

PHILIPPINES OFF-THE-BEATEN-TRACK TOUR

REPORT 2025

10 - 30 March 2025

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Our latest biennial tour of some of the less well visited Philippine islands was another smooth-running success. Out of a total of around 258 species, we found no fewer than 136 strict Philippine endemics (taxonomy-dependent). The many specialities on this year's Philippines With A Difference included: Philippine Duck, Philippine Frogmouth at the nest, 4 endemic coucals, 11 endemic pigeons (including Luzon Bleeding-heart and Spotted Imperial), Philippine Honey Buzzard, Chocolate, Luzon, Camiguin, Cebu, Romblon and Mindoro Boobooks, Mantanani, Philippine, Negros and Everett's Scops Owls, Philippine Eagle-Owl, Philippine Trogon, 4 endemic hornbills, 9 endemic kingfishers (including both forms of Spotted, both forms of Indigo-banded, and Philippine Dwarf), Mindoro and Blue-crowned Racket-tails, perched Camiguin Hanging Parrot, the wonderful and tricky Visayan Broadbill, roosting Philippine Pitta, a stunning Azure-breasted Pitta, 5 endemic cuckooshrikes, the scarce Isabela and White-lored Orioles, 4 endemic drongos, 5 endemic fantails, 'Northern' and 'Southern' Rufous Paradise Flycatchers, 6 endemic bulbuls, Lemon-throated and Philippine Leaf Warblers, 5 endemic tailorbirds, the unique Flame-templed Babbler, Golden-crowned, Calabarzon, and Visayan Babblers, Striated Wren-Babbler, Philippine Fairy-bluebird, White-browed, Visayan and Black Shamas, Philippine and White-throated Jungle Flycatchers, 8 endemic flowerpeckers and 6 endemic sunbirds (including the stunning Magnificent).

Due to various logistical issues that are not worth repeating, this year's tour began with a flight from Manila to San Jose, Mindoro, from where we drove north up the west coast to Sablayan, for a two night stay. At Sablayan we explored various points along the forest edge, and a couple of trails, within Siburan Forest Reserve, and also the attractive and wonderfully situated Libuao Lake. We found the majority of the endemics without too much effort. The furtive Black-hooded Coucal was a bit of a pain, making it difficult for us to obtain clear views of it in the open, despite being right above our heads! Mindoro Bulbul and Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker were both significantly easier to see well, while flighty Mindoro Racket-tails were mainly on the wing. We were kept waiting for definitive views of Mindoro Hornbill and Mindoro Cuckooshrike until our very last afternoon session. Our first evenings owling saw us hit the jackpot, with great views of Mindoro and Chocolate Boobooks and the recently split Chirruping Nightjar. Other good birds on Mindoro were the Philippine Ducks on the lake, Grey-rumped and Amline Swiftlets, White-eared Brown Dove, the local dark form of Philippine Coucal, Philippine Serpent Eagle, Brown-breasted Kingfisher, lots of lovely Rufous-crowned Bee-eaters, Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker, Blue-naped Parrot, Philippine Hanging Parrot, Black-bibbed Cicadabird, leader-only 'Northern' Black-and-white Triller, Balicassiao, the quirky Palawan Crow, striking Coletto, and Striped (unfortunately now re-lumped in Thick-billed) and Bicolored Flowerpeckers.

Driving back to San Jose Airport in the early hours, we took a flight back to Manila and then an onward connection to Bacolod in north-west Negros, where we overnighted. With an afternoon at our disposal, we hooked-up with local guide Beboy and checked-out a few sites in the Mambucal area. A typically quiet afternoon meant that new birds were quite hard to come by, but we managed to get our first views of the Buff-eared form of White-eared Brown Dove, Philippine Tailorbird, Philippine Magpie-Robin, Visayan Shama, Yellowish White-eye, and Black-belted Flowerpecker.

We were up early the following morning, and arrived at Gawahon Ecopark not long after dawn. Two years earlier, we had suffered a dismal and almost birdless rain-soaked morning here, but this was not to be the case this year. Thanks to local guide Ricky, all three major targets, 'Southern' Indigo-banded Kingfisher, White-throated Jungle Flycatcher and Flame-temple Babbler were located (though the former only showed for the leaders), and we also enjoyed a lovely 'Negros' Spotted Kingfisher (a potential split), Visayan Drongo, Visayan

Fantail, Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler, Elegant Tit, Sulphur-billed Nuthatch, Visayan Bulbul, and Orange-breasted Flowerpecker, a splittable form of Orange-bellied. We ate lunch in a small restaurant nearby, before embarking on the long drive south to Dumaguete in south-east Negros.

This year, it was low tide as we passed Tibsoc Mudflats, and a lightening visit produced Far Eastern Curlew, Chinese Egret, and Philippine Pied Fantail, amongst a range of more widespread species.

