



This stunning Whiskered Pitta was, not surprisingly, one of the best birds of the tour. (All photos by DLV, Irene Dy and Brad Hacker).

REMOTE PHILIPPINES

3 – 20 / 28 FEBRUARY 2020

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With more and more birds being split and 'available' in the Philippines, we have resurrected our Remote Philippines tour to give us a great shot at finding a good number of endemics not available on our Classic Philippines tour. The two dovetail perfectly and together really do form the Ultimate Philippines tour. Focusing mostly on the Visayas, Mindoro, the more remote areas of Luzon, followed by a Panay and Tablas extension, the tour was never about a big species total, but purely about seeing those important birds. In total we recorded around 220 species (including half a dozen distinct allospecies), a high percentage of which were 'diamond' birds. These included some truly spectacular species, including the gorgeous Whiskered Pitta, which bounded around us at close range, and the critically endangered and very rarely seen Negros Bleeding-heart! Other stunners included the delightful little Negros Scops Owl, the cracking and difficult to find Visayan Broadbill, which we saw just when we were about to leave Bohol, lovely Camiguin, Mindoro, Cebu and Romblon Hawk-Owls, exquisite Dimorphic Dwarf and Northern Silvery Kingfishers, the incomparable Flame-breasted Fruit Dove, the very rare Isabela Oriole, the endangered Walden's Hornbill and the skulking Bicol Ground Warbler that ran around our feet on our last attempt, to name just a few!



The incomparable Flame-breasted Fruit Dove that showed so well along Infanta Road.

Our tour began when the Classic Philippines tour ended, with a flight to Bacolod on Negros, where we arrived in the evening for a comfortable overnight. We were up early the following morning, and arrived at Gawahon Ecopark when it was getting light. We found our first localized White-vented Whistlers once we entered the forest, and soon began to see other endemics in the mixed flocks including Visayan Bulbul, Lemon-throated Leaf-Warblers, Visayan Drongo (the white-bellied form of Balicassiao), Elegant Tits, the attractive Visayan Fantail and Yellowish White-eyes, as well as the increasingly scarce Citrine Canary-Flycatcher. A singing Black-belted Flowerpecker posed nicely in the scope, as did a stunning Magnificent Sunbird. However, we failed to find the hoped-for Flame-templed Babbler, in spite of spending the whole morning walking up and down the trail and the entrance road. This species is sadly becoming increasingly more difficult and rare in recent years. We spent considerable time looking at the river too, but the southern form of Indigo-banded Kingfisher was nowhere to be seen. Afterwards we headed south on the long drive to Dumaguete.

We then had two days to explore the southern parts of Negros, and attempt to track down a few more key endemics, though heavy rain, fog and strong winds, which would become the norm during the next 3 weeks, did hamper our progress. It was pretty tough going, and some extra effort was required to see some of the birds, although in the end we were pretty successful! One of the best experiences on Negros was our encounter with the beautiful Negros Scops Owl, which was seen extremely well just a few metres away, being (surprisingly, given the circumstances...) totally unconcerned by us. Our quest for Negros Striped Babbler should have been relatively easy this year, as there's no walking required to reach the newly discovered site. However, none appeared on our first morning, and a second full day at the site, under pretty extreme weather, produced only one brief sighting for Nick and Irene. On the other hand, our intimate encounters with two recently split sunbirds, namely Magnificent Sunbird (split from Crimson) and the colourful Maroon-naped Sunbird (split from Flaming) were somewhat easier! Other targets seen included the endangered Visayan Hornbill, Blue-crowned Racket-tails and the rare White-winged Cuckooshrike as well as more widespread endemics such as Philippine Honey Buzzard, Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo, Philippine Serpent Eagle, Coletto and Olive-backed (Garden) Sunbird.



Negros Scops Owl is surely one of the best-looking Otus owls in the world!



The aptly-named Magnificent Sunbird. What a bird!



Maroon-naped Sunbird from the Twin Lakes in Negos.

Next we travelled by express ferry to Tagbilaran on Bohol, and made our way to our base from which to explore Rajah Sikatuna National Park and its surroundings. The stunning pair of Philippine Frogmouths we saw were cunningly found on a day roost, as was a cracking Everett's Scops Owl. At night we caught up with a pair of Luzon Hawk-Owls. Another favourite, though it took some effort, was the stunning Northern Silvery Kingfisher, and we also had great success tracking down the endemic Bohol Sunbird feeding in some flowers inside the forest. Much of our time was spent scouring elusive flocks for the even more elusive Visayan Broadbill, and, on the very last minute of our last day, Irene found us a small flock. Thanks to the walkie-talkies, and some running too, we all miraculously managed to get to the spot in time to see them. The flocks held other goodies including Visayan Blue Fantails, Black-crowned Babblers, Brown Tit-Babblers, Philippine Leaf Warblers, and Yellow-bellied Whistlers, whilst other species seen included a singing Whinchell's (Rufous-lore) Kingfisher well spotted by Nick, Black-chinned Fruit Dove, Black-faced Coucal, Philippine Trogon, Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike, White-bellied Woodpecker, a pair of confiding Striated Wren-Babblers, heard-only Philippine Oriole, the endemic Samar Hornbill and the attractive endemic Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, as well as Philippine Bulbuls and a brief Buff-spotted Flameback. We also enjoyed some fabulous Colugos (Philippine Flying-Lemurs), both at night and on day roosts!

