



Rockjumper Birding Tours

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Endangered Endemics of the Philippines & Visayan Island Extension

8th to 25th April 2010



Trip Report compiled by tour leader Frank Lambert

Tour Summary



We started this year's Philippine tour in Luzon, heading towards Mount Makiling just south of Manila, where we stayed in the pleasant surroundings of Los Banos. During our time here we observed plenty of wonderful birds, including a number of Philippine endemics. These included Rough-crested and Scale-feathered Malkohas, White-eared Brown-dove, Grey-backed Tailorbird, Stripe-headed Rhabdornis, Yellow-billed Nuthatch, Yellow-wattled and Philippine Bulbuls, White-browed Shama, Flaming and Handsome Sunbirds, Striped and Red-keeled Flowerpeckers, and Spotted Wood-Kingfisher. The skies were full of migrating Blue-tailed Bee-eaters and here we also found a small group of Chinese Goshawks, Philippine Serpent Eagle and Crested Honey Buzzard. A perched male Japanese Sparrowhawk was added bonus.

A visit to an agricultural area near the university campus was also highly successful with sightings of the secretive, endemic Spotted Buttonquail, Lowland White-eye and Striated Grassbird. On the grounds of the International Rice Research Institute we saw a number of Oriental Skylarks, a distinctive grey-backed form of Long-tailed Shrike and many Brown Shrikes. An early morning owling session got us our first endemic Philippine night bird, Philippine Hawk-owl, which is likely to be split into several species in the future.

After an overnight stay in Manila we visited the Candaba Marsh. Due to the dry surrounding conditions the wetland areas acted as a magnet to waterfowl and were teeming with birds. Some of the birds present included a few Philippine Ducks and a single migrant Northern Shoveler. We were fortunate to see a Taiga Bean Goose – the first record of this species from the Philippines and a Radde's Warbler (apparently only the third record of this vagrant). Herons dominated the waterbird mixture, with large numbers of three species of egret and both Grey and Purple Herons in abundance. Yellow Bitterns crammed the waterways, while a few Cinnamon Bittern and stunning Pheasant-tailed Jacanas were also recorded. Rails seemed particularly tame, and we had plenty of views of Barred Rail, White-browed Crake, Plain Bush-hen and a few Philippine Swamphen. Along the tracks we found Island Collared and Red Turtle Dove (the former about to become an endemic species), and a number of beautiful Siberian Rubythroat. Pulling ourselves away from this wonderful wetland we made our way to Subic Bay for lunch before checking into our quaint colonial style hotel. During the late afternoon we birded in the forests of the old naval area where we encountered Philippine Coucal, White-bellied and Sooty Woodpeckers and the soon to be split Luzon subspecies of Greater Flameback. Just after dusk we found Great-eared Nightjar and Chocolate Boobook, this being the first known record from Subic Bay. A Philippine Scops Owl called very close but never showed itself.



The following morning it was back to the network of secondary forests around the old naval base. Highlights included a very co-operative White-eared Brown Dove, Philippine Green Pigeon, Philippine Hanging Parrot, Guiaibero, brief views of the now rare Green Racket-tail, Blue-naped Parrot, Blackish Cuckooshrike and the skulking Rufous Coucal. On our way out we briefly visited a

breeding colony of Blue-throated Bee-eaters before starting the long drive to Banaue. *En route* we spotted a few interesting birds, the most memorable being a superb male Pied Harrier, chasing shorebirds in rice paddies close to the road.

From our pleasant hotel in Banaue, we headed up to the forests of Mount Polis where we spent the entire day. Due to the intensely dry weather caused by El Nino, and the searing heat of the sun, numerous forest fires were sweeping through the degraded forests of the area! Bird activity was slow but we nevertheless managed to find the majority of our target species. We managed great views of Green-backed Whistler, Blue-headed Fantail, Flame-crowned Flowerpecker, Chestnut-faced Babbler, Philippine and Bush Warblers, Mountain White-eye, Island Thrush and Turquoise Flycatcher. We also found a nest of the now rare Luzon Water Redstart, the male of which was singing very close to the road and occasionally displaying to the female on the cliff face where the nest was located. At one point a Flamer-breasted Fruit-dove called briefly up a steep forested slope, but unfortunately never showed itself. Later, Luzon Scops Owl was calling after dark, at close range, but unfortunately the bird proved to be unresponsive to playback.

The following morning, prior to our long drive back to Manila we went back up to Mount Polis in search of the few species we had missed. After a lot of effort some of us had very brief views of a pair of (Luzon) Long-tailed Bush Warblers as they flitted across a gap in the vegetation and of the smart Mountain Tailorbird. We also heard distant Whiskered Pitta, a bird that Tim Fisher had not heard or seen on the mountain since about 2005! Back at the hotel we saw Yellowish White-eye before heading off towards Manila. *En route* we all had good views of the endemic Blue-banded Kingfisher as well as a small number of Oriental Pratincole and a lone Long-toed Stint.

From Manila we flew to Mindanao and transferred to Bislig near the famous PICOP logging concession. Until recently this was considered to be the best birding site in the entire Philippines, home to a virgin forest reserve with emergent trees reaching 60-70m in height. What we found, however, was the sad remains of the forest, with large trees being cut even as we birded. The future of this area is clear – there will be no significant trees in a few years time. Even areas on limestone, useless for agriculture, were being cleared during our two day visit. Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon,



Violet Cuckoo, Philippine Drongo Cuckoo, Philippine Spine-tailed Swift, Winchell's and Silvery Kingfisher, impressive Rufous and Writhed Hornbills, Philippine Oriole, Blue Fantail, Rufous Paradise Flycatcher, Philippine Leaf-warbler, Celestial and Short-crested Monarchs, Rufous-fronted and Black-headed Tailorbirds, Mindanao Pygmy Babbler, Striped Ground-babbler, Rufous-crowned Babbler, Everett's White-eye, Handsome Sunbird and Naked-faced Spiderhunter were a good selection of birds recorded. A brief evening visit to the nearby Bislig airport provided us with views of Wandering Whistling Duck, Black Bittern and Philippine Nightjar.