Based at our hotel in Dumaguete, we had two days and a morning to bag the rest of our targets on the island. Much of our time was spent at the beautiful Balinsasayao Twin Lakes National Park, where we found: a Philippine Nightjar roosting in the restaurant rafters, Philippine Spinetail, Philippine Cuckoo-Dove, Grey-breasted Brown Dove (a potential split from Amethyst), Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon, Philippine Honey Buzzard, Visayan Hornbill, two different Blue-crowned Racket-tails at their nest-holes, Visayan and White-winged Cuckooshrikes, and the superb Magnificent and Maroon-naped Sunbirds. Due to a period of toxic gas-venting, Palimpinon Geothermal Site was completely closed, and we unfortunately lost our only chance of seeing the endemic Negros Striped Babbler this time around.

An after-dinner sortie to a patch of more lowland forest was the chosen location for Negros Scops Owl. Following local guide Lenard, we first spotlighted an unexpected Philippine Pitta, before succeeding in getting nice views of a pair of scops owls at their nest site. Before heading back to the hotel, a Luzon Boobook was lured-out, and gave excellent views.

Driving somewhat further to the south-west of town, we visited Lake Balanan, where an easy trail led us to a spot where we obtained much better views of Visayan Shama and Philippine Tailorbird.

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 accompanied by two excellent park guides. The primary target for most visiting birders here is the rare Visayan Broadbill, which can effectively only be seen right here and, in contrast to 2023, we were not to be denied this time. At first light, the distinctive calls were heard close to the headquarters building, and in no time at all we latched onto a small group of three. Further along the same trail, a superb Azure-breasted Pitta gave fantastic views, while Striated Wren-Babblers performed by the roadside. We spent quite a bit of time at a small forest clearing further along the way. Here we enjoyed Samar Hornbills, Black-faced Coucal, Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo, Buff-spotted Flameback, Mindanao Cuckooshrike, and a couple of elusive 'Bohol' Metallic-winged Sunbirds. Mixed-species feeding flocks were tracked-down along a forest trail, and contained Visayan Blue Fantail, Yellow-bellied Whistler, Philippine Leaf Warbler, Rufous-fronted Tailorbird, and Visayan and Brown Tit-Babblers. Philippine Jungle Flycatcher popped-up very obligingly later on near the HQ, while our guides showed us a great spot for the sneaky Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, which performed brilliantly. After dark, Everett's Scops Owl was lured-in and seen well. A road leading to some forest across the valley from the reserve produced better views of the 'Bohol' Sunbirds and, at a nearby meandering stream, we all got good looks at the smart 'Northern' Silvery Kingfisher, as well as our best Plain Bush-hen of the trip, and an unexpected Ruddy Kingfisher. Amongst the many other highlights, were two different Philippine Frogmouths on their nests, the 'Short-billed' form of White-eared Brown Dove, Philippine Trogon, Short-tailed Drongo, Philippine Bulbul, and several wonderful Philippine Flying Lemurs.

After our final morning on Bohol, we took a boat across to Cebu City, and then drove up to our very comfortable hotel, in the interior of the island, one of the very few areas with some native forest remaining on Cebu. This year we had two nights and a full day, which made for a relatively comfortable experience. We headed for the main birding site at Tabunan well before dawn. Local resident and guide Oking led us to a favorite spot and, shortly before dawn, a wonderful pair of endemic Cebu Boobooks gave stunning views. Pleased with our success, we downed breakfast before heading off on the somewhat challenging trail to the nearby forest 'patch'; an hours steady walk along muddy trails, through small areas of cultivation, eventually entering some more mature forest on limestone. Almost immediately, the rich song of the endemic Black Shama was heard, and we were soon admiring one at very close range. Other noteworthy birds included Philippine Bulbul, Elegant Tit, Tawny Grassbird, Philippine (or Mangrove) Blue Flycatcher, and Magnificent Sunbird. Back at the hotel, after lunch, the attractive grounds produced our only sighting of Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo and our first Everett's White-eyes, before rain took hold.

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 hotel, we drove up to the forest between the hills in search of endemics, with a couple of hours left before lunchtime. A rich lucky streak saw us bag all of the specialities during this initial sortie; great views of a pair of our main target, the endemic Camiguin Hanging Parrot, as well as the very distinctive Camiguin Bulbul, which was common and easily seen,

the dazzling Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher, very distinctive local form of Black-naped Monarch, and superb 'Southern' Rufous Paradise Flycatcher. Few additional species were added after lunch. As it started to get dark, we moved to a spot for the endemic Camiguin Boobook, a pair of which promptly performed right on cue, as soon as it got dark. We still had some birding time the following morning, but low cloud and rain forced us to drive around the perimeter of the island, rather fruitlessly it has to be said, though our only Black-chinned Fruit Doves of the tour were seen nicely. Returning to Camiguin's diminutive airport, we flew back to Cebu and then onwards to Manila, where we overnighted.