After our final morning on Bohol, we took a boat across to Cebu City, where we arrived in the late afternoon and met up with Josh and Alex, two young Birdquest leaders who were on the island at the same time as us. Given the weather forecast looked grim for the following morning, we decided to go owling straight away, and made our way up to Tabunan. Tabunan is one of the very few areas with some native forest remaining on Cebu. After a short walk, we managed to find a thrilling pair of Cebu Hawk Owls, which were real show-offs! Pleased with our success, we returned back to our hotel.

Next morning we returned back to Tabunan. The weather was awful during most of the morning, but eventually it cleared off. After a bit more scrambling, we managed some fantastic views of several endemic Black Shamas, as well as a smart Philippine Pitta, much to Simon's delight, that played hard to get at first, sultry Mangrove Blue Flycatchers, White-vented Whistlers and ultra-elusive, as usual, Streak-breasted Bulbuls. Needless to say, the virtually extinct Cebu Flowerpecker was nowhere to be seen. There can be few wild birds now that are extant and have never been photographed!?



Northern Silvery Kingfisher and Cebu Hawk-Owl.

The following morning we even had a lie-in, before taking a flight over to Camiguin Sur. Once checked-in and fed, we set about exploring some remnant forest areas to find the few specialities that the island has to offer. We experienced gale-force winds during our entire stay, which made birding very challenging. Pride of place went to the superb Camiguin Hawk-Owls that eventually showed so well at dusk! Not far behind was the delightful Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher, which gave fantastic views. Camiguin Hanging Parrots were heard a couple of times, but due to the weather, proved very hard to see perched, with only one seen briefly by the leader sitting on a palm spike, before literally being blown-away by the wind. A group of Wreathed Hornbills was a good find too. A few other interesting subspecies were noted, including the ultra-distinctive and soon to be split (Camiguin) Yellowish Bulbul, Black-naped Monarch and Yellowish and Everett's White-eyes to name a few, and we also had superb views of a (Southern) Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, a roosting Brown-throated Sunbird and some cracking male Purple-throated Sunbirds.



Camiguin Hawk-Owl.

After a flying visit, we made our way back to Cebu and on to Manila for a comfortable night and a great dinner at our favourite Japanese restaurant! As usual, it was an early start as we made our way to yet another island, this time Mindoro! Due to a cancelled flight, we had more time here than usual, but the extra day helped, as we faced access restrictions to the main birding site. In the end, we managed to find Mindoro's smart set of gettable endemics, including Mindoro Hornbill, showy Mindoro Bulbuls, delightful Scarlet-collared Flowerpeckers and a confiding pair of Mindoro Hawk-Owls, which proved straightforward as they posed in the spotlight for us! The critically endangered Black-hooded (or Steere's) Coucal also showed very well in a vine tangle. Mindoro Racket-Tails proved hard to get, as the usual site by the lake was off-limits. However, on our very last morning we tried at another place by the main road. As luck would have it, Marcel did a great job by finding us a pair of racket-tails perched inside a tree. We secured some decent scope views, greatly improved later by another bird found by Brad. Black-and-white Trillers were also much in evidence, as were the local form of Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike and flowering trees were full of Philippine Hanging Parrots, Coletos and Black-naped Orioles. We saw a few pigeons here too, including good numbers of Green Imperial Pigeons, a couple of Metallic Pigeons and a fly-by Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon. Other birds seen around Sablayan included Great-eared Nightjar, Paddyfield Pipit and Eastern Yellow Wagtail.



After a night in San José, we took a flight back to Manila, and then to Tuguegarao. Upon arrival we drove further north to the Baggao area and checked in. Due to our cancelled flight out of Mindoro, we only had a full day to explore some forest patches near to Baggao, so we had no time to lose! Our reason for travelling all this way was to track down the ultra-rare, critically endangered and recently rediscovered Isabela Oriole, and this we achieved successfully, with good scope views in the early morning. A big bonus for everyone was finding a small group of the rare endemic White-fronted Tit, here of the seldom seen and almost unknown *snowi* subspecies, restricted to Northeast Luzon. They showed exceedingly well, coming down almost to the ground, much to everyone's delight. Also here were the much-wanted Luzon Striped Babbler and Golden-crowned Babbler, though the latter eluded some of us, and we also found an aptly-name Furtive Flycatcher all. Mixed flocks also contained Rough-crested Malkohas, Black-and-white Trillers and Bar-bellied Cuckooshrikes, and even a couple of White-lored Orioles. Doves and pigeons were much in evidence, and included a flock of rare Spotted Imperial Pigeons attending a fruiting tree, together with Green Imperial Pigeons of the attractive local maroon-naped form, as well as showy Cream-breasted, Yellow-breasted and Black-chinned Fruit-Doves and Philippine Green Pigeons. We also flushed a couple of Luzon Bleeding-hears, but unfortunately the views were poor and they never came to the tape. Other goodies seen included Rufous and Luzon Hornbills, Luzon Flameback, (Northern) Rufous Paradise Flycatchers, White's Thrush, Trilling Tailorbird, Flaming Sunbird and Bicolored Flowerpecker. All in all all, the birding here was superb, and everyone really enjoyed our time in the forest.



White-fronted Tit.