Our final destination on this tour was the island of Palawan, which unlike the other larger islands of the Philippines, lies on the Sunda Plate and shares some of its avifauna with that of Borneo and Peninsular Malaysia. After arriving at Puerto Princesa mid morning, we headed straight to a patch of mangroves and found three of the highly sought after Chinese Egrets, in breeding plumage, and a few Grey-tailed Tattlers. The mangroves and nearby scrub produced the very distinctive Palawan form of Olive-backed Sunbird and Rufous-tailed Tailorbird. After lunch we headed towards Sabang on the north-western coastline. As we neared our destination we made a number of birding stops in

the roadside forest. The first stop was in an area of mangroves close to the road where excellent views of male Copper-throated Sunbird were had. Nearing Sabang we stopped in some tall woodland which yielded our first Yellow-throated Leafbird, Palawan Tit, Dark-throated Oriole and Sulphur-bellied Bulbul and Lovely Sunbirds. We also had close views of what could only be Gould's Bronze Cuckoo, a species only recorded on Palawan a few times before. Nearby our hotel, just outside of the town, some of us had good views of Greater Painted Snipe and White-browed Crane.

The following day we took a couple of outriggers a short way along the coast to the St Paul Subterranean River National Park, disembarking near the river itself. Hundreds of Palawan Swiftlets were entering and leaving the cave entrance under the watchful eye of a wintering Peregrine Falcon while a Stork-billed Kingfisher showed well nearby. Entering the forest behind the beach we quickly found the habituated male Palawan Peacock-pheasant, which fed around our feet. Later a couple of Tabon Scrubfowl scuttled by, giving us all good looks before disappearing into the forest. Hooded Pitta was common but a little elusive here, though we all had reasonable looks eventually. On our way back to Sabang we briefly stopped on a sandy beach where two Malaysian Plovers were spotted.

During the afternoon we worked the forested patches along the road out of Sabang. Here we soon found a group of about five Palawan Hornbills feeding in a fruiting tree. The other highlights of the afternoon were a male Blue Paradise Flycatcher, flying back and forth across the road and occasionally perching in the open, and a pair of Palawan Blue Flycatchers. We waited until after dark in this area and were rewarded with good views of Palawan Frogmouth, though Palawan Scops Owl eluded most of us despite calling very close on a number of occasions. The following morning we again birded along the road and a short way into the forest. Here we found the skulking Falcated Wren-Babbler, though after many frustrating attempts to call it in some of us still only managed to glimpse it. Ashy-headed Babbler proved even more difficult to see inside the forest understory, but back on the road we all finally had excellent views of a pair at close range. Other species seen included Pygmy and Striped Flowerpeckers, Little Spiderhunter (clearly a good split since it is nothing like those on Borneo or elsewhere), Chestnut-breasted Malkoha and Great Slaty Woodpecker. We also had unusually good views of several Blue-headed Racket-tails and the distinctive Palawan form of Greater Flameback (soon to become a full species).



From Sabang we headed back to Puerto Princesa via the small offshore island of Pandan. Our visit to this island produced good views of Grey Imperial Pigeon and, after some effort, Mantanani Scops Owl, both being small-island specialists that are absent from the mainland. Offshore, perched on poles sticking out of the sea, we found two Great-billed Herons. Next morning we were off early again and arrived at the Iwahig Penal Colony as dawn broke. Walking the trail along the river we encountered a number of good birds including the endemic Melodious Babbler and Palawan Flycatcher. A Ruddy Kingfisher gave us unusually good views as it perched on a rock in the stream bed for more than five minutes and the now rare Palawan form of White-bellied Woodpecker showed

briefly. From Iwahig we ventured south to a rather run-down beach resort which happens to be perfectly located for seeing the now rare Philippine Cockatoo, our last endemic of the trip. One of these small cockatoos showed well in the afternoon; a great ending to our 2010 Philippine tour!

Annotated List of Bird and Mammal species recorded

Birds: Gill, F. and M. Wright. 2006. Birds of the World: Recommended English Names. Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press, Version 2.2. When the taxonomy differs from that of Clement's, the Clement's name will be written in brackets or differences will be explained in a note below the species.

BIRDS

Megapodes Megapodiidae

Philippine Megapode (Tabon Scrubfowl) (NE) *Megapodius cumingii*

Two birds were observed at close quarters on forest trails in St. Paul Subterranean National Park near Sabang, Palawan.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we observed the resident subspecies cumingii.

Pheasants, Fowl & Allies Phasianidae

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Some of us had brief views at Subic Bay, Luzon

Notes: One subspecies occurs in the Philippines, the endemic subspecies philippensis.

Palawan Peacock-Pheasant (E) *Polyplectron napoleonis*

We enjoyed unforgettable views of a habituated male at St. Paul Subterranean National Park.

Ducks, Geese & Swans Anatidae

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

At least 30 were seen at wetlands around Bislig Airport on Mindanao.

Notes: One subspecies occurs in the Philippines, the subspecies philippensis.

Philippine Duck (E) *Anas luzonica*

Small numbers were found at the Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Northern Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

The Candaba Marsh in Luzon held one male, a wintering migrant.

Hérons & Bitterns Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Birds were seen very well at a couple of wetland sites with peak numbers of 30 at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Several were seen at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

One in flight at dusk at Bislig Airport, Palawan

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Large numbers, including many immature, were observed at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*

Small numbers were observed on the tiny island of Pandan.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded the resident subspecies carcinophila.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

This species was seen in good numbers throughout the tour.

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Only seen on Luzon, including great views of thirty at Candaba Marsh.

Notes: One subspecies occurs in the Philippines, the subspecies *jouyi*.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

Two were seen offshore of the island of Pandan, sitting on the emerging poles of fishtraps.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Peak numbers of more than 200 birds were seen at Candaba Marsh, Luzon with only a few elsewhere on the same island.

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

We encountered good numbers throughout the tour. The subspecies here, *modesta*, may represent one of two great egret species in the oriental region.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*

Fairly common and seen in small numbers in wetlands throughout.

Notes: One subspecies occurs in the Philippines, the subspecies *plumifera*.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Scattered sightings throughout the tour.

Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*

Several were seen along the shore near Sabang, Palawan.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*

We had good scope views of three near Puerto Princesa Airport and another probable far offshore of Pandan. The Philippine islands of Palawan, Bohol and Olango are important wintering areas for this globally threatened species.

Ospreys Pandionidae

Western Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

An uncommon species in the Philippines, we were fortunate to see one on Palawan.

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae

Crested (Oriental) Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

A singleton was seen soaring on Mt. Makiling, Luzon.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded the subspecies *philippensis* on Luzon.

