay to Baliuag 4 parties of 10+ thrushes were encountered. Only a few were seen well enough to identify as Brown-headed so it is difficult to know whether this small fall of thrushes also included Eye-browed. The flocks were all highly mobile implying there was a significant movement of thrushes occurring that day. Formerly treated as a subspecies of Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus* by some authors.

Furtive Flycatcher LUZON ENDEMIC. 1 singing ♂ in territory in dense bamboo beside the path, about 2 hours down the trail from camp. At c.880m, this was a surprising locality for the species as it exceeded their stated altitudinal limit (700m). The bird was highly responsive coming-in very close to the tape, but very difficult-to-see as it was constantly active and remained very low to the ground in dense bamboo the whole time.

***Ashy-breasted Flycatcher** LUZON ENDEMIC 1 near the camp, which never responded to tape.

***Blue-breasted Flycatcher** LUZON ENDEMIC. 5 sightings of singles along the camp trail, and also a pair seen on one occasion.

Ambabok / Apaya, LUZON

Both of these sites are near to San Mariano in Isabela Province, northern Luzon. The area around the former settlement of Sitio Ambabok is mostly grassland with patches of scrub and some areas of degraded forest. This is a good area to search for **Isabela Oriole** while we also recorded **Furtive Flycatcher** and **Green Racquet-tail**. Apaya is the site of an old logging camp and although some excellent forest currently remains, the area is threatened by illegal logging. It appears to be one of the best sites in the Philippines for the sought after **Celestial** and **Short-crested Monarchs** and is an excellent area to search for other Luzon endemics including **Luzon Bleeding-heart**, **Luzon Striped Babbler**, and **Rabor's Wren-Babbler**.

Access

We initially contacted Merlijn van Weerd merlijnvanweerd@yahoo.com or VanWeerd@cml.leidenuniv.nl a Dutch researcher who had helped to arrange a visit to the area for

Sander Lagerveld and Wim van der Schot the previous year. Unfortunately Merlijn was no longer based in the Philippines at the time of our visit but he provided us with some very useful information on the area and kindly put us in touch with other researchers at CVPED (Cagayan Valley Programme of Environmental Development) including Bernard Tarun Tarunbernard@yahoo.com who was extremely helpful in organising our visit, unfortunately he was not available to guide us during our visit.

In Tuguegarao take a tri-cycle to Don Domingo Market then a bus, jeepney or mini-van south to Cabagan (40 mins in an air-con mini-van, P40) asking to be dropped at the ISU (Isabela State University) Garita Gate just south of Cabagan and take a tri-cycle to the CVPED offices on the campus.

Bernard organised for Dahn (Tel: 63 (0) 9196607624 – Cell), the husband of one of the researchers, to act as a guide (P250/day). Although Dahn had not visited the sites previously he proved excellent at organising the visit and was very interested in learning about the birds in the area.

Since it is a full days travelling to reach Ambabok from Cagayan, it would have saved time to have continued straight on to Cabagan having departed Hamut Camp camp early in the day rather than over-nighting in Tuguegarao, allowing arrangements to be made for an early start the following day.

To reach Ambabok we left Cabagan at 07:00 taking a bus south to the San Mariano road junction (11/2 hours, P35) then a jeepney (45 min, P15) towards San Mariano stopping at the Municipal (LGU) office to request permission from the Major to visit the area. This is important to check the safety situation before proceeding as the area has a history of violent encounters between the NPA and the Army. Although obtaining permits is straightforward it took us 1 ¾ hours! It would save time to bring a short pre-prepared typed letter requesting permission to visit the area.

We then took a tri-cycle to the Army Checkpoint (to drop off a copy of the permit) before continuing into San Mariano town (total 15 min, P30). After lunch in San Mariano we took a tricycle to Disulap (20 min, P20/person) then a ‘ferry’ across the river (P5). From here we hitched a lift on a gravel truck for 30 minutes before walking the final 45 mins to Sitio Lukbon where we hired 1 guide/porter – Jesus, who is used as a guide by CVPED and knows the area very well, and another porter for 2 days to carry the food as far as Apaya. Both were paid P200/day. From here it took 2 ¾ hours via Villa Miranda to Ambabok where we camped on the banks of the river.

From Ambabok it is a 2 hour walk to Apaya. Note that these walking times are only approximate, returning it took just 1 ½ hours to walk from Apaya to Ambabok and 1 ½ hours from Ambabok back to Villa Miranda, the walks here would be considerably more difficult in wet weather.

Returning from Ambabok we left early to connect with a truck departing Villa Miranda at 07:30 (Sundays only?) which eventually arrived in San Mariano at 10:00 (P35). From here we took a jeepney (1 hour, P15) back to the main road junction then continued on to Banaue by taking a non air-con bus south to Bagabag (2 ½ hours, P60) then a jeepney to Lagawe (1 hour, P23) and another from here to Banaue (1 hour, P17).

Facilities

There are no facilities, tents are required and food must be bought in (available in Cabagan or in San Mariano). Rivers next to the camping spots at both Ambabok and Apaya can be used for washing and for drinking water.

We stayed with one of the CVPED researchers in Cabagan but there is also a CVPED Guesthouse on the campus if required.

There is no accommodation available in San Mariano.

Birding

See maps.

Key Species Recorded

Philippine Falconet 2 at Ambabok.

Cream-bellied Fruit-Dove LUZON ENDEMIC Heard daily around Apaya, where there were separate sightings of a single and 2 birds in a fruiting tree there, in addition to a third sighting of a bird flushed in the same area.

Spotted Imperial-Pigeon Good views of 2 birds in a large fruiting tree across the river from the camp at Apaya.

Luzon Bleeding-heart LUZON ENDEMIC 3 sightings at Apaya of birds initially flushed, with one bird later being relocated and giving excellent views perched on a low branch.

***Green Racquet-tail** LUZON ENDEMIC Only recorded at Ambabok where 2 were seen, with another being heard there the same day.

Rufous Coucal LUZON ENDEMIC Common at Apaya with a maximum of 25+ on one day, and 20+ seen on another day.

Indigo-banded kingfisher 1 early AM on the river by the camp at Apaya, with another seen in flight in the same area the next day.

Luzon Tarictic Hornbill LUZON ENDEMIC Recorded at both Ambabok and Apaya, with a maximum of 14+ at the latter on the 28/03.

Rufous Hornbill Recorded twice at Apaya, including 4 (3 ad, 1 imm) in a fruiting tree there, and also seen twice between Ambabok and Apaya (including excellent perched views of 4 birds).

Blackish Cuckoo-shrike LUZON ENDEMIC A few seen daily at both Apaya and Ambabok.

***Isabela Oriole** LUZON ENDEMIC A single initially taped into playback of an unknown oriole call, and then RH was able to watch a pair in the area for over 2 hours. When passing through the same area 2 days later the pair were still present and again gave good, prolonged views. To reach the area: continue along the trail towards Apaya from the camping spot by the river at Ambabok. The trail initially passes through an open area with scattered trees/shrubs before entering a grass tunnel after c.100m, after a further 50m just after emerging from the tunnel a trail leads off to the right into bamboo forest. Follow the trail, passing under a fallen tree after 30m and the Orioles were favouring the area straight ahead where the trail bends sharply to the right 20m further on.

White-fronted Tit 2 sightings at Apaya^{3/4}1 in a feeding flock and 2 in a fruiting tree the next day.

[Rabor's Wren-Babbler LUZON ENDEMIC 1 heard at Apaya.]

Golden-crowned Babbler LUZON ENDEMIC Several seen daily at Apaya.

Luzon Striped-Babbler LUZON ENDEMIC 4+ seen in a feeding flock at Apaya (across the river from camp), with another 2 seen later the same day on the camp side.

Furtive Flycatcher LUZON ENDEMIC 1 seen near Ambabok in an area of degraded scrub with dense bamboo.

Celestial Monarch A singing male seen across the river from the camp, with 2 others heard calling nearby. Another seen in a feeding flock in the same area. Another male was seen near a large fruiting tree there (close to the river), and also a pair were seen in a flock on the camp side of the river.

Short-crested Monarch 1 heard between Ambabok and Apaya, c. 1 km before Apaya. 1 male seen in a feeding flock back across the river from camp, and probably the same bird heard nearby later the same day.

Lowland White-eye LUZON ENDEMIC 2 seen in a fruiting tree at Ambabok.

Mount Polis, LUZON

Mt. Polis is an easily accessible site in central Luzon where many of the Luzon montane specialities including **Luzon Raquet-tail**, **Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove**, **Luzon Bush-Warbler**, **Green-backed Whistler** and **Chestnut-faced Babbler**. **Whiskered Pitta** is easily heard but is very rarely actually *seen* at this site.

The river below the village of Bay-yu, 8km beyond the pass is perhaps the best known site to see **Luzon Water-Redstart**.

Access

Easily accessible from the town of Banaue but to get there early you need to arrange a tricycle, we paid P150 for one way trips to the pass (reduced from P250 return on my first day when the tricycle disappeared mid-morning!)- Don't be surprised if tricycles fail to show up for early starts however. The journey takes c.1 hour and is very cold early morning. To return to Banaue either take a bus/jeepney or hitch, but note that the road is very quiet after 14:00.

There is a public Jeepney which goes from Banaue to Bontoc and usually leaves at 07:30-08:00 and is a good way to reach Bay-yu village, when we tried this I was told that the jeepneys would not be departing

until at least 09:00 so took a tricycle to Bay-yu (P250 return with a 2 hour wait at Bay-yu and several birding stops on the return journey).
Jeepneys can be hired for P1500/day.

Facilities

As Banaue is popular with tourists visiting the spectacular rice terraces for which the area is famous, there is plenty of accommodation available to suit all budgets, see the Lonely Planet for details. We stayed at the quiet Banaue View Inn above the town centre (P300 for a twin room with shared bathroom).
There is a small stall at the pass selling snacks but it is best to bring food for the day from Banaue.

Birding

Bird along the road either side of the pass and along the trail which heads off behind the checkpoint at the pass.

Key Species Recorded

***Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove** LUZON ENDEMIC Heard three times³/₄one near the km364 marker above the road, another heard calling below the road at km 363 and a third heard calling from above the road at km 363.5. Up to 3 birds flushed on several occasions, along the trail behind the checkpoint c.300 m beyond the last cultivated areas near a recently cleared area, with one seen eventually perched in dense foliage.

Luzon Racquet-tail LUZON ENDEMIC 2 flew in calling and viewed perched distantly on the hillside above km 363.5.

[Luzon Scops-Owl LUZON ENDEMIC Up to 5 birds heard calling between km 362 & 364, although the lack of habitat close to the road makes them very difficult to see there.]

[Whiskered Pitta LUZON ENDEMIC 5+ heard daily.]

***Asian House-Martin** 2 adults seen around Banaue town all day on the 1/ 04 may be only the third record for the Philippines.

***Chestnut-faced Babbler** LUZON ENDEMIC Quite common there.

Island Thrush Birds of the race *thomassoni* quite common, with a few each day.

Luzon Bush-Warbler LUZON ENDEMIC Very common.

Long-tailed Ground-Warbler 2 seen by the roadside just beyond the pass.

Green-backed Whistler 7 seen on one date and 2 on another date.

Mountain Shrike 2 seen near the km 360 marker, including a singing bird.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker Recorded on 3 dates³/₄2 males and 2 sightings of a pair.

White-cheeked Bullfinch 1 singing bird seen near km 360, and another heard nearby.

Mount Data, LUZON

This site was visited following sightings of **Luzon Rail**, **Whitehead's Swiftlet** and possibly **Worcester's Buttonquail** by Vladimir Dinets in January 2001. Unfortunately none of these were seen but the area proved excellent for nightbirds with superb views of **Philippine Frogmouth**, **Philippine** and **Luzon Scops-Owls**. The area is worthy of further observation, particularly earlier in the year - it was extremely dry in early April.

Access

The Mount Data Hotel lies on the rather treacherous main road between Baguio and Bontoc. Travelling from Banaue (Mount Polis) either take a Jeepney to Bontoc (1 daily leaving when full any time after 07:30, 2 ½ hours, P80) or one of the buses that cover this route (but leave later in the day). From Bontoc buses run regularly throughout the day (to at least 17:00) towards Baguio. We took a 'D'rising Sun Transport' bus (P56) stopping after 1¾ hours at the bottom of the entrance road to the Mount Data Hotel which is clearly signposted on the main road.

Leaving we took one of the many buses travelling between Bontoc/Sagada and Baguio, a 'Lizardo Tours' bus (P118, 5 Hours), Overnighed in Baguio at the 'Benguet Pine Tourist Inn' (P300 for a dorm bed including breakfast) then returned to Manila the following day on an air-con 'Victory Liner' coach (P281,

6 hours). Other bus companies covering this route include Philippine Rabbit, Dagupan Bus and Dangwa Tranco, many including Victory Liner leave from depots along Gov. Pack Road in Baguio – see Lonely Planet for details.

Facilities

The rooms at the Mt. Data Hotel are fairly expensive (P1200/Double, P1000/Single, P200 for an extra bed) but there is an adequate dorm which costs just P150/person.

Food is available in the excellent but fairly expensive restaurant at the hotel or in small eateries along the main road.

A cheaper option if you have transport is the ‘Golden Pines Hotel’ at P350 for a double room with shared bathroom, a further 6km along the main road towards Baguio.

Birding

Birding here is restricted to the remnant patches of cloud forest above and near to the Mount Data Hotel and to the Pine forest around the hotel. There are several trails through the forest patch above the Hotel.

Vladimir Dinets saw **Luzon Rail** close to the edge of the forest above the hotel, possible **Worcester’s Buttonquail** on the edge of the picnic area above the hotel and also observed **Whitehead’s Swiftlet** in the area together with **Whiskered Pitta** and **Long-billed Rhabdornis**.

Key Species Recorded

Luzon Racquet-tail LUZON ENDEMIC 3 birds seen flying over the picnic area, where 1 was seen perched the following day.

***Luzon Scops-Owl** LUZON ENDEMIC 1 seen well above the Mount Data Hotel on 03 /04, and another 2 seen well there the next day. No others heard there despite much effort, both in the evenings and mornings.

Philippine Scops-Owl 1 seen above the Mount Data Hotel on 03 /04 with 2 seen there the next day.

Philippine Frogmouth 1 seen extremely well for over an hour above the Hotel on 03 /04 when it could be viewed down to 1 metre! At least one other heard calling on the same night with 3+ calling there the following day.

Brown-headed Thrush 1 seen just above the Hotel.

Mountain Shrike 6+ seen daily.

American Cemetery, Manila, LUZON

This cemetery in the Makati district of Manila, is one of the most easily accessible, reliable sites for the Luzon endemic **Lowland White-eye** and the non-endemic **Barred Rail**.

Access

We did a short morning trip from our pension in Manila, by taxi (P100 one-way; 30 minutes). The cemetery is open 09.00-16.30 daily, and ID was requested when entering.

Facilities

We stayed at the Malate Pension along Adriatico Street, Malate, Manila (P750 for 3-bed fan-room, with shared bathroom). It was clean but expensive and very difficult to sleep at night due to the high humidity (especially at the end of our trip), and poor fan!

Birding

We saw the **White-eyes** in the stand of large open trees by the bottom of the steps to the monument-straight ahead from the entrance) and saw the **Barred Rails** feeding at the edge of the dense ‘flowerbeds’ at the back edge of the cemetery.

Key Species Recorded

Barred Rail 3 birds seen feeding at the edge of the dense flowerbeds at the back of the cemetery (behind the monument from the entrance. The birds fed in the open on the well-manicured grass at the edge of the beds, regularly going in and out of the beds for cover.

Lowland White-eye LUZON ENDEMIC. A small, vocal party easily seen in the large open trees at the bottom of the steps leading up to the monument (straight up the road from the entrance gate), and later another party seen in trees over the back of the cemetery, from the monument.

Mount Makiling, LUZON

Mount Makiling, only a few hours south of Manila, is situated beside the large Los Banõs University campus. It is a very good place to go at the start of a trip and familiarise yourself with many widespread endemics (e.g. Coletto, Philippine Hawk Owl), in addition to having a number of specialities^{3/4}**Spotted Buttonquail, Luzon Bleeding-Heart, Ashy Thrush and Grey-backed Tailorbird.**

Access

Take a bus from the BLTB terminal in Manila going to Santa Cruz, and get off at Los Banõs (P60). From here take a jeepney signed 'forestry' heading right, from outside the large Jollibee burger house to Los Banõs University campus (P4; 15 mins). We hired a taxi to take us direct from Manila airport to Makiling for P1200 one-way split between the three of us. When leaving Makiling take a jeepney from the end of the first road on the right from Trees Lodge, signed for 'Olivares' and alight at Olivares Plaza from where buses can be taken to Manila (P60).

Facilities

Stay at Trees Lodge at the back of the forestry campus. It is best to book in advance from Manila^{3/4}Tel. 49-536-2639. The lodge is a large building on the right at the back of the campus (right beside the foot of the road heading up the mountain), signposted with a small sign on the right to 'Trees Canopy'. It was P500 for a double room and P450 for a single. There is a basic restaurant across the road from the lodge, which closes around 20.00.

Birding

Bird the 8km road heading up the mountain-look for the **Bleeding Heart** and **Ashy Thrush** on the road at dawn. There are also some tracks going off this road-a particularly good track headed right towards a hot spring between the two main stands of food stalls, at approx. 1,000m. It is possible for the receptionist at Trees Lodge to arrange a jeepney to take you up the 4km stretch of driveable road, so that the small track leading further up can be reached at a reasonable hour. The **buttonquails** are found in the rough grass around the animal husbandry section of the campus.

Key Species Recorded

[Luzon Bleeding Heart] LUZON ENDEMIC. Heard almost daily, with up to 3 heard calling simultaneously from the gully on the right of the track to the hot springs.

Scale-feathered Malkoha LUZON ENDEMIC. 2-3 sightings along the mountain road there-this was our first endemic of the trip! Their high-pitched, piercing calls were heard daily.

Red-crested Malkoha LUZON ENDEMIC. Seen regularly, with one large flock of 15-20 birds seen along the road up the mountain. They were also seen on the hot springs trail.