And then all that remained of the main tour was to explore the southern Sierra Madre mountains. Although much of the accessible forest has been cleared in this area, there is still some good forest along the Infanta road, and this area harboured some highly desired goodies. Weather was, like most days of the tour, absolutely horrible, with very strong winds, rain, and fog, which again made birding rather challenging. However, some hard work eventually paid off. The most wanted bird here was undoubtedly the chunky Whiskered Pitta, and although it took a real effort, thanks to Irene –who did a great job- we did get some stunning looks at this legendary bird. Mel and Heather, and everyone else of course, were as happy as one could be! Almost as good as the pitta was the stunning and rapidly declining Flame-breasted Fruit Dove, one of the world's most attractive doves. We saw one on a nest and, even better, a singing bird that gave frame-filling views. What a bird! Bicol Ground Warbler proved very hard to get, and we climbed (literally) up and down some steep gulleys, hoping to glimpse one, to no avail. We put a lot of effort on this bird, and on the

very last minute of our last morning the whole group was rewarded with absolutely amazing views of a pair running around at our feet. We even got some videos with our mobiles phones! At dusk, during a small window of decent weather, we managed to find a cracking Luzon Scops Owl. Supporting cast included the amazing Scale-feathered Malkoha, Guaiaberos, Blue-headed Fantails, sneaky Grey-backed Tailorbirds and Sulphur-billed Nuthatches. After such a successful time here, we returned back to Manila, where the main tour ended.



Cream-breasted, Black-chinned and Flame-breasted Fruit Doves.

Those who continued on the Panay and Tablas extension were all ready for the adventure. Our flight to Panay left on time, but once we got there we were greeted by extreme Typhoon-like weather. Under torrential rain and very, very strong winds, there was no way we could leave the hotel the following day, and the moods were low. The forecast in Panay looked really terrible for the next few days, so after assessing all possibilities, we decided to make a quick change in plans: trying to get to Tablas Island the following day, see the birds there, and then come back to Panay hoping for a weather improvement later in the week. And that's exactly what we did. We took the ferry to Tablas, and arrived to this seldom-visited island in the afternoon. Before it got dark, we saw our first endemic Tablas (Streak-breasted) Bulbuls, and at dusk both Romblon Hawk-Owl – Birdquest lifer!-, and a very confiding Mantanani Scops Owl delighted us. We woke up to dark skies and heavy rain, but thankfully after a couple of hours it stopped. We then walked up to a small forest patch, not far from our village, where things were very quiet. However, after some time we managed to find a cooperative pair of Tablas Fantails –split from Blue-headed-, as well as a couple of sneaky Tablas Drongos, with their long, forked tails, both being Birdquest lifers. Very happy with our sightings, we returned back to town, and decided to head back to the harbor in order to catch the ferry to Panay. However, things didn't go according to plan, as the ferry was cancelled until the following morning. We secured some hotel rooms by the beach, but the concert downstairs was not much appreciated!



Mantanani Scops Owl from Tablas.



Romblon Hawk-Owl, Birdquest lifer!

The ferry eventually left, several hours late, and by noon we had arrived to Panay. The weather was fine, and in order not to lose time, we decided to do the hike up to Sibaliw station that very same day. It was a tough, challenging climb, not apt for everybody, which involved several river crossings and even some rock climbing. After 3 hours we finally reached good forest amidst some impressive karstic formations and caves. Here, a pair of stunning Yellow-faced Flamebacks greeted us. We had great views of this most-wanted Visayan endemic and then we carried on, finally arriving to the station just before dusk. Part 1 of our mission –getting there!- accomplished. Now the trickiest one followed...That night, Irene did a great job by cooking some delicious chicken with the very few ingredients available, and then, exhausted, we all went to bed. Outside of the station the wind was howling, as usual.

The reason why we had come all the way to Sibaliw was to search for the incredibly rare, stunning and critically endangered Negros Bleeding-heart. There are a couple of pairs in the area, but finding these very shy birds requires a good deal of luck, combined with very hard work. For that reason, we had allowed for 3 nights and 2 and a half days to search for them. So we were all ready for the mission next morning. We walked down to the dry riverbed where most sightings have taken place, and started searching. Unbelievably, after less than 5 minutes, I saw some movement with my naked eye, and there it was, a cracking Negros Bleeding-heart walking around on the ground in a side dry stream. Everyone quickly got on the bird, and we enjoyed fantastic views. It then disappeared and started calling, with another one calling back a bit further. We spent some time trying to get more views, but the bird crossed the stream in flight, and was never seen again. Wow, what an amazing sighting of a bird that very few people have ever seen! Now we could relax and enjoy the rest of our stay. We birded both along the riverbed and around the station, and highlights included a singing White-throated Jungle Flycatcher, another pair of Yellow-faced Flamebacks, a confiding Visayan (White-browed) Shama, Philippine Tailorbird and an all-too-brief *gorsachius* Night-Heron (possibly Japanese, but ID not confirmed) briefly seen on the stream before flying off. It was then time to walk back to civilization, and by mid-afternoon we were on our pleasant hotel, enjoying a good pizza and shrimp dinner on a nearby restaurant.



The 2 stars of Sibaliw: Negros Bleeding-heart and Yellow-faced Flameback.



A very, very happy group of Birdquesters!