Early the next morning we returned to the airport and took a short flight north to Tuguegarao, in north-east Luzon, then onwards by minibus to our hotel in Baggao. Once again, we had time for some initial birding before lunch, and local guide Eldie took us to a spot not too far away where we soon located one of our primary targets, the restricted-range Isabela Oriole. Luzon Hornbill was also scoped-up nicely.

After lunch, we birded a small rough road through some reasonably good habitat. A Luzon Bleeding-heart was singing out of site, but soon shut up. We had better luck at a fruiting fig tree, where a Spotted Imperial Pigeon was a huge bonus, and we had some good views of 'Northern' Cream-breasted Fruit Dove. We also located a mixed-species flock with Blackish Cuckooshrike and 'Northern' Black-and-white Triller, and had surprisingly good views of White-browed Shama, and our first glimpses of Trilling Tailorbird. We returned to this location early the following morning, and obtained good views of Philippine Green Pigeon, Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove, both Isabela and White-lored Orioles and closer views of Blackish Cuckooshrike and 'Northern' Black-and-white Triller, as well as our only Rufous Coucals of the trip, and our first looks at Rough-crested and Scale-feathered Malkohas. We switched sites to Blue Water Falls, where Eldie helped us scope-up a 'Northern' Indigo-Banded Kingfisher, a pair of scarce Golden-crowned Babblers showed, and a single Purple Needletail was also noted.

Our final early morning was spent at Callao Cave, where a pleasant stroll along the road to the entrance area produced very good views of Yellow-wattled Bulbul, Trilling Tailorbird, Red-keeled Flowerpecker, and Grey-throated and Purple-throated Sunbirds.

We headed for Tuguegarao Airport, and took a flight back to Manila, before an onward connection to Caticlan at the northern tip of Panay. After overnighting at a nearby hotel, we took the 2-hour boat ride to Santa Fe, at the southern end of Tablas, and then a minibus ride up to our hotel in San Augustin. Remaining habitat is limited and rather difficult to access on Tablas, but it was not far to travel there from our hotel in this small coastal village. Romblon Boobook, Tablas Drongo, and Tablas Fantail were all seen well, as was the localized Mantanani Scops Owl, the local form of Rufous-lored Kingfisher, White-vented Whistler, Tablas (Streak-breasted) Bulbul, and White-bellied Munia.

After retracing our steps back to Manila once more, the final leg of our journey took us eastwards to the Infanta Road, in the southern Sierra Madre. Although we had a good amount of time to explore the area, we once again had to endure the worst weather conditions of the entire tour, with a lot of rain hampering our considerable efforts. We still managed to amass a descent list of specialities however, with a flyby Luzon Bleeding-heart, Amethyst Brown Dove, more Scale-feathered Malkohas, Philippine Hawk-Eagle, Philippine Scops Owl, two superb Philippine Dwarf Kingfishes (an unexpected write-in), the Luzon form of Spotted Kingfisher (to go with our Negros sightings!), Philippine (Scarlet) Minivet, 'Northern' Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, Grey-backed Tailorbird, Calabarzon Babbler, Philippine Fairy-bluebird, Olive-backed and 'Northern' Buzzing Flowerpeckers, and Handsome Sunbird. During a side-trip and break from the poor weather, we were taken to another site, where we were lucky enough to see two much-wanted Philippine Eagle-Owls.

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

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

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).

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P.(Eds). **2024. IOC World Bird List (v14.2).**

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

BIRDS

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata* Two at Sablayan, Mindoro.

Philippine Duck ♦ *Anas luzonica* 26 at Sablayan, and an unexpected 20 on Tablas.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus* Heard-only.

Great Eared Nightjar *Lyncornis macrotis*

Philippine Nightjar ♦ *Caprimulgus manillensis* Best seen roosting in the rafters at the Twin Lakes, Negros.

Chirruping Nightjar ♦ *Caprimulgus griseatus* This recent split was seen well on Mindoro and Luzon.

Philippine Frogmouth ♦ *Batrachostomus septimus* 2 different birds were seen at nests on Bohol (nominate).

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*

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

Ridgetop Swiftlet ♦ *Collocalia isonota* Common on Camiguin.

Pygmy Swiftlet ♦ *Collocalia troglodytes* Occasional but widespread in lowland areas.

Philippine Swiftlet ♦ *Aerodramus mearnsi* Seen on Camiguin.

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

Philippine Spinetail ♦ *Mearnsia picina* 25+ on Negros.

Purple Needletail ♦ *Hirundapus celebensis* One noted at Blue Water Falls, Baggao.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*

Rufous Coucal ♦ *Centropus unirufus* Several seen near Baggao.

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

Black-hooded Coucal ♦ *Centropus steerii* Several heard, and one seen at Sablayan, Mindoro.