Philippine Scops Owl 2 seen one night prior to dusk, c.0.5 km above Trees Lodge near the crash barrier along the road up the mountain, and another seen well when silently taped-in within the same area the next day. 2 juveniles seen on two nights in front of the Natural History Museum on the second visit, when they were tracked down by their constant 'tssseee' call. An adult was also seen in the same area on one night.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher 1E perched on a rock along the stream in the botanical gardens^{3/4}by the bridge next to the steps up to the raptor centre.

Spotted Wood-Kingfisher Many were heard calling daily at dawn and dusk, with none heard outside these times (despite tape-playing). Initially 1 was seen in flight in response to the tape, with 2 later

giving reasonable views (including 1 which was spotlighted). Another was seen in flight in the same area (c.0.5 km above Trees lodge), on a later date. On the second visit 1 was seen really well at dawn, along the trail just beyond the first clearing. Singles were also seen in flight on the same date at both dawn and dusk.

Red-bellied Pitta 3 sightings 1 immature bird beside the mountain road, near the crash barrier; and 2 adults seen along the track to the hot springs.

White-browed Shama A few seen alongside the road up the mountain (heard daily).

***Grey-backed Tailorbird** LUZON ENDEMIC. Regularly heard (up to 4 heard in a day), and 3 sightings –when taped in very hard to get a clear, identifiable view of the upperpart coloration as they circled above our heads for most of the time or were skulking in the undergrowth!

Flaming Sunbird 1 sighting of a pair feeding on low flowers alongside the road. It is worth noting that the red triangle was very hard to see on the ♂ which was best identified by the bright green upperparts, pale rump and blue forehead.

Siburan Penal Colony, MINDORO

The forest adjacent to Siburan Penal Colony is one of the few areas of lowland forest remaining on Mindoro and holds all the islands' lowland Endemics: **Black-hooded Coucal**, **Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker**, **Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill** and **Mindoro Hawk Owl** are fairly easy, **Mindoro Bleeding-heart** is rare and would require considerable time and/or luck.

Access

We arrived in San Jose from Manila, arriving at 06:15, then took a tricycle (P20) to the 'bus terminal' . Take any Mamburao/Sablayan-bound bus and ask to be dropped at the start of the road to the Penal Colony (Non air-con bus P60, 2 ¾ hours). Mr. Sabadisto, the head of Siburan Sub-prison who Tim Fisher had advised us to contact was not available but we were quickly given permission to enter, initially taking a tricycle (P20) to the main Sablayan Prison offices where they radioed Siburan Sub-prison and organised a lift for us. In Mr. Sabadisto absence we were well looked after, we were allocated a room in the staff quarters and a prisoner familiar with the forest (including trapping Bleeding-hearts!) as a guide. They also organised a tricycle when we left (30 mins, P50 – starting price P150!)

Facilities

We were allocated a room in the staff quarters, no mattresses so bring sleeping mats and a mosquito net is advisable.

Best to bring in food, one of the prisoners will cook for you.

In San Jose stayed at the adequate 'Mina de Oro Hotel' opposite the bus terminal, P300 for a twin with private bathroom. There are undoubtedly better options available – see Lonely Planet.

Birding

Birding here is hard work as bird densities are very low and it was very hot and dry during our visit in early April.

The forest is accessible via the dry stream bed which runs into the forest behind the sub-prison or along several fairly indistinct trails, it is probably necessary to get well into good (primary?) forest to see the **Coucal**. It is also worth spending some time birding along the forest edge, particularly early morning / late afternoon as this is best for both the **Hornbill** and the **Flowerpecker**. Nearby Lake Libuao is excellent for **Crakes** and **Bitterns** particularly mid-late afternoon.

The **Hawk Owl** is easily seen along the forest edge.

Key Species Recorded

***Schrenck's Bittern** 1 male showed well late afternoon at Lake Libuao on 10/04, perched in the top of sedges before flying down to feed on the vegetation at close range.

Plain Bush-hen Excellent views of a single bird feeding in a small fruiting tree on the forest edge, with another seen feeding in the same way at Lake Libuao.

Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon 2 seen along the forest edge on one date with another single seen there on another day.

Spotted Imperial-Pigeon 1 flock of 8 birds seen near the edge of the forest and 2 heard near the start of the river trail.

Metallic Pigeon 1 seen in flight along the forest edge and another seen well perched in the forest.

Blue-naped Parrot 4+ recorded on the 08 /04 and 3+ on the 09 /04.

***Black-hooded Coucal** MINDORO ENDEMIC 1 bird seen twice in over 3 hours of searching, with 3 others heard on the 09/ 04 and 4+ heard on the 10 /04 (all in areas of good forest).

Mindoro Hawk Owl MINDORO ENDEMIC Commonly heard and fairly easy to see along the forest edge, with a maximum of 6 on 09 /04.

***Mindoro Tarictic Hornbill** MINDORO ENDEMIC Recorded on most days with a maximum of 7+ on 09 /04.

Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker MINDORO ENDEMIC Fairly common along the forest edge, with up to 6 seen daily.

Mount Halcon, MINDORO

The two Mindoro montane endemics, **Mindoro Imperial-Pigeon** and **Mindoro Scops-Owl** can both be found on Mount Halcon in Northern Mindoro.

Access

Our visit was organised by James McCarthy through the Ayala Mountaineering Club based in Manila but would be fairly straightforward to organise independently. The cost of the 3 day/2 night trip, based on 5 people was P3635/person, this include all guide/porter costs, transport (ferries & jeepneys) and food.

We met the mountaineers at Batangas Pier and took the 08:15 Supercat ferry to Calapan on Mindoro (1 hour, P240). From here we took a Public Jeepney to Barangay Lantuyang, Baco (45 mins). After organising guides and porters we set off up the mountain at 11:00, walking fairly slowly and taking plenty of rest stops we reached our camp spot (1060m) at 17:40.

Facilities

We bought our own tents but these could have been provided if required.

The camping spot is next to a stream, which provides drinking water.

Food was included in the cost of the trip.

Birding

Bird along the trail either side of the camp, both the **Pigeon** and the **Owl** were seen along the first 1/2 km of trail beyond the camp.

Key Species Recorded

***Mindoro Imperial-Pigeon** MINDORO ENDEMIC Excellent scope views of 1 bird at 1070m, along the trail above camp, and 2 birds seen briefly prior to being flushed from a fruiting tree at 1080 m. A 4th bird was seen really well in a small fruiting tree further up the trail at 1160m. Also heard calling on 5-6 occasions, both from above and below the camp.

Metallic Pigeon 3 seen in flight.

***Mindoro Scops-Owl** MINDORO ENDEMIC 4+ heard calling overnight on 13-14 /04 could not be seen despite calling from very close range on occasion. 1 very tape-responsive bird seen well from the camp the next night, and at least 3 others heard.

Mindoro Hawk-Owl MINDORO ENDEMIC Regularly heard around camp, with 2 seen there.

Mountain Shrike 1 seen at 1150m.

Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker MINDORO ENDEMIC Only recorded twice³/₄1 near the 1st stream at 530m on 13 /04, with another 2 there a few days later.

SITES NOT VISITED

Angat Watershed, LUZON & Quezon National Park, LUZON

Angat is situated just north of Manila, and Quezon is in southern Luzon. Both these areas of lowland forest support similar species to Makiling^{3/4}**Luzon Bleeding Heart, Ashy Thrush, Indigo-banded Kingfisher, Red-crested & Scale-feathered Malkohas. Celestial Monarch** has also been recorded historically at Angat, although it is absent from both Quezon and Makiling. We were advised against going to both these sites by Tim Fisher because they are now heavily degraded and so many of the species are now more likely to be seen at Makiling.

Olango Island, CEBU

This wildlife sanctuary on this small island just off the east coast of Cebu is a well-known location for its high-tide roost of shorebirds (**Great Knot, Grey-tailed Tattler, Red-necked Stints**), and in particular **Asian Dowitcher**, which are best looked for here in March/April.

Lake Balisayao, NEGROS

This lowland site near the city of Dumaguete in south-eastern Negros used to hold a small population of the critically endangered **Walden's Hornbill**, although it is now believed they have been lost from the area.

Mount Canlaon, NEGROS

This forested slope was traditionally a good site for the western Visayan endemics **Flame-templed Babbler & White-winged Cuckoo-shrike. Visayan Flowerpecker** and **Sunda Thrush** also occur here. **Negros Bleeding Heart** and **Negros Striped Babbler** have also been recorded at Canlaon but are considered very rare or absent now. We chose not to come here and go to an emerging site Canaway forest, instead which is believed to hold many similar species and where the forest is said to be in better condition than the rapidly deteriorating forest on the flanks of Canlaon. By combining Canaway with a trip to the easy-to-access Casa Roro for the **Flame-templed Babbler**, we hoped to cover most of the species found at Canlaon.

Sitio Siete, MINDANAO

This high-elevation site in southern Mindanao holds some very localised species and would be well worth visiting. Unfortunately it is located within a very volatile region and we were advised against going there due to the active militant Muslim groups in the area-Tim Fisher even suggested we would be physically turned away from entering the area! The area holds the Mindanao endemics **M^cGregor's Cuckoo-shrike, White-eared Tailorbird, Goodfellow's Jungle Flycatcher & Whiskered Flowerpecker**, in addition to **White-fronted Tit & Rufous Hornbill**.

Zamboanga Peninsular, MINDANAO

Zamboanga Bulbul, endemic to this region is said to be common there together with **White-eared Tailorbird** and **Philippine Dwarf Kingfisher**, although generally people have not been visiting this area as it is within a dangerous area of Mindanao. However, Tim Fisher may be able to organise visits – contact him for details.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

For ease of reference and as it is now the most commonly used literature for the region, order and nomenclature follow 'Kennedy' et al.

Underlining denotes a **Philippine endemic** or proposed endemic should a particular split be adopted.

Brackets denote species which were heard only.

* Indicates a taxonomic note. Whilst attention is drawn to races within a species which, may or may not deserve full species status, the note does not suggest the user apply any particular line of taxonomy nor does it imply our support or otherwise, of any given author. The note is for information only.

TF = Tim Fisher.

AA = Andy Adcock.

RH = Rob Hutchinson.

SW = Sam Woods.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

2 over San Jose Airport, Mindoro on 12/04.

Great Billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

One on the north-western shore of Rasa Island, Palawan (they breed on Rasa).

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

2 at Lake Libuao, Mindoro during on 10/04.

4 over San Jose Airport, Mindoro on 12/04.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*

Fairly common in the right habitat throughout.

Eastern Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

Only noted on Palawan where singles daily at Sabang, and also seen at Garceliano beach . All were dark phase birds

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Common throughout in the right habitat.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*

Only noted at Garceliano beach, Palawan where on the first visit 2 birds came close enough for positive identification, although up to 15 egrets present. At least 9 seen on 2nd visit, roosting on mud in the mangroves at high tide

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Recorded regularly.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

Common throughout.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*

3 seen flying over the reservoir between PICOP and Bislig, Mindanao.

Little Heron *Butorides striatus*

Several sightings in coastal areas.

Schrenck's Bittern *Ixobrychus eurhythmus*

An Adult female showed well at Lake Libuao during the late afternoon of 10/04 initially perched in the top of lake-side sedges before flying down to feed on the floating vegetation at close range. Separated from the similar male Cinnamon Bittern by bold white spotting on the upperparts and in flight by dark grey tail and flight feathers contrasting with heavily speckled, chestnut wing coverts.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

1+ male at Bislig Airfield, Mindanao on 05/03.

Common at Lake Libuao, max. of 15+ on 10/04.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

2 male at Bislig Airfield, Mindanao on 05/03.

1 at Lake Libuao, Mindoro on 08/04, 4+ (3 male, female) on 10/04.

Black Bittern *Dupitor flavicollis*

Sightings on 2 visits to Bislig airfield (excellent scope views on both occasions) and two in flight over the reservoir at PICOP, Mindanao.

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*
60+ at Lake Libuao, Mindoro on 08/04.

Philippine Duck *Anas luzonica*
Only a single seen in flight over the far-end of the runway at Bislig airfield, Mindanao.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
2 on Rasa Island off Palawan on 04/02.

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
1 at Ambabok, Luzon , 1 at Mt Halcon, Mindoro

Barred Honey Buzzard *Pernis celebensis*
Singles at Madja As (Panay), PICOP (Mindanao) Siburan (Mindoro), and at least 2 in the valley at Salasay, by the Philippine Eagle nest site (Mindanao).

Black shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
Singles at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao, on two dates, the latter sighting involving a bird feeding on a large lizard.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastor Indus*
Recorded at Madja As (Panay), over the sea at Dumaguete & at Canaway (Negros), RSNP (Bohol) and at Bislig Airfield on Mindanao.

White bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaetus leucogaster*
Two sightings around Sabang, Palawan and singles seen several times around Lake Libuao on Mindoro.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
Seen at Sabang, Recorded at St. Pauls and Rasa Island in Palawan, and also at Casa Roro, Negros. Other small *Accipiters* remained unidentified due to poor views and the family was generally scarce despite other reports to the contrary.

Common Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Good views of a single bird at Mt. Polis, Luzon near the KM 359 marker.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*
Excellent views of a pair in flight & perched in Magsaysay Clearing at RSNP, Bohol, several other *accipiter* sightings in the clearing may have been these birds, an unidentified Imm. *accipiter* was seen perched in the same clearing.

Chinese Goshawk *Accipiter soloensis*
2 over at Mt. Polis, Luzon., 3 at Siburan, Mindoro, 1 at Mt Halcon, Mindoro.

Grey faced Buzzard *Butastur indicus*
One only gave good but brief views as it flew over a clearing at PICOP, Mindanao.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spiolornis cheela*
A few seen on Palawan only (replaced by Philippine Serpent Eagle on other islands).

* **Philippine Serpent Eagle** *Spliornis holospilus*
Recorded daily at Mt Makiling and Hamut, & Ambabok / Apaya on Luzon and at PICOP on Mindanao. Also recorded at Canaway forest and Mt Talinis (Negros), Tabunan (Cebu), RSNP, Bohol and Mt Katanglad, Mindanao. Split by some from the above and is the race encountered on all the islands except Palawan where the race *Palawanensis* is retained within *cheela*.

Philippine Eagle *Pitheophaga jefferyi*
A full grown 4-month old chick on a nest above Barangay Salaysay on the slopes of Mt Macabul, Mindanao, provided relief after the regular birds at Mt Katanglad unexpectedly failed to breed this year. This meant that the birds on Mt Katanglad were being seen very rarely and other groups had spent several days at the traditional view points without luck. Excellent photos were obtained by SW through a scope of the young bird which was viewed at less than 100m. 2 adult birds showed very well in flight at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao on 14/03 when they came up out of the valley c.1km above the lodge and circled over the trail for several minutes. 1 bird then dropped back into the valley, passing c.80m overhead while the second bird continued to gain height before eventually disappearing into the clouds.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*
2 at Ambabok and 1 at Apaya, Luzon, 2 at Siburan, Mindoro on 08/04 and 3 on 09/04. Singles at Mt Halcon, Mindoro on 13 & 14/04.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
2 dark-phase birds at Mt. Macabul, Davao Province, Mindanao.

Philippine Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus philippensis*
1 Casa Roro and 1 Ad. at Canaway Forest, on Negros. A distant bird was identified as this species by T. Fisher at PICOP, Mindanao. 1 Ad. at Ambabok, 2 (1 Ad., 1 Imm.) at Apaya, 1 over at Mt. Polis, Luzon, 2 at Siburan and 1 at Mt Halcon, Mindoro.

Philippine Falconet***Microhierax erythrogenys***

Seen in good numbers around the clearings at PICOP, Mindanao with 8 on one date and 2 on another. 2 at Ambabok, Luzon, 1 along the forest edge at Siburan, Mindoro.

Eurasian Kestrel***Falco tinnunculus***

1 at Siburan Sub-prison, Mindoro.

Peregrine Falcon***Falco peregrinus***

1 at Kitanglad, Mindanao, and another which was seen flying over Siburan sub-prison, Mindoro with prey which due to the long-legs was thought to be some kind of rail.

Tabon Scrubfowl***Megapodius cumingii***

A few seen at St Paul's NP, Palawan, around the Underground River station and along the jungle trail. The first sighting for Mt Makiling, Luzon, was noted by James Macarthy in Feb.

Red Junglefowl***Gallus gallus***

A party of 5 including one male, seen around the Central Park station at St Paul's NP, Palawan. 1 male at Hamut Camp, Luzon on 21/03 others heard. Heard at Ambabok, Luzon with 2 seen at nearby Apaya later the same day and a single on a later date, 2 in the forest at Siburan, Mindoro.

Palawan Peacock-Pheasant ***Polyplectron emphanum***

A stunning male was seen exceptionally well at the Underground River ranger station at St Paul's NP, Palawan. This bird has become very reliable in the last 2 years and feeds on scraps of rice thrown out behind the station. Good photos were obtained through the gaps in the wooden kitchen wall which provides a great hide. The bird is often seen with Megapodes and regularly feeds out in the open. We were lucky in that we actually had good views in the forest before it came to the clearing.

A female was photographed in the hand after having the misfortune to be trapped by inmates of the Iwahig Penal Farm on the Balsahan trail, Palawan. Efforts to secure the birds release sadly failed.

Blue-breasted Quail***Coturnix chinensis***

Two sightings of 2 and 3 birds respectively, on two dates at Bislig airfield, Mindanao. One occasion the birds fed very close to the runway giving excellent views. 1 male early AM on the track between Ambabok and Villa Miranda, Isabela Province, Luzon and very close views of a male down to 5m in the dry cultivated fields near Siburan Sub-prison at dusk on 09/04.

Barred Buttonquail***Turnix suscitator***

1 on road between Siaton and Mantakil Village, Negros,

1 early AM on the track between Ambabok and Villa Miranda, Isabela Province,

3 (2 male, female) at Mt. Makiling on the track opposite the Animal Husbandry buildings on the UPLB campus, late afternoon on 17/04.

Spotted Buttonquail***Turnix ocellata***

Excellent but brief views were had of a single female below camp 1 at Hamut. An unidentified bird was seen to run across the path in front of us but then it slowly crossed the path again allowing identification at about 4m before disappearing in to the dense vegetation. At Mt. Makiling a pair was seen feeding on the track opposite the Animal Husbandry buildings on the UPLB campus, late afternoon on 17/04.

