



## PHILIPPINES OFF-THE-BEATEN-TRACK TOUR REPORT 2023

3 - 23 February 2023

**Craig Robson**

This itinerary “with a difference” was designed to enable tour participants to see the maximum number of Philippine endemics, supplemental to those that we can see on our Classic Philippines itinerary, during a realistic tour schedule. We certainly succeeded in delivering this package in 2023. Out of a total of around 239 species, we found at least 56 strict Philippine endemics (taxonomy-dependant) that were not seen on our 2023 Classic tour, making a combined minimum of 224 endemics across the two tours. The many specialities on this year’s Philippines With A Difference included: 45 Philippine Ducks, day-roosting Philippine Frogmouths, the mournful Black-hooded Coucal, 11 endemic pigeons, Chinese Egret, 5 endemic hawks, Chocolate, Luzon, Camiguin, Cebu, Romblon and Mindoro Boobooks, Luzon, Mantanani, Philippine, Negros and Everett’s Scops Owls, Philippine Trogon, 5 endemic hornbills, 6 endemic kingfishers, including the scintillating Dimorphic Dwarf and Northern Silvery, perched Mindoro and Blue-crowned Racket-tails, superb prolonged views of Camiguin Hanging Parrot, Philippine Pitta, Tablas and ‘Visayan’ Drongos, 5 endemic fantails (including Tablas), ‘Northern’ and ‘Southern’ Rufous Paradise Flycatchers, Sierra Madre (or Small) Crow, 7 endemic bulbuls, Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler, great views of both Cordillera and Bicol Ground Warblers (the former a new bird for Birdquest), Philippine and Yellow-breasted Tailorbirds, the unique Flame-templed Babbler, Calabarzon, Visayan and Negros Striped Babblers, Striated Wren-Babbler, Philippine Fairy-bluebird, the seldom-seen Visayan Rhabdornis, Visayan and Black Shammas, Philippine and White-throated Jungle Flycatchers, Olive-backed, Striped, Black-belted and Scarlet-collared Flowerpeckers and Flaming, Maroon-naped, Bohol and Magnificent Sunbirds.

After we all met-up, the tour began with an afternoon flight from Manila to Bacolod in north-west Negros. We were up early the following morning, and arrived at Gawahon Ecopark as it was getting light. Sadly however, it was a dismal and rain-soaked morning, making our target-birding a real challenge. We did manage to get the list going with a selection of endemics in the mixed-species flocks: White-vented

Whistler, Visayan Drongo (split from Balicassiao), Visayan Fantail, Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler, Yellowish White-eye, and the superb Magnificent Sunbird. Buff-eared Brown Dove (the local form of White-eared), Visayan Bulbul, Philippine Tailorbird, and Black-belted and Orange-breasted (split from Orange-bellied) Flowerpeckers were also to be seen. We headed off for Dumaguete in south-east Negros, stopping for lunch en route.

Based at a hotel in town, we had two days and a morning to bag the rest of our targets on the island. A very rewarding day at the beautiful Balinsasayao Twin Lakes National Park brought us: Grey-breasted Brown Dove (split from Amethyst), Visayan Hornbill, Visayan Cuckooshrike (split from Bar-bellied), more Philippine Tailorbirds, White-throated Jungle Flycatcher (for the lucky few), and the lovely Maroon-naped Sunbird. Our best result though, was seeing four rare Visayan Rhabdornis in a fruiting tree. After dark, we had great close-ups of a roosting 'Negros' Spotted Kingfisher (a potential split) before torrential rain dashed any further nightbirding efforts.

Starting early the next morning in the mountains, at Palinpinon Geothermal Site, we were soon enjoying great close views of Negros Striped Babbler, despite the low cloud layer. Quickly satisfied, we moved on to a lower and sunnier location where, after an off-piste pursuit of a mixed-species feeding flock, we eventually all had satisfactory views of three much-wanted Flame-templed Babblers. An after-dinner sortie to a patch of more lowland forest was the chosen location in search of Negros Scops Owl. Once the rain stopped, we followed our guide to a couple of favoured locations, but there was no sight nor sound of the owl. As we were leaving one spot, after a long wait, our guide miraculously spotted this little stunner, which had been sitting quietly nearby. Pleased and relieved we headed off for a good night's rest.

Our final forest birding on Negros was spent at an attractive lake to the south-west of town, where we had surprisingly close views of a singing male Visayan Shama. From Dumaguete, we took a fast ferry to Tagbilaran on Bohol, and then made our way to a small hotel in Bilar, our base from which to explore surrounding habitats.

Most of our time on Bohol was spent in the well-forested Rajah Sikatuna Protected Landscape (National Park), where we were guided along various trails, and scanned for tree-top species from the small clearings. The mixed-species feeding flocks were productive once more, this time including Visayan Blue Fantail, Philippine Leaf Warbler, and Visayan Babbler. Philippine Jungle Flycatcher popped-up very obligingly, but the shapeshifting Yellow-breasted Tailorbird was somewhat more of a challenge to point-out. Several Samar Hornbills were vocal around the small forest openings, and eventually showed nicely. A road leading to some forest across the valley from the reserve was also productive, with a small coconut grove hosting our only Bohol Sunbirds. A nearby stream was where our guide searched for and twice found us the terrific Northern Silvery Kingfisher. Amongst the many other highlights, multiple day-roosting pairs of Philippine Frogmouth were noteworthy, and we enjoyed some great views of Philippine Flying Lemurs.