Barred Honey Buzzard (NE) *Pernis celebensis*

Several birds were seen on two days in lowland rainforest in the ex-PICOP logging concession on the east coast of Mindanao. The form here, *steerei*, should probably be recognized as an endemic species since it differs markedly from the nominate birds of Sulawesi.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*

This widespread species was seen in small numbers during the tour.

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Three birds were seen on Palawan.

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

A singleton soaring above the forest canopy at the Iwahig Penal Colony, Palawan.

Philippine Serpent Eagle (E) *Spilornis holospilus*

This widespread endemic was seen on five dates.

Pied Harrier *Circus melanoleucos*

We had a fantastic sighting of a male on our way to Mt. Polis from Manila, and on our return to the hotel.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Seen at PICOP and on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded the subspecies *extimus* on Mindanao.

Chinese Sparrowhawk *Accipiter soloensis*

At least five of this migratory species on Mt. Makiling and another six on Mt. Polis.

Japanese Sparrowhawk*Accipiter gularis*

One seen well at Mt Makiling. A winter visitor and passage migrant.

Besra*Accipiter virgatus quagga*

One seen briefly at PICOP was the only definite sighting.

Philippine Eagle (E)*Pithecophaga jefferyi*

Undoubtedly one of the highlights of the tour. Whilst watching an immature perched in the distance, for the second day running at Mt Kitanglad, an adult passed us nearby carrying a large squirrel. Amazingly it perched in a close tree and allowed us stunning views through the scope before heading off to presumably feed the immature bird.

Rufous-bellied Eagle*Lophotriorchis kienerii*

One or two at PICOP.

Philippine Hawk-Eagle*Nisaetus philippensis*

One adult and one immature seen at PICOP. This species seems to be getting quite rare.

Falcons Falconidae**Philippine Falconet (E)***Microhierax erythrogenys*

Very good views of this species at Subic, Luzon and again at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded both, the subspecies erythrogenys on Luzon and the subspecies meridionalis on Mindanao.

Peregrine Falcon*Falco peregrines calidus*

Good views of one near Sabang, overlooking the subterranean cave where thousands of swiftlets breed.

Rails, Crakes & Coots Rallidae**Barred Rail***Gallirallus torquatus torquatus*

We had excellent views of one at Candaba Marsh, Luzon, and others on the road at PICOP, Mindanao.

Plain Bush-hen (E)*Amaurornis olivacea*

Excellent close views of a number of birds around Candaba swamp, Luzon. This is usually a much more difficult bird to see and it seems likely that they were congregating around the remaining water in this very dry year.

White-breasted Waterhen*Amaurornis phoenicurus*

This widespread species was seen well at Candaba Marsh followed by a couple of other sightings elsewhere.

Notes: One subspecies occurs in the Philippines, the subspecies phoenicurus.

White-browed Crake*Porzana cinerea ocularis*

Seen well at Candaba Swamp, Luzon, and near Sabang in Palawan.

[Philippine] Purple Swamphen*Porphyrio (porphyrio) pulverulentus*

We had good scope views of small numbers at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Common Moorhen*Gallinula chloropus orientalis*

This widespread species was seen in small numbers at Candaba Marsh, Luzon and near Sabang in Palawan.

Buttonquails Turnicidae**Spotted Buttonquail (E)***Turnix ocellatus*

We had incredible views of an adult and presumed juvenile at the foot of Mt. Makiling in an agricultural area.

Notes: At least two subspecies occur; we recorded the subspecies ocellatus.

Barred Buttonquail*Turnix suscitator*

Some of the group flushed one at close range on Pandan Island, Palawan.

Avocets and Stilts Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*
A couple seen at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Plovers Charadriidae

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
At least ten seen on Luzon and another at the Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
One near Puerto Princesa and another at the Iwahig fishponds.
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius dubius*
Three en route from Mt Polis to Manila and another at the Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.
Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*
We had great views of a pair on a sandy beach in St. Paul's Subterranean Park.

Painted-snipe Rostratulidae

Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*
Several in fields near our hotel at Sabang, Palawan and at least four at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Pheasant-tailed Jacana *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*
At least four including breeding plumage males at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Sandpipers & Snipes Scolopacidae

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*
One seen in Palawan
Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*
Eight at Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
We found one at Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Seen on three dates in Luzon, with up to ten in a day, and three were seen at Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Seen on six dates with at least 30 at Candaba Marsh.
Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*
At least 14 in the mangroves near Puerto Princesa on our first day in Palawan.
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Observed on five dates.
Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
Close views of four, including some in breeding plumage, at the Iwahig fishponds.
Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
One in a rice field in Luzon and about 15 at Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.
Sharp-tailed Sandpiper *Calidris acuminata*
Two at the Iwahig fishponds, Palawan.

Pratincoles Glareolidae

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*
Our only sighting was of about ten just outside Manila on our last day in Luzon.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers Laridae

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*

Eight seen at Candaba and one at the Iwahig fishponds.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

About 50 seen whilst traveling in Mindanao.

Pigeons & Doves Columbidae

Metallic Pigeon *Columba vitiensis*

Two were seen briefly on Mt. Kanlaon, Negros.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded the subspecies griseogularis.

Island Collared Dove *Streptopelia bitorquata dusumieri*

Two at Candaba Marsh, Luzon. This taxon probably should be recognized as an endemic species.

Red Turtle Dove *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*

Several at Candaba Marsh, Luzon

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*

This widespread Asian species was found throughout the tour in good numbers.

Philippine Cuckoo-Dove (E) *Macropygia tenuirostris*

Seen on six dates.

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica indica*

Seen on nine dates.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata striata*

We found this bird to be a regular inhabitant of degraded forest sites and towns throughout the tour.

White-eared Brown Dove (E) *Phapitreron leucotis*

This common species was heard often and seen on eight dates.

Amethyst Brown Dove (E) *Phapitreron amethystinus*

This species, rarer than the previous, was seen well on Mt Kitinglad and at PICOP, Mindanao.

Birds on Mindanao are of the nominate subspecies.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Six seen on Palawan near Puerto Princesa.

Philippine Green Pigeon (E) *Treron axillaris*

Fairly common at lowland sites in Luzon and Mindanao and seen on five dates.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded two, the subspecies canescens on Mindanao and axillaris on Luzon.

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

Seen on two dates on Palawan.