Buff banded Rail***Gallirallus philippensis***

Several sightings of birds running across the road on the way to & from Baliuag village for Hamut camp, including superb, prolonged views of a bird feeding in the middle of the road, completely unconcerned by our vehicle when we stopped to watch the bird. 1 Ad. early AM on the track between Ambabok and Villa Miranda, Isabela Province, Luzon, 6+ at Lake Libuao, Mindoro.

Slaty-breasted Rail***Gallirallus striatus***

1 at dusk at Lake Libuao, Mindoro on 10/04.

Barred Rail***Gallirallus torquatus***

Seen running across roads en-route to Baliuag (for Hamut), and at PICOP but the best views were had at the American cemetery in Manila, Luzon where 4 were seen including a pair which fed in the open on the grass for 10 minutes plus. One bird also seen well on Apo Island off Dumaguete, Negros during a dive trip. 4 were also seen feeding alongside Buff-banded Rails and White-browed Crakes at Lake Libuao, Mindoro.

White browed Crane***Porzana cinerea***

Seen regularly on the pools by Bislig airfield (a max. of 10), Mindanao, and a single also seen in rice paddies near the Last Frontier resort, St. Paul's, Palawan. 10+ at Lake Libuao, Mindoro on 08/04 with 25+ there on 10/04.

Plain Bush-hen***Amaurornis olivaceous***

Several poor flight views had of a bird as it flew out of dense scrub to come in to tape, around the paddies at RSNP, Bohol. 2 birds responded on one occasion, when the birds came in very close, although only several brief views were obtained. Many heard around Ambabok with 2 early AM on the track between Ambabok and Villa Miranda, Isabela Province, Luzon. Excellent views at Siburan, Mindoro feeding in a small fruiting tree on the forest edge with another feeding in the same way near Lake Libuao, Mindoro. Also heard but not seen at PICOP, Bislig Airfield and Mt Kitanglad on Mindanao.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicuro*

Heard around Camp 1 en-route to Hamut, Luzon and 4+ in paddyfields adjacent to RSNP, Bohol.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*

A single male seen well at dusk at Bislig airfield, Mindanao.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

Several at Bislig airfield, Mindanao, and common at Lake Libuao, Mindoro.

Common Coot *Fulica atra*

1 seen at Bislig Airfield, Mindanao on 03/03.

Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula beghalensis*

Seen twice, Bislig airfield, Mindanao and near the airfield at Dumaguete on Negros.

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

4 seen at Garceliano Beach, Palawan.

Pacific (Asian) Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

Recorded at garceliano Beach on Palawan (20+) and also recorded at Bislig airfield (5+), Mindanao and 30+ at St. Moritz, on the outskirts of Dumaguete, Negros.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

Noted in the paddies near Balsahan, Palawan and Bislig airfield, Mindanao. Also 2 on the river at Disulap, Luzon.

Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*

5+ at Garceliano Beach on 06/02.

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*

A particularly well marked male gave excellent views on the beach near the mouth of the Underground River at St Paul's, Palawan on 01/02. This is a regular area for them.

Lesser Sand-plover *Charadrius mongolus*

Seen on both visits to Garceliano Beach, Puerto Princessa, Palawan with 10+ on 06/06.

Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia*

Seen at Garceliano beach, Palawan and San Moritz, (Dumaguete) Negros.

Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Several at Garceliano Beach, Puerto Princessa, Palawan on 05 & 06/02.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

Only noted at Garceliano beach, Palawan (2).

Common Redshank *Tringa erythropus*

1 seen at Garceliano beach, Palawan on one visit.

Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

3 in Paddyfields near Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan on 03/04.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

Common in paddies beside Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan, and at Bislig Airfield. Many also seen at St. Moritz, Dumaguete (40+), Negros.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hyperleucos*

Regular throughout.

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Noted on the paddies near Balsahan (20+), Palawan and similar numbers at San Moritz, Negros.

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*

Only noted at Garceliano beach, Palawan where 30+ and 40+ birds recorded on 2 visits.

Pintail Snipe/ Swinhoe's Snipe *Gallinago stenura/ Gallinago megala*

Total of 50+ unidentified snipes seen in rice paddies around Iwahig Penal Colony, may have contained both species (?). Several other unidentified snipes were also seen around Bislig Airfield.

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*

The most readily identifiable of the Snipe species due to the obvious pale trailing edge to the wing in flight and the call. 20+ in rice paddies near Balsahan, Palawan.

Bukidnon Woodcock *Scolopax bukidnonensis*

Seen daily at dawn and dusk, Mt Katanglad, Mindanao. The bird would fly over the clearing around the 'Del Monte lodge' giving it's staccato call. Better views were available from the first clearing above the lodge, where some birds were spotlighted.

Rufous-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

20+ at Garceliano beach, Palawan and a few identified at San Moritz, Negros (although many stints there were too distant there to positively identify in poor light).

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

40+ in Paddyfields near Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan and at least one stint at St. Moritz, near Dumaguete on Negros was identified as this species.

Red-necked Phalarope *Phalaropus lobatus*

5-10 birds came off the sea just off Apo Island, off Dumaguete, Negros during a dive trip.

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Only noted at San Moritz, Negros.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

3 hawking over fields near San Fernando, Luzon, 1 over fields on the outskirts of San Jose, Mindoro, and 1 over West Grove Heights Estate, Santa Rosa, Luzon early AM on 16/04.

Black-headed Gull *Larus ridibundus*

5+ seen from the boat to Rasa Island, Palawan.

Great Crested Tern *Sterna bergii*

Seen in good numbers off Rasa Island (30+) and occasionally off Dumaguete, Negros.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*

Seen occasionally over fishponds throughout.

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

2 at Siburan, Mindoro along the forest edge on 09/04.

Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*

Heard around the HQ Clearing at RSNP, Bohol, seen several times at PICOP, Mindanao particularly along Road 1-4 and at Road 1/4A junction.

Heard near Palay Village (en-route to Hamut) and Apaya, Luzon (where several unidentified green pigeons were seen in flight), and 4 at Siburan, Mindoro along the forest edge.

Pink-necked Green-pigeon *Trenon vernans*

Several at Siburan, Mindoro along the forest edge on 08 & 09/04.

White-eared Brown-Dove *Phapitreron leucotis*

Common at RSNP (Bohol), PICOP (Mindanao), and at Hamut Camp, Apaya & Ambabok (Luzon). Also recorded at Casa Roro (Negros), Kitanglad (Mindanao) and Siburan (Mindoro)

Amethyst Brown-Dove *Phapitreron amethystine*

Singles seen at RSNP (Bohol), Kitanglad & PICOP (Mindanao), and Hamut Camp (Luzon) with 4+ at Apaya, Luzon on 28/03, and 5+ there on 29/03.

Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus marchei*

Heard early AM at Mt Polis, Luzon on 2 dates, 1 calling occasionally between 06:00 & 06:30 above the road just before the KM 364 marker on 31/03 then singles heard on 02/04 calling from below the road at KM 363 and from above the road at KM 363.5 at 08:00. Up to three birds flushed several times along the trail behind the checkpoint c.300m beyond the last cultivated areas near a recently cleared area, one of which was eventually seen perched in thick foliage. The species makes a lot of wing-flapping noise when flushed.

Cream-bellied Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus merrilli*

Heard daily at Hamut Camp both around the camp and along the Ridge Trail, 2 flushed from a fruiting tree along the Ridge Trail on 22/03 only flew a short distance and gave excellent views.

Also heard daily at and around Apaya, Luzon where a large fruiting tree back across the river from the camp attracted 2 birds on 28/03 with 1 on 29/03 and another flushed nearby on the later date.

Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus occipitalis*

Heard daily at Mt Makiling, Luzon but not seen.

Several heard daily at Canaway Forest, Negros with singles seen there on 2 dates.

Frequently heard at RSNP, Bohol, with 1 male seen along the Tarictic Trail on 23/02.

4 at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao on 11/03.

3+ in a fruiting tree at Apaya, Luzon on 28/03.

10+ in fruiting trees at Siburan, Mindoro on 09/04.

Heard on Mt Halcon on 13, 14 & 15/04, 1 probable in flight on 14/04.

Black-chinned Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus leclancheri*

1 seen in a fruiting tree along the Brahminy trail at RSNP, Bohol, and a pair seen along Road 1/ 4 at PICOP on 02/03 and a single there again on 04/03.

Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula poliocephala*

Just one seen near the Junction of Roads 1 & 4A at PICOP, Mindanao, where regularly heard. Small numbers heard daily at Canaway Forest, Negros with one seen back along the Access Trail, and 3 sightings along the forest edge at Siburan, Mindoro.

Mindoro Imperial-pigeon *Ducula mindorensis*

On 14/04 at Mt Halcon, Mindoro 1+ calling pre-dawn just above the camp was followed by excellent scope views of a single bird at 1070m perched a little further along the trail, then two birds seen briefly in a fruiting tree at 1080m before they flushed with a 4th bird seen fairly well in a small fruiting tree a little further up the trail at 1160m. At least 2 more birds heard distantly above the camp early morning and again in the evening but none heard below the camp mid-late afternoon. On 15/04, 2+ heard above the camp early AM but none seen in misty conditions, 1+ heard below the camp at 1040m.

Spotted Imperial-pigeon *Ducula carola*

Good views of 2 birds in a large fruiting tree back across the river from the camp at Apaya, Luzon on 28/03 and at Siburan, Mindoro a flock of 8 in flight near the edge of the forest on 09/04 with 2 heard near the start of the River Trail on 10/04.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Common at St. Paul's, Palawan and at Siburan on Mindoro. 6+ seen at Rasa Island off Palawan.

Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*

Excellent views of a perched bird along the Access Trail at Canaway Forest, Negros, 1 in flight along the forest edge at Siburan, Mindoro, then superb prolonged views of one perched in the forest there on 09/04, and 3 seen in flight on Mt Halcon, Mindoro.

* **Philippine Cuckoo-Dove** *Macropygia phasianella*

Small numbers recorded at St. Paul's (Palawan), Madja-as on Panay, Canaway Forest (Negros), PICOP and Kitanglad on Mindanao, Hamut and Apaya on Luzon and at Mt Halcon on Mindoro.

This was formerly recognised as a race, *tenuirostris*, of **Reddish Cuckoo-Dove**.

Island Collared Dove *Streptopelia bitorquata*

1 seen between Baliuag and Palay village en-route to Hamut, with 2 recorded in the same area on the return journey, and 3 others seen between Villa Miranda and Ambabok, Luzon.

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

Several seen in cultivated areas at Siburan, Mindoro.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Common.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

Common in suitable habitat.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

St Paul's NP, Palawan, and 2 sightings at Canaway Forest, Negros. Total of 6 seen at RSNP, Bohol on 23/02 (most along the Brahminy Trail), 4 birds seen at Apaya, Luzon and 1 seen at Siburan, Mindoro.

Luzon Bleeding Heart *Gallinula luzonica*

At Mt Makiling, Luzon, easily heard along the Summit Trail and along the Hot Springs Trail. All birds responded strongly to playback often calling back for prolonged periods but none seemed to come closer. 2 possible, flushed from the side of the trail at the top of the Hot Springs Trail, both flew a short distance before dropping back into cover but not relocated. At Hamut Camp, Luzon 2 heard while walking in to the camp, 3 birds heard along the Ridge Trail one seen calling from c.3metres up perched on a horizontal branch partially obscured in foliage, it appears to be unusual for them to use elevated perches and it is possible the bird had responded to playback as approached. Another seen on the trail briefly while walking out of Hamut in pouring rain. At Apaya, Luzon 1 flushed from the side of the trail flew a short distance before dropping down again but not relocated, another bird did the same but dropped into a more open area then flew up on to a low branch (c.1m off ground) giving excellent views

before flying off. Another walking along the side of the trail later the same day walked into a small patch of thick bamboo undergrowth and disappeared!

[Mindanao Bleeding Heart *Gallicolumba criniger*]

A probable was heard calling along the Cockatoo trail at RSNP late AM on 21/02. The bird called for about 5 minutes before becoming silent, then despite being distant the back called back strongly in response to a pre-recorded Mindanao Bleeding Heart tape. RH made some fairly poor recordings of the bird.

Negros Bleeding Heart *Gallicolumba keayi*

1 seen in Canaway Forest, Negros on 18/02 was undoubtedly one of the highlights of the trip. The bird was at 960m, c.80metres along the wide gully with a small stream, which leads down and westwards from the camp. At 17:15 I had been sitting well hidden by a large tree when I looked around the tree, down into the gully when I noticed the bird in the gully about 15 metres away and had good brief views as it walked towards me along the bottom of the gully before seeing me. It then flew fast and low dropping into the bank of the gully about 30 metres away. When trying to relocate it, the bird again flushed at close range from a low (<1m) perch and again it flew a short distance before landing again, unfortunately in an area of impenetrable undergrowth. The white upperwing bar of the bird is very obvious in flight.

Guaiabero *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus*

Seen regularly at PICOP, Mindanao, and similarly at Ambabok and Apaya on Luzon. Also recorded once at Mt. Makiling, Luzon.

Philippine Cockatoo *Cacatua haematuropygia*

A party of 4 birds were seen well perched by a large clearing on the accessible NW side of Rasa Island. The birds were seen well perched for about 5 minutes before flying south over the island. This was a fortunate sighting as it turned out, because the windy conditions on the day prevented us from reaching the normal roost site on the northern tip of the island, which is only accessible by boat.

Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus megalorhynchus*

Good views were had of several perched birds both at St Paul's NP and Balsahan trail, Palawan. Regularly heard at Siburan, Mindoro where 4+ seen on 08/04, 3+ on 09/04

Blue-backed Parrot *Tanygnathus sumatranus*

At PICOP, heard mid-way along Road 1 on 02/03, and the following day good, prolonged treetop views of this very restricted range bird were had at a traditional roost site by the junction of Roads 1 & 4a. These birds remained in the area from 07.15 to at least 08:30.

Green Racquet-tail *Prioniturus luconensis*

Only seen at Ambabok, Luzon where 2 seen with at least 1 other bird heard on 27/03.

Blue-crowned Racquet-tail *Prioniturus discurus*

Only seen well, perched at PICOP, Mindanao and at Tabunan, Cebu.

Often heard at Canaway Forest, Negros, 2 seen in a tall tree on the slope above the camp on 17/02 where they roosted nightly. 2 circled, calling over the Cockatoo Trail at RSNP, Bohol on 24/02, 1 at Siburan, Mindoro on 08/04, 1 on 09/04, 6+ on 10/04 and 3+ on 11/04, others heard, 2 in flight over the campsite on Mt Halcon, Mindoro on 13/04, regularly heard over the next 2 days with up to 2 seen poorly in flight.

Blue-headed Racquet-tail *Prioniturus platenae*

Seen at St Paul's NP, Palawan where occasional small groups were more commonly heard than seen. Good perched views were had on several occasions along the jungle/orange trail.

Mindanao Racquet-tail *Prioniturus waterstradti*

Only seen at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao where on 11/03, 2 over low down the mountain, 2 just beyond the Upper Viewpoint then fantastic views of 15+ very vocal birds further up the mountain and 3 fly-overs again low down on 14/03.

Luzon Racquet-tail *Prioniturus montanus*

2 at Mt Polis, Luzon on 02/04 flew in calling and perched distantly on the hillside above KM 363.5 and 3 calling birds over the Picnic Area at Mt Data Hotel, Luzon on 04/04 where 1 seen perched early AM on 05/04.

Colasisi *Loriculus philippensis*

Common throughout in any forested areas, except Palawan.

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

This is sometimes treated as an endemic race of **Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo** *Cuculus fugax*.

Only sightings were at Mt Makiling, where an immature was taped in off the Hot Springs Trail and an Adult was seen in response to playback along the track opposite the Animal Husbandry on the UPLB campus. Heard at Mt Macabul and Mt Kitanglad on Mindanao, and at Hamut Camp and around the West Groves Estate, Santa Rosa on Luzon.

Oriental Cuckoo *Cuculus saturatus

Recorded around Palay Village at Hamut camp 1, and 2 at Mt Makiling, Luzon.

The race occurring in the Philippines is treated by some as a full species **Horsefield's Cuckoo** *Cuculus horsefieldi*.

[Plaintive Cuckoo] *Cacomantis merulinus*

Heard at Mt Makiling and Hamut Camp on Luzon; St Paul's on Palawan; RSNP on Bohol; Tabunan Forest, Cebu; and around Bislig airfield and PICOP on Mindanao.

***Brush Cuckoo** *Cacomantis variolosus*

Regularly heard at PICOP & Kitanglad on Mindanao; Hamut Camp, Mt Makiling & Mt Polis on Luzon; Canaway Forest on Negros and RSNP on Bohol. Also heard at Tabunan Forest on Cebu.

Only a few sight records of single birds, from Tabunan, Mt Makiling, Canaway Forest and 1 at Hamut Camp.

Two races occur in the Philippines *sepulcralis* and *everetti*. Some authors treat *sepulcralis* as a full species, **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**. NOTE: *Sepulcralis* is the only form likely to be encountered on a trip to the Philippines as *everetti* is confined to islands south-west of Mindanao.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

Two sightings at PICOP, Mindanao, 1 near the junction of Roads 1 & 4a.

***Philippine Drongo Cuckoo** *Surniculus velutinus*

Regularly heard throughout but rarely seen. Especially around PICOP on Mindanao and at Siburan on Mindoro. Singles were seen at Mt Makiling (Luzon), RSNP (Bohol), PICOP and Siburan.

Philippine Drongo Cuckoo comprises of the 2 endemic races *velutinus* and *chalybaeus*, if split from Asian Drongo Cuckoo.

Asian Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

Singles seen by the CPS at St Pauls NP, Palawan on several dates.

When split into 2 species-Philippine and Asian Drongo Cuckoo, the latter includes the endemic Palawan race *minimus*, which is only found there, in addition to all the other races found elsewhere in Asia. All the Drongo Cuckoos on the Philippines encountered away from Palawan are therefore of either the race *velutinus* or *chalybaeus*, and therefore all included under 'Philippine Drongo-cuckoo'.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*

Regularly heard throughout, often very common but only seen 3 times, singles at PICOP on Mindanao, Ambabok on Luzon and Siburan, Mindoro.

Scale-feathered Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus cumingii*

Several sightings at Mt Makiling, Hamut Camp, Ambabok and Apaya of this Luzon endemic. Their piercing calls were heard regularly at Hamut Camp and at Ambabok

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

2 only, Balsahan trail, Palawan.