After our final morning on Bohol, we took a boat across to Cebu City, and then immediately drove up to Tabunan in the interior of the island, one of the very few areas with some native forest remaining on Cebu. With only one night here, and the weather a constant threat, we immediately headed out with local resident and guide Oking and, after only a short wait, we were soon looking at an amazingly obliging Cebu Boobook. Pleased with our success, we drove to a nearby resort for a comfortable overnight stay. We returned to Tabunan early the next morning. An hours steady walk along muddy trails, through small areas of cultivation, and we eventually entered some more mature forest on limestone. Almost immediately we heard the rich song of the endemic Black Shama, and we were soon admiring one at very close range. Using a small platform as a vantage point, we scanned the surrounding forest. Several Philippine (or Mangrove) Blue Flycatchers were noted, but our other main target, the Cebu form of Streak-breasted Bulbul, called briefly but remained hidden in dense foliage. Leaving Tabunan behind, we drove down to the airport in Cebu City, and took a short flight to the island of Camiguin, off the north coast of Mindanao.

Once checked-in at our well-situated coastal resort, we drove up to the forest between the hills in search of endemics. It was starting to get dark, and we had nothing in the bag, so we moved further on to a spot for the endemic Camiguin Boobook. Once it got dark, we soon heard the strange calls of this relatively recently recognised species and proceeded to get great views. The next day and a morning were spent exploring the roadside forests and mixed forest and plantations in the west-central part of the island. Our most wanted bird was of course the endemic Camiguin Hanging Parrot. We had a number of rapid flybys and heard only's, before Ivan miraculously spotted a pair perched on a rattan spike at very close range – which remained in full view for about twenty minutes!! Unbelievable. The very distinctive Camiguin Bulbul was common and easily seen, we had multiple good looks at the dazzling Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher, and we also enjoyed good views of a Philippine Pitta. Another Camiguin endemic, that has been flying under the radar, is the very distinctive local form of Black-naped Monarch, and we made sure that we got definitive views of this plush purplish form.

Returning to Camiguin's diminutive airport, we flew to Manila and, after an overnight stay, onwards to San Jose in south-west Mindoro. From the capital, we drove up the west coast to Sablayan, where we would spend the next day and a half. At Sablayan we explored various points along the forest edge within Siburan Forest Reserve, including the attractive and wonderfully situated Libuao Lake. Mindoro Hornbill was eventually seen well to everyone's satisfaction, while Mindoro Bulbul and Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker, although far from showy, were not too difficult. We even had surprisingly good views of the oft secretive Black-hooded Coucal, and multiple perched views of Mindoro Racket-tail. Our owling session began with mega views of a pair of Chocolate Boobooks, but once they had budged, we were able to tempt-in the endemic Mindoro Boobook. Other good birds on Mindoro included the blackish endemic form of Philippine Coucal and Striped Flowerpecker.

After our final birding at Sablayan, we drove back to San Jose and overnighted, before taking an early morning flight to Manila. From Manila, we took an onward flight to Tuguegarao. Unfortunately, due to some last-minute serious 'security' issues in the Baggao region, we were not allowed to visit the site for Isabela Oriole this year. We had to quickly come up with an alternative and chose to explore a new area in the north-west, Kalbario-Patapat National Park. A few hours' drive from Tuguegarao Airport, and we were checking-in to a comfortable and wonderfully situated coastal resort. We had much of the following day to explore the excellent and surprisingly extensive forests of this beautiful place. There were many avian highlights, but pride of place went to the wonderful views that we obtained of Cordillera Ground Warbler – a new species for Birdquest, as well as all tour participants of course! We also managed to track down the rare Sierra Madre Crow, currently included in the already range-restricted endemic Small Crow and had some fantastic views of the splittable 'Northern' Rufous Hornbill. Returning to the town of Baggao in the evening, we overnighted before taking a flight back to Manila, from where we drove to our accommodation on the Infanta Road, in the southern Sierra Madre.

Although much of the accessible forest has been cleared in this area, there is still some good forest along the Infanta Road at the higher levels, harbouring some highly sought-after Philippine endemics. Although we had a good amount of time to explore the area, we had to endure the worst weather conditions of the entire tour, with persistent rain hampering our considerable efforts. We were left with relatively few major highlights. Crippling face-to-face views of the tricky Luzon Scops Owl was perhaps our best result, but we also enjoyed good views of the skulking Bicol Ground Warbler, and we managed to spot two Calabarzon Babblers in a mixed-species flock. 'Southern' Cream-breasted (or -bellied) Fruit Dove, was unfortunately only heard.

After returning to Manila once more, the final leg of our journey took us to the seldom visited island of Tablas. Remaining habitat is limited and rather difficult to access on Tablas, but it was not far to travel from our hotel in a small coastal village. Romblon Boobook, Tablas Drongo, and Tablas Fantail were all seen well, though the latter proved rather too elusive for some of us. The local form of Winchell's Kingfisher, Tablas (Streak-breasted) Bulbul, and Sibuyan Flowerpecker (the local form of Orange-bellied) completed our selection of possible armchair-ticks, and we were also lucky enough to get perched views of a male Blue-crowned Racket-tail.

Returning to Manila yet again, we said our goodbyes at the airport, and reflected back on another epic journey through the more remote islands of the Philippines. Our sincere thanks were extended to local birding guide Ivan Sarenas for his skilled and professional leadership.

## **BIRD OF THE TRIP**

**1st: Cordillera Ground Warbler**

**2nd: Bicol Ground Warbler**

**3rd: Luzon Scops Owl**

**4th: Flame-templed Babbler**

**5th: Tablas Drongo**

## **SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED**

### **BIRDS**

**Wandering Whistling Duck** *Dendrocygna arcuata* At least 11 at Sablayan, Mindoro.

**Philippine Duck** ♦ *Anas luzonica* Endemic. A maximum of 45 counted at Sablayan.

**Red Junglefowl** *Gallus gallus* Heard-only.

**Great Eared Nightjar** *Lyncornis macrotis*

**Philippine Nightjar** ♦ *Caprimulgus manillensis* Endemic. Best seen on Tablas, but also seen on Negros.

**Philippine Frogmouth** ♦ *Batrachostomus septimus* Endemic. 2-3 day-roosting pairs seen on Bohol (nominate).

**Grey-rumped Swiftlet** ♦ (Philippine Glossy S) *Collocalia marginata* Endemic. Widespread sightings.

**Ridgetop Swiftlet** ♦ *Collocalia isonota* Endemic. Common on Camiguin.

**Pygmy Swiftlet** ♦ *Collocalia troglodytes* Endemic. Occasional in lowland areas.

**Ameline Swiftlet** ♦ (Grey S) *Aerodramus [amelis] amelis* Endemic. Widespread but occasional in lowlands.

**Philippine Spine-tailed Swift** ♦ (P Spinetail) *Mearnsia picina* Endemic. 15 on Negros.

**Purple Needletail** ♦ *Hirundapus celebensis* Seen on Mindoro, Luzon and Tablas

**Black-faced Coucal** ♦ *Centropus melanops* Endemic. Some nice sightings at Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