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

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

Rough-crested Malkoha ♦ (Red-crested M) *Dasylophus superciliosus* Three seen in the Baggao area.

Scale-feathered Malkoha ♦ *Dasylophus cumingi* One seen near Baggao, and two at Infanta Road.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus* Heard-only.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* A male scoped on Mindoro, and a flyover near Baggao.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* Heard-only.

Sunda Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus velutinus* One scoped at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococcyx pectoralis* Occasionally heard; one scoped on Cebu.

Rock Dove (introduced) *Columba [livia] var. domestica*

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

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

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

Common Emerald Dove (Grey-capped E D) *Chalcophaps indica*

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

Luzon Bleeding-heart ♦ *Gallicolumba luzonica* Heard Baggao (*griseolateralis*); flight view Infanta Rd (nom.).

White-eared Brown Dove ♦ *Phapitreron [leucotis] leucotis* Small numbers on Mindoro and Luzon.

White-eared Brown Dove ♦ (Buff-eared B D) *Phapitreron [leucotis] nigrorum* Many on Negros; also Cebu.

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

Amethyst Brown Dove ♦ *P. [amethystinus] amethystinus* Heard Bohol, then seen Infanta Rd, Luzon.

Amethyst Brown Dove ♦ (Grey-breasted B D) *P. [amethystinus] maculipectus* 1 seen well Negros; 2 heard.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Philippine Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron axillaris* One at Sablayan, Mindoro (distant), then two Baggao (*axillaris*).

Cream-breasted Fruit Dove ♦ (Northern C-bellied F D) *P. [merrillii] faustinoi* 5+ near Baggao; others heard.

Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove ♦ *P. occipitalis* Widespread, with several seen (nominate).

Black-chinned Fruit Dove ◊ *Ptilinopus leclancheri* A pair seen well on Camiguin (*longialis*).
Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon ◊ *Ducula poliocephala* Several seen on Negros.
Spotted Imperial Pigeon ◊ *Ducula [carola] carola* Great views of one in a fruiting fig near Baggao.
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* Small numbers on Mindoro and Bohol (nominated).
Barred Rail *Hypotaenidia torquata*
Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
White-browed Crake *Poliolimnas cinereus*
White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
Plain Bush-hen ◊ (Philippine B-h) *Amaurornis olivacea* Often heard. Best seen on Bohol, briefly on Mindoro.
Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*
Siberian Sand Plover (Mongolian P) *Anarhynchus mongolus* About 25 at San Moritz Wetlands, Negros.
Greater Sand Plover *Anarhynchus leschenaultii* One was photographed with the latter. ID in retrospect.
Kentish Plover *Anarhynchus alexandrinus*
Eurasian Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
Far Eastern Curlew *Numenius madagascariensis* Two at Tibsoc Mudflats.
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Green Sandpiper *Tringa ochropus*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Common Redshank *Tringa erythrinus*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica* Eight at Tibsoc Mudflats.
Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia* Two at Tibsoc Mudflats.
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*
Cinnamon Bittern *Botaurus cinnamomeus*
Yellow Bittern *Botaurus sinensis*
Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
Nankeen Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus* One on Tablas was a write-in.
Pacific Reef Heron (Pacific R E) *Egretta sacra*
Chinese Egret ◊ *Egretta eulophotes* Two at Tibsoc Mudflats.
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Striated Heron *Butorides striata*
Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*
Great Egret (Eastern G E) *Ardea [alba] modesta*
Medium Egret *Ardea intermedia*
Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea coromanda*
Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*
Philippine Honey Buzzard ◊ *Pernis steerei* Two at the Twin Lakes, Negros (nominated).
Philippine Serpent Eagle ◊ *Spilornis holospilus* Several good sightings.
Philippine Hawk-Eagle ◊ (North Philippine H-E) *Nisaetus philippensis* One seen at Infanta Rd.
Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii* One at Blue Water Falls, Luzon.
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* One scoped on Negros (*extimus*).
Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis* Non-leader. One briefly on Camiguin.
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Ichthyophaga leucogaster*

Grey-faced Buzzard ♦ *Butastur indicus* Scattered sightings of migrants throughout.

Chocolate Boobook ♦ *Ninox randi* Fantastic views of one at Sablayan, Mindoro.

Luzon Boobook ♦ *Ninox philippensis* One showed well at Liptong Forest, Negros (nominate).

Camiguin Boobook ♦ *Ninox leventisi* A pair performed on cue.

Cebu Boobook ♦ *Ninox rumseyi* Mega views of a pair at Tabunan.

Romblon Boobook ♦ *Ninox spilonotus* One seen and others heard on Tablas.

Mindoro Boobook ♦ *Ninox mindorensis* A bit sneaky, but excellent views of one eventually at Sablayan.

Luzon Scops Owl ♦ (L Highland S O) *Otus longicornis* Heard-only, at Infanta Rd.