On our last full day on Panay we visited a different forested area in search of the Critically Endangered Walden's Hornbill. Again, the hike up to the spot was a challenging one, but eventually we made it. However, the winds were so strong that we were nearly blown away at the clearing. After a couple of hours, seeing nothing of course, I decided to explore myself further up the valley. This proved to be the right decision, as after half an hour I found a more sheltered spot with a fruiting tree, and no less than 8 Walden's Hornbills in attendance! I told the porter to go get the group, and eventually they all arrived. The hornbills were still on the tree, and we enjoyed good scope views. Mission accomplished!! We then started hiking down, stopping on the way for a well-deserved and highly enjoyable swim in a river pool. We finally made it to the hotel, and enjoyed another brilliant dinner. In hindsight, the decision of changing the itinerary was definitely the right one, as thanks to it we managed to see all possible endemics in spite of the typhoon-like weather during the first couple of days.

Next morning we all took a flight to Manila, and celebrated our successful extension at the usual Japanese restaurant in our hotel. It had been a cracking, very successful, although demanding and very challenging 3 and a half weeks on this endemic-rich country. Part of the success was due to a great, keen and very understanding group, as well as to our local guide, Irene, who really did her best during the entire trip.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

The species names and taxonomy used in the report mostly follows Gill, F & D Donsker (Eds). **IOC World Bird Names**. This list is updated several times annually and is available at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org>.

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

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

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

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g. it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

Conservation threat categories and information are taken from *Threatened Birds of the World*, BirdLife International's magnificent book on the sad status of the rarest 10% of the world's avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/home>

E = Endangered, **V** = Vulnerable, **NT** = Near Threatened, **DD** = Data Deficient.

Philippine Duck ◊ *Anas luzonica* (**VU**) Seen on Bohol.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* (H) Heard on Bohol and Mindoro.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis* (LO) One on the journey.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* A few seen, the first at the Twin Lakes, Negros [*java*].

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa* A few seen, especially in Panay [nominate].

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus* Common, first seen in roadside fields on Negros.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* Several seen in Mindoro [*manilensis*].

Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros.

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros [nominate].

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* A few seen, the first in roadside fields on Negros [nominate].

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* A few seen, first on Negros. [*philippensis*].

Philippine Honey Buzzard ◊ *Pernis steerei* Seen at the Twin Lakes, Negros and Panay [nominate].

Philippine Serpent Eagle ◊ *Spilornis holospilus* Several seen well, especially on Negros and Mindoro.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus* Fairly common. First seen on Negros [*intermedius*].

Grey-faced Buzzard ◊ *Butastur indicus* Seen on Tablas and Panay.

Barred Rail ◊ *Gallirallus torquatus* Seen by some on Cebu [nominate].

Plain Bush-hen ◊ *Amauornis olivacea* (H).

Asian Blue Quail *Synoicus chinensis* 1 seen well on Mindoro.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amauornis phoenicurus* A few seen on Mindoro [nominate].

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* One seen [*orientalis*].

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* One sighting.

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Seen in Mindoro and Panay.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Seen in Mindoro.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo* Seen on the ferry to Tablas.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* Plenty seen, the first off Dumaguete, Negros.

Rock Dove (Feral) *Columba livia* Introduced.

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica* Just a couple noted on a journey [*humilis*].

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis* Common in open country [*tigrina*].

Philippine Cuckoo-Dove ◊ *Macropygia tenuirostris* A few records [nominate].

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica* Seen on Panay.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* Common in open country.

Luzon Bleeding-heart ◊ *Gallicolumba luzonica* 2 birds flushed near Baggao.

Negros Bleeding-heart ◊ *Gallicolumba keayi* (**CR**) Great views of a singing bird at Sibaliw, Panay. MEGA.

White-eared Brown Dove ◊ *Phapitreron [leucotis] leucotis* A couple seen near to Sablayan, Mindoro.

White-eared Brown Dove ♦ (Buff-eared B D) *Phapitreron [leucotis] nigrorum* Seen on Negros and Cebu.
 White-eared Brown Dove ♦ (Short-billed B D) *Phapitreron [leucotis] brevirostris* Several on Bohol and Camiguin.
 Amethyst Brown Dove ♦ *Phapitreron [amethystinus] amethystinus* Seen on Bohol.
 Philippine Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron axillaris* 2 forms: *amadoni* (Luzon), nominate (Mindoro).
 Flame-breasted Fruit Dove ♦ *Ptilinopus marcheii* Great views of a singing bird at Infanta road.
 Cream-breasted Fruit Dove ♦ *Ptilinopus merrilli* (NT) Great views near Baggao [*faustinoi*].
 Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove ♦ *Ptilinopus occipitalis* Seen near Baggao.
 Black-chinned Fruit Dove ♦ *Ptilinopus leclancheri* Plenty heard and a few seen on Bohol and Baggao [nominate].
 Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon ♦ *Ducula poliocephala* (NT) Seen in flight at Sablayan, Mindoro and perched in Panay.



Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon from Sibaliw (BH).