**Black-hooded Coucal** ♦ *Centropus steerii* Endemic. Great views of a calling bird at Sablayan, Mindoro; 4+ heard.

**Philippine Coucal** ♦ *Centropus viridis* Endemic. Widespread. Mindoro (all-dark *mindorensis*); elsewhere (nominate).

**Lesser Coucal** *Centropus bengalensis*

**Scale-feathered Malkoha** ♦ *Dasylophus cumingi* Endemic. Several seen well at Kalbario-Patapat NP and Infanta Road.

**Asian Koel (Western K)** *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

**Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*

**Rusty-breasted Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

**Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus velutinus* Heard-only. Rajah Sikatuna NP.

**Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo** ♦ *Hierococcyx pectoralis* Endemic. One seen by some of us at Tabunan, Cebu.

**Rock Dove (introduced)** *Columba livia*

**Red Collared Dove (R Turtle D)** *Streptopelia tranquebarica*

**Spotted Dove [Eastern S D]** *Spilopelia [chinensis] chinensis*

**Philippine Cuckoo-Dove** ♦ *Macropygia tenuirostris* Camiguin and Infanta Rd, Luzon (nominate).

**Zebra Dove** *Geopelia striata*

**White-eared Brown Dove** ♦ *Phapitreron [leucotis] leucotis* Endemic. Small number seen and heard on Luzon.

**White-eared Brown Dove** ♦ [Buff-eared B D] *Phapitreron [leucotis] nigrorum* Endemic. Small numbers on Negros.

**White-eared Brown Dove** ♦ [Short-billed B D] *P. [leucotis] brevirostris* Endemic. Small numbers on Bohol & Camiguin.

**Amethyst Brown Dove** ♦ *Phapitreron [amethystinus] amethystinus* Endemic. Heard-only. Bohol & Infanta Rd (nominate).

**Amethyst Brown Dove** ♦ [Grey-breasted B D] *P. [amethystinus] maculipectus* Endemic. One seen well on Negros.

**Thick-billed Green Pigeon** ♦ *Treron curvirostra* Small numbers at Sablayan, Mindoro.

**Philippine Green Pigeon** ♦ *Treron axillaris* Endemic. At least four identified at Sablayan (*axillaris*).

**Flame-breasted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus marchei* Endemic. Heard-only. Once only at Infanta Road.

**Cream-breasted Fruit Dove\*** ♦ (C-bellied F D) [Southern C-b F D] *P. [merrilli] merrilli* Endemic. Heard-only. Infanta Rd.

**Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus occipitalis* Endemic. 2 at Negros, heard Cebu (nom.); heard Camiguin (*incognitus*).

**Black-chinned Fruit Dove** ♦ *Ptilinopus leclancheri* Seen on Bohol and Tablas; heard on Mindoro (*gironieri*).

**Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon** ♦ *Ducula poliocephala* Endemic. Heard-only. Sablayan, Mindoro.

**Green Imperial Pigeon** *Ducula aenea* Several seen on Mindoro, one on Tablas, heard on Bohol (nominate).

**Barred Rail** *Hypotaenidia torquata*

**Common Moorhen** *Gallinula chloropus*

**White-browed Crake** *Poliolimnas cinereus*

**Plain Bush-hen** ♦ (Philippine B-h) *Amaurornis olivacea* Endemic. Heard-only. Bohol, Tablas and Mindoro.

**Black-winged Stilt** *Himantopus himantopus*

**Pacific Golden Plover** *Pluvialis fulva*

**Little Ringed Plover** *Charadrius dubius*

**Kentish Plover** *Charadrius alexandrinus*

**Siberian Sand Plover (Mongolian P)** *Charadrius mongolus*

**Eurasian Whimbrel** *Numenius phaeopus*

**Long-toed Stint** *Calidris subminuta*

**Red-necked Stint** *Calidris ruficollis*

**Common Sandpiper** *Actitis hypoleucos*

**Wood Sandpiper** *Tringa glareola*

**Common Greenshank** *Tringa nebularia*

**Greater Crested Tern** *Thalasseus bergii*

**Little Tern** *Sternula albifrons* One in offshore tern roost on Camiguin.

**Black-naped Tern** *Sterna sumatrana* Four noted on Camiguin.

**Common Tern** *Sterna hirundo* 60 on Camiguin.

**Whiskered Tern** *Chlidonias hybrida*

**Yellow Bittern** *Ixobrychus sinensis*

**Black-crowned Night Heron** *Nycticorax nycticorax*

**Striated Heron** *Butorides striata*

**Javan Pond Heron** *Ardeola speciosa*

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Great Egret [Eastern G E] *Ardea [alba] modesta*

Intermediate Egret *Ardea intermedia*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Pacific Reef Heron (Pacific R E) *Egretta sacra*

Chinese Egret ♦ *Egretta eulophotes* One on the shore at San Moritz Wetlands, Negros.

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus* One at Sablayan, Mindoro.