Flame-breasted Fruit Dove (E) *Ptilinopus marchei*

One heard on Mt Polis was unfortunately not seen. This species has become exceedingly rare at this site.

Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove (E) *Ptilinopus occipitalis*

Several were seen on Mount Kitanglad, Mindanao (subspecies *incognitus*).

Black-chinned Fruit Dove (E) *Ptilinopus leclancheri*

One seen well at Mt Makiling but only heard on Mindanao.

Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon (E) *Ducula poliocephala*

Seen well on two dates at PICOP, Mindanao.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

This widespread species was seen on eight dates with up to ten a day in Palawan.

Grey Imperial Pigeon (NE) *Ducula pickeringii*

We had good views of about ten on Pandan Island.

Cockatoos Cacatuidae

Red-vented (Philippine) Cockatoo (E) *Cacatua haematuropygia*

We had excellent views of at least five birds onshore near Rasa Island, Palawan.

Parrots Psittacidae

Philippine Hanging Parrot (Colasisi) (E) *Loriculus philippensis*

This widespread species was seen at several sites with up to 15 a day.

Mindanao Racket-tail (E) *Prioniturus waterstradti*

Seen on all three days on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao with up to ten a day.

Blue-headed Racket-tail (E) *Prioniturus platenae*

Seen on three dates in Palawan with at least ten on one day near Sabang.

Green Racket-tail (E) *Prioniturus luconensis*

One seen briefly at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Blue-crowned Racket-tail (E) *Prioniturus discurus*

Heard at PICOP but never seen.

Blue-naped Parrot (NE) *Tanygnathus lucionensis*

Three seen in the Subic Bay area and another on Palawan.

Guaiabero (E) *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus*

Observed on five dates, in Luzon and in Mindanao, with up to six per day.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Rufous Coucal (E) *Centropus unirufus*

At least fifteen at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Black-faced Coucal (E) *Centropus melanops*

Seen daily at PICOP, Mindanao, with up to three a day.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

This species was heard calling and seen one on Palawan.

Philippine Coucal (E) *Centropus viridis*

Recorded on nine dates, with occasional good views.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

One seen on Luzon and another in Mindanao. Heard only on Palawan.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris harringtoni*

Four seen in Palawan at St. Paul Subterranean NP and near Sabang.

Rough-crested (Red-crested) Malkoha (E) *Dasylophus superciliosus*

We found two of these beautiful birds at Mount Makiling and two more at Subic Bay.

Scale-feathered Malkoha (E) *Dasylophus cumingi*

Several seen on Mt. Makiling.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopaceus*

We heard this species calling throughout the tour and saw

two near Sabang, Palawan.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus amethystinus*

Several seen well at PICOP, Mindanao, where very vocal.

Gould's Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx russatus*

One seen very well near Sabang, Palawan, where this is a very rarely seen species.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus merulinus*

One seen on Mindanao and two on Palawan, and heard on five other dates.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

We heard this species regularly on Luzon and Mindanao and saw them on two dates.

Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo (E) *Surniculus velutinus*

We had good views of one at PICOP, Mindanao.

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

Singles seen on three days on Palawan

Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo (E) *Hierococcyx pectoralis*

Heard on Luzon and Mindanao and seen at Mt Kitanglad on one occasion.

Oriental Cuckoo*Cuculus optatus*

One seen well at PICOP.

Owls Strigidae**Palawan Scops Owl (E)***Otus fuliginosus*

An elusive bird near Sabang was only seen well by Frank.

Philippine Scops Owl (E)*Otus megalotis*One of subspecies *megalotis* seen briefly at Subic Bay, Luzon**Mantanani Scops Owl (NE)***Otus mantananensis mantananensis*

This species gave us the run-around for a couple of hours but we finally had good views of one on Pandan Island.

Giant Scops Owl (Mindanao Eagle-Owl) (E) *Mimizuku gurneyi*

We heard this species calling near our bunkhouse on Mount Kitanglad but never managed to see one.

Chocolate Hawk-Owl*Ninox randi*

Excellent views of a calling bird at Subic Bay. According to Tim Fisher, this is the first record of this species from Subic.

Philippine Hawk-Owl (E)*Ninox philippensis*We saw this polytypic species only at Mt Makiling, Luzon (subspecies *philippensis*) but also heard the subspecies *spilocephala* (Mindanao Hawk-Owl) at PICOP.**Frogmouths Podargidae****Philippine Frogmouth (E)***Batrachostomus septimus*

Fantastic views of one on Mt.Kitanglad.

Palawan Frogmouth*Batrachostomus (javensis) chaseni*

Good views of one near Sabang.

Nightjars Caprimulgidae**Great Eared Nightjar***Eurostopodus macrotis macrotis*

This widespread species was seen on five dates on Luzon and Mindanao

Large-tailed Nightjar*Caprimulgus macrurus*

Two seen on Palawan.

Philippine Nightjar (E)*Caprimulgus manillensis*

We saw two on Mount Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Treeswifts Hemiprocnidae**Whiskered Treeswift***Hemiproctne comata*

Seen or heard on five dates in Luzon and on Mindanao.

Swifts Apodidae**Glossy Swiftlet***Collocalia esculenta*

Observed almost daily.

Pygmy Swiftlet (E)*Collocalia troglodytes*

Good numbers seen in Mindanao and on Palawan but only one observed on Luzon.

Philippine Swiftlet (E)*Aerodramus mearnsi*

A mountain species, usually found at elevations above 900 m, we only found this species on Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao on Mt Polis, Luzon.

Whitehead's Swiftlet*Aerodramus whiteheadi*

One seen on Mt Polis.

Mayr's (Palawan) Swiftlet (E)*Aerodramus orientalis*

Seen daily on the island of Palawan especially around the entrance to the cave at the St Paul Subterranean Park.

Uniform Swiftlet (Island Swiftlet) *Aerodramus vanikorensis amelis*

Only two seen on Luzon but more common in the lowlands of Mindanao.

Philippine Spine-tailed Swift (Needletail) (E) *Mearnsia picina*

Three were seen in flight above the forest at PICOP, Mindanao.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*

About thirty were seen above the forest at Iwahig, Palawan.

Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis pallidior*

Several birds were seen near Mt. Makiling, Luzon

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Seen only on Luzon.