Red-crested Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus superciliosus*

3-4 sightings at Mt Makiling, with a few good-sized flocks (c.15) recorded. Several daily at Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon.

Black-Hooded Coucal *Centropus steerii*

Just a single bird seen at Siburan, Mindoro on 09/04 although this bird was calling regularly it was very secretive seen only twice and only once well in over 3 hours of searching. 3 others heard, all in good forest.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

Heard near Sabang, Palawan.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bergalensis*

Heard at PICOP, Mindanao, and 1-3 daily at Siburan, Mindoro.

Philippine Coucal *Centropus viridis*

Heard regularly throughout. Sightings recorded from Hamut Camp, Ambabok and Apaya (Luzon), Mt Kitanglad (Mindanao), Tabunan (Cebu), Salagdoong Beach Resort (Siquijor) and RSNP (Bohol). Birds of the distinctive all black race *mindorensis* common at Siburan with several sightings daily, particularly along the forest edge.

Black-faced Coucal *Centropus melanops*

Commonly heard at RSNP (Bohol), with 5-6 sightings there. During our stay there the birds became increasingly less vocal, perhaps due to a prolonged dry period. Also seen once at PICOP (Mindanao), and occasionally heard there.

Rufous Coucal *Centropus unirufus*

Only 1 flock seen at Hamut, c.10 vocal birds around the camp.

More common at Apaya, totals of 20+ seen on 27/03, 25+ on 28/03 & 10+ on 29/03.

Grass Owl *Tyto capensis*

Seen at Bislig airfield, Mindanao where a quartering bird gave distant views on the first visit and gave much better views over the runway on the second; and 2 at dusk on the West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa, Luzon.

[Mindanao Scops-owl]

Otus mirus

Heard only at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao where up to 2 birds heard distantly on 3 nights, from above the Lodge.

[Mindoro Scops-Owl]

Otus mindorensis

On Mt Halcon, Mindoro 4+ birds heard overnight on 13-14/04 calling regularly throughout the night but frustratingly not seen despite being very close on a number of occasions. In contrast the following evening a bird which began calling at dusk just above the camp was very tape responsive and was seen several times sometimes at close range, eventually even seen from the camp site as we sat drinking coffee! At least 3 birds heard, calling regularly till 21:00 but then only occasionally during the rest of the night and not heard at dawn in light rain.

[Luzon Scops-Owl]

Otus longicornix

Up to 5 birds heard at between KM 362 & 364 at Mt Polis, Luzon on both 31/03 and 02/04, the lack of habitat close to the road makes them very hard to see or hear.

1 seen at above the Mt Data Hotel, Luzon on 03/04 no others heard despite lots of effort and 2 seen and another heard here on the evening of 04/04 but none in the same area the following morning again despite much effort. Excellent views of all 3 birds, all of which sat happily in the spotlight calling continually for up to 40 minutes once located.

[Mantanani Scops-Owl]

Otus Mantanensis

4+ heard, and one eventually seen, around a scrubby clearing in the NW corner of Rasa Island (just off Palawan). The bird remained less than a metre from the ground in dense bushes whilst we watched it.

[Palawan Scops-Owl]

Otus fuliginosus

At St Pauls NP, Palawan no birds heard along the Stream Trail on 30/01 in breezy conditions but 3-4 calling 2-300m along the trail on 01/02 though not seen in quite dense vegetation despite responding well to playback.

Easier to see along the Balsahan Trail at Iwahig Penal Colony where a single bird was seen well 3 times pre-dawn on 03/02 between the second and third stream crossings with at least 1 other bird calling in the area. Although less responsive to playback than in the morning, one bird again seen well in the same area in the evening.

***[Philippine Scops-Owl]**

Otus megalotis

3 races occurring in the Philippines probably best treated as separate species (Kennedy et al 2000, notes that all 3 races probably constitute full species in their own right based on DNA studies carried out by Miranda).

O. megalotis – Frequently heard at Mt Makiling, Luzon during both visits, both along the Main Trail and occasionally around the Campus, although only irregularly. On 25/01, 2 birds found by the side of the track on the left hand side c ½ km above the TREES Lodge just before the start of the crash barriers at dusk and gave good close views, we returned the following evening and had stunning close views of a spot-lit bird which flew in silently in response to playback at dusk.

Regularly heard at Hamut Camp, Luzon with one spot-lit by the Camp site there after coming in silently to tape on 21/03, also heard near Palay Village.

Heard only at Mount Polis.

Fairly vocal and relatively responsive to playback above the Mt Data Hotel, Luzon where 1 was seen on 03/04 with 2 seen there on 04/04. Also 2+ heard from the main road between Sinto and Abaton near the Golden Pines Resort on 03/04.

A persistent hissed 'tssseeee' heard from an inaccessible wooded gully at West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa, Luzon on the evening of 16/04 was retrospectively identified when an identical call by the Natural History Museum, UPLB, Luzon was tracked to 2 Juvenile Philippine Scops Owls, the birds which were calling almost continually through the night were easily seen perched high in trees in front of the Museum on 18 & 19/04 along with a single Adult on the evening of 18/04.

O. everetti – 1 bird spotlighted just after dusk at RSNP, Bohol on 21/02 along the Main Trail just beyond the start of the Brahminy Trail. This bird and one in the same area the following night responded to playback with a manical 'whoik, whoik, whoik' not recorded anywhere else during our trip despite numerous attempts to tape in calling birds. Several other birds heard at RSNP at the Magsaysay Clearing, around the HQ clearing and along the Main Trail between there and the Brahminy Trail.

O. nigrorum – Heard only at Canaway Forest, Negros, calling throughout the night but only very infrequently.

[Giant Scops-Owl]

Mimizuku gurneyi

1-2 heard each night around the lodge at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao, although frustratingly never seen (a big disappointment).

[Philippine Eagle-Owl]

Bubo Philippensis

Heard several times at Mt Makiling. Birds that were heard from T.R.E.E.S lodge were not tape responsive and there is a question as to whether the call may have emanated from captive birds at the raptor centre in the botanical gardens. Another bird was heard calling early one morning from the start of the hot springs trail. At least one bird calling overnight on 19/03, near Palay Village, Luzon on the way into Hamut camp and heard in the HQ Clearing at Logarita, RSNP, Bohol overnight on 22/02 and at dusk at Magsaysay clearing on 23/02.

***[Brown Hawk-Owl]**

Ninox scutulata

A single silent bird of the race *japonica*, a migrant to the Philippines, seen in the HQ clearing, at dusk on 26/02 and again at dawn the following day.

It has recently been proposed (King 2002) that the Brown Hawk-owl complex should be treated as 3 separate species with *japonica* split as **Northern Boobook**, from **Brown Boobook** *scutulata* and **Chocolate Boobook** *randi*. *Randi* was unrecorded on this trip.

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

It is proposed that there may be upto 4 species represented within the 'Philippine Hawk-Owl' complex (TF Pers com):

'**Philippine Hawk-Owl**' includes the races *philippensis* and *centralis*, both of which are similar in appearance and have very similar calls.

Philippensis recorded on Luzon, several sightings at Mt. Makiling; 1+ at dusk along summit road on 25/01, 4+ along the trail above the food stalls at dawn on 26/01, 1 at dawn at very start of track up mountain 18/04 with one seen further along the road at dusk and a pair seen at dawn the following day. Very common at this site with many heard.

Heard nightly at Palay Village / Hamut Camp, Luzon, 2 taped in at dusk near the camp on 21/03.

Heard at Ambabok, Luzon on 29-30/03 but not at nearby Apaya.

Centralis heard nightly at Canaway Forest, Negros with 1 seen on 18/02. This race is common at RSNP, Bohol where heard each night, 2 seen near the start of the Brahminy Trail on 21/02, 1 seen at Magsaysay Clearing at dusk on 24/02 and a pair seen in the HQ Clearing on 25/02.

'**Spotted Hawk-Owl**' includes the race *spilonota*.

Spilonota was heard at dawn at Tabunan Forest on Cebu on 27/02, and then again at dusk the same day and occasionally during the night, but not seen.

Almost all the birds we encountered were very responsive to playback.

'**Mindanao Hawk-Owl**' (including the race *spilocephala*) which occurs at PICOP, and '**Sula Hawk-Owl**' (including the race *reyi*), were unrecorded.

Mindoro Hawk-Owl *Ninox mindorensis*

Common, all along the forest edge at Siburan, Mindoro. Many heard and fairly easy to see, responding well to playback with 2 (Pair) on 08/04, 6 (3 Pairs) on 09/04 and a single bird on 10/04.

Regularly heard around the camp at Mt Halcon with 2 seen there on 13/04.

Philippine Frogmouth *Batrachostomus septimus*

Commonly heard at RSNP, Bohol, particularly around the HQ Clearing, at Magsaysay clearing and along the road leading up to there. Not very responsive to tapes here but eventually seen well a short distance along the Cockatoo Trail, above the HQ Clearing on 22/02 where, in a panic AA ran out of the accommodation block in just his underwear to view the bird, an unforgettable sight in a maglite! Fantastic views of a bird along the road up to Magsaysay clearing which spent over 20 minutes sat in the spotlight bobbing its head and stretching its mouth!

Not very vocal during our stay at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao but heard on 3 nights, with no attempt made to see them there.

1 above the Mt Data Hotel, Luzon on 03/04 took a long time to track down but then gave unbelievably close views as it sat calling in the spotlight, eventually seen down to just over a metre! Eventually watched for over an hour in total, at least 1 other bird heard with 3+ calling there the following night.

***Javan/ 'Palawan' Frogmouth** *Batrochostomus javensis affinis*

A bird seen well after some effort behind the Last Frontier Resort at Sabang, Palawan and at least 2 birds calling along the Stream Trail at St Pauls on 01/02.

Debate continues over the taxonomic status of this species with further study required to clarify the status. The birds on Palawan give some very similar calls to Javan Frogmouth, although they have also been recorded making other calls which are otherwise unknown in nominate *javensis*. Holyoak in 'Nightjars and their Allies', states that a new species from Palawan, *B pygmaeus* probably involved an aberrant individual of *B javensis*.

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*

Commonly heard at Siburan Mindoro, RSNP, Bohol, & Kitanglad, Mindanao. Seen at RSNP (2 sightings), PICOP (3+), and around Palay village (2+) and Ambabok (1 & 2), on Luzon.

Large tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

1 heard and seen at dusk above the Last Frontier Resort at Sabang, Palawan.

Philippine Nightjar *Caprimulgus manillensis*

Replaces Large-tailed Nightjar throughout the Philippines except Palawan.

The same individual seen very well on two occasions, at Magsaysay clearing RSNP, Bohol, when taped in there after apparently leaving it's roost site, a palm tree. Also heard around the HQ clearing there. Heard at Bislig Airfield (Mindanao), with a single bird flushed off the road en-route to PICOP. Also seen and heard at Kitanglad on Mindanao. On Luzon, heard at Hamut Camp, Mt. Makiling, Ambabok and Apaya (where 2 were also seen). Also heard on 2 dates at Siburan, Mindoro.

Savanna Nightjar *Caprimulgus affinis*

1 seen at dusk at Ambabok, on Luzon, and another 4+ seen over cultivated fields near Siburan prison on Mindoro. Several others were also heard at the latter site.

The taxonomy of the Swiftlets is very confusing, and as Gee suggested in his report, identification is best done on range. As a result of the complexities and uncertainties of the taxonomy we did not give this group full attention.

Island Swiftlet *Collocalia vanikorensis*

Common at lower altitudes throughout, except on Palawan where it is proposed that it may be replaced by the following species.

***Palawan Swiftlet** *Collocalia palawanensis*

Fairly common at St Paul's NP and along the Balsahan Trail, Palawan.
Treated by some as a full species, split from Island Swiftlet.

Philippine Swiftlet *Collocalia mearnsi*

Noted daily at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao, and fairly common at Mt Polis and Mt Data, Luzon.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*

Common on Mindanao, Mindoro and Palawan, race *bagobo*.

***Grey-rumped Swiftlet** *Collocalia marginata*

Common, replaces above species on other islands, although some birds at PICOP, Mindanao appeared to show paler rumps?. Split by some from Glossy Swiftlet.

Pygmy Swiftlet *Collocalia troglodytes*

Small numbers recorded regularly throughout.

Philippine Needletail *Mearnsai picina*

A group of 5+ seen from the steps down to the river at Casa Roro, Negros, and presumably the same group seen later further along the main track giving stunning views at eye-level. 3+ on Road 1-4 at PICOP, 2+ along Road 4 on 03/05 with 1 there on 04/03, Mindanao.

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*

2 seen at Madja As, Panay, 5+ at Canaway forest, Negros, 1 at PICOP and 2 at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao on 15/03. On Luzon: 2 between Palay and Baliuag, near Hamut Camp and 5 seen at Apaya.

House Swift *Apus affinis*

Only recorded at Mount Makiling on Luzon, where 5 were seen from the track up the mountain. Presumably we overlooked this species.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

1 near Casa Roro, and 3+ near the start of the trail up Mt Talinis, Negros.

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*

4+ Magsaysay Clearing at RSNP, Bohol, 3+ there on 24/02.
2 at Hamut Camp, Luzon on 19/02, 1 on 20 & 21/02 and 3+ on 22/02.
1 at Ambabok, Luzon on 27/03, 2 at Siburan, Mindoro on 09/04.

Philippine Trogon *Harpactes ardens*

Recorded at Hamut (2 sightings), Makiling (3 sightings), Ambabok and Apaya (only heard), on Luzon. Regularly heard at RSNP (Bohol), with 3 sightings there, including excellent views of a pair excavating a nest hole by the roadside at the bottom of the hill up to Magsaysay Clearing where the male seen to chase off another male. Also heard at Mt. Macabul, Davao province, and at PICOP, Mindanao.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

2+ along the Balsahan Trail, Palawan, 2+ on Rasa Island off Palawan and 2 at Canaway Forest, Negros.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

One at St Paul's NP, Palawan and 1 along the river near Bay-yu Village, Luzon on 01/04.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo cyanopecta*

A couple seen at the botanical gardens within the university campus at Los Banos where the birds were seen perched on rocks in the river, near the bridge by the entrance to the raptor centre. 1 male early AM on the river by the camp at Apaya, Luzon, and one in flight there the following morning.

Silvery Kingfisher *Alcedo argentata*

Up to two birds seen very well on each visit (3 visits) to the small roadside pond on road 1 at PICOP, Mindanao. Perhaps the same bird seen twice at RSNP, Bohol at the start of the Kingfisher Trail at the forest edge where the stream runs out into the paddyfields.

The two races involved differ in the cast of the dark band across the underparts, purple in *flumenicola* on Bohol and blue in *argentata* on Mindanao.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Halcyon capensis*

Only recorded on Palawan: 1 Balsahan trail, 2 at Garceliano Beach, Puerto Princessa, Palawan and 1 on Rasa Island.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Recorded at several sites.

Rufous-lored Kingfisher *Halcyon winchelli*

Regularly heard at RSNP, Bohol, mostly at dawn and dusk. Only one seen, a male perched in the top of a tree near the accommodation block at Logarita. Also heard at PICOP, Mindanao.

White-collared Kingfisher *Halcyon chloris*

Recorded regularly throughout.

Spotted Wood-Kingfisher *Actenoides lindsayi*

A fairly common species, being very vocal at dawn and dusk, but often very difficult to see.

At Mount Makiling, Luzon: 1 seen in flight in the evening in response to playback, then reasonable views of 2 (one spotlight) at dusk, 1 again seen in flight there at dusk on 27/01. 1 seen well at dawn just beyond the first clearing along the trail on 18/04 with singles in flight high in the canopy at 07:00 and at dusk.

At Hamut Camp, Luzon some excellent views of birds disturbed during the day with 1 along the 1st gully beyond the camp on 21/03 and 1 along the Ridge Trail on 22/03 both giving stunning close views.

Heard only at Mt Madja-as on Panay, Canaway Forest on Negros and Apaya on Luzon.

Blue-capped Wood-Kingfisher *Actenoides hombroni*

This difficult species was being seen with some regularity during the early part of 2003. A female flew in silently to the tape, and sat in mid canopy for extended periods giving excellent views, in a patch of wood above the 'Lower Eagle Viewpoint'. A pair were also seen at the 'Bagobo Wood' on Kitanglad, early AM, when another pair were heard calling further down the valley near the first stream, with one seen.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*

Small numbers seen at Mt Canaway, Negros and commonly recorded on the walks in and out of Hamut camp, Luzon. Also common around Ambabok, Luzon, and seen daily in small numbers at Siburan, Mindoro.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops viridis*

Small numbers around the paddyfields adjacent to RSNP, Bohol. Common at Siburan, Mindoro.

Some authors split the Tarricic Hornbill's the following way.

***Visayan Tarricic Hornbill** *Penelopides panini/ticaensis*

On Mt Madja-as, Panay several heard calling from the forested gully's at c.600m on both our ascent and descent and near the ridge at 1000m. Frequently heard at Canaway Forest, Negros but shy, 2 seen on 17/02 and 1 on 18/02.

***Luzon Tarricic Hornbill** *Penelopides manillae/subnigra*

Recorded regularly at Mt Makiling, with 3 sightings there (max. of 6). Heard daily at Hamut Camp, Luzon where 10+ seen on 22/03 most along the Ridge Trail, and 1 seen on 23/03. 14+ at Apaya, Luzon on 28/03, 4+ on 29/03 with 2 at Ambabok on that date, others heard.

***Mindanao Tarricic Hornbill** *Penelopides affinis/samarensis*

Recorded on a few occasions at PICOP-in small parties along Road 4. A Total of 7 seen at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao on 11/03, 1 on 13/03 and 1 on 15/03.

***Samar Tarricic Hornbill** *Penelopides samarensis*

Recorded almost daily at RSNP on Bohol with over 6 sightings there, and a maximum of 12 birds there on 24/02. This form sometimes further split by some from Mindanao Tarricic.

***Mindoro Tarricic Hornbill** *Penelopides mindorensis*

1 at Siburan, Mindoro on 08/04, 7+ (3&4) on 09/04, 4 on 10 & 11/04.