Philippine Honey Buzzard ♦ *Pernis steerei* Endemic. 2 at the Twin Lakes, Negros (n nominate), and 2-3 on Tablas (*winkleri*).

Philippine Serpent Eagle ♦ *Spilornis holospilus* Endemic. Several good sightings.

Philippine Hawk-Eagle ♦ (Luzon H-E, North P H-E) *Nisaetus philippensis* Endemic. 2 Kalbario-Patapat NP & 2 Infanta Rd.

Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle ♦ (South Philippine H-E) *Nisaetus pinskeri* Endemic. 3 at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP, Negros.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* One on Bohol (*extimus*).

Besra *Accipiter virgatus* One on Bohol (*quagga*).

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

Grey-faced Buzzard ♦ *Butastur indicus*

Chocolate Boobook ♦ *Ninox randi* Endemic. Excellent views of a pair at Sablayan, Mindoro.

Luzon Boobook ♦ *Ninox philippensis* Endemic. Fantastic views of a pair on Negros; heard on Bohol (n nominate).

Camiguin Boobook ♦ *Ninox leventisi* Endemic. A pair performed perfectly for us.

Cebu Boobook ♦ *Ninox rumseyi* Endemic. Mega views of one at Tabunan.

Romblon Boobook ♦ *Ninox spilonotus* Endemic. After some work, we had good views of a pair on Tablas.

Mindoro Boobook ♦ *Ninox mindorensis* Endemic. A bit sneaky, but one of three calling birds seen well enough at Sablayan.

Luzon Scops Owl ♦ (L Highland S O) *Otus longicornis* Endemic. Astounding close-ups of one glaring down at us, Infanta.

Mantanani Scops Owl ♦ *Otus mantananensis* Another awesome performer on Tablas, where many others heard.

Philippine Scops Owl ♦ (Luzon Lowland S O) *Otus megalotis* Endemic. Great roadside views at Infanta.

Negros Scops Owl ♦ *Otus nigrorum* Endemic. Brilliantly spotted by Rene's son at Liptong Woodland and seen well.

Everett's Scops Owl ♦ (Mindanao Lowland S O) *Otus everetti* Endemic. Brilliant views at the first attempt, on Bohol.

Philippine Trogon ♦ *Harpactes ardens* Endemic. Several on Bohol (*linae*) and Luzon (*luzoniensis*).

Rufous Hornbill ♦ [Northern R H] *Buceros [hydrocorax] hydrocorax* Endemic. Superb looks at 13 at Kalbario-Patapat NP.

Luzon Hornbill ♦ *Penelopides manillae* Endemic. Three at Kalbario-Patapat NP.

Mindoro Hornbill ♦ *Penelopides mindorensis* Endemic. Three seen at Sablayan.

**Samar Hornbill** ♦ *Penelopides samarensis* Endemic. Small numbers at Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

**Visayan Hornbill** ♦ *Penelopides panini* Endemic. Six seen at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP, Negros (nominate).

**Oriental Dollarbird** *Eurystomus orientalis*

**Spotted Wood Kingfisher** ♦ [Negros S W K] *Actenoides [lindsayi] moseleyi* Endemic. A superb roosting bird at Twin Lakes.

**Brown-breasted Kingfisher** ♦ (White-throated K) *Halcyon gularis* Endemic. Widespread.

**Winchell's Kingfisher** ♦ (Rufous-lored K) *Todiramphus winchelli* Endemic. 2 Tablas (*nesydrionetes*); heard Bohol (*nigrorum*).

**Collared Kingfisher** *Todiramphus chloris* Widespread (*collaris*).

**Common Kingfisher** *Alcedo atthis*

**Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher** ♦ *Ceyx margarethae* Endemic. Stunning views on Camiguin (3), also Tablas (1 seen 2 heard).

**Northern Silvery Kingfisher** ♦ *Ceyx flumenicola* Endemic. This beauty was seen well along the Poblacion River, Bohol.

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater** *Merops philippinus*

**Rufous-crowned Bee-eater** ♦ *Merops americanus* Endemic. Camiguin, Tablas, and particularly at Sablayan, Mindoro.

**Coppersmith Barbet** *P. haemacephalus* Negros (*intermedius*), Cebu (*cebuensis*), Luzon/Mindoro (nom.), Tablas (*homochroa*).

**Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker** ♦ *Yungipicus maculatus* Endemic. Negros (nominate); Luzon and Mindoro (*validirostris*).

**White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis* Negros (*philippinensis*) & Mindoro (*mindorensis*); heard Bohol (*pectoralis*).

**Buff-spotted Flameback** ♦ *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* Endemic. One seen at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

**Peregrine Falcon** *Falco peregrinus*

**Mindoro Racket-tail** ♦ *Prioniturus mindorensis* Endemic. Good perched views of several at Sablayan.

**Blue-crowned Racket-tail** ♦ *Prioniturus discurus* Endemic. Flyby on Negros (*whiteheadi*); perched male Tablas (nominate).

**Blue-naped Parrot** ♦ *Tanygnathus lucionensis* Just one, on Mindoro (nominate)

**Guaiabero** ♦ *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus* Endemic. Non-leader. One at Kalbario-Patapat NP (nominate).

**Philippine Hanging Parrot** ♦ *L. philippensis* Endemic. Luzon (nom.), Mindoro (*mindorensis*), Negros/Tablas (*regulus*), Bohol (*worcesteri*).

**Camiguin Hanging Parrot** ♦ *Loriculus camiguinensis* Endemic. 5 seen & 5+ heard. Best was perched pair spotted by Ivan.

**Philippine Pitta** ♦ *Erythropitta erythrogaster* Endemic. One seen well and two heard on Camiguin (nominate).

**Hooded Pitta (Western H P)** *Pitta sordida* Heard-only. One on Tablas (*nominate*).

**Azure-breasted Pitta** ♦ (Steere's P) *Pitta steerii* Endemic. Heard-only. Bohol (*coelestis*).

**White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*

**Scarlet Minivet** ♦ [Philippine M] *P. [speciosus] leytenis* Endemic. Three at Infanta Road, when the rain stopped (*novus*).