Trogons Trogonidae

Philippine Trogon (E) *Harpactes ardens*

One seen briefly at Subic Bay and several sightings at PICOP, Mindanao.

Rollers Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Several seen on Palawan and one on Luzon.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

Spotted Wood Kingfisher (E) *Actenoides lindsayi*

Seen only on Mount Makiling, Luzon, where this is a common species.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

We saw this large-billed species on several occasions on Palawan.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*

We had excellent views of one, of the endemic resident subspecies *linae*, at Iwahig Palawan.

Several were also heard calling.

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis gularis*

A common lowland inhabitant throughout Luzon and Mindanao where seen regularly.

Winchell's (Rufous-lored) Kingfisher (E) *Todirhamphus winchelli*

Excellent views of one at PICOP, Mindanao.

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris collaris*

This widespread species was found in small numbers throughout the tour.

Oriental (Rufous-backed) Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus*

Heard in Palawan on a few occasions but seen only by Frank.

Indigo-banded Kingfisher (E) *Ceyx cyanopecta*

Good views of one on the Lagawe River, Luzon.

Silvery Kingfisher (E) *Ceyx argentata*

We saw one well in the ex-PICOP logging concession area, Mindanao.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded one, the subspecies argentata.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*

This widespread species was seen on six dates.

Bee-eaters Meropidae

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Seen almost daily on Luzon with up to 100 a day.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis americanus*

Great views of birds around a nesting colony in Subic Bay, Luzon.

Hornbills Bucerotidae**Palawan Hornbill (E)** *Anthracoceros marchei*

Good views obtained in the Sabang area and at Iwahig.

Rufous Hornbill (E) *Buceros hydrocorax*

Some persistence paid off as we enjoyed good views of one in the ex-PICOP logging concession.

Luzon Hornbill (E) *Penelopides manillae*

A few seen on Mt Makiling and several more at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Mindanao Hornbill (E) *Penelopides affinis*

Small numbers were seen at PICOP, Mindanao.

Writhed Hornbill (E) *Aceros leucocephalus*

Amazingly we saw a group of at least 25 in the ex-PICOP logging concession area and saw others there as well.

Asian Barbets Megalaimidae**Coppersmith Barbet** *Megalaima haemacephala*

Seen or heard on several dates in both Luzon and Mindanao.

Woodpeckers Picidae**Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker (E)** *Dendrocopos maculatus*A widespread endemic on the Philippines, we saw the subspecies *fulvifasciatus* on Mindanao on several dates.**White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis*

We saw this species on Luzon, Mindanao and Palawan.

Common Goldenback (Flameback) *Dinopium javanense everetti*

We found a pair at Iwahig, Palawan.

Greater Goldenback (Flameback) *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

We saw this species at Subic Bay, Luzon and again in Palawan but only heard it on Mt.Kitanglad, Mindanao. The distinctive taxa of this species that occur in the Philippines are likely to be split into four separate endemic species in the near future (of which we saw two).

Sooty Woodpecker (E) *Mulleripicus funebris funebris*

We enjoyed good views of a pair at Subic Bay on Luzon.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*

We had two sightings of this distinctive large species on Palawan.

Pittas Pittidae**Whiskered Pitta (E)** *Pitta kochi*

We heard 1-2 calling on Mount Polis, Luzon.

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*One seen briefly at Iwahig, Palawan (subspecies *propinqua*).**Hooded Pitta** *Pitta sordida*Common on Palawan where several of the subspecies *palawanensis* were seen.**Azure-breasted (Steere's) Pitta (E)** *Pitta steerii*

Two were seen at PICOP, Mindanao, one of which was hopping around in full view on the trail.

Australasian Warblers Acanthizidae**Golden-bellied Gerygone** *Gerygone sulphurea*We enjoyed great views of two of subspecies *simplex* at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Woodswallows Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
A widespread species seen most days of the tour.

Ioras Aegithinidae

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia aequanimis*
Several were seen on Palawan.

Cuckooshrikes Campephagidae

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata*
Seen on a number of occasions on Luzon and on Mindanao.

Blackish Cuckooshrike (E) *Coracina coerulescens*
We had close views of several at Subic Bay on Luzon.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded one, the subspecies coerulescens.

McGregor's Cuckooshrike (E) *Coracina mcgregori*

This scarce Mindanao endemic were seen several times on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Black-and-white Triller (E) *Lalage melanoleuca*

Heard at PICOP, Mindanao, but never seen.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*

Regularly seen on Mindanao and in Palawan.

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus igneus*

We recorded up to four daily near Sabang, Palawan.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*

We saw six at PICOP on Mindanao of the subspecies johnstoniae.

Whistlers & Allies Pachycephalidae

Green-backed Whistler (E) *Pachycephala albiventris*

A few seen on Mt Polis, Luzon.

Yellow-bellied Whistler (E) *Pachycephala philippinensis*

Small numbers seen on Mt.Kitanglad and at PICOP, Mindanao and one seen on Mt Makinling.

Notes: Seven subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded three philippinensis on Luzon and apoensis on Mindanao.

Shrikes Laniidae

Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus lucionensis*

This migrant was seen almost daily in small numbers.

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*

Observed on six dates in Luzon and Mindanao. All birds were of the subspecies *nasutus*.

Mountain Shrike (E) *Lanius validirostris*

We had brief views of one at Mt.Polis, Luzon and of another on Mt.Kitanglad.

Orioles Oriolidae

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus persuasus*

Individuals seen on three dates on Palawan.

Philippine Oriole (E) *Oriolus steerii*

Two were seen at PICOP, Mindanao.

White-lored Oriole (E) *Oriolus albiloris*

Three seen at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Seen or heard on eight dates.

Drongos Dicruridae

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus leucophaeus*
Up to three seen daily on the island of Palawan

Balicassiao (E) *Dicrurus balicassius*

We had good views of several of the nominate subspecies on three dates on Luzon.

Spangled Drongo (E) *Dicrurus bracteatus*

Commonly seen on Mindanao and Palawan.

Notes: Six subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded striatus on Mindanao and palawanensis on Palawan.

Fantails Rhipiduridae

Blue Fantail (E) *Rhipidura superciliaris*

Small numbers were seen daily at PICOP, Mindanao.

Blue-headed Fantail (E) *Rhipidura cyaniceps*

One or two, of subspecies cyaniceps, were seen on Mt Polis, Luzon.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica nigritorquis*

Seen on Palawan and Luzon.