Mantanani Scops Owl ♦ *Otus mantananensis* One seen well and several heard on Tablas.

Philippine Scops Owl ♦ (Luzon Lowland S O) *Otus megalotis* One seen at Infanta.

Negros Scops Owl ♦ *Otus nigrorum* A pair seen well at a nest-site at Liptong Woodland, thanks to Lenard.

Everett's Scops Owl ♦ (Mindanao Lowland S O) *Otus everetti* One at Rajah Sikatuna; others heard nearby.

Philippine Eagle-Owl ♦ *Ketupa philippensis* A pair seen well near Infanta Rd, thanks to our local experts.

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

Luzon Hornbill ♦ *Penelopides manillae* Nine logged across four dates.

Mindoro Hornbill ♦ *Penelopides mindorensis* Two seen and another heard at Sablayan.

Samar Hornbill ♦ *Penelopides samarensis* Small numbers at Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol (seven seen).

Visayan Hornbill ♦ *Penelopides panini* 20 or more at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP, Negros (nominate).

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Spotted Wood Kingfisher ♦ (Luzon S W K) *Actenoides [lindsayi] lindsayi* Two seen at Infanta Rd sites.

Spotted Wood Kingfisher ♦ (Negros S W K) *Actenoides [lindsayi] moseleyi* Two seen well Negros. Stunner.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda* A surprise write-in on Bohol.

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

Rufous-lored Kingfisher ♦ (Winchell's K) *Todiramphus winchelli* One seen well on Tablas (*nesydrioides*).

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

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

Dimorphic Dwarf Kingfisher ♦ *Ceyx margarethae* One seen and another heard on Camiguin, heard N Negros.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher ♦ (Northern I-b K) *C. [cyanopectus] cyanopectus* 1 at Blue Water Falls, Baggao.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher ♦ (Southern I-b K) *C. [cyanopectus] nigrirostris* 1 at Gawahon (Ivan & Craig).

Philippine Dwarf Kingfisher ♦ (Luzon D K) *C. [melanurus] melanurus* Two at Infanta Rd; a tour write-in.

Northern Silvery Kingfisher ♦ *Ceyx flumenicola* This beauty was seen well along the Poblacion R, Bohol (1-2).

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Rufous-crowned Bee-eater ♦ *M. americanus* Camiguin, Tablas, Infanta Rd; particularly Sablayan, Mindoro.

Coppersmith Barbet *P. haemacephalus* Negros (*intermedius*), Cebu (*cebuensis*), Luzon & Mindoro (nominate).

Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker ♦ *Yungipicus maculatus* Negros & Cebu (nominate); Bohol (*leytensis*), Luzon and Mindoro (*validirostris*).

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* Seen on Negros (*philippinensis*) & Mindoro (*mindorensis*).

Buff-spotted Flameback ♦ *Chrysocolaptes lucidus* Two at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

Mindoro Racket-tail ♦ *Prioniturus mindorensis* Good 12+ at Sablayan, mostly in flight.

Blue-crowned Racket-tail ♦ *P. discurus* A few at the Twin Lakes, Negros, with two at nest-holes (*whiteheadi*).

Blue-naped Parrot ♦ *Tanygnathus lucionensis* Four at Sablayan, Mindoro (nominate)

Guaiabero ♦ *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus* Non-leader. Small numbers on Luzon.

Philippine Hanging Parrot ♦ *Loriculus philippensis* Luzon (nominate), Mindoro (*mindorensis*), Negros & Tablas (*regulus*), Bohol (*worcesteri*), and Cebu (*chrysonotus*).

Camiguin Hanging Parrot ♦ *Loriculus camiguinensis* Great views of a pair.

Visayan Broadbill ♦ *Sarcophanops samarensis* We were lucky enough to see three this year.

Philippine Pitta ♦ *Erythropitta erythrogaster* A wonderful roosting individual on Negros (nominate).

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

Azure-breasted Pitta ♦ (Steere's P) *Pitta steerii* A confiding stunner at Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol (*coelestis*).

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Scarlet Minivet ◊ (Philippine M) *Pericrocotus [speciosus] leytensis* Three at Infanta Road (*novus*).

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus* Flocks on Mindoro totalled over 150 birds; a few on Negros and Luzon.

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata* A couple of pairs in north Luzon (nominate).

Mindoro Cuckooshrike *Coracina mindorensis* Great views of a pair at Sablayan, Mindoro.

Visayan Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina panayensis* A handful at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP.

Mindanao Cuckooshrike ◊ *Coracina kochii* A couple at Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol (*boholensis*).

White-winged Cuckooshrike ◊ *Edolisoma ostentum* Several heard and one seen well at the Twin Lakes.

Blackish Cuckooshrike ◊ *Edolisoma coerulescens* Two or three near Baggao.