**Ashy Minivet** *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

**Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike** *Coracina striata* Luzon (nominate), Bohol (*boholensis*), Mindoro & Tablas (*mindorensis*)

**Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike** ♦ [Visayan C] *Coracina [striata] panayensis* Endemic. Six seen at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP.

**White-winged Cuckooshrike** ◊ *Edolisoma ostentum* Endemic. A pair seen well on Negros.

**Black-bibbed Cicadabird** ◊ *Edolisoma mindanense* Endemic. One at Sablayan, Mindoro (*elusum*).

**Pied Triller** *Lalage nigra*

**Green-backed Whistler** ◊ *Pachycephala albiventris* Endemic. One in a mixed-species flock at Infanta Road (nominate).

**White-vented Whistler** ◊ [Visayan W] *P. [homeyeri] winchelli* Endemic. Seen on Negros and Tablas (*winchelli*).

**Yellow-bellied Whistler** ◊ *P. philippinensis* Endemic. 2 Bohol (*boholensis*), 1 Infanta Rd (nominate); heard Camiguin (*illex*).

**Brown Shrike [Northern B S]** *Lanius [cristatus] cristatus* Noted on Negros at least.

**Brown Shrike [Philippine B S]** ◊ *Lanius [cristatus] lucionensis* Widespread and common.

**Black-naped Oriole [Philippine B-n O]** ◊ *O. [c.] chinensis* Endemic. Luzon/Mindoro (nom.); Negros/Bohol/Tablas (*yamamurae*).

**Tablas Drongo** ◊ *Dicrurus menagei* Endemic. At least 12 were logged, with some good views.

**Balicassiao** ◊ *D. [balicassius] balicassius* Endemic. Small numbers Mindoro (nominate), 1 Kalbario-Patapat (*abraensis*).

**Balicassiao** ◊ [Visayan D] *Dicrurus [balicassius] mirabilis* Endemic. Common on Negros; two noted on Cebu.

**Balicassiao** ◊ [Short-tailed D, Mindanao D] *D. [balicassius] striatus* Endemic. Common at Rajah Sikatuna NP (*samarensis*).

**Visayan Blue Fantail** ◊ *Rhipidura samarensis* Endemic. Three in mixed-species flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

**Blue-headed Fantail** ◊ *Rhipidura cyaniceps* Endemic. Frequent Infanta Rd (*nominate*); heard Kalbario-Patapat (*pinicola*).

**Tablas Fantail** ◊ *Rhipidura sauli* Endemic. A total of four were logged, but elusive.

**Visayan Fantail** ◊ *Rhipidura albiventris* Endemic. Small numbers on Negros.

**Philippine Pied Fantail** ◊ *Rhipidura nigritorquis* Endemic. Scattered sightings.

**Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis [azurea] azurea* A couple on Bohol; heard on Cebu (nominate).

**Black-naped Monarch** ◊ [Camiguin M] *Hypothymis [azurea] catarmanensis* Six logged, with some good views.

**Rufous Paradise Flycatcher** ◊ [Southern R P F] *Terpsiphona [cinnamomea] cinnamomea* Six on Camiguin (*cinnamomea*).

**Rufous Paradise Flycatcher** ◊ [Northern R P F] *T. [cinnamomea] unirufa* 2-3 seen Tablas; heard Kalbario-Patapat.

**Small Crow** ◊ [Sierra Madre C] *Corvus [samarensis] sierramadrensis* Endemic. Excellent pair at Kalbario-Patapat NP.

**Palawan Crow** ◊ *Corvus pusillus* Endemic. Small numbers of this curious species on Mindoro.

**Large-billed Crow** *Corvus macrorhynchos* Widespread (*philippinus*).

**Citrine Canary-flycatcher** ◊ *Culicicapa helianthea* Frequently seen Negros (*panayensis*), and Infanta Rd (*zimmeri*).

**Elegant Tit** ◊ *P. elegans* Endemic. EC (nominate) & NW (*montigenus*) Luzon; Negros (*albescens*); heard Cebu (*visayanus*).

**Philippine Bulbul** ◊ *Hypsipetes philippinus* Endemic. Bohol & Cebu (*saturatior*), and Luzon (nominate).

**Mindoro Bulbul** ◊ *Hypsipetes mindorensis* Endemic. Not uncommon on Mindoro.

**Streak-breasted Bulbul** ◊ [Tablas B] *Hypsipetes [siquijorensis] cinereiceps* Endemic. Common and conspicuous.

**Streak-breasted Bulbul** ◊ [Cebu B] *Hypsipetes [siquijorensis] monticola* Endemic. Heard-only. From the Tabunan platform.

**Visayan Bulbul** ◊ *Hypsipetes guimarasensis* Endemic. Common on Negros.

**Camiguin Bulbul** ♦ *Hypsipetes catarmanensis* Endemic. This highly distinctive bulbul was very common.

**Yellow-wattled Bulbul** ♦ *Poliolophus urostictus* Endemic. One on Bohol (*atricaudatus*), and 2-3 Infanta Road (nominate).

**Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus goiavier* Widespread. Luzon & Tablas (nominate); Camiguin (*suluensis*).

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*

**Striated Swallow** *Cecropis striolata*

**Philippine Leaf Warbler** ♦ *Phylloscopus olivaceus* Endemic. Just one at PICOP.

**Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler** ♦ *P. cebuensis* Endemic. Small numbers at N Negros (nominate), & Infanta Rd (*luzonensis*).