Black-and-cinnamon Fantail (E) *Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea*

Fairly common in the forests of Mt. Kitanglad (subspecies *hutchinsoni*).

Monarchs Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Seen in small numbers on all three main islands visited.

Short-crested Monarch (E) *Hypothymis helenae*

One or more seen at PICOP Mindanao.

Celestial Monarch *Hypothymis coelestis*

This now very rare species was seen well at PICOP.

Blue Paradise Flycatcher (E) *Terpsiphone cyanescens*

This beautiful Palawan endemic was encountered almost daily on Palawan.

Rufous Paradise Flycatcher (NE) *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*

Two to three were seen well at PICOP, Mindanao.

Crows & Jays Corvidae

Palawan Crow *Corvus pusillus*

Up to twenty of this very distinctive endemic were seen daily.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos philippinus*

Regular sightings on Luzon and Mindanao

Tits Paridae

Elegant Tit (E) *Periparus elegans*

Fairly common on Mt.Kitinglad, Mindanao.

Palawan Tit (E) *Periparus amabilis*

Seen near Sabang and at Iwahig.

Bulbuls Pycnonotidae

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps*

Only seen near Puerto Princesa on our last day.

Yellow-wattled Bulbul (E) *Pycnonotus urostictus*

Regularly seen on Mount Makiling, Luzon and at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Five subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded two, the subspecies *urostictus* on Luzon and *philippensis* on Mindanao.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

A common bird of secondary scrub and seen virtually every day of the tour whilst on Luzon and Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded two, subspecies *goiavier* on Luzon and *suluensis* on Mindanao.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus cinereifrons*

Another widespread Asian species, we had several sightings on Palawan.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres frater*

Another widespread Asian species found in the Philippines only on the island of Palawan where we enjoyed daily sightings of up to six birds.

Sulphur-bellied Bulbul (E) *Iole palawanensis*

We found this Palawan endemic daily at forested sites.

Philippine Bulbul (E) *Ixos philippinus*

The most common endemic throughout the Philippines, we encountered this species virtually daily on Luzon and Mindanao.

Notes: We recorded saturation on Mindanao and *philippinus* on Luzon.

Yellowish Bulbul (E) *Ixos everetti*

We had good sightings of about four per day at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded one, the subspecies *everetti*.

Swallows & Martins Hirundinidae

Brown-throated Martin *Riparia paludicola*

We found two at Bagabag marshes.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

We recorded small numbers of these winter migrants throughout the tour.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, and we saw both together, the cinnamon-bellied *saturata* (which we saw only at Candaba) and white-bellied *gutturalis* at Candaba and elsewhere.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica javanica*

Commonly encountered throughout the tour

Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata striolata*

First seen at the Los Banos University Campus in good numbers, followed by a few scattered sightings.

Larks Alaudidae

Australian Bushlark *Mirafra javanica*

One or more near Los Banos at the International Rice Research Institute.

Oriental Skylark *Alauda gulgula wolofei*

Several of the resident endemic subspecies at the International Rice Research Institute.

Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies Cettidae

Philippine Bush Warbler (E) *Cettia seebohmi*

Several seen and many more heard from the dense undergrowth on Mt. Polis, Luzon.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*

Skulking but eventually seen well at Mt. Polis, Luzon.

Rufous-headed Tailorbird (E) *Phyllergates heterolaemus*

We observed up to four daily on Mt. Kitinglad, Mindanao.

Leaf Warblers & Allies Phylloscopidae

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

This migrant was seen on three dates in Luzon.

Raddes Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

This scarce migrant was seen and taped at Candaba swamp. There have only been a handful of confirmed records from the Philippines.

Philippine Leaf Warbler (E) *Phylloscopus olivaceus*

A few were seen at PICOP, Mindanao.

Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*

Small numbers on Mt. Polis, Luzon (benguetensis) and a further six on Mt. Kitinglad, Mindanao (flavostiatus). The taxonomy of this group is poorly understood but it is highly likely that birds in the Philippines will be split as an endemic species, or perhaps more than one endemic species (there are seven subspecies presently recognized in the Philippine Islands).

Reed Warblers & Allies Acrocephalidae

Oriental Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus orientalis*

We had great views of two at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Clamorous Reed Warbler *Acrocephalus stentoreus harterti*

At least 15 were seen and heard displaying in the reeds at the Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Grassbirds & Allies Megaluridae

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

Several at Mt. Kitinglad, Mindanao of the subspecies *crex*.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris forbesi*

Seen at scattered locations throughout the tour with up to twenty birds in a single day at the Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Long-tailed Bush Warbler (E) *Bradypterus caudatus*

Several birds were heard calling on Mt. Polis, Luzon and some of us managed brief views. Later we saw the subspecies *unicolor* on Mt. Kitinglad. These two taxa are vocally and morphologically different and certainly represent different species

Lanceolated Warbler *Locustella lanceolata*

One seen briefly by Frank and others at Candaba Marsh, Luzon.

Cisticolas & Allies Cisticolidae

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

One near Mt. Makiling at the Rice Research Institute and another at Candaba.

Golden-headed Cisticola *Cisticola exilis semirufa*

One was seen briefly on our way to Manila on our last day on Luzon.

Philippine Tailorbird (E) *Orthotomus castaneiceps*

Heard and seen at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Rufous-fronted Tailorbird (E) *Orthotomus frontalis*

We enjoyed good views of one at PICOP where common by voice.

Grey-backed Tailorbird (E) *Orthotomus derbianus*

Three of these skulking birds were seen well in a vine tangle on Mt. Makiling, Luzon.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus nuntius*

Several sightings on Palawan, first near mangroves close to Puerto Princesa and others in forested areas we visited.

Black-headed Tailorbird (E) *Orthotomus nigriceps*

Another skulker, but eventually seen very well at PICOP, Mindanao.

Babblers Timaliidae

Ashy-headed Babbler (E) *Malacocincla cinereiceps*

We had good views of several near Sabang, Palawan.

Melodious (Palawan) Babbler (E) *Malacopteron palawanense*

This shy and highly localized Palawan endemic was seen well at Iwahig Penal Colony.

Striated Wren-Babbler (E) *Ptilocichla mindanensis*

This amazing songster showed well at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded mindanensis.

Falcated Wren-Babbler (E) *Ptilocichla falcata*

A very shy terrestrial species which we had brief glimpses of near Sabang.