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

Black-and-white Triller ◊ (Northern B-a-w T) *Lalage [melanoleuca] melanoleuca* One Mindoro and 3-5 near Baggao.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra* Scattered sightings (nominate).

White-vented Whistler ◊ [Visayan W] *P. [homeyeri] winchelli* Heard on Negros, seen on Tablas (*winchelli*).

Yellow-bellied Whistler ◊ *P. philippinensis* Several Bohol (*boholensis*), 1 Blue Water Falls, Luzon (nominate).

Isabela Oriole ◊ *Oriolus isabeliae* At least five seen very well near Baggao.

Philippine Oriole ◊ *Oriolus steerii* Heard-only. Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

White-lored Oriole ◊ *Oriolus albiloris* Just two near Baggao. More elusive than the latter species.

Black-naped Oriole (Philippine B-n O) ◊ *Oriolus [chinensis] chinensis* Luzon and Mindoro (nominate); Negros, Bohol, Cebu, Camiguin, and Tablas (*yamamurae*).

Tablas Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus menagei* Just one, but great views.

Balicassiao ◊ *Dicrurus [balicassius] balicassius* Good numbers on Mindoro and one at Infanta Rd, south Sierra Madre (nominate); good numbers in north-east Luzon (*abraensis*).

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

Short-tailed Drongo ◊ *Dicrurus striatus* Eight logged at Rajah Sikatuna NP (*samarensis*).

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus* Ivan found one in the Tablas lowlands, a vagrant to the Philippines.

Visayan Blue Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura samarensis* A couple found in mixed-species flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP.

Blue-headed Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura cyaniceps* Small numbers seen well on Luzon (*nominate*).

Tablas Fantail ◊ *Rhipidura sauli* A single bird was seen well.

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

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

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis [azurea] azurea* Widespread sightings (nominate).

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

Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◊ (Northern R P F) *Terpsiphone [cinnamomea] unirufa* 1 on Tablas.

Rufous Paradise Flycatcher ◊ (Southern R P F) *T. [c.] cinnamomea* Two on Camiguin (*cinnamomea*).

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

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach* A few noted near Baggao (*nasutus*).

Palawan Crow ◊ *Corvus pusillus* A couple of pairs of this whacky corvid on Mindoro.

Philippine Jungle Crow *Corvus philippinus* Widespread.

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

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

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

Streak-breasted Bulbul ◊ (Tablas B) *Hypsipetes [siquijorensis] cinereiceps* Endemic. Small numbers easily seen.

Visayan Bulbul ◊ *Hypsipetes guimarasensis* Common on Negros.

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

Yellow-wattled Bulbul ◊ *Poliolophus urostictus* Baggao and Callao Cave, Luzon (nominate); three logged.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier* Widespread, with sightings on Luzon, Mindoro, Negros & Tablas (nominate), and Camiguin (*suluensis*).

Grey-throated Martin *Riparia chinensis* A few along the river at Callao Cave (*tantilla*).

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Eastern Red-rumped Swallow (Striated S) *Cecropis [daurica] striolata*

Philippine Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus olivaceus* Four at Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.

Lemon-throated Leaf Warbler ◊ *P. cebuensis* Singles N Negros (n nominate), & Infanta Rd (*luzonensis*).

Kamchatka Leaf Warbler ◊ *Phylloscopus examinandus* Occasional audio and visual records of this and next species.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus* Heard-only. San Moritz Wetlands, Negros (*harterti*).

Bicol Ground Warbler ◊ *Robsonius sorsogonensis* Heard-only. Infanta Road.

Tawny Grassbird ◊ (Philippine T G) *Cincloramphus [timoriensis] tweeddalei* Heard once on Negros (*tweeddalei*), seen and heard on Cebu (*alopez*).

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

Zitting Cisticola (Double Z C) *Cisticola [juncidis] tinnabulans* Heard-only. San Moritz Wetlands, Negros.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis* Heard-only. San Moritz Wetlands, Negros (*semirufus*).

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

Trilling Tailorbird ◊ (Green-backed T) *Orthotomus chloronotus* Small numbers Baggao and Callao Cave.

Rufous-fronted Tailorbird ◊ *Orthotomus frontalis* Small numbers on Bohol (n nominate), with two seen.

Grey-backed Tailorbird ◊ *Orthotomus derbianus* A couple seen at Infanta Road (n nominate).

Yellow-breasted Tailorbird ◊ (Samar T) *O. samarensis* Superb views at Rajah Sikatuna; thanks to our guides.

Flame-templed Babbler ◊ *Dasycrotapha speciosa* One seen and another heard at Gawahon, Negros.

Golden-crowned Babbler ◊ *Sterrhoptilus dennistouni* A pair seen well at Blue Water Falls, Baggao.

Calabarzon Babbler ◊ *Sterrhoptilus affinis* Two at Infanta Rd.