**Kamchatka Leaf Warbler** ♦ *Phylloscopus examinandus* Widespread audio and visual records.

**Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis* Three seen across Negros and Bohol.

**Negros Leaf Warbler** ♦ *P. nigrorum* Endemic. A few Infanta Road (*benguensis*), and Negros [non-leader] (nominate).

**Clamorous Reed Warbler** *Acrocephalus stentoreus* Seen and heard on the coast of SW Mindoro (*harterti*).

**Cordillera Ground Warbler\*** ♦ *Robsonius rabori* Endemic. Fantastic views of one at Kalbario-Patapat NP. A Birdquest first.

**Bicol Ground Warbler** ♦ *Robsonius sorsogonensis* Endemic. 3 seen, with a pair performing well at Infanta Rd; others heard.

**Middendorff's Grasshopper Warbler** ♦ *Helopsaltes ochotensis* Several at San Moritz Wetlands, Negros.

**Tawny Grassbird** ♦ [Philippine T G] *Cincloramphus [timoriensis] tweeddalei* 2 Negros (*tweeddalei*), sev. Camiguin (*crex*).

**Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris* Widespread sightings (*forbesi*).

**Zitting Cisticola [Double Z C]** *Cisticola [juncidis] tinnabulans* Heard-only. Negros.

**Golden-headed Cisticola** *Cisticola exilis* Five noted at San Moritz Wetlands, Negros (*semirufus*).

**Philippine Tailorbird** ♦ (Chestnut-crowned T) *Orthotomus castaneiceps* Endemic. Common Negros, with several seen well.

**Trilling Tailorbird** ♦ (Green-backed T) *Orthotomus chloronotus* Endemic. Several at Kalbario-Patapat NP, NW Luzon.

**Rufous-fronted Tailorbird** ♦ *Orthotomus frontalis* Endemic. Small numbers on Bohol (nominate) but often hard to get onto.

**Grey-backed Tailorbird** ♦ *Orthotomus derbianus* Endemic. Several seen and others heard at Infanta Road (nominate).

**Yellow-breasted Tailorbird** ♦ (Samar T) *O. samarensis* Endemic. 1 seen quite well by some of us, and others heard, Bohol.

**Flame-templed Babbler** ♦ *Dasycrotapha speciosa* Endemic. Took some work, but 3 were tracked down in SE Negros.

**Calabarzon Babbler** ♦ *Sterrhoptilus affinis* Endemic. A smart pair in a mixed-species flock at Infanta Rd.

**Visayan Babbler** ♦ *Sterrhoptilus nigrocapitatus* Endemic. Four in mixed-species flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP (*boholensis*).

**Negros Striped Babbler** ♦ *Zosterornis nigrorum* Endemic. Four came right in for close views at Palinpinon Geothermal Site.

**Yellowish White-eye** ♦ *Z. nigrorum* Endemic. Negros (nominate), Camiguin (*catarmanensis*), Infanta Rd (*innominatus*).

**Warbling White-eye (Mountain W-e)** *Zosterops japonicus* Small numbers in the Negros uplands (*pectoralis*).

**Everett's White-eye** ♦ *Zosterops everetti* Seen on Cebu (nominate), and Camiguin (*basilanicus*).

**Striated Wren-Babbler** ♦ *Ptilocichla mindanensis* Endemic. Great views of 2 at Rajah Sikatuna NP (nominate).

**Philippine Fairy-bluebird** ◊ *Irena cyanogastra* Endemic. Frequent at Kalbario-Patapat NP, and Infanta Road (nominate).

**Sulphur-billed Nuthatch** ◊ *Sitta oenochlamys* Endemic. Negros uplands (nominate), and Luzon (*mesoleuca*).

**Asian Glossy Starling** *Aplonis panayensis*

**Coledo** ◊ *Sarcops calvus* Endemic. Many sightings: Luzon & Mindoro (nominate); Negros, Bohol & Tablas (*melanonotus*).

**Crested Myna (introduced)** *Acridotheres cristatellus* Non-leader.

**Visayan Rhabdornis** ◊ *Rhabdornis rabori* Endemic. 4 in a fruiting tree at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP, Negros. Bonus bird.

**Eyebrowed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*

**Brown-headed Thrush** ◊ (Brown T) *Turdus chrysolaus* One seen at Kalbario-Patapat NP.

**Philippine Magpie-Robin** ◊ *Copsychus mindanensis* Endemic. Monotypic: Negros, Cebu, Camiguin, Mindoro & Tablas.

**White-browed Shama** ◊ *C. luzoniensis* Endemic. A couple of sneaks at Infanta Road (nominate).

**Visayan Shama** ◊ *Copsychus superciliaris* Endemic. Superb showing by a singing male in SE Negros; others heard.

**Black Shama** ◊ (Cebu S) *Copsychus cebuensis* Endemic. At least two seen and two heard at Tabunan, Cebu.

**Grey-streaked Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*

**Mangrove Blue Flycatcher** ◊ [Philippine B F] *C. [r.] simplex* Endemic. Mindoro (*mindorensis*), W Visayas-Camiguin (*philippinensis*).

**Philippine Jungle Flycatcher** ◊ (Rufous-tailed J F) *Cyornis ruficauda* Endemic. One popped-up nicely at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

**Philippine Shortwing** ◊ *Brachypteryx [poliogyne] poliogyne* Endemic. Heard-only. Once in montane Negros (*brunneiceps*).

**White-throated Jungle Flycatcher** ◊ *Vauriella albigularis* Endemic. Non-leader. One for the lucky few at the Twin Lakes.

**Blue Rock Thrush** [Red-bellied R T] *Monticola [solitarius] philippensis*

**Pied Bush Chat** *Saxicola caprata* Seen on Negros (nominate) and Camiguin (*anderseni*).

**Olive-backed Flowerpecker** ◊ *Prionochilus olivaceus* Endemic. Three seen well at Infanta Road (*parsonsi*).

**Striped Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum aeruginosum* Endemic. Great views of one at Sablayan, Mindoro (nominate).