Mindanao Pygmy Babbler (E) *Stachyris plateni*

We recorded small groups on several occasions at PICOP, Mindanao.

Rusty-crowned Babbler (E) *Stachyris capitalis*

Up to six birds were seen daily in the forest at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines; we saw the subspecies euroaustralis.

Chestnut-faced Babbler (E) *Stachyris whiteheadi*

We found up to 15 birds a day on the slopes of Mt. Polis, Luzon.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw the subspecies whiteheadi.

Grey-banded Wren-Babbler *Robsonius sorsogonensis*

Heard singing by Frank and some of the participants at Subic Bay. Its voice is so high-pitched that some people cannot hear it. It seems that this species has not been recorded from this site previously.

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronus gularis woodi*

Small numbers were found daily on the island of Palawan. This taxon seems likely to be split as Palawan Tit-Babbler. It looks very different to the recently split *M. bornensis* on nearby Borneo but is similar to the more distant populations of *M. gularis* of mainland Asia. All three taxa sound very similar.

Brown Tit-Babbler (E) *Macronus striaticeps*

Small numbers observed on Mt. Kitanglad and at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded one, the endemic subspecies mindanensis.

White-eyes Zosteropidae

Lowland White-eye (E) *Zosterops meyeri*

We had excellent views of several on the Los Banos University Campus, Luzon.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded the subspecies meyeri.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*

We saw at least two at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Five subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded basilanicus.

Yellowish White-eye (E) *Zosterops nigrorum*

We found this species around our hotel in Banaue, north Luzon.

Notes: Eight subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded luzonicus.

Mountain White-eye *Zosterops montanus*

Several were seen daily on Mt. Polis, Luzon with further sightings of up to 50 a day on Mt. Kitinglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Seven subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded two, the subspecies whiteheadi on Luzon and subspecies vulcani on Mindanao.

Mindanao Ibon (Mindanao White-eye) (E) *Lophozosterops goodfellowi*

We found three on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded goodfellowi.

Cinnamon Ibon (White-eye) (E) *Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*

Up to 15 were seen daily in the mountain forest of Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Fairy-bluebirds Irenidae

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella tweeddalei*

Common on the island of Palawan where we enjoyed many sightings.

Nuthatches Sittidae

Sulphur-billed Nuthatch (E) *Sitta oenochlamys*

We enjoyed good views at Mt.Makiling and Mt Polis, Luzon and at Mt.Kitinglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Six subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded isarog on Luzon and apo on Mindanao.

Starlings Sturnidae

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis panayensis*

A widespread Asian species seen in small numbers especially on Mindanao and Palawan.

Short-tailed Glossy Starling *Aplonis minor todayensis*

Only seen on Mt. Kitanglad where we had superb views of several.

Apo Myna (E) *Basilornis mirandus*

We enjoyed repeated views of several on Mount Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Coledo (NE) *Sarcops calvus*

Several seen at Subic, Luzon and others daily at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded melanotus on Mindanao and calvus on Luzon.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa palawanensis*

Several near Sabang and at least 15 at Iwahig, Palawan.

[Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* INTRODUCED]

Observed on several occasions during the tour.

Philippine Creepers Rhabdornithidae

Stripe-headed Creeper (Stripe-sided Rhabdornis) (E) *Rhabdornis mystacalis*

We had good views of at least ten on Mt.Makiling, and one at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded mystacalis on Luzon and minor on Mindanao.

Stripe-breasted Creeper (Rhabdornis) (E) *Rhabdornis inornatus*

We had good views of 4-5 on Mt.Kitinglad Mindanao.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded alaris

Thrushes Turdidae

Island Thrush *Turdus poliocephalus*

Small numbers were seen well on Mt. Polis, Luzon

Notes: Seven subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded thomassoni.

Eyebrowed Thrush *Turdus obscurus*

Some of the group had brief views of one at Mt.Polis.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*

We heard many on Mt Polis and on Mt.Kitanglad, Mindanao and managed glimpses of one on Mt Polis.

Notes: Seven subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw poliogyna and heard mindanensis on Mindanao.

Chats, Old World Flycatchers Muscicapidae

Siberian Rubythroat *Luscinia calliope*

This common migrant and wintering species was seen very well at Candaba Swamp where at least five birds were found, including several adult males.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

This widespread songster of Asia was seen regularly at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Two endemic subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded mindanensis..

White-browed Shama (E) *Copsychus luzoniensis*

We had great views of one on Mt.Makiling and heard some at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded luzoniensis. Birds in the Visayan islands are very different and are to be split off as a separate species.

White-vented Shama (E)*Copsychus niger*

This common endemic was seen near Sabang and in St. Paul Subterranean NP.

Luzon Water Redstart (E)*Rhyacornis bicolor*

We had incredible views of a pair at Mt. Polis and saw them attending a nest on 12 April.

Pied Bush Chat*Saxicola caprata*

This widespread Asian species was seen on three dates in Luzon.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded *caprata* on Luzon.

Rufous-tailed (Chestnut-tailed) Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias ruficauda*

We had close views of one bird in the forest at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Five endemic subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded *samarensis*. There is a paper in preparation splitting this species into 2-3 species, so that birds on Mindanao will be recognized as an endemic Philippine species in the future.

Grey-streaked Flycatcher*Muscicapa griseisticta*

Seen virtually daily in small numbers throughout the trip

Snowy-browed Flycatcher*Ficedula hyperythra*

This widespread Asian species was seen well on Mt. Kitanglad

Notes: Eight subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded *montigena*.

Palawan Flycatcher (E)*Ficedula platenae*

We had nice views of this elusive and localised Palawan endemic at Iwahig.

Little Slaty Flycatcher (E)*Ficedula basilanica*

Some of us managed to see one at PICOP, Mindanao. Skulking!

Little Pied Flycatcher*Ficedula westermanni*

We enjoyed daily sightings on Mt. Polis and Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded the endemic *rabori* on Luzon and *westermanni* on Mindanao.

Turquoise (Island) Flycatcher*Eumyias panayensis*

Our first sightings were at Mount Polis, Luzon followed by daily sightings on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded *negrimentalis* on Luzon and *nigriloris* on Mindanao.