Visayan Babbler ◊ *Sterrhoptilus nigrocapitatus* Five in mixed flocks at Rajah Sikatuna NP (*boholensis*).

Yellowish White-eye ◊ *Z. nigrorum* Occasional on Negros (n nominate), and Luzon (*innominatus*).

Lowland White-eye ◊ *Zosterops meyeri* Two at Palo Alto, Luzon.

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

Brown Tit-Babbler ◊ (Stripe-headed T-b) *Macronus [striaticeps] striaticeps* Two seen and one heard Rajah Sikatuna.

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

Philippine Fairy-bluebird ◊ *Irena cyanogastra* Two at Infanta Road (n nominate).

Sulphur-billed Nuthatch ◊ *Sitta oenochlamys* Multiple sightings Negros (n nominate), and Luzon (*mesoleuca*).

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

Coledo ◊ *Sarcops calvus* Many sightings, on Mindoro & Luzon (n nominate), and Negros & Bohol (*melanonotus*).

Crested Myna (introduced) *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Stripe-headed Rhabdornis ◊ (Stripe-sided R) *Rhabdornis mystacalis* Ivan saw one at Infanta Road, Luzon.

Brown-headed Thrush ◊ (Brown T) *Turdus chrysolaus* One seen by Craig at Baggao.

Philippine Magpie-Robin ◊ *Copsychus mindanensis* Frequent and widespread.

White-browed Shama ◊ *C. luzoniensis* Two seen and others heard on Luzon (n nominate).

Visayan Shama ◊ *Copsychus superciliaris* Seen at both ends of Negros, and well.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa griseisticta*

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

Mangrove Blue Flycatcher ◊ (Philippine B F) *Cyornis [rufigastra] simplex* Seen on Cebu and Camiguin (*philippinensis*), and on Luzon (*blythi*).

White-throated Jungle Flycatcher ◊ *Vauriella albigularis* Fantastic views of this tricky speciality at Gawahon.

Philippine Shortwing ◊ *Brachypteryx [poliogyna] poliogyna* One at Infanta Rd (*andersoni*).

Blue Rock Thrush (Eastern B R T) *Monticola [solitarius] philippensis*

Pied Bush Chat *Saxicola caprata* Seen on Negros and Luzon (n nominate).

Olive-backed Flowerpecker ◊ *Prionochilus olivaceus* Not uncommon at Infanta Road, Luzon (*parsonsi*).

Thick-billed Flowerpecker ◊ (Striped F) *Pachyglossa [agilis] aeruginosa* Singles seen on Mindoro (*aeruginosa*) and Luzon (*sriatissima*).

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

Red-keeled Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum australe* Four logged on Cebu and a good number in Luzon.

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

Scarlet-collared Flowerpecker ◊ (Mindoro F) *Dicaeum retrocinctum* Two males seen at Sablayan, Mindoro.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker ◊ [Grey-throated F] *D. [trigonostigma] cinereigulare* A few Camiguin (*isidro*).

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

Buzzing Flowerpecker ◊ [Northern B F] *Dicaeum [hypoleucum] obscurum* A few at Infanta Rd (*obscurum*).

Pygmy Flowerpecker ◊ *Dicaeum pygmaeum* A handful seen on Luzon (nominate).

Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-throated S) *Anthreptes malacensis* Pair Camiguin (*heliolusius*), 2 Tablas (*chlorigaster*).

Grey-throated Sunbird ◊ *Anthreptes griseigularis* Several seen at Callao Cave, Luzon (*birgatae*).

Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma [sperata] sperata* Frequently encountered: Negros, Bohol, Camiguin, & Tablas (*trochilus*); NE Luzon (*henkei*); SE Luzon (nominate).

Garden Sunbird ◊ *Cinnyris jugularis* Widespread sightings (nominate).

Maroon-naped Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga guimarasensis* <10 at Balinsasayao Twin Lakes NP, Negros.

Metallic-winged Sunbird ◊ (Bohol S) *Aethopyga [pulcherrima] decorosa* Several on Bohol, but elusive.

Handsome Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga bella* A single bird at Infanta.

Magnificent Sunbird ◊ *Aethopyga magnifica* Frequent on Negros; also singles on Cebu and Tablas.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (introduced) *Passer montanus*

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

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra* Eight on Tablas (*everetti*).

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

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

MAMMALS

Large Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus* Large roosts at Mambucal, Negros, and particularly on Camiguin.

Philippine Flying Lemur *Cynocephalus volans* 4 logged on Bohol, and some nice daytime looks.

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

Rat *Rattus sp.* Non-leader

REPTILES

Asian forest skink *Sphenomorphus sp.* Bohol.

Philippine Tree Skink *Lamprolepis smaragdina* Endemic. Mindoro.

Philippine Sailfin Lizard *Hydrosaurus pustulatus* Endemic. Bohol.

Two-spotted Flying Lizard *Draco bimaculatus* Endemic. Bohol.