Spotted Imperial Pigeon ♦ *Ducula carola* (VU) More than 10 seen well on a tree near Baggao, Luzon.
 Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* See note.
 Black-faced Coucal ♦ *Centropus melanops* Several seen well in Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol.
 Black-hooded Coucal ♦ *Centropus steerii* (CR) Superb views of 2 and others heard near to Sablayan, Mindoro.
 Philippine Coucal ♦ *Centropus viridis* See note.
 Rough-crested Malkoha ♦ *Dasylophus superciliosus* Several seen well near to Baggao, Luzon [*cagayanensis*].
 Scale-feathered Malkoha ♦ *Dasylophus cumingi* Seen along the Infanta Road and near to Baggao, Luzon.
 Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* (H) Many heard around Sablayan, Mindoro [*mindanensis*].
 Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulchralis* First heard on Negros. a[nominate].
 Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo ♦ *Surniculus velutinus* Seen near Baggao, Luzon. Heard on Bohol.
 Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococcyx pectoralis* Seen on Negros
 Everett's Scops Owl ♦ *Otus everetti* Excellent views of a roosting bird on Bohol.
 Negros Scops Owl ♦ *Otus nigrorum* Brilliant views of an adult at Valencia, Negros. A real cracker!
 Mantanani Scops Owl ♦ *Otus mantananensis* 2 seen very well in Tablas.
 Luzon Hawk-Owl ♦ *Ninox philippensis* Good views on Bohol. [nominate].
 Mindoro Hawk-Owl ♦ *Ninox mindorensis* Superb views of 2 in the forest near Sablayan, Mindoro.
 Cebu Hawk-Owl ♦ *Ninox rumseyi* (EN) Brilliant views of one at Tabunan, Cebu.
 Camiguin Hawk-Owl ♦ *Ninox leventisi* (EN) Brilliant views of a pair on Camiguin Sur. Cracking birds with a great call!

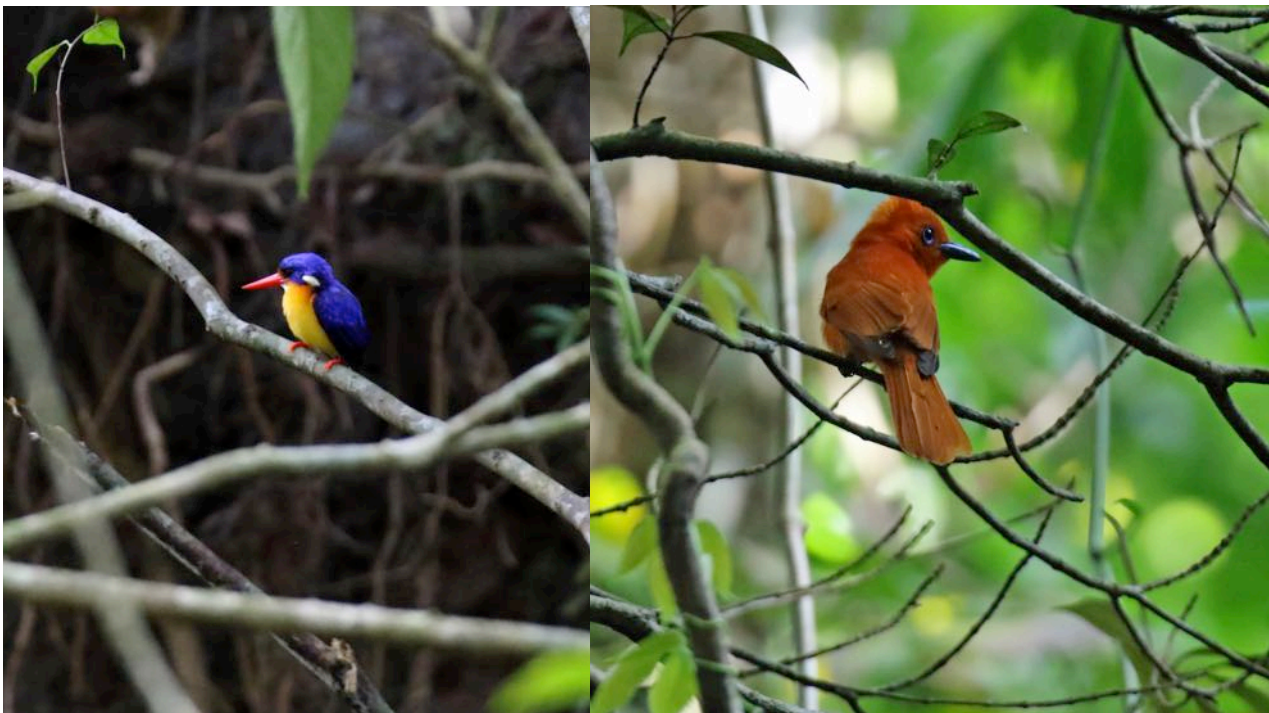
Rombon Hawk-Owl ♦ *Ninox spilonotus* Great views in Tablas.

Philippine Frogmouth ♦ *Batrachostomus septimus* Stunning views of a roosting pair at Rajah Sikatuna [nominate].



Philippine Frogmouths from Bohol.