Writhed Hornbill *Aceros leucocephalus*

Regularly seen at PICOP, Mindanao, with over 7 sightings there (mainly along Road 1/ 4 and Road 4, with a maximum of 8 seen along the latter on 04/03).

Palawan Hornbill *Anthracoeros marchei*

2 sightings, of single birds, along the jungle trail at St Paul's NP, and 3 separate sightings of single birds on the Balsahan trail, Palawan.

Rufous Hornbill***Buceros hydrocorax***

The Mindanao race *mindanensis*, seen and photographed at PICOP, Mindanao where two flocks of 4 and 5 (including 3 immatures) birds respectively were seen. These were seen around the junction of roads 1/4A, and along Road 4.

The race *hydrocorax* seen at Hamut camp, Luzon where several heard daily 1 seen in flight on the way in, 3 in flight along the Ridge Trail and 7 seen on the walk out from Hamut, including 6 together in a fruiting tree.

Two Adults in a fruiting tree at Apaya, Luzon on 27/03, 4(3 Ad, 1 Imm) there on 28/03. Between Apaya and Ambabok on 29/03, single in flight followed by superb views of 4(3 Ad, 1 Imm) perched. At all sites, birds were more often heard than seen as the call carries a great distance.

Coppersmith Barbet***Megalaima haemocephala***

On Luzon the race *haemocephala* regularly heard and seen at Mt Makiling, and also recorded at Hamut camp and West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa. A single bird of the same race also seen at Siburan, Mindoro.

5+ of *cebuensis* race at Tabunan, Cebu and race *Mindanensis* commonly recorded at PICOP, Mindanao and also recorded at Barangay Salasay.

Also several sightings of birds of the race *intermedia* on Panay and Negros.

Philippine (Pygmy) Woodpecker ***Dendrocopos maculatus***

Recorded regularly throughout: recorded at Makiling and around Santa Rosa on Luzon; at PICOP on Mindanao; Canaway Forest, Negros; and also at Siburan on Mindoro.

Birds on Luzon & Mindoro were of the race *validirostris* similar to *maculatus* on Negros. Birds on Mindanao are *fulvifasciatus* and have upperparts much more boldly marked black and white. The race *ramsayi* from the Sulu archipelago is very different with distinct vocalisation and is probably a separate species.

Sooty Woodpecker***Mulleripicus funebris***

Heard along Road 1-4 at PICOP, Mindanao, 3 (male, 2 female/Imm.) along the Ridge Trail at Hamut Camp, Luzon where also heard on another date, and also a pair seen at Apaya, Luzon.

White-bellied Woodpecker ***Dryocopus dryensis***

1-3 seen daily at RSNP (Bohol), 2 sightings at PICOP (Mindanao) and a single seen along the road at Sabang (near St. Paul's) Palawan. Heard at Canaway (Negros), and regularly at PICOP (Mindanao) & Siburan (Mindoro).

Greater Flameback***Chrysocolaptes lucidus***

There are a number of distinct races on the Philippines.

The striking race *haematribon* seen at Mt Makiling and Hamut camp, and Apaya on Luzon; *erythrocephalus* recorded once on the Balsahan trail, Palawan; 2 singles seen of *rufopunctatus* at RSNP, Bohol; singles seen of the race *montanus* at PICOP and Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao; 1 *xanthocephalus* on Mt Madja-as at c.600m, Panay and 2 seen at Canaway Forest, Negros.

Common Flameback***Dinopium javanense***

2 seen at both St Paul's NP and Balsahan trail on Palawan.

Mindanao Wattled Broadbill**Eurylaimusi mayri***

A single adult female seen in a mixed feeding flock at PICOP, Mindanao approx. 2-300m along Road 4 from the junction with Road 1-4 in the direction of Road 4A. Heard bill-snapping once.

Some authors only recognise one species, Wattled Broadbill, comprising of this and the following species (eg. Kennedy et al. 2000) but Lambert (1996) considers them distinct species on the basis of morphological differences.

Visayan Wattled Broadbill**Eurylaimus samarensis***

Small parties of 3-4 birds seen on 3 dates at RSNP, Bohol. The whirring noise of wings and bill snapping is often loud and obvious, and can be a very good way of locating this species (although note that Coleto also makes loud whirring noises so can lead to false alarms!).

Sightings were of 3 (male, female, 1 Imm.) from 07:00, c.50m along the road up to Magsaysay from the junction with the entrance road, these birds were feeding mid-high canopy but spent long periods sitting quietly between bursts of activity when the whirring wingbeats and loud bill-snapping was very obvious.

In the afternoon of the same day another 4 birds (male, female, 2 Imm.) seen near the Zig-Zag steps along the Cockatoo Trail leading up from the HQ Clearing. The birds were watched for c.5 minutes around 16:00 again feeding high in the canopy, the whirring wingbeats were regularly heard. 4 seen with a feeding flock along the Brahminy trail, where again the wing beats were the first indication that the species was present.

Red-Bellied Pitta***Pitta erythrogaster***

Three separate sightings.

An Immature bird by the roadside c.1/2 km above TREES Lodge, Mt Makiling, Luzon, late evening, and 2 Adults in the same area along the Hot Springs Trail.

Several heard at PICOP, Mindanao particularly along Roads 4 and 1-4, where stunning views of a calling male bird just off Road 1-4 (where it repeatedly came into playback).

Whiskered (Koch's) Pitta ***Pitta kochi***

Two unidentified pittas, which may well have been this species, were flushed from separate spots on the trail, both at 840m, on the walk into Hamut Camp, Luzon, with at least 4 others heard. Several birds heard during the rest of our time at Hamut, mostly around the camp itself. Excellent views of 3+ birds near the 1st gully beyond the camp site to the left of the trail, the first bird

came in silently and unseen to tape and called back from just 15 metres away, after which it then showed very well. We then had several good views of 2 birds (Ad. & Imm.) on the other side of the gully followed by excellent views of another (different?) calling bird nearby. It is worth noting that this area was where others (Aidan Kelly & co.) had also recorded the species recently, and that for both of our group's sightings the birds were seen in the middle of the day, when they were most vocal and responsive. Despite taping in the same area early in the morning none responded at all, whilst at around midday they were highly responsive.

1 Imm. also seen along the Ridge Trail, Hamut on 22/03 and 5+ heard daily at Mt Polis, Luzon.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*

Only recorded on Palawan, where heard several times at St. Paul's, and a single was seen roosting c.3m off the ground, while searching for frogmouths above the Last Frontier Resort.

Steere's (Azure-breasted) Pitta *Pitta steerii*

Very dry conditions while we were at RSNP, Bohol meant the pittas were very difficult, with calling periods almost entirely restricted to pre-dawn and dusk, when they were heard along the Brahminy trails, Main trail and around the Magsaysay clearing. Only 3 sighting in six days at RSNP, Bohol. One was seen flying around high in the canopy in response to playback at the Magsaysay clearing at dusk on 23/02. Another was seen a short distance along the stream trail, where it gave good views despite not being responsive to playback. It was not seen again despite calling in the same area for the following two mornings at dawn. One seen well as it flushed from the peak trail and landed on the leafy bank above and behind Magsaysay.

PICOP was different with birds being far more vocal and tape responsive, with several birds being heard daily. 1 gave excellent close views along Road 1 /4, and a total of 4 birds seen near junction of Roads 1 & 4A including 3 birds chasing each other over the main track when responding to playback!

Plain Martin *Riparia paludicola*

1 at Lake Libuao, Mindoro on 08/04.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Regular throughout.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Common throughout

Striated Swallow *Hirundo striolata*

Recorded at Mt Makiling and at Banaue on Luzon, and probably overlooked elsewhere.

Asian House-martin *Delichon dasypus*

2 Adults present all day around Banaue town, Luzon on 01/04 but not subsequently. Perhaps only the 3rd record for the Philippines.

Bar-bellied Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina striata*

Small groups (4+ 6) seen daily at Mt Makiling, Luzon and fairly common at Canaway forest, Negros. Common at Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon.

Luzon birds are race *striata* which has completely grey underparts while *panayensis* birds on Negros show grey throat & breast with black and white barred bellies.

Blackish Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracin coerulescens*

Single sightings of small parties at Mt Makiling, and fairly common at Hamut, Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon, where several were seen daily.

Black-bibbed Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina mindanensis*

1 of the race *ripleyi* with a feeding flock along the Tarictic Trail at RSNP, Bohol.

2 of the race *mindanensis* along Road 4, PICOP, Mindanao and 3 at Siburan / Lake Labuao, Mindoro on 08/04 and 2 on 09/04, 4+ on 11/04 race *elusa*.

White-winged Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina ostenta*

Commonly heard at Canaway Forest, Negros. 2 on 17/02 in a forest patch in the bottom of the valley just before the final climb into the forest, 6 seen in the forest on 18/02 with 2 there on 19/02.

McGregor's Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina mcgregori*

4 seen at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao on 11/03 with 2 there on 14/03.

Black and White Triller *Lalage melanoleuca*

1 at Mt Makiling Luzon, 1 female/Imm. above Palay, near the forest edge on the way in to Hamut Camp, 3 (male, 2 female/Imm.) at Ambabok, Luzon, and 4(male, 3 female/Imm.) along the forest edge at Siburan, Mindoro.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*

Occasional throughout.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

Several flocks totalling c40 birds at Mt Makiling, Luzon on 25/01, and 20+ at Ambabok, Luzon.

***Small Minivet** *Pericrocatus cinnamomeus*
Several along the Balsahan trail, Palawan.
This race *igneus*, is treated separately by some as **Fiery Minivet**.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocatus flammeus*
4 at Canaway Forest, Negros, recorded on 3 dates at PICOP, Mindanao.
3 close to Palay Village near Hamut Camp, Luzon on 19/03 with 5 there on 24/03, and several other sightings at Ambabok / Apaya, Luzon.

Philippine Leafbird *Chloropsis flavipennis*
In other reports stated as common although, they proved scarce while we were there with only 2 sightings at PICOP, Mindanao: 1 feeding in a large tree in a clearing along Road 4, and 3+ with a feeding flock nearby the following day.

Yellow-throated Leafbird *Chloropsis Palawanensis*
3-4 sightings at St. Paul's, Palawan, 4+ along the Balsahan Trail, Palawan and 1 at KM 36 between Puerto Princessa and Narra on 06/02.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Recorded on 2 dates at St Paul's NP, Palawan.

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
Fairly common on Palawan, around Sabang and along the Balsahan Trail.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*
Regular throughout.

Yellow-wattled Bulbul *Pycnonotus urostictus*
A few seen at Mt Makiling, Luzon, upto 4 seen daily at PICOP, Mindanao and Small numbers daily at Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*
A few seen at St Paul's NP and Balsahan trail, Palawan.

Grey –cheeked Bulbul *Criniger bres*
Recorded daily at St Paul's NP, Palawan.

Sulphur-bellied Bulbul *Hypsipetes palawanensis*
Frequently recorded at St Pauls NP, Palawan once we had learnt the call with 4+ birds seen on both 31/01 & 01/02 with others heard. 4+ at KM 36 between Puerto Princessa and Narra.

Philippine Bulbul *Hypsipetes philippinus*
Common and widespread throughout except on Palawan (where does not occur).

***Streak-breasted Bulbul** *Hypsipetes siquijorensis*
Almost extinct throughout it's range except on Siquijor where it is common and easy to see in the remnant forest near the Salagdoong Beach Resort, near Maria on the East side of the Island. 20+ seen and others heard in just over an hours birding there.
At Tabunan Forest, Cebu 2 seen from the 'Upper Viewpoint' as soon as we arrived early AM then 2-3 birds seen twice during the rest of the day.
The race *monticola* on Cebu may be a future split (Birdlife International 2000), and the race *cinereiceps* of Romblon and Tablas may also be worthy of full species status in the future.

Yellowish Bulbul *Hypsipetes everetti*
Small numbers recorded (max. of 6) on most days at PICOP, Mindanao.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
Palawan only, where 4 seen on the Balsahan trail and 2 seen along the Jungle trail at St Paul's NP.

Balicassiao *Dicrurus balicassius*
Birds of the black bellied race *balicassius* commonly seen at Mt Makiling, Hamut Camp, Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon and at Siburan and Mt Halcon, Mindoro.
Common at Canaway Forest, Negros and at Tabunan Forest, Cebu.
The race *mirabilis* with a white lower breast and belly seen near Mt Madja-as with several between the villages on Camancigan and Alijopan.

***Spangled Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus*
Common at RSNP, Bohol and at PICOP on Mindanao.
Note that some authors lump Hair-crested and Spangled Drongo as the same species, Spangled Drongo. Although when they are split the races *striatus* of Mindanao and *samarensis* of Bohol and Leyte are included in Spangled Drongo, with all the others races comprising Hair-crested Drongo.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus palawanensis*
Regular on Palawan at both St Paul's NP and along the Balsahan trail.

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*
Singles seen along the Jungle Trail at St Pauls NP, Palawan on 31/01 and 01/02.

***Philippine Oriole** *Oriolus steerii*
Seen at RSNP, Bohol and PICOP, Mindanao where seen in flocks of up to 8 birds. Some authors consider this to conspecific with **Dark-throated Oriole**.

***White-lored Oriole** *Oriolus albiloris*
Excellent views of a pair attending a nest in the lower part of the forest above Palay Village at Hamut Camp, Luzon. 4+ others heard.
Up to 3 heard daily at Ambabok / Apaya, Luzon where 1 was also seen.
White-lored Oriole is a further split from Philippine Oriole.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
Common at Canaway forest, Negros, and very common at Ambabok, Luzon. Also recorded at PICOP, Mindanao, Siburan, Mindoro and Hamut camp on Luzon.

Isabella Oriole *Oriolus isabellae*
On 27/03 at Ambabok, Luzon, one responded immediately to playback of an unfamiliar Oriole call in a degraded forest patch and RH was able to spend the next 2 hours watching a pair which stayed faithful to the area throughout and responded very well to occasional playback with good sound recordings obtained. The pair were still present in the same spot when RH passed back through the area on 29/03 and again had excellent prolonged views of the birds which were presumably holding territory in the area. To reach the spot, continue along the trail towards Apaya from the camping spot by the river at Ambabok, the trail initially passes through an open area with scattered trees / shrubs before entering a 'grass tunnel' after c.100m, after a further 50m just after emerging from the tunnel a trail leads off to the right into bamboo forest. Follow the trail, passing under a fallen tree after 30m and the Orioles were favouring the area straight ahead where the trail bends sharply to the right 20m further on.

Philippine- Fairy Bluebird *Irena cyanogaster*
Total of 4 seen along the Summit Trail at Mt Makiling on one day, regularly heard at RSNP, Bohol with 2 seen there on 23/02, 4 on 24/02 and 2 on 25/02. Common at Hamut Camp, Luzon where several seen daily, and also common at Apaya, Luzon.

Asian-Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*
Only recorded on Palawan where there were several sightings at both St Paul's and along the Balsahan trail.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*
Sometimes known as **Violaceous Crow** within the Philippines. There is apparently some support for the following three way split of the species within the Philippines. (TF Pers com)

'Sierra Madre Crow' *Corvus sierramadensis*
Heard daily at Hamut Camp, Luzon where 2 seen on 21/03, 6+ on 22/03 & 2 on 23/03.

'Palawan /Mindoro Crow' *Corvus palawanensis/pusillis*
On Palawan, frequently heard at St. Paul's with a few sightings around the CPS there, and several were also seen along the Balsahan trail. Also 5+ on Rasa Island, just off Palawan, on 04/02. Common around Siburan, Mindoro, where several seen daily.

'Mindanao Crow' *Corvus samarensis*
2 seen along Road 1, near the Silvery Kingfisher pond at PICOP, Mindanao on 04/03.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
Occasionally seen in open country.

Palawan Tit *Parus amabilis*
Much more scarce than in previous reports, with only 1 sighting of 2 birds along the jungle trail at St. Paul's on 31/01 (where 1 was heard the day before but not seen), and 2 seen by the third stream crossing along the Balsahan trail on 03/02.

Elegant Tit *Parus elagans*
Common at most sites visited.

White-fronted Tit *Parus semilarvatus*
4+ around Palay, Hamut Camp 1, Luzon on 19/03 with 2 there the following morning, and another 2 seen there early AM on 24/03. 1 with a feeding flock back across the river from Apaya, Luzon on 28/03 with 2 birds feeding in a large fruiting tree nearby later the same morning.
All birds were of the race *semilarvatus*, we did not see the race *nehrkorni* which occurs on Mindanao.

*** Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*

3+ along the Jungle Trail at St Pauls NP, Palawan on 31/01.

***Sulphur-billed Nuthatch.** *Sitta frontalis oenachlamys*

At least 4 seen at Mt Makiling, Luzon on one date and several with feeding flocks at Canaway Forest, Negros. Common in feeding flocks at both Mt. Kitanglad on Mindanao and at Hamut Camp on Luzon.
Treated by some authors as distinct from Velvet-fronted Nuthatch.

Stripe-headed Rhabdornis *Rhabdornis mystacalis*

Regular at Mt Makiling, Luzon with total of 10+ on 25/01, singles on 26 & 27/01 and 4+ on 28/01. 2 at PICOP, Mindanao on 04/03 with 1 on 05/03. 2 at Mt. Macabul, Davao Province, Mindanao on 07/03, and 10+ on 20 & 23/03 at Hamut Camp, Luzon

***Grand Rhabdornis** *Rhabdornis grandis*

2 near the start of the Ridge Trail at Hamut Camp, Luzon on 23/03.
Treated by some as a race of Stripe-headed Rhabdornis *inornatus*, below.

Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis *Rhabdornis inornatus*

4+ with a feeding flock in the bottom of the valley below the forest edge at Canaway Forest, Negros on 19/02. At Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao 1 on 13/03 with 3 on 14/03.

Bagobo Babbler *Leonardinia woodii*

At Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao a bird picked up on call while watching Blue-capped Wood Kingfishers on 12/03. The bird proved to be very tape responsive, usually circling around when difficult to see but occasionally sat still to call back and on one occasion came in to within 3m and sat singing back to the tape for nearly a minute from a low perch giving great views. Another bird heard in a patch of wood on the right hand side of the large cultivated clearing a little further up the mountain on 14/03.