BUTTERFLIES

Scarlet Mormon *Papilio deiphobus* Endemic. Negros, Luzon.

Philippine Pink Rose (P Rose) *Pachliopta kotzebuga* Endemic. Mindoro.

Schadenberg's Pink Rose *Pachliopta schadenbergi* Endemic. Callao Cave.

Golden Birdwing *Troides rhadamantus* Endemic. Bohol.

Lemon Migrant (L Emigrant) *Catopsila pomona* Negros.

Common Grass Blue *Terias hecabe* Cebu.

Scalloped Grass Yellow *Eurema alitha* Mindoro.

Chocolate Grass Yellow *Eurema sarilata* Endemic. Baggao.

Striped Albatross *Appias libythea* Mindoro.

Yellow Gull *Cepora aspasia* Callao Cave.

Common Jezebel *Delias henningia* Near endemic. Negros.

Psyche *Leptosia nina* Widespread.

Philippine Wanderer *Pereronia boebera* Endemic. Callao Cave.

White Tiger *Danaus melanippus* Bohol.

Narrow Dark Blue Tiger (D B Tiger) *Tirumala septentrionis* Negros.

Purple Crow (Dwarf C) *Euploea tulliolus*

Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber* Negros.

White-banded Faun *Faunis sappho sappho* Endemic. Bohol.

Palm King *Amathusia phidippus* Negros.

Common Mapwing *Cyrestis maenalis* Negros.
 Common Rustic *Cupha arias* Mindoro.
 Common Leopard *Phalanta phalantha* Negros.
 Malayan Eggfly *Hypolimnas anomala* Cebu.
 Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina philippensis*
 Brown Pansy *Junonia hedonia* Widespread.
 Wizard *Rhinopalpa polynice* Negros.
 Common Jester *Symbrenthia hippoclus* Mindoro.
 Philippine Staff Sergeant *Athyma gutama* Endemic. Negros.
 Illigera Sailer *Lasippa illigera* Endemic. Callao Cave.
 Orange Archduke *Lexias panopus boholensis* Endemic. Rajah Sikatuna NP, Bohol.
 Typical Sailer *Neptis mindorana* Endemic. Cebu.
 Sailer *Neptis cf cymela* Endemic. Negros.
 Dama Lascar *Pantoporia dama* Endemic. Callao Cave
 Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*
 Negros Pale Ringlet *Acrophtalmia yamashitai* Endemic. Negros.
 Congruens Palmfly *Elymnias congruens* Endemic. Bohol.
 Sansoni Palmfly *Elymnias sansoni* Endemic. Negros.
 Common Evening Brown *Melanitis leda* Mindoro.
 Dark-branded Bushbrown *Mycalesis mineus* Mindoro, Cebu, Luzon.
 Dingy Bushbrown *Mycalesis perseus* Mindoro.
 Tagala Bushbrown *Mycalesis tagala* Endemic. Mindoro.
 Smooth-eyed Bushbrown (Dark Grass Brown, Medus B) *Orsotriaena medus* Mindoro.
 Common Three-ring *Ypthima sempera* Negros.
 Philippine Five-ring *Ypthima stelleri* Near-endemic. Mindoro, Negros, Cebu, Luzon.
 Northern Wallacean *Zethera pimplea* Endemic. Mindoro.
 Forget-me-not *Catachrysops strabo* Bohol, Luzon.
 Gram Blue *Euchrysops cnejus* Mindoro, Cebu.
 Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno* Negros.
 Pale White Cerulean *Jamides cleodus* Endemic. Negros.
 Forest Quaker *Pithecopus corvus* Negros.
 Lesser Grass Blue *Zizina otis* Mindoro.
 Aberrant Oakblue *Arhopala abseus* Negros.
 Tomokoae Flash *Rapala tomokoae* Endemic. Negros.
 Ace *Halpe sp.* Mindoro.
 Common Banded Awl *Hasora chromus* Negros.
 Common Banded Demon *Notocrypta paralysos* Mindoro.
 Common Dartlet *Oriens gola* Negros.
 Little Branded Swift *Pelopidas agna* Negros.
 Veined Gras Dart *Taractocera luzonensis*
 Pied Flat *Tagiades japetus* Negros.

DRAGONFLIES

Philippine Jewel *Rhinocypha colorata* Endemic. Negros, Bohol.
 Eastern Philippine Threadtail *Prodasineura integra* Endemic. Bohol.
 Red-tipped Shadefly *Argiocnemis rubescens* Bohol.
 Blue Riverdamsel *Pseudagrion microcephalum* Negros.
 Common Bluetail *Ischnura senegalensis* Negros.
 Green Skimmer *Orthetrum serapia* Widespread.
 Bolivar's Skimmer *Diplacina bolivari* Endemic. Cebu.

Chalky Percher *Diplacodes trivialis* Bohol.