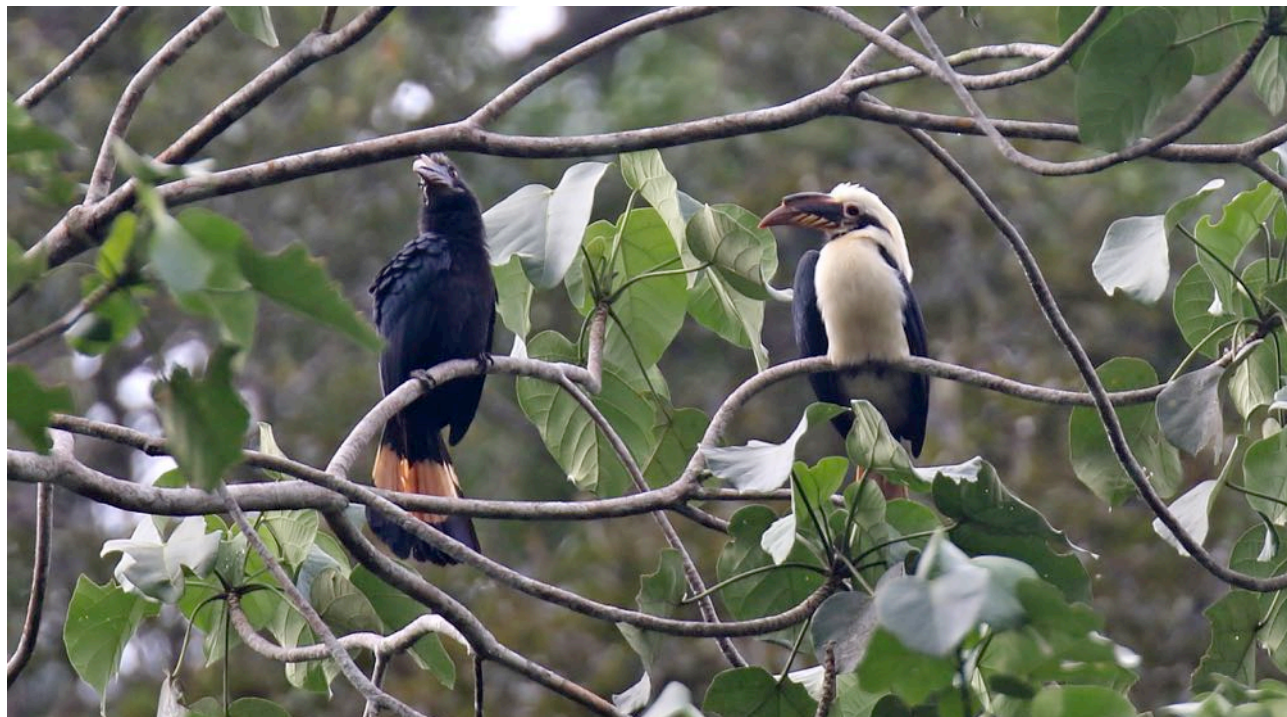
Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis* Seen at Sablayan, Mindoro. [nominate].
Philippine Nightjar ◇ *Caprimulgus manillensis* (H) Heard on Cebu and Tablas.
Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata* First seen at the Twin Lakes, Negros [major].
Grey-rumped Swiftlet ◇ *Collocalia marginata* First noted on Negros [nominate].
Ridgetop Swiftlet ◇ *Collocalia isonota* Common on Camiguin Sur [bagobo].
Pygmy Swiftlet ◇ *Collocalia troglodytes* Plenty seen on Negros, Bohol and Cebu and very common near Baggao.
Ameline Swiftlet ◇ *Aerodramus amelis* First noted on Negros, common on Mindoro [nominate].
Purple Needletail ◇ *Hirundapus celebensis* Seen on Mindoro.
Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis* Seen on Mindoro.
Philippine Trogon ◇ *Harpactes ardens* Just a couple seen on Bohol [linae].
Spotted Wood Kingfisher ◇ *Actenoides lindsayi* Seen at Infanta Road and near Baggao.
White-throated Kingfisher ◇ (Brown-breasted K) *Halcyon [smyrnensis] gularis* A few, the first on Negros.
Winchell's Kingfisher ◇ *Todiramphus winchelli* (VU) *nigrorum* seen on Bohol.
Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris* First seen at the Twin Lakes, Negros [collaris].
Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* Seen a few times. [bengalensis].
Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher ◇ *Ceyx margarethae* Brilliant views of a dark morph on Camiguin. Stunning little bird!



Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher and (Southern) Rufous Paradise Flycatcher from Camiguin Sur.

Northern Silvery Kingfisher ◇ *Ceyx flumenicola* (NT) Great looks at Bohol.
Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus* A few.
Blue-throated Bee-eater ◇ (Rufous-crowned B-e) *Merops [viridis] americanus* A few.
Rufous Hornbill ◇ (Northern R H) *Buceros [hydrocorax] hydrocorax* (VU) 2 Seen well near to Baggao.
Walden's Hornbill ◇ *Rhabdotorhinus waldeni* (CR) After some effort, no less than 8 at a fruiting tree in Panay.
Wreathed Hornbill ◇ *Rhyticeros undulatus* 4 seen well on Camiguin Sur.
Luzon Hornbill ◇ *Penelopides manillae* A few seen near to Baggao, Luzon.
Mindoro Hornbill ◇ *Penelopides mindorensis* (EN) Plenty seen well around Sablayan, Mindoro.
Samar Hornbill ◇ *Penelopides samarensis* Great views of several around the clearing in Rajah Sikatuna, Bohol.
Visayan Hornbill ◇ *Penelopides panini* (EN) Several seen well at the Twin Lakes, Negros and Panay.
Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus* See note.
Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker ◇ *Yungipicus maculatus* (H) Heard along the Infanta Road, Luzon [validirostris].
White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* 3 forms: *philippinensis* (Negros); *pectoralis* (Bohol); *mindorensis*
Buff-spotted Flameback ◇ *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* (LO) Seen on Bohol [rufopunctatus].
Luzon Flameback ◇ *Chrysocolaptes haematribon* Seen near Baggao.