Ashy-headed Babbler *Trichostaoma cinareiceps*

Excellent views of 4 birds observed aggressively displaying to each other in response to speculative playback, at St Paul's NP, Palawan. This involved two birds facing each other on a low perch with open, trembling wings. 2 were seen in the same area the following day and heard calling once on another date. Several birds heard along the Balsahan Trail and also near the KM 35 marker between Puerto Princessa and Narra, (while looking for Palawan Flycatcher).

Melodious Babbler *Malacopteron palawanense*

Several birds heard early AM along the Balsahan Trail, Palawan on 03/02 with 2 birds taped in just before the second stream. 2 seen again in the same area late afternoon. At least 1 heard early AM on 06/02 near the KM 35 marker along the main road from Puerto Princessa to Narra (whilst looking for Palawan Flycatcher).

Falcated Ground-Babbler *Ptilocichla falcate*

Excellent views of this stunning Babbler on 3 occasions, all three occasions the birds were tape responsive and came in fairly close at St Paul's NP, Palawan. The first 2 sightings were near the start of the jungle trail, and the last sighting was behind the CPS, near the sewage treatment works. Also heard along the stream trail at St. Paul's, and 1 heard between the 2nd and 3rd stream crossings along the Balsahan Trail, Palawan.

Streaked Ground-Babbler *Ptilocichla mindanensis*

6+ sightings at RSNP, Bohol: a calling bird taped-in giving brief views along the swimming pool trail, a group of 3 birds again responded well to playback along the main trail, and 2 sightings along the Tarictic trail-1 near the start of the trail and 3 further along later in the same day. 2 birds also found silently feeding in the leaf-litter by the roadside, at the junction between the road that leads to toen and the road that leads to the Magsaysay clearing. Also 3 were seen off road 1-4 at PICOP, Mindanao on 04/03.

Rabor's Wren-Babbler *Napothera rabori*

Fairly common at Hamut Camp, Luzon where up to 4 heard daily, 1 Ad. taped in and seen well near the camp (RH) on 21/03 and an Imm. disturbed from the trail before the camp mid AM on 23/03 and seen well briefly. 1 heard at Apaya, Luzon on 29/03. The species seems to favour areas with tree falls.

Pygmy Babbler *Stachyris plateni*

3 sightings in mixed feeding flocks at PICOP, Mindanao.

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

Seen occasionally in mixed flocks, PICOP, Mindanao.

Note that Rusty-crowned, Black-crowned & Golden-crowned Babblers are all considered conspecific by some authors.

***Black-crowned Babbler** *Stachyris nigrocapitata*

5-6 sightings in mixed feedings flocks, along the Valley trail and the Tarictic trail, RSNP, Bohol, with a max. of 8 birds.

***Golden-crowned Babbler** *Stachyris dennistouni*

Recorded daily in small numbers (max. of 8+) in mixed feeding flocks at both Hamut Camp and Apaya on Luzon.

Flame-templed Babbler *Stachyris speciosa*

Heard several times in the morning at Casa Roro on Negros, but seemingly unresponsive to tape. A party of 3 birds seen eventually feeding in the tops of small trees and bushes in a mixed species flock viewed from the bottom of the steep steps to the river and looking down to the river.

Chestnut-faced Babbler *Stachyris whiteheadi*
Only seen at Mt Polis, Luzon where quite common.

Luzon-striped Babbler *Stachyris striata*
3 groups of 2-3 birds seen in the lower forest on the walk in to Hamut Camp on 20/03.
At Apaya, Luzon on 28/03, 4+ with a feeding flock back across the river from the camp with 2 on the camp side of the river the same afternoon.

Panav-striped Babbler *Stachyris latistriata*
A tough climb up Mt Madja-as, Panay on 09/02 was rewarded with excellent views of up to 10 birds. The birds were on a ridge at c.1000m initially feeding on small green fruits giving excellent views as they were easily 'pushed' in, they then moved off with presumably the same birds giving brief views high in trees further back along the trail.

Negros-Striped Babbler *Stachyris nigrorum*
Once again an arduous trek was involved, this time at Mt Talinis, Negros where several birds were seen at two separate sites on the mountain.
Firstly, a day birding in very degraded habitat along the PNOC road near Mt Talinis, Negros on 13/02 was eventually rewarded with brief views of 1 'pushed-out' along the track on the left just before station 6 at 1085m. The only other sighting was of 2 birds which had been calling, in flight further along the main road.
On 16/02 Rene Vendiola took us to another site on Mt Talinis where 2 were seen well feeding on small fruits along a steep trail at 1200m, they are apparently common further along this trail where it reaches a ridge.
1 seen along the ridge at c.990m at Canaway Forest, Negros on 18/02, reached by following the gully down from the camp then cutting up the bank on the right after c.150m. At least 2 birds heard (& sound recorded) here. This may represent the first site record.

Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*
On Palawan only, where they were frequently heard at St. Paul's, and we had several sightings. Also heard along the Balsahan trail.

Brown Tit-Babbler *Macronous striaticeps*
Recorded in small numbers (upto 4 birds) on most days at PICOP, and a few also seen daily at RSNP, Bohol.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*
On Mindanao: heard at Mt. Macabul, Davao Province, and commonly heard at Mt. Kitanglad with 1 seen there. On Luzon: regularly heard at Hamut Camp, with 1 male seen along the Ridge Trail and commonly heard at Mt Polis where 1 was seen in response to playback along the trail behind the checkpoint. On Mindoro commonly heard on Mt Halcon where 1 was also seen.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Common at Casa Roro and Canaway Forest, Negros and Common at PICOP, Mindanao. Recorded occasionally elsewhere.

White-browed Shama *Copsychus luzonienus*
Several heard daily at Mt Makiling, Luzon where 4 seen on 25/01, 2 on 26/01 and 1 on 28/01. 1 on 19/04. Regularly heard at Hamut Camp, Luzon with 2 seen on 20/03, 3 on 21/03 and 1 on 22/03. Commonly heard at Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon but not seen. The birds on Luzon are of the race *luzoniensis*.
Unfortunately we only heard the race *superciliaris*, a potential split, with 2+ singing from the forested gully's on Mt Madja-as at c.600m on 09/02.

White-vented Shama *Copsychus niger*
Palawan: several heard daily at St. Paul's with 3 seen on 29/01, and singles seen on two other dates. Several also heard along the Balsahan trail.

Black Shama *Copsychus cebuensis*
I gave good views from the 'upper viewpoint' (whilst looking for the flowerpecker) at Tabunan forest, and at least two more were heard in this area.

Luzon Water-Redstart *Rhyacornis bicolor*
Excellent views of a pair on the river near Bay-yu Village, Luzon, upstream of the suspension bridge. RH located a nest here in a crevice c.3m above the river on a rock face on the village side of the river, c.60m upstream from the bridge.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*
Seen throughout, where common in suitable habitat.

Blue Rock-Thrush *Monticola solitarius*

1 along the PNOC Road, Mt Talinis, Negros, 1 seen on the walk into Canaway Forest, Negros on 17/02 with 1 again on 19/02. 2 at West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa, Luzon on 16/04 and one at the American cemetery, Manila, Luzon. All birds were of the chestnut-bellied form *philippensis*, which winter in the Philippines.

Ashy Ground-Thrush *Zoothera cinerea*

At Mt Makiling on 18/04 a tail-less adult disturbed at 05:45 from the bank on the right hand side at the top of the 1st set of crash barriers just before a big left hand bend in the road. The bird flew across the trail and perched in a tree giving good views before flying down into the gully. The following morning RH staked out the area from pre-dawn sitting in among the rocks at the bend in the road, at 05:35 a different adult Thrush, complete with tail, dropped down onto the road from the direction of the gully and spent 5 minutes feeding on the road before flying off up the bank. Possibly heard singing further up the road, below the 2nd set of crash barriers just prior to dusk on 18/04.

***Scaly Ground-Thrush** *Zoothera dauma*

Only recorded on Luzon where up to 2 birds were seen regularly feeding on the main road up the mountain at Makiling, 1 was seen at Hamut Camp, and singles were seen on 2 dates at Mt Polis.

The migrant form *aurea* occurring in the Philippines (and on Borneo) is considered by some authors to be a full species, distinct from the Himalayan form *dauma*.

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*

At Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao birds of the race *katanglad* seen, with singles above the 'Upper Viewpoint' and just above the Lodge. Birds of the race *thomassoni* common at Mt Polis, Luzon with several seen daily there. The race *mindorensis* was seen on Mt Halcon, Mindoro where fairly common with several sightings along the trail either side of our camp at 1060m.

***Brown-headed Thrush** *Turdus chrysolaus*

Several highly mobile, small flocks comprising 10+ birds each were seen above camp 1 (Palay) on the way out of Hamut on 21/03. All the birds in each flock were not seen well so we could not be sure there were not also Eye-Browed Thrushes within these flocks, although all the birds identified in these flocks were Brown-headed. Also 3+ seen well on the trail leading out of Hamut on 23/03. 1 near KM 364 at Mt Polis, Luzon on 02/04 and 1 just above the Mt Data Hotel, Luzon on 05/04. Formerly treated as a race of Eye-browed Thrush.

Eye-browed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

Several large flocks often totalling 200+ birds, were seen at dawn and dusk as they dispersed for a days feeding or gathered prior to roost, Mt Katanglad, Mindanao.

3+ near Palay Village, Hamut Camp, Luzon. Other flocks of thrushes seen around Palay (Hamut camp 1) totalling 50+ birds were seen too poorly to eliminate Brown-headed.

Golden-bellied Flyeater *Gerygone sulphurea*

2 seen at West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa, Luzon where many heard.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

2 at Mt Makiling, Luzon, 1 at RSNP, Bohol, and 1 near the Mt Data Hotel, Luzon.

Philippine Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus olivaceus*

Several seen in mixed species flocks at RSNP, Bohol (max. of 3+ there) and more regularly at PICOP, Mindanao where upto 4 birds seen on at least 3 dates. 2 also seen at Canaway Forest, Negros.

Lemon-throated Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus cebuensis*

On Luzon: 1 in Makiling Botanical Gardens, UPLB, and commonly recorded at both Hamut Camp & Ambabok and Apaya. Also common at Canaway Forest, Negros.

Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*

Several on Mt Madja-as, Panay, 1 along PNOC Road, Mt Talinis, Negros, 2+ in another area on Mt Talinis, and common on Luzon at both Mt Polis and Mt Data. Several also seen on Mt Halcon, Mindoro.

Oriental Reed-Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

Common at Bislig airfield, Mindanao.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Common in suitable habitat. Recorded at Madja As (Panay); en-route to Canaway forest & Mt Talinis (Negros); Mt Katanglad (Mindanao); Tabunan and Gaas Forests (Cebu); Hamut Camp (en-route), Ambabok, Mt Polis, & Mt Data (Luzon). More often heard than seen.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*

Common around the airfield at Bislig, Mindanao, also seen at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao, en-route to Hamut Camp, Luzon and at Siburan, Mindoro.

Philippine Tailorbird *Orthotomus castaneiceps*

Common at Hamut Camp and Ambabok and Apaya on Luzon, commonly heard at Canaway Forest on Negros with a few also seen there, and a few sightings of up to 3 birds at Casa Roro on Negros. More often heard than seen at these sites.

***Rufous-fronted Tailorbird** *Orthotomus frontalis / mearnsi frontalis*
Small numbers seen at RSNP, Bohol and others heard there. Common at PICOP, Mindanao where regularly heard, with 1-2 seen daily.
Treated by some authors as distinct from Philippine Tailorbird.

Grev-backed Tailorbird *Orthotomus derbianus*
Only recorded at Mt Makiling with 3 sightings in total there-1 along the summit trail, 1 along the Hot Springs trail and another by the SEARCA dorms. Heard daily there, although fairly difficult to see with the first bird seen requiring much effort to tape-into an area where good views could be obtained.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*
Common at Mt Polis, Luzon.

***Rufous-headed Tailorbird** *Orthotomus heterolaemus*
Many heard at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao several sightings, usually with feeding flocks.
This form is considered by some authors as a distinct species from Mountain Tailorbird.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*
Commonly heard at St Pauls NP, Palawan and seen twice along the Jungle Trail there.

Yellow-breasted Tailorbird *Orthotomus samarensis*
Up to 4 heard daily at RSNP, Bohol although only 1 seen, excellent views of a singing male at the start of the Brahminy trail.

Black-headed Tailorbird *Orthotomus nigriceps*
Heard daily at PICOP, Mindanao, where it was also seen on most days (up to 3 sightings in a day), sometimes without the assistance of a tape.

Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*
3+ seen walking out of Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao with others heard. On Luzon: Several on walks into & out of Hamut Camp, several seen in open areas at Mt Polis, and several at Mt Makiling around the UPLB Campus near the Animal Husbandry buildings.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*
Several sightings at Bislig airfield, Mindanao.

Luzon Bush-warbler *Cettia seebohmi*
Very common at both Mt Polis and Mt Data, Luzon.

Long-tailed Ground-Warbler *Bradypterus caudatus*
Many heard at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao and at both Mt Polis and Mt Data on Luzon.
Singles seen just above the Lodge at Mt Kitanglad on separate dates, both birds responding to playback. 2 singles seen by the roadside just beyond the pass at Mt Polis without using playback.

Rufous-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhynomyias ruficauda*
4 sightings at RSNP, Bohol (along the Cockatoo, Brahminy, Steere's & Tarictic trails); and 2 sightings off road1-4 at PICOP, Mindanao.

White-throated Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhynomyias albigularis*
At Hamut Camp, Luzon 1 adult seen well c.120m along the wide gully below the camp site, early AM. The bird was singing but difficult to hear over the sound of the stream as the song is fairly quiet, came in briefly to tape.

Ashy-breasted Flycatcher *Muscicapa randi*
1 near the camp at Hamut, Luzon, loosely associated with a small feeding flock, no response to tape.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*
Regular throughout with small numbers at most sites visited, often perching prominently in the tops of dead trees.

Mountain Verditer-Flycatcher *Eumyias panayensis*
Recorded at Madja-as (Panay), on Mt Talinis & Canaway Forest (Negros), and on Mt Halcon (Mindoro). Common at Mt Polis and Mt Data on Luzon, and several seen daily at Mt Kitanglad on Mindanao.

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki*
1 male close to the forest edge at Canaway, Negros on 17/02.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*
1 male race *nigrorum* at c.1200m on Mt Talinis, Negros, 3, 1 and 3 on separate dates at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao and several heard at Mt Halcon, Mindoro with 1 seen there.

Little-Slaty Flycatcher *Ficedula basilanica*

Excellent views of a singing male in the same area off Road 1-4 at PICOP, Mindanao on two consecutive days. The birds was highly responsive to playback, spending most of the time on or near the ground.

Palawan Flycatcher *Ficedula platenae*

Now unreliable at the Balsahan trail, where most people used to see the species (unrecorded for 2 years). There is a new site at KM35 from Puerto Princesa (towards Narra) where the bird was heard once but not seen. It was seen by others in this area both prior to and after our visit to this site. There is a small sign for an 'Ecosystem Conservation Monitoring Station' on the main road on the left with a small trail behind it, the bird was heard calling from behind this station. We spent time looking there and further along the road towards Narra, although we have since learnt that sightings have been walking along this road back in the direction of Puerto Princesa.

Furtive Flycatcher *Ficedula disposita*

A singing bird was seen very well when taped-in along the trail into Hamut Camp. The bird remained very low in dense cover, usually less than 0.5 m off the ground. Unusually for this species, it was at an altitude c880m which is above the species' usual limit (below 700m Kennedy et al). Another singing bird was also recorded at c180m near Ambabok, Luzon. Both birds were in degraded areas of scrub with lots of bamboo.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Seen at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao on 3 dates with 3 seen at Mt. Polis, Luzon.

Blue-breasted Flycatcher *Cyornis heriati*

At Hamut Camp, Luzon 5 singles seen 3(1 male & 2 females) along the Camp Trail, with another 2(male & female) along the Ridge Trail.

Palawan Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis lemprieri*

Recorded 7-8 times at St Paul's NP (with a maximum of 4 along the jungle trail) and also recorded along the Balsahan trail, Palawan.

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*

2+ from the 'Upper Viewpoint' at Tabunan Forest, Cebu, 3+ heard at nearby Gaas Forest, and also heard along the Balsahan Trail, Palawan.

Citrine Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa helianthea*

2-3 sightings at St. Paul's NP, Palawan (max. of 3 there), 1-2 daily at Canaway Forest, Negros, 1-2 daily at Hamut Camp, Luzon and several seen at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

Small numbers seen throughout in suitable habitat.

Blue Fantail *Culicicapa superciliaris*

Several sightings at PICOP and Mt Katanglad, Mindanao and also recorded at RSNP, Bohol, where a maximum of 6+ seen.

Blue-headed Fantail *Culicicapa cyaniceps*

On Luzon: Common at Mt Makiling, Hamut Camp, Ambabok, Apaya, and Mt Polis. The race *cyaniceps* occurring on Luzon has a rufous belly. The race *albiventris*, with a white belly, was recorded on Negros at Casa Roro and Canaway Forest where it was common at both sites.

Black-and-Cinnamon Fantail *Culicicapa nigrocinnamomea*

Common in feeding flocks at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao.

Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*

At PICOP, on Mindanao: 3 sightings along road 1-4 with a maximum of 3+ there on 04/03, and a single bird seen along road 4. On Luzon: singles recorded at Apaya (where others were heard daily), and at Hamut Camp, where a single male recorded on 3 occasions near the camp was the only bird of the trip with full tail streamers. All the birds were highly vocal in response to playback.

Blue Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone cyanescens*

4 sightings at St. Paul's, Palawan: 1 female seen along the stream trail (where 2+ were heard on the same day, and another heard there the following day), a pair along the jungle trail on one date and another single seen along there the next day. 1 female was also seen at the new Palawan Flycatcher site (KM35, from Puerto Princesa towards Nara), where another was heard calling.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Regular throughout.

Celestial Monarch *Hypothymis coelestis*

A Pair of fairly vocal birds seen along Road 4 at PICOP, Mindanao. The birds were feeding fairly high in the canopy and associating with a large feeding flock which contained both other Monarch species. At least 3 others heard in the area.

Several birds seen at Apaya, Luzon; Across the river from the camp in the morning a singing male seen well with 2 others calling nearby, a pair seen a little further along the trail then another seen with a feeding flock close to the first sighting with another singing male closer to the river near a large fruiting tree. Finally a pair seen with a feeding flock on the camp side of the river late AM. Several other heard including singles near the camp site late AM and in the evening.