**Bicolored Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum bicolor* Endemic. Small numbers on Luzon (*inexpectatum*).

**Red-keeled Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum australe* Endemic. One seen on Cebu.

**Black-belted Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum haematostictum* Three logged on Negros.

**Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker** ◊ (Mindoro F) *Dicaeum retrocinctum* Just a single male at Sablayan but seen very well.

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** ◊ [Grey-throated F] *D. [trigonostigma] cinereigulare* Endemic. Bohol (nom.), Camiguin (*isidroi*).

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** ◊ [Orange-breasted F] *D. [t.] dorsale* Endemic. Negros (nominate), Luzon (*xanthopygium*).

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** ◊ [Sibuyan F] *D. [t.] sibuyanicum* Endemic. Tablas (*cnecolaemum*).

**Buzzing Flowerpecker** ◊ [Southern B F] *Dicaeum [hypoleucum] hypoleucum* Endemic. Heard-only. Bohol (*pontifex*).

**Buzzing Flowerpecker** ◊ [Northern B F] *Dicaeum [hypoleucum] obscurum* Endemic. Quite common Infanta Rd (nominate).

**Pygmy Flowerpecker** ◊ *Dicaeum pygmaeum* Endemic. Negros, Bohol, and Infanta Rd, Luzon (nominate).

**Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-throated S)** *Anthreptes malacensis* A few on Camiguin (*heliolusius*) & Tablas (*chlogaster*).

**Grey-throated Sunbird** ◊ *Anthreptes griseigularis* Endemic. One at Kalbario-Patapat NP, Luzon (*birgatae*).

**Purple-throated Sunbird** *Leptocoma [sperata] sperata* Endemic. Bohol, Camiguin and Tablas (*trochilus*).

**Olive-backed Sunbird** ◊ [Garden S] *Cinnyris [j.] jugularis* Widespread sightings (nominate).

**Flaming Sunbird** ◊ *Aethopyga flagrans* Endemic. A few at Infanta Road.

**Maroon-naped Sunbird** ◊ *Aethopyga guimarasensis* Endemic. Eight logged at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP, Negros.

**Luzon Sunbird** ◊ *Aethopyga jefferyi* Endemic. One briefly at Infanta Road, and another heard.

**Bohol Sunbird** ◊ *Aethopyga decorosa* Endemic. A pair on Bohol, after quite a bit of effort!

**Magnificent Sunbird** ◊ *Aethopyga magnifica* Endemic. Frequent on Negros, then singles on Cebu and Tablas.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced)** *Passer montanus*