Philippine Falconet ♦ *Microhierax erythrogenys* A pair seen in Mindoro.
Yellow-faced Flameback ♦ *Chrysocolaptes xanthocephalus* 2 pairs seen very well at Sibaliw, Panay.
Mindoro Racket-Tail ♦ *Prioniturus mindorensis* (VU) Great views eventually near Sablayan, Mindoro.
Blue-crowned Racket-Tail ♦ *Prioniturus discurus* (VU) Seen on Negros [*whiteheadi*].
Blue-naped Parrot ♦ *Tanygnathus lucionensis* (NT) Seen well on Mindoro [*lucionensis*].
Guaibero ♦ *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus* Seen near Baggao.



Samar, Visayan and a distant female Walden's Hornbill.

Philippine Hanging Parrot ♦ *Loriculus philippensis* See note.

Camiguin Hanging Parrot ♦ *Loriculus camiguinensis* Due to gale-force winds, only one briefly perched for the leader.

Visayan Broadbill ♦ *Sarcophanops samarensis* A group of 3 seen very well in Raja Sikatuna NP, thanks to Irene.



Visayan Broadbill, White-vented Whistler and Striated Wren Babbler.

Whiskered Pitta ♦ *Erythropitta kochi* (NT) Brilliant views of one, along the Infanta Road, Luzon. Thanks Irene!

Philippine Pitta ♦ *Erythropitta erythrogaster* Eventually good views of an adult on Cebu.[nominate].

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Quite common in open country [nominate].

Scarlet Minivet ♦ (Philippine M) *Pericrocotus [speciosus] leytenis* A pair seen on Bohol.

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Some big flocks seen on Mindoro.

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata* See note.

White-winged Cuckooshrike ◇ *Edolisoma ostentum* (VU) A few seen from the boat at the Twin Lakes, Negros.

Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike ◇ *Edolisoma mindanense* One female in Bohol.

Blackish Cuckooshrike ◇ *Edolisoma coerulescens* Seen near to Baggao, Luzon.

Black-and-white Triller ◇ (Northern B-a-w T) *Lalage [melanoleuca] melanoleuca* Great views on Mindoro, and Luzon.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra* A few seen in Mindoro [nominate].

White-vented Whistler ◇ (Cebu W-v W) *Pachycephala [homeyeri] major* Good views of a couple at Tabunan, Cebu.

White-vented Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala [homeyeri] winchelli* Several seen very well on Negros.

Yellow-bellied Whistler ◇ *Pachycephala philippinensis* Two forms: *boholensis* on Bohol; *fallax* near Baggao, Luzon.

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus* Common, first noted on Negros [*lucionensis*].

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* A couple seen [*nasutus*].

Philippine Oriole ◇ *Oriolus [steerii] samarensis* (H) Several heard on Bohol [*samarensis*].

White-lored Oriole ◇ *Oriolus albiloris* 2 seen near to Baggao, Luzon.

Isabela Oriole ◇ *Oriolus isabellae* (CR) Good scope views of 1 near to Baggao, Luzon. More heard.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis* Two forms noted: *yamamurae* on Negros; nominate common on Mindoro.

Balicassiao ◇ *Dicrurus [balicassius] balicassius* Several seen well on Mindoro and Luzon.

Balicassiao ◇ (Visayan D) *Dicrurus [balicassius] mirabilis* Several white-bellied birds seen well on Negros and Panay.

Hair-crested Drongo ◇ *Dicrurus [hottentottus] samarensis* Several seen well on Bohol.

Tablas Drongo ◇ *Dicrurus managei* One or 2 seen well in Tablas. Quite shy.

Visayan Blue Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura samarensis* Excellent views of several in mixed flocks in Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

Blue-headed Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura cyaniceps* Several seen at both sites on Luzon.

Visayan Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura albiventris* Good views of several on Negros and Panay.



Visayan and Tablas Fantails, both split from Blue-headed Fantail.

Tablas Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura sauli* A pair seen well on Tablas.
Philippine Pied Fantail ◇ *Rhipidura nigritorquis* Plenty seen at various sites.
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* See note.
Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◇ (Northern R P F) *Terpsiphone [cinnamomea] unirufa* Seen near to Baggao, Luzon.
Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◇ (Southern R P F) *Terpsiphone [cinnamomea] cinnamomea* Seen on Camiguin Sur.
Slender-billed Crow ◇ (Palawan C) *Corvus [enca] pusillus* Several seen well on Mindoro.
Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos* First noted on Negros [*philippinus*].
Citrine Canary-Flycatcher ◇ *Culicicapa helianthea* Several seen well on Negros [*panayensis*].
Elegant Tit ◇ *Pardaliparus elegans* Three forms: *albescens* (Negros), *visayanus* (Cebu) and nominate (Luzon).
White-fronted Tit ◇ *Sittiparus semilarvatus* 3 birds showed very well near Baggao. Excellent unexpected find.



White-fronted Tit.