Short-crested Monarch *Hypothymis helenae*

On Mindanao: 1 heard off Road 4 at PICOP on 03/03, and 4 birds seen nearby on 05/03. 1 male was initially picked up on call, then taped in and we were able to get excellent scope views of it singing. Later up to 3 were seen together (1 male and 2 imm/female types) in a mixed feeding flock with the other 2 monarch species.

On Luzon: 1 heard between Ambabok and Apaya on 27/03, c.1km before Apaya. 1 with a feeding flock back across the river at Apaya on 28/03 and perhaps the same bird heard nearby later.

Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala grisola*

Only a few sightings along the Jungle trail at St. Paul's, Palawan.

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

Although mostly silent during a visit to Mt Polis, Luzon, 7 and 2 seen on separate dates.

Formerly treated as conspecific with **Mangrove Whistler** *Pachycephala grisola*.

***White-vented Whistler** *Pachycephala homeryeri*

1 with a feeding flock near the river at Casa Roro, Negros, 1 seen during a rest stop between Siaton and Mantakil Village en-route to Canaway Forest and 1 in Canaway Forest, Negros on 18/02 with 2 there on 19/02.

Formerly treated as conspecific with **Mangrove Whistler** *Pachycephala grisola*.

Yellow-bellied Whistler *Pachycephala philippinensis*

Common at both Mt Makiling on Luzon and PICOP on Mindanao. Small numbers recorded daily at RSNP on Bohol, Mt Katanglad, Mindanao and Hamut camp on Luzon. A few sightings also at Mt Polis, Luzon.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Common in small numbers throughout.

Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Seen throughout, occasionally in good-sized flocks (e.g. 250+ on 05/03 at Bislig Airfield, Mindanao).

Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus*

This species is probably under-recorded in the Philippines. We saw a single bird on 3 dates at Mt Makiling (Luzon), feeding on the lower section of the road up the mountain. Reading 'Kennedy' et al, this would constitute only the 4th record for Luzon and only the 9th for the Philippines. Since we published our record on the OBC web site, it seems that there are quite a few more unreported sightings.

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

A pair noted in fields at the foot of Mt Madja-as, Panay and a single at Bislig airfield, Mindanao and several walking in-and-out of Hamut Camp, Luzon.

This is sometimes treated as a race of **Richard's Pipit** *A. novaeseelandiae*.

Olive-backed Pipit *Anthus hodgsoni*

Common at the Mt Data Hotel where 30+ commonly seen around the picnic area just above the hotel, and 50+ flying over each evening, presumably to roost.

2+ at Mt Polis, Luzon on 02/04..

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*

1 in the gully to the left of the main track below the crash barriers at Mt Makiling, Luzon and 2 along the Hot Springs Trail at the same site. Also recorded on Mindoro: 2 over late PM along the forest edge at Siburan, presumably going to roost.

White-Breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Regularly recorded throughout.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius Schach*

Commonly recorded on the walks in-and-out of Canaway Forest on Negros and likewise Hamut Camp on Luzon. Also common at Mt Kitanglad on Mindanao.

Mountain Shrike *Lanius validirostris*

1 above the 'Upper Viewpoint' at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao, 2 including a singing bird neat the KM360 marker at Mt Polis and also recorded regularly at Mt Data where 6+ seen daily. Also 1 at 1150m on Mt Halcon, Mindoro, seen nearby by James McCarthy the previous day.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

Regular throughout –common and widespread.

Short-tailed Glossy Starling *Aplonis minor*

Seen in small numbers at Barangay Salaysay and common at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*
Regular throughout.

Chestnut-cheeked Starling *Sturnus philippensis*
A flock of c20 birds seen on the lower cultivated fields of Mt Talinis, Negros.

Coledo *Sarcops calvus*
Common throughout.

Apo Mynah *Basilornis miranda*
A total of 15+ birds seen at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao, mostly above the 'upper viewpoint'.

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
1 seen and at least 2 others heard along the Jungle Trail at St Pauls NP, Palawan.

Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*
2 and 3 on separate dates at Mt Makiling, Luzon.

Copper-throated Sunbird *Nectarina calcostretha*
Only a few seen, around Garceliano beach on Palawan.

Olive-backed Subird *Nectarina jugularis*
Common throughout.

Purple-throated Sunbird *Nectarina sperata*
Fairly common at PICOP, Mindanao and also at Ambabok/Apaya on Luzon. Singles also recorded in Makiling Botanical gardens on Luzon and a single of the race *trochilus* seen between Puerto Princesa and Nara on Palawan.

Flaming Sunbird *Aethopyga flagrans*
A pair of the race *flagrans* seen at Mt Makiling, Luzon, with another single seen there on a later date. Also 1 male at Hamut Camp, Luzon.

Grey-hooded Sunbird *Aethopyga primigenius*
4 sightings at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao, with a maximum of 3 on 14/03.

Metallic-winged Sunbird *Aethopyga pulcherrima*
2 sightings at RSNP, Bohol, 2 seen at Ambabok, Luzon and several others seen at Mt Data on Luzon. Only common at Mt Polis where 10+ were recorded daily.

Apo Sunbird *Aethopyga boltoni*
1 seen above the 'Upper Viewpoint' at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao, very responsive to playback showing down to just 1m. At least one other bird heard.

Lovely Sunbird *Aethopyga minuta*
On Luzon: Noted on several dates at Mt. Makiling, 1 at Ambabok and Apaya, when 1 and 3 on separate dates.

***Shelley's Sunbird** *Aethopyga shelleyi*
Recently split from Lovely Sunbird (Mann 2002), and confined to Palawan, where up to 4 were recorded daily at St Paul's NP. Several also seen along the Balsahan trail.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*
Several noted at both Casa Roro, Negros and Tabunan, Cebu. This race, *magnifica*, is endemic to the Philippines.

Naked-faced Spiderhunter *Aracnothera clarae*
Singles recorded at Mt Macabul, Mt Kitanglad & PICOP(4 sightings) on Mindanao, and another seen at Mt Makiling, Luzon.

Little Spiderhunter *Aracnothera longirostra*
1 male of the race *dilutor* at St Pauls NP, Palawan on 30/01.

Olive-backed Flowerpecker *Prionochilus olivaceus*
2 seen at Hamut Camp, Luzon and RSNP, Bohol. Several recorded on most days at PICOP, Mindanao.

Palawan Flowerpecker *Prionochilus plateni*
Recorded daily at St Paul's (max. 4+) and several others seen along the Balsahan trail, Palawan.

Striped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum aeruginosum*
A few sightings at both Mt Makiling and Ambabok & Apaya on Luzon, and 1 seen at St Pauls NP, Palawan.

Olive-capped Flowerpecker *Dicaeum nigrilore*
At Mt Katanglad, Mindanao: 4+ on 10/02, 1 on 14/03 & 2 on 15/03.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker *Dicaeum anthonyi*
Singles on 3 dates at Kitanglad, Mindanao, and 2 seen on three dates at Mt Polis, Luzon.
Luzon race *anthonyi* very distinct from the Mindanao birds with males showing a yellowish-orange crown patch, yellow belly and yellow undertail coverts.

Bicoloured Flowerpecker *Dicaeum bicolor*
Noted daily at Mt Makiling, Luzon. Several sightings at Canaway Forest, Negros, and Hamut Camp and common at Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon. Small numbers daily at both Siburan and Mt Halcon on Mindoro.

Cebu Flowerpecker *Dicaeum quadricolor*
1 male feeding with White-eyes in a small fruiting tree on the south side of the 'Upper Viewpoint' at Tabunan Forest, Cebu at 15:30 for c.30 seconds, heard and seen again briefly 5 minutes later.

Red-keeled Flowerpecker *Dicaeum australe*
Common at Mt Makiling, and at Ambabok and Apaya, Luzon.

***Visavan Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum haemotostictum*
Regularly seen at Casa Roro, Negros where fairly common.
This is considered a full species by some authors, split from Red-keeled.

Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker *Dicaeum retrocinctum*
Fairly common along the forest edge at Siburan, Mindoro with up to 6 seen daily.
On Mt Halcon, Mindoro 1 seen just before the first stream at 510m. & 2+ in same area on another date.

Buzzing Flowerpecker *Dicaeum hypoleucum*
On Luzon, several sightings at both Mt Makiling and Hamut camp.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
On Negros: 4+ race *dorsale* at Casa Roro, common at both Mt Talinis & Canaway Forest. Also common on Bohol at RSNP, and on Luzon at Ambabok and Apaya.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
Singles noted on two dates at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao.

Pygmy Flowerpecker *Dicaeum pygmaeum*
Singles at Canaway Forest (Negros), Siburan (Mindoro), and Mt Kitanglad (Mindanao). 2 sightings at both Mt Makiling, Luzon and PICOP, Mindanao. 4+ of the race *palawanorum* along the Balsahan trail, Palawan on the morning of the 03 /04, with 2 there again later the same day.

***Lowland White-eye** *Zosterops meyeri*
Only occurs on Luzon: Several small flocks seen in the American Cemetery, Manila, 2 in a fruiting tree at Ambabok, and common around the West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa.
This species is sometimes treated as conspecific with Japanese White-eye.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops evertti*
Several noted at PICOP, Mindanao.

Yellowish White-eye *Zosterops nigrorum*
Noted en-route to Canaway forest, Negros and regularly at Hamut camp (max. of 3+), Luzon.

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*
Common above c.900m on Madja-as, Panay, Canaway Forest, Negros and particularly common at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao where seen in large flocks. Also recorded on Mt Talinis, Negros.

Black-masked White-eye *Lophozosterops goodfellowi*
2 sightings at Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao, with 10+ there on 10/03.

Cinnamon Ibon *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*
Common in mixed flocks at Mt Katanglad, Mindanao.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Common throughout.

Red-eared Parrotfinch *Erythrura coloria*
Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao: 1 flew over calling giving poor flight views on 09/03, with another later heard but not seen. 2 further sightings (of 1 and 2 birds), both in dense vegetation, along the main trail and also along the trail leading down into the valley.

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra*

First seen 2 at Tabunan Forest, Cebu, then common at Bislig Airfield, Mindanao.
Several West Grove Heights Estate near Santa Rosa, Luzon. A few seen at other sites although details not noted.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*

4 at West Grove Heights Estate, Santa Rosa, Luzon on 16/04.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura malacca*

Common in suitable habitat.

White-cheeked Bullfinch *Pyrrhula leucogenis*

Three birds seen together above the second Eagle watch point ('upper viewpoint'), Mt Katanglad, Mindanao. The birds were actively feeding in the tops of pine trees. 1 singing bird near KM 360 at Mt Polis, Luzon with another heard nearby.

Other Wildlife

Binturong (Bear-cat) *Arctictis binturong*

1 seen going to roost high in the trees beside the Balsahan Trail, Palawan. Another one seen in a cage on a public bus around Puerto Princesa on Palawan.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*

A few were feeding on food scraps around the Underground River ranger station at St. Paul's on Palawan.

Philippine Colugo (Flying Lemur) *Cynocephalus volans*

2 seen a short way along the main trail from Logarita towards the Valley/Brahiminy Trail, and 4 sightings flying around Magsaysay clearing at dusk (Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol). A single and 2 seen also seen along the road between Logarita and Magsaysay.

Leopard (Bengal) Cat *Felis bengalensis minuta*

1 spotlighted in the paddies behind the accommodation at Logarita, Rajah Sikatuna National Park (Bohol). Note: Leopard Cat is sometimes split into 2 species: Iriomote Cat (*Felis Iriomotensis*) and Amur Cat *Felis leuptilura* (also known as Amur Leopard Cat/Far-eastern Forest Cat), with this Philippine *minuta* subspecies included within Amur Cat. This subspecies is now very rare and now largely confined to Palawan.

Reticulated Python *Python reticulatus*

Whilst heading back down from Hamut to Camp 1 at Palay, at great speed AA almost trod on an 8ft python on the path. The snake was blocking the whole path and had to be judiciously moved out the way with the aid of a very long stick!

REFERENCES

- Birdlife International. (2000).** *Threatened Birds of the World*. Barcelona and Cambridge, UK: Lynx Edicions and Birdlife International.
- Collar, N.J., Mallari, N.A.D. & Tabaranza, B.R. Jr. (1999).** *Threatened Birds of the Philippines: the Haribon Foundation/Birdlife International Red Data Book*. Makati City: Bookmark.
- Hollyoak, D. (2001).** *Nightjars and their Allies*. Oxford University Press.
- Kennedy, R.S., Gonzales, P.C., Dickinson, E.C., Miranda Jr., H.C. & Fisher, T.H. (2000).** *A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK.
- King, B. (2002).** *Species limits in the Brown Boobook *Ninox scutulata* complex*. Bull. B.O.C. 122 (4): 250-257.
- Lambert, F. & Woodcock, M. (1996).** *Pittas, Broadbills and Asities*. Pica Press, Sussex, UK.
- Madge, S. & McGowan, P. (2002).** *Pheasants, Partridges and Grouse*. Christopher Helm, London, UK.
- Mann, C. F. (2002).** *Aethopyga sunbirds on the Philippines*. Oriental Bird Club Bull. 36:15-17.
- Stattersfield, A.J., Crosby, M.J., Long, A.J. & Wege, D.C. (1998).** *Endemic Bird Areas of the World*. Birdlife International, Cambridge, UK.

APPENDIX

I. LIST OF ALL PHILIPPINE ENDEMIC WITH RANGE & BEST SITES

The taxonomic line followed here is not necessarily that of the authors □ we have deliberately listed the maximum possible number of endemics that have been previously scientifically named, so that any reference to them in other reports should be covered by this exhaustive list. There are more which may follow □ the **Slender-billed Crow** *Corvus enca* complex may be split into 3 or more species on the basis of vocalisations (Tim Fisher pers. comm.), Palawan Crow, Mindanao Crow and Sierra Madre Crow (in northern Luzon). The **‘Palawan’ Frogmouth** found at Balsahan and St. Paul’s on Palawan remains a mystery, some authors placing it with Javan *Batrachostomus javensis* and some with Sunda *B. cornutus*, although the distinctive vocalisations indicate to others that it may be an undescribed species.

Boh	=	Bohol	Neg	=	Negros
Ceb	=	Cebu	Pal	=	Palawan
Luz	=	Luzon	Pan	=	Panay
Min	=	Mindanao	Siq	=	Siquijor
Mor	=	Mindoro			

Species	Scientific name	Island Range	Best sites	Birdlife Category
1 Philippine Duck	<i>Anas luzonica</i>	All except Pal	Bislig airfield	Vulnerable
2 Philippine Serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis holospilus</i>	All except Pal	Common	
NB Taxonomic Note: sometimes treated as conspecific with Crested Serpent-eagle, <i>Spilornis cheela</i>				
3 Philippine Eagle	<i>Pithecophaga jefferyi</i>	Min,Luz,Sam,Ley	Kitanglad	Critical
4 Philippine Hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus philippinensis</i>	All except Pal	Kitanglad	
5 Philippine Falconet	<i>Microhierax erythrogenys</i>	Luz,Boh,Ley,Sam,Min	PICOP, Makiling	
6 Palawan Peacock-pheasant	<i>Polyplectron emphanum</i>	Pal	St.Paul's	Vulnerable
7 Spotted Buttonquail	<i>Turnix ocellata</i>	Luz, Neg	Makiling	
8 Worcester's Buttonquail	<i>Turnix worcesteri</i>	Luz		Data deficient
9 Brown-banded Rail	<i>Lewinia mirificus</i>	Luz		Data deficient
10 Plain Bush-hen	<i>Amaurornis olivaceus</i>	All except Pal	PICOP, Kitanglad	
11 Bukidnon Woodcock	<i>Scolopax bukidnonensis</i>	Min,Luz	Kitanglad	
12 Philippine Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i>	All	Kitanglad	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes considered conspecific with either Ruddy Cuckoo-dove, <i>M. emiliana</i> or Brown Cuckoo-dove, <i>M. phasianella</i> .				
13 Luzon Bleeding-heart	<i>Gallicolumba luzonica</i>	Luz	Makiling, Hamut	Near-threatened
14 Mindoro Bleeding-heart	<i>Gallicolumba platanae</i>	Mor	Sablayan	Critical
15 Negros Bleeding-heart	<i>Gallicolumba keayi</i>	Neg,Pan	Canaway	Critical
16 Mindanao Bleeding-heart	<i>Gallicolumba criniger</i>	Min,Boh	RSNP	Endangered
17 Sulu Bleeding-heart	<i>Gallicolumba menagei</i>	Sulu		Critical
18 White-eared Brown-dove	<i>Phapitreron leucotis</i>	All except Pal	Fairly common	
19 Amethyst Brown-dove	<i>Phapitreron amethystina</i>	All except Pal	PICOP	
20 Tawitawi Brown-dove	<i>Phapitreron cineireiceps</i>	Sulu		Critical
NB Taxonomic Note: Mindanao and Tawitawi Brown-dove sometimes treated as conspecific and then lumped as Dark-eared Brown Dove, <i>Phapitreron cinereiceps</i>				
21 Mindanao Brown-dove	<i>Phapitreron brunneiceps</i>	Min		Vulnerable
22 Flame-breasted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilonopus marchei</i>	Luz	Polis, Hamut	Vulnerable
23 Cream-breasted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilonopus merrilli</i>	Luz	Hamut	Near-threatened
24 Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilonopus occipitalis</i>	All except Pal	PICOP, Kitanglad	