Palawan Blue Flycatcher (E)*Cyornis lemprieri*

We enjoyed close views of this endemic species on three dates in Palawan.

Leafbirds Chloropseidae**Philippine Leafbird (E)***Chloropsis flavipennis*

Several seen at PICOP on Mindanao.

Yellow-throated Leafbird (E)*Chloropsis palawanensis*

We enjoyed daily sightings of this attractive Palawan endemic with up to 15 seen daily.

Flowerpeckers Dicaeidae**Olive-backed Flowerpecker (E)***Prionochilus olivaceus*

Three birds were found in the lowland rainforest of PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded *olivaceus*.

Palawan Flowerpecker (E)*Prionochilus plateni*

This fine Palawan endemic was seen on three dates

Notes: Two subspecies: we saw *plateni*.

Striped Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum aeruginosum*

We had great views of one on Mt. Makiling, Luzon and several near Sabang, Palawan.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded *striatissimum* on Luzon and *affine* on Palawan.

Olive-capped Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum nigrilore*

Up to eight were seen daily in the mossy forest on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw *nigrilore*.

Flame-crowned Flowerpecker (E)*Dicaeum anthonyi*

We saw several on Mt Polis, Luzon, and one at Mt Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw the nominate subspecies on Luzon and kampilili on Mindanao. It is possible that these are in fact different species.

Bicoloured Flowerpecker (E) *Dicaeum bicolor*

We saw two at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded bicolor on Mindanao.

Red-keeled Flowerpecker (E) *Dicaeum australe*

We enjoyed regular sightings throughout the tour.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

We saw this species at Mt Makiling, Luzon and at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded xanthopygium on Luzon and cinereigularis on Mindanao.

Buzzing (White-bellied) Flowerpecker (E) *Dicaeum hypoleucum*

We recorded several at Mt.Kitanglad and at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Five subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw pontifex on Mindanao.

Pygmy Flowerpecker (E) *Dicaeum pygmaeum*

We had regular sightings in Palawan.

Notes: Five subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded palawanorum on Palawan.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

We saw several males on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw subspecies apo.

Sunbirds Nectariniidae

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

This species was seen at Mt Makiling, Luzon, and regularly on Palawan.

Notes: Eight endemic subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded birgitae on Luzon, and paraguayae on Palawan. More than one species may be involved.

Purple-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata*

First seen on Mt Makiling, Luzon then at PICOP and in Palawan

Notes: Five subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded trochilus on Palawan and Mindanao and subspecies sperata on Luzon. More than one species may be involved.

Copper-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma calcostetha*

We had superb views of both sexes of these mangrove-loving birds on Palawan.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*

This widespread Asian species was found on several occasions on Luzon Palawan.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded aurora on Palawan (possibly a good species) and jugularis elsewhere.

Grey-hooded Sunbird (E) *Aethopyga primigenia*

This montane Mindanao endemic was found daily in the forest of Mt. Kitanglad.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded primigenia.

(Mount) Apo Sunbird (E) *Aethopyga boltoni*

We had exceptional views of a male in the high mossy cloud forest of Mt. Kitanglad.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded malindangensis.

Flaming Sunbird (E) *Aethopyga flagrans*

We had great views of three on Mt.Makiling, Luzon.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded flagrans.

Metallic-winged Sunbird (E) *Aethopyga pulcherrima*

We had several sightings on Mount Polis, Luzon followed by a further three at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded jefferyi on Luzon and pulcherrima on Mindanao.

Lovely Sunbird (E) *Aethopyga shelleyi*

Good numbers of these attractive birds were seen daily on the island of Palawan.

Handsome Sunbird (E) *Aethopyga bella*

We found several at PICOP, Mindanao and one at Mt Makiling.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra dilutior*

The distinctive form on Palawan was found daily in small numbers. It surely represents a good species.

Naked-faced Spiderhunter (E) *Arachnothera clarae*

We enjoyed several views at PICOP, Mindanao.

Notes: Four subspecies occur in the Philippines, we saw clarae.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

[Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* INTRODUCED]

This species was common in all towns and cities and in some agricultural areas.

Waxbills, Munias & Allies Estrildidae

Red-eared Parrotfinch (E) *Erythrura coloria*

We had unusually good views of this skulking and shy Mindanao endemic on Mt. Kitanglad, Mindanao.

Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannakin) *Lonchura punctulata cabanisi*

At least six seen on Palawan.

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra*

Small numbers were seen at Mt. Kitinglad, Mindanao with further sightings near Sabang, Palawan.

Notes: Three subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded palawana on Palawan and manueli on Mindanao.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*

We found this species virtually daily during the tour.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we recorded one, the subspecies jagori.

Wagtails & Pipits Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

Small numbers were seen in Luzon, Mindanao and Palawan.

Notes: Two subspecies occur in the Philippines, we only identified simillima for certain.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea robusta*

We found small numbers at various sites during the tour.

Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit *Anthus rufulus lugubris*

Seen regularly during the tour.

Pechora Pipit *Anthus gustavi*

We had nice views on a trail at Iwahig, Palawan. Subspecies not determined.

Finches Fringillidae

White-cheeked Bullfinch (E) *Pyrrhula leucogenis*

We had good scope views of two on Mount Kitanglad.

Annotated List of Mammal Species recorded

MAMMALS

Philippine Flying Fox *Pteropus speciosus*

We found large numbers at a day roost at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Golden-crowned Flying Fox *Acerodon jubatus*

We found large numbers at a day roost at Subic Bay, Luzon.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*

Two on Luzon and about 15 on Palawan.

Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel *Sundasciurus juvencus*

Seen daily on Palawan with up to four a day.

TreeShrew *Tupaia palawanensis*

A treeshrew seen very well near Sabang, Palawan was presumably this species.

Photo Credits: Philippine Eagle (R. Lindie), Stripe-headed Rhabdornis & Rough-crested Malkoha (T. Mallari), Silvery Kingfisher (B. De Leander), Palawan Hornbill (I. Sarenas) and Grey Imperial Pigeon (M. Villa).

Rockjumper Birding Tours
Worldwide Birding Adventures
PO Box 13972, Cascades, 3202, South Africa
Tel: +27 33 394 0225
Fax: +27 88 033 394 0225
Email: info@rockjumper.co.za
Alternative Email: rockjumperbirding@yahoo.com
Website: www.rockjumper.co.za