Yellow-wattled Bulbul ◇ *Pycnonotus urostictus* (H)
Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* Common. Two forms: *samarensis* first on Negros; nominate on Luzon.
Philippine Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes philippinus* Two forms: *saturation* first seen on Bohol; nominate common on Luzon.
Mindoro Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes mindorensis* Common on Mindoro with many seen well.
Visayan Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes guimarasensis* Common on Negros and Panay.
Streak-breasted Bulbul ◇ *Hypsipetes siquijorensis* (EN) Poor views on Cebu. A nightmare to see well as usual!!
Streak-breasted Bulbul ◇ (Tablas B) *Hypsipetes (siquijorensis) cinereiceps* Seen well in Tablas.
Yellowish Bulbul ◇ (Camiguin B) *Hypsipetes [everetti] catarmanensis* (NT) Easy on Camiguin Sur. Very distinctive!
Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica* Common and widespread. First noted on Negros [*gutturalis*].
Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica* A few sightings [*javanica*].
Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata* A couple seen on Mindoro [nominate].
Philippine Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus olivaceus* Several seen well in the mixed flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP.
Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus cebuensis* A few seen well on Negros and near Baggao. [nominate].
Kamchatka Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus examinandus* Seen and heard by some near Baggao.
Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* A couple sightings.
Negros Leaf Warbler ◇ *Phylloscopus nigrorum* (LO)

Bicol Ground Warbler ♦ *Robsonius sorsogonensis* (NT) Great views of one, just 2 metres away, on Infanta Road.

Tawny Grassbird *Cincloramphus timoriensis* One sighting.

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

Philippine Tailorbird ♦ *Orthotomus castaneiceps* Commonly heard and seen briefly on Negros and Panay [rabori].

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

Rufous-fronted Tailorbird ♦ *Orthotomus* (H) Heard on Bohol.

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

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

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

Striated Wren-babbler ♦ *Ptilocichla mindanensis* Seen well on Bohol [fortichi].

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

Negros Striped Babbler ♦ *Zosterornis nigrorum* (EN) Only brief views for Nick and Irene not far from Dumaguete.

Golden-crowned Babbler ♦ *Sterrhoptilus dennistouni* (NT) Seen by some near to Baggao, Luzon.

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

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

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



White-throated Jungle Flycatcher from Panay. Not the most exciting looking endemic, but one of the rarest ones!

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

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

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

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

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

Stripe-headed Rhabdornis ♦ *Rhabdornis mystacalis* One near Baggao.

Philippine Magpie-Robin ♦ *Copsychus mindanensis* (LO) Seen briefly by the leader on Camiguin Sur.

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

White-browed Shama ♦ (Visayan S) *Copsychus [luzoniensis] superciliaris* Great views of a male in Sibaliw, Panay.

Black Shama ♦ *Copsychus cebuensis* (EN) Brilliant views in the end at Tabunan, Cebu.

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

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher ♦ *Cyornis rufigastra* See note.

Turquoise Flycatcher ♦ *Eumyias panayensis* One seen high up near Dumaguete, Negros [nominate].
White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* (H) One heard high up near Dumaguete, Negros [*brunneiceps*].
White-throated Jungle Flycatcher ♦ *Vauriella albigularis* (EN) Seen well at Sibaliw, Panay.
Rufous-tailed Jungle Flycatcher ♦ *Cyornis ruficauda* (LO) Seen on Bohol.
Furtive Flycatcher ♦ *Ficedula disposita* (NT) 2 seen near to Baggao, Luzon. Quite furtive!
Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Seen on Mindoro. [nominate].
Bicolored Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum bicolor* Seen near to Baggao. [*viridissimum*].
Red-keeled Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum australe* Seen at several sites, the first on Bohol.
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum ignipectus* One sighting.
Black-belted Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum haematostictum* (VU) Great views of a couple on Negros and Panay.
Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum retrocinctum* (VU) Stunning views at Sablayan, Mindoro.
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma* See note.



Orange-breasted Flowerpecker.

Buzzing Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum hypoleucum* (H) First heard on Negros [*pontifex*].
Pygmy Flowerpecker ♦ *Dicaeum pygmaeum* Good views on Camiguin [nominate].
Brown-throated Sunbird ♦ *Anthreptes malacensis* A male seen roosting on Camiguin Sur.
Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata* First seen well on Camiguin [*trochilus*].
Olive-backed Sunbird ♦ (Garden S) *Cinnyris [jugularis] jugularis* Several seen well.
Flaming Sunbird ♦ *Aethopyga flagrans* Seen near Baggao and Infanta Rd.
Maroon-naped Sunbird ♦ *Aethopyga guimarasensis* Stunning views on Negros. A real belter [*daphoenonota*].
Bohol Sunbird ♦ *Aethopyga decorosa* Good views of a pair on Bohol.
Magnificent Sunbird ♦ *Aethopyga magnifica* Several seen superbly on Negros. Also on Panay.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* Common and widespread.
Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla* Seen at a few spots including on Cebu [*jagori*].
Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* A few on Mindoro.
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea* First seen near Dumaguete, Negros [nominate].
Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* 4 seen on Mindoro [*lugubris*]
Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi* 1 seen by Nick along Infanta road.

MAMMALS

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

Camiguin Forest Rat *Ballimus gamay* Presumably this species seen on Camiguin.

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

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

NOTES TO THE SYSTEMATIC LIST

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

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

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

Philippine Coucal *Centropus viridis*

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

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

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

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata*

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

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

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

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*

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

Yellowish White-eye *Zosterops nigrorum*

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

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra*

Brilliant views of several at Tabunan, Cebu. They are supposedly of the form *philippensis*. I wouldn't be at all surprised if the birds in the Philippines were split off at some stage in the future.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

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