25	Black-chinned Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilonopus leclancheri</i>	All	PICOP	
26	Negros Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilonopus arcanus</i>	Neg		Critical
27	Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula poliocephala</i>	Min,Mor,Boh,Neg	PICOP,Canaway	
28	Mindoro Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula mindorensis</i>	Mor	Halcon	Vulnerable
29	Spotted Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula carola</i>	Min,Luz,Mor,Neg	PICOP	Vulnerable
30	Guaibero	<i>Bolbopsittacus lumulatus</i>	Luz,Ley,Sam,Min	PICOP	
31	Luzon Raquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus montanus</i>	Luz	Polis	Near-threatened
NB Taxonomic Note: Luzon and Mindanao Raquet-tail sometimes treated as conspecific and then lumped as Montane Raquet-tail, <i>Prioniturus montanus</i>					
32	Mindanao Raquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus waterstradii</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
33	Blue-headed Raquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus platenae</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	Vulnerable
34	Green Raquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus luconensis</i>	Luz	Apaya, Subic Bay	Vulnerable
35	Blue-crowned raquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus discurus</i>	All except Pal	Tabunan, PICOP	
36	Blue-winged raquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus verticalis</i>	Sulu		Endangered
37	Colasisi	<i>Loriculus philippensis</i>	All except Pal	Common	
NB Also known as Philippine Hanging-parrot					
38	Philippine Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua haematuropygia</i>	Before All-mainly now Pal	Rasa Island	Critical
39	Mindanao Lorikeet	<i>Trichoglossus johnstoniae</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
40	Philippine Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus pectoralis</i>	All	Makiling, Hamut	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes considered conspecific with Hodgson's hawk-cuckoo <i>C. fugax</i> .					
41	Philippine Drongo-cuckoo	<i>Surniculus velutinus</i>	All except Pal	Makiling,Hamut	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes considered conspecific with Drongo Cuckoo, <i>S. lugubris</i> .					
42	Red-crested Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus superciliosus</i>	Luz	Makiling	
43	Scale-feathered Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus cumingi</i>	Luz	Makiling, Hamut	
44	Black-hooded Coucal	<i>Centropus steerii</i>	Mor	Sablayan	Critical
45	Philippine Coucal	<i>Centropus viridis</i>	All except Pal	Common	
46	Black-faced Coucal	<i>Centropus melanops</i>	Min,Boh,Sul	RSNP,PICOP	
47	Rufous Coucal	<i>Centropus unirufus</i>	Luz	Hamut, Apaya	Near-threatened
48	Mindanao Scops Owl	<i>Otus mirus</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
49	Luzon Scops Owl	<i>Otus longicornis</i>	Luz	Polis	Near-threatened
50	Mindoro Scops Owl	<i>Otus mindorensis</i>	Mor	Halcon	Near-threatened
51	Philippine Scops Owl	<i>Otus megalotis</i>	All except Pal	Makiling, RSNP	
NB Taxonomic Note: the 3 races- <i>megalotis</i> (Luzon), <i>everetti</i> (Bohol, Leyte, Mindanao & Samar) <i>nigrorum</i> (Panay & Negros)-may soon be split into 3 species.					
52	Palawan Scops Owl	<i>Otus fuliginosus</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	Near-threatened
53	Giant Scops Owl	<i>Mimizuku gurneyi</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Vulnerable
NB This is also sometimes referred to as Mindanao Eagle Owl or Lesser Eagle Owl.					
54	Philippine Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo philippensis</i>	All except Pal	RSNP	Vulnerable
55	Philippine Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox philippensis</i>	All except Pal	RSNP,Makiling	
NB Taxonomic Note: There may be 3 different species within the 8 races on the Philippines.					
56	Philippine Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus septimus</i>	All except Pal	RSNP, PICOP	
57	Philippine Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus marginata</i>	All except Pal	RSNP, Hamut	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as conspecific with Sulawesi Nightjar, <i>C. celebensis</i> and then not endemic.					
58	Grey-rumped Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia marginata</i>	All except Pal & Min	Common	
NB Taxonomic Note: This is formed from splitting 2 races (<i>marginata</i> & <i>septentrionalis</i>) from the non-endemic Glossy Swiftlet, <i>Collocalia esculenta</i> , although they are still treated as conspecific by some.					
59	Pygmy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia troglodytes</i>	All	PICOP,RSNP	
60	Whitehead's Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia whiteheadi</i>	Luz,Min		Data deficient
61	Palawan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia palawanensis</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	

NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as conspecific with the non-endemic Island Swiftlet, <i>Collocalia vanikorensis</i>					
62	Philippine Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia mearnsi</i>	All	Kitanglad, Polis	
63	Philippine Needletail	<i>Mearnsia picina</i>	All except Pal,Luz,Mor	PICOP	
64	Philippine Trogon	<i>Harpactes ardens</i>	All except Pal	PICOP,RSNP	
65	Indigo-banded Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo cyanopecta</i>	Luz,Pan,Mor,Neg	Makiling	
66	Silvery Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo argentata</i>	Min,Boh,Sam,Ley	PICOP	Vulnerable
67	Philippine Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx melanurus</i>	Luz,Ley,Sam,Min		Vulnerable
68	Rufous-lore Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus winchelli</i>	Neg,Ceb,Boh,Min,Ley	PICOP,RSNP	Vulnerable
69	Spotted Kingfisher	<i>Actenoides lindsayi</i>	Luz,Pan,Neg	Makiling	
70	Blue-capped Kingfisher	<i>Actenoides hombroni</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Vulnerable
71	Palawan Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros marchei</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	Vulnerable
72	Sulu Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros montani</i>	Sulu		Critical
73	Rufous Hornbill	<i>Buceros hydrocorax</i>	Min,Luz,Boh,Sam,Ley	PICOP,Hamut	Near-threatened
74	Luzon Tarictic	<i>Penelopides manillae</i>	Luz	Makiling, Hamut	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as conspecific with all the other tarictics and all are then lumped as one species Tarictic Hornbill, <i>Penelopides panini</i>					
75	Mindoro Tarictic	<i>Penelopides mindorensis</i>	Mor	Sablayan	Endangered
76	Visayan Tarictic	<i>Penelopides panini</i>	Pan,Neg	Canaway,Madja-as	Endangered
77	Samar Hornbill	<i>Penelopides samarensis</i>	Boh,Sam,Ley	RSNP	
NB Taxonomic Note: Often treated as a form of Mindanao Tarictic, <i>P. affinis</i>					
78	Mindanao Tarictic	<i>Penelopides affinis</i>	Min	PICOP	
79	Walden's Hornbill	<i>Aceros waldeni</i>	Neg,Pan		Critical
80	Writhed Hornbill	<i>Aceros leucocephalus</i>	Min	PICOP	Near-threatened
81	Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos maculatus</i>	All except Pal	Fairly common	
82	Sooty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus funebris</i>	Luz,Min,Sam,Ley	PICOP,Hamut	
83	Azure-breasted Pitta	<i>Pitta steerii</i>	Boh,Min,Ley,Sam	RSNP,PICOP	Vulnerable
NB Also known as Steere's Pitta					
84	Whiskered Pitta	<i>Pitta kochi</i>	Luz	Hamut	Vulnerable
85	Mindanao Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus steerii</i>	Min	PICOP	Vulnerable
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as conspecific with Visayan Broadbill and lumped together as Wattled Broadbill, <i>E. Steerii</i>					
86	Visayan Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus samarensis</i>	Boh,Ley,Sam	RSNP	Vulnerable
87	Green-backed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala albiventris</i>	Luz,Min	Polis	
88	White-vented Whistler	<i>Pachycephala homeyeri</i>	Neg,Ceb,Luz	Canaway,Tabunan	
89	Yellow-bellied Whistler	<i>Pachycephala philippensis</i>	All except Pal	PICOP,Kitanglad	
90	Blue Fantail	<i>Rhipidura superciliaris</i>	Min,Boh	PICOP,RSNP	
91	Blue-headed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura cyaniceps</i>	Luz,Pan,Neg	Makiling,Hamut	
92	Black-and-Cinnamon Fantail	<i>Rhipidura nigrocinnomomea</i>	Min	Kitanglad	
93	Short-crested Monarch	<i>Hypothymis helenae</i>	Luz,Min	Apaya,PICOP	
94	Celestial Monarch	<i>Hypothymis coelestis</i>	Luz,Min,Neg	Apaya, PICOP	Vulnerable
95	Rufous Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone atrocaudata</i>	Luz,Min,Mor	PICOP	
96	Blue Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone cyanescens</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	
97	Balicassiao	<i>Dicrurus balicassius</i>	All except Pal	Common	
98	White-lore Oriole	<i>Oriolus albiloris</i>	Luz	Hamut	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as conspecific with Philippine Oriole, <i>O. Steerii</i>					
99	Philippine Oriole	<i>Oriolus Steerii</i>	All except Pal	PICOP	
100	Isabela Oriole	<i>Oriolus isabellae</i>	Luz	Apaya	Endangered
101	Blackish Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina coerulescens</i>	Luz	Hamut	
102	Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina mindanensis</i>	Min,Mor,Boh	PICOP	Near-threatened

NB Also known as Black-bibbed Cicadabird					
103	McGregor's Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina mcgregori</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
104	White-winged Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina ostenta</i>	Neg	Canaway	Vulnerable
105	Black-and-White Triller	<i>Lalage melanoleuca</i>	All except Pal	Makiling, PICOP	
106	Philippine Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena cyanogaster</i>	All except Pal	RSNP, Hamut	
107	Philippine Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis flavipennis</i>	Min, Ceb, Ley	PICOP	Vulnerable
108	Yellow-throated Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis palawanensis</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	
109	Mountain Shrike	<i>Lanius validirostris</i>	Luz, Min, Mor	Polis, Kitanglad	Near-threatened
110	Ashy Thrush	<i>Zoothera cinerea</i>	Luz, Mor	Makiling	Vulnerable
111	Apo Mynah	<i>Basilornis miranda</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
112	Coledo	<i>Sarcops calvus</i>	All except Pal	Fairly common	
113	White-throated Jungle Flycatcher	<i>Rhinomyias albigularis</i>	Pan, Neg		Endangered
114	Luzon Jungle Flycatcher	<i>Rhinomyias insignis</i>	Luz		Vulnerable
NB Also known as White-browed Jungle Flycatcher					
115	Goodfellow's Jungle Flycatcher	<i>Rhinomyias goodfellowi</i>	Min	Sitio Siete, Kitanglad	Near-threatened
NB Also known as Slaty-backed Jungle Flycatcher					
116	Ashy-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa randi</i>	Luz, Neg	Hamut	Vulnerable
117	Little Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hodgsonii</i>	Min	PICOP	Vulnerable
118	Palawan Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula platenae</i>	Pal	Between Nara & Puerto	Vulnerable
119	Cryptic Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula crypta</i>	Min	Sitio Siete	
NB Also known as Vaurie's/Russet-tailed Flycatcher.					
120	Furtive Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula disposita</i>	Luz	Apaya, Hamut	Near-threatened
NB Taxonomic Note: Furtive was formerly treated as a race of Cryptic Flycatcher.					
121	Blue-breasted Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis herioti</i>	Luz	Hamut	
122	Palawan Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis lemprieri</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	Near-threatened
123	White-browed Shama	<i>Copsychus luzoniensis</i>	Luz, Neg, Pan	Makiling, Hamut	
124	White-vented Shama	<i>Copsychus niger</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	
125	Black Shama	<i>Copsychus cebuensis</i>	Ceb	Tabunan	Endangered
126	Luzon Water Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis bicolor</i>	Luz, Mor	Polis	Vulnerable
127	Sulphur-billed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta oenochlamys</i>	All except Pal	Makiling, Kitanglad	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as a race of Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, <i>S. frontalis</i> .					
128	Yellow-wattled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus urostictus</i>	All except Pal	Makiling, PICOP	
129	Sulphur-bellied Bulbul	<i>Ixos palawanensis</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	
130	Philippine Bulbul	<i>Ixos philippinus</i>	All except Pal	Common	
131	Zamboanga Bulbul	<i>Ixos rufigularis</i>	Min	Zamboanga peninsular	Near-threatened
132	Streak-breasted Bulbul	<i>Ixos siquijorensis</i>	Siq, Ceb	Salagdoong, Tabunan	Endangered
133	Yellowish Bulbul	<i>Ixos everetti</i>	Min, Sulu	PICOP	
134	Lowland White-eye	<i>Zosterops meyeri</i>	Luz	American cemetery	
135	Yellowish White-eye	<i>Zosterops nigrorum</i>	Luz, Mor, Neg, Pan, Sulu	Makiling, Hamut	
NB Also known as Golden-green White-eye.					
136	Black-masked White-eye	<i>Lophozosterops goodfellowi</i>	Min	Kitanglad	
137	Cinnamon Ibon	<i>Hypocryotadius cinnamomeus</i>	Min	Kitanglad	
138	Luzon Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia seebohmi</i>	Luz	Polis	
NB Also known as Philippine Bush Warbler.					
139	Long-tailed Bush Warbler	<i>Bradypterus caudatus</i>	Luz, Min	Kitanglad	
140	Rufous-headed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus heterolaemus</i>	Min	Kitanglad	
NB Taxonomic Note: Sometimes treated as a race of Mountain Tailorbird, <i>O. cucullatus</i>					
141	Philippine Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus castaneiceps</i>	Luz, Neg	Casa Roro	
142	Rufous-fronted Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus frontalis</i>	Min, Boh	PICOP, RSNP	

NB Taxonomic Note: Some authors still treat as two races of Philippine Tailorbird (<i>frontalis</i> & <i>mearnsi</i>).					
143	Grey-backed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus derbianus</i>	Luz	Makiling	
144	Yellow-breasted Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus samarensis</i>	Boh,Sam,Ley	RSNP	Near-threatened
145	Black-headed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus nigriceps</i>	Min	PICOP	
NB Also known as White-browed Tailorbird					
146	White-eared Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cinereiceps</i>	Min	Sitio Siete	
147	Philippine Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus olivaceus</i>	Min,Neg,Ceb	PICOP	
148	Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cebuensis</i>	Ceb,Luz,Neg	Makiling,Hamut,Canaway	
149	Bagobo Babbler	<i>Leonardina woodi</i>	Min	Kitanglad	
150	Ashy-headed Babbler	<i>Malacocincla cinereiceps</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	
151	Melodious Babbler	<i>Malacopteron palawanense</i>	Pal	Balsahan	Near-threatened
152	Streaked Ground Babbler	<i>Ptilocichla mindanensis</i>	Boh,Min	RSNP, PICOP	
NB Also known as Striated Wren Babbler					
153	Falcated Ground Babbler	<i>Ptilocichla falcata</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	Vulnerable
NB Also known as Falcated Wren Babbler					
154	Rabor's Wren Babbler	<i>Napothera rabori</i>	Luz	Hamut	
155	Pygmy Babbler	<i>Stachyris plateni</i>	Min	PICOP	Near-threatened
156	Golden-crowned Babbler	<i>Stachyris dennistouni</i>	Luz	Hamut	Near-threatened
157	Black-crowned Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigrocapitata</i>	Luz,Boh,Ceb	RSNP,Makiling	
158	Rusty-crowned Babbler	<i>Stachyris capitalis</i>	Min,Sulu	PICOP	
159	Flame-templed Babbler	<i>Stachyris speciosa</i>	Neg,Pan	Casa Roro	Endangered
160	Chestnut-faced Babbler	<i>Stachyris whiteheadi</i>	Luz	Polis	
161	Luzon Striped Babbler	<i>Stachyris striata</i>	Luz	Hamut	Near-threatened
162	Panay Striped Babbler	<i>Stachyris latistriata</i>	Pan	Madja-as	Near-threatened
163	Negros Striped Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigrorum</i>	Neg	Mount Talinis	Endangered
164	Palawan Striped Babbler	<i>Stachyris latistiata</i>	Pal	Borongbato	Near-threatened
165	Brown Tit Babbler	<i>Macronous striaticeps</i>	Min,Sam,Ley,Boh	RSNP, PICOP	
166	Miniature Tit Babbler	<i>Micromacronus leytensis</i>	Min		Data deficient
167	Stripe-sided Rhabdornis	<i>Rhabdornis mystacalis</i>	All except Pal	PICOP, Makiling	
NB Also known as Stripe-HEADED Rhabdornis.					
168	Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis	<i>Rhabdornis inornatus</i>	Min,Boh,Sam,Ley	Kitanglad	
169	Grand Rhabdornis	<i>Rhabdornis grandis</i>	Luz	Hamut	
NB Also known as Long-billed Rhabdornis					
170	Elegant Tit	<i>Parus elegans</i>	All except Pal	Fairly common	
171	Palawan Tit	<i>Parus amabilis</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	Near-threatened
172	White-fronted Tit	<i>Parus semilarvatus</i>	Min,Luz	Hamut, Sitio Siete	Near-threatened
173	Green-faced Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura viridifacies</i>	Luz,Neg		Vulnerable
174	Red-eared Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura coloria</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
175	Olive-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus olivaceus</i>	Luz,Boh,Min	PICOP, RSNP	
176	Palawan Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus plateni</i>	Pal	St. Paul's, Balsahan	
177	Striped Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum aeruginosum</i>	Mor,Min,Luz	Makiling	
178	Whiskered Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum proprium</i>	Min	Sitio Siete	Near-threatened
179	Olive-capped Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum nigrilore</i>	Min	Kitanglad	
180	Flame-crowned Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum anthonyi</i>	Luz,Min	Polis	Near-threatened
181	Bicolored Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum bicolor</i>	All except Pal,Ceb,Pan	Makiling, Hamut	
182	Cebu Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum quadricolor</i>	Ceb	Tabunan	Critical
183	Visayan Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum haemostictum</i>	Neg,Pan	Casa Roro	Vulnerable
NB Taxonomic Note: Also known as Red-striped, and Sometimes treated as conspecific with Red-keeled Flowerpecker, <i>D. australe</i>					
184	Red-keeled Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum australe</i>	All except Pal,Neg,Pan	PICOP, Makiling	

185	Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum retrocinctum</i>	Mor	Sablayan	Vulnerable
186	Buzzing Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum hypoleucum</i>	All except Pal	PICOP, Kitanglad	
187	Pygmy Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pygmaeum</i>	Luz,Min,Pal	PICOP	
188	Grey-hooded Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga primigenius</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
189	Apo Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga boltoni</i>	Min	Kitanglad	Near-threatened
190	Flaming Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga flagrans</i>	Luz,Neg	Makiling	
191	Metallic-winged Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga pulcherrima</i>	Min,Luz,Boh	Polis, RSNP	
192	Lovely Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga minuta</i>	All except Pal	Tabunan, Hamut	
193	Shelley's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga shelleyi</i>	Pal	St. Paul's	
NB Taxonomic Note: this is a recent split from Lovely Sunbird, <i>A. minuta</i>					
194	Lina's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga linaraborae</i>	Min	Pasian	Near-threatened
195	Naked-faced Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera clarae</i>	Min,Luz,Sam,Ley	PICOP	
196	White-cheeked Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula leucogenis</i>	Min,Luz	Kitanglad, Polis	