**Java Sparrow (introduced)** *Padda oryzivora* One at San Moritz Wetlands, Negros.

**Scaly-breasted Munia** *Lonchura punctulata* Three presumed *cabanisi* on Negros.

**White-bellied Munia** *Lonchura leucogastra* Non-leader (*everetti*). Four on Camiguin.

**Chestnut Munia** *Lonchura atricapilla* Widespread: *jagori*, apart from *formosana* in NW Luzon.

**Eastern Yellow Wagtail** *Motacilla [tschutschensis] tschutschensis*

**Grey Wagtail** *Motacilla cinerea*

**Paddyfield Pipit** *Anthus rufulus*

## MAMMALS

**House Shrew (introduced)** *Suncus murinus*

**Peters's Fruit Bat** *Cynopterus luzionensis* One at Infanta Road, and two on Tablas.

**Philippine Flying Lemur** *Cynocephalus volans* 6-8 logged on Bohol, and some nice daytime looks.

**Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating M)** *Macaca fascicularis*

**Oriental House Rat (introduced)** *Rattus tanezumi* A handful on Negros.

## REPTILES

**Common Sun Skink** *Eutropis multifasciata* Twin Lakes, Negros, at least.

**Jagor's Sphenomorphus** *Pinoyscincus jagori* Endemic. Rajah Sikatuna NP.

**Philippine Sailfin Lizard** *Hydrosaurus pustulatus* Endemic. Infanta Road.

**Two-spotted Flying Lizard** *Draco bimaculatus* Rajah Sikatuna NP.

## BUTTERFLIES

**'Philippine' Golden Birdwing** *Troides rhadamantus* Endemic. Mindoro.

**Magellan Birdwing** *Troides magellanus* Endemic. Loboc Watershed Road, Bohol.

**Philippine Batwing** *Atrophaneura semperi* Endemic. Tabunan, Cebu.

**Scarlet Mormon** *Papilio rumanzovia* Endemic. Rajah Sikatuna NP. Philippine.

**Tiger** *Parantica vitrina* Endemic. Mount Talinis Apolong Trail, Negros.

**Psyche** *Leptosia nina* Widespread.

**Philippine Archduke** *Lexias satrapes* Endemic. Kalbario-Patapat National Park, N Luzon.

**Archduke** *Lexias panopis bohollensis* Endemic. Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

**Common Faun** *Faunis phaon* Endemic. Negros and Tablas at least.

**Faun** *Faunis sappho sappho* Endemic. Bohol.

**Common Three-ring** *Ypthima sempera* Negros at least.

**Philippine Staff Sergeant** *Athyma gutama* Endemic. Tablas.

**Clipper** *Parthenos sylvia* Widespread species.

**Brown Pansy** *Junonia hedonia* Widespread.

**Spotted Demon** *Notocrypta feisthamelii* Infanta Road.

**Skipper** *Aeromachus musca* Endemic. Infanta Road.

## MOTHS

**'Philippine Silkmoth'** *Antheraea semperi* Endemic. Wyndell's Al Fresco Restaurant, en route to Infanta Road.

**Hawk-moth** *Ambulyx staudingeri* Endemic. Wyndell's Al Fresco Restaurant.

**Callidula moth cf. *Petavia petavius*** Small butterfly-like moth on Camiguin.

## DRAGONFLIES

**Philippine Jewel** *Rhinocypha colorata* Endemic. Streams of Tablas at least.

**Hawker sp.** Infanta Road.

**Green Skimmer** *Orthetrum serapia* Mindoro at least.

**Bolivar's Skimmer** *Diplacina bolivari* Endemic. Tablas.

**Indonesian Red-winged Dragonfly** *Neurothemis terminata*

## PLANTS

**Pitcher plant** *Nepenthes alata* Endemic. Infanta Road.



*White-vented Whistler (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Visayan Fantail (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Visayan Shama (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Visayan Shama (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Magnificent Sunbird (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Buff-eared Brown Dove (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Buff-eared Brown Dove (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Grey-breasted Brown Dove (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Boat birding at the Twin Lakes, Negros (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Negros Striped Babbler (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Negros Scops Owl (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Black-belted Flowerpecker (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Striated Wren-Babbler (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Chinese Egret (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Bohol birding (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Trogon (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Frogmouths (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Frogmouths (image by Mark Beaman)*



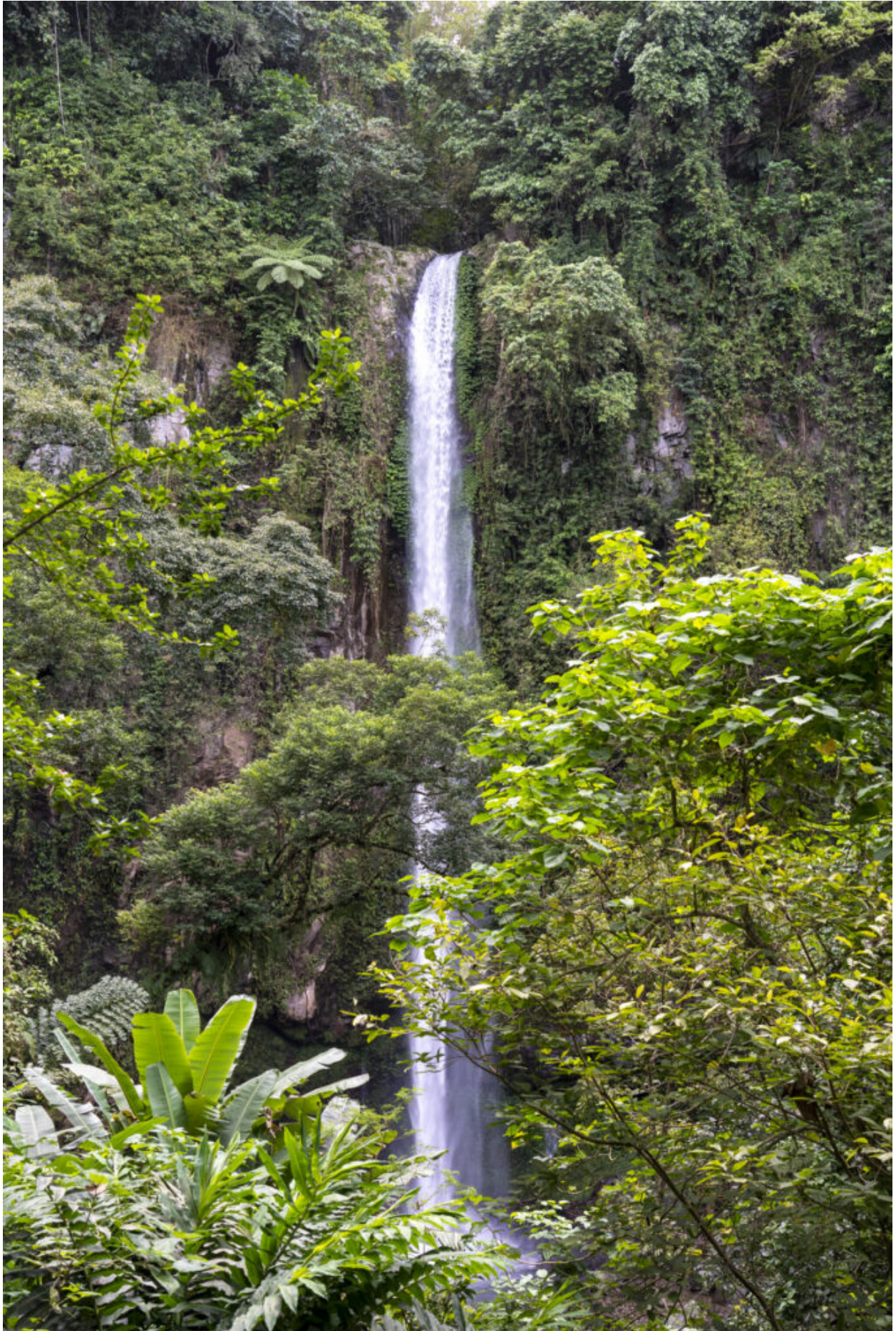
*Cebu Boobook (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Black Shama (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Black Shama (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Camiguin us a beautiful little island (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfishers courting (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Camiguin Boobook (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Camiguin Hanging Parrots (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Pygmy Woodpeckers (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Jungle Flycatcher (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Flying Lemur or Colugo (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Mindoro is a beautiful island (image by Mark Beaman)*



*White-throated Kingfisher (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Palawan Crow (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Chocolate Boobook (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Northern Rufous Hornbills (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Scops Owl (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Fairy-bluebird (image by Mark Beaman)*



*White-eared Brown Dove (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Citrine Canary-flycatcher (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Elegant Tit (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Luzon Scops Owl (image by Mark Beaman)*



*The attractive coastline of Tablas Island (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Winchell's Kingfisher (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Streak-breasted Bulbul of the Tablas form (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Streak-breasted Bulbul of the Tablas form (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Tablas Fantail (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Tablas Drongo (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Tablas Drongo (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Philippine Honey Buzzard (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Mantanani Scops Owl (image by Mark Beaman)*



*Romblon Boobook (image by Mark Beaman)*