

Rockjumper Birding Tours Reconnaissance trip to the Philippines 2005

12th May - 8th June 2005

Luzon, Palawan, Negros, Bohol, Cebu, Mindanao

**Adam Riley, David Hoddinott, David Shackleford, Robert Dermer
and Erling Krabbe**

with

**Timothy H. Fisher, Manila
as local bird guide and tour operator**



Palawan Peacock-Pheasant



Great Philippine Eagle

**Trip report prepared by Erling Krabbe
Photographs by David Shackleford**

Introduction

This trip was the most successful birding trip to the Philippines that has ever been done, so far. Big words, but declared by Timothy Fisher, a long time Philippine bird expert and our invaluable local guide on the trip. Tim is the co-author of the important bird book of the Philippines, “A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines”, and has led a countless number of birding trips during many years.

On this four week trip in May-June 2005, an incredible 164 endemic or near-endemic bird species were observed, out of a total of 198 in the country. Of the missing 34, 19 are only found on islands or places we did not visit during the trip; and most of the other 15 are either scarce or rare. In fact, we only “dipped” on two fairly easy species: Ashy Ground-Thrush and Bagoba Babbler. According to Tim Fisher, the former Philippine trip record was 145 endemic or near-endemic species, made some years ago by a British birding team.

Every participant managed to see his 10 main target birds on the trip, that we each had listed prior to our arrival. The most popular birds among these were Great Philippine Eagle (alias Monkey-eating Eagle), Luzon Bleeding-heart, Steere’s Pitta, Whiskered Pitta, Palawan Peacock-Pheasant, Celestial Monarch, Wattled Broadbill (both species), Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove, Blue-capped Wood Kingfisher and Flame-throated Tree-Babbler.

This trip was a great experience for all the participants. We visited some of the best parts of the wonderful Philippine islands: Pristine mountain forests of Northern Sierra Madres mountains in Luzon, the incredible Underground River National Park of Palawan, impressive Mount Kanla-on of Negros, the famous Rajah Sikatuna National Park of Bohol in the picturesque Chocolate Hills, and a journey by a fine, old passenger ferry to the island of Mindanao in the south, to see the national bird, the Great Philippine Eagle on its breeding site.

The Philippines is a travel destination that should be visited before it’s too late. Forest in many places is being degraded quickly. The number of endemic bird species in the country is incredibly high compared to the size of the country, but unfortunately, many of the birds are listed as either “endangered”, “threatened” or “rare” due to forest exploitation, agriculture and urban development. Fortunately, the government has protected some important areas, but a much larger effort is needed to save many other important areas. PICOP logging concession area at Bislig in Mindanao is an example of this. The last, big lowland forest of the Philippines is now seriously threatened.

The South African birding tour company “Rockjumper Birding Tours”, led by Adam Riley, was interested in operating birding trips to the Philippines, so in 2005 a trip was arranged by Adam’s colleague at RBT, tour guide David Shackleford. David contacted Timothy H. Fisher in Manila, and Tim soon composed a four week itinerary to Luzon, Palawan, Negros, Bohol, Cebu and Mindanao, and offered to be our tour guide. The only available time to do the trip was in May-June – not the best time weather-wise, since these are the hottest months, and just before the rainy season; but we decided to do it anyway, and as mentioned, everything worked out very well, and the trip became a great success.

The Rockjumper participants were Adam Riley, David Shackleford and David Hoddinott. Moreover, Adam had invited two birding friends to join, Bob Dermer from Canada (Dovetail Birding) and myself, Erling Krabbe, from Denmark (biologist in Ministry of Environment). With

Timothy, our travel group consisted of 6 keen birders. We also had fine help from Tim's local guides, drivers and even porters in the different places we visited.

We largely avoided accidents, logistic problems, stomach trouble or any serious illness. Only the usual minor scratches and insect bites (I was twice attacked by a swarm of bees). The worst was a bad burn on Adam's leg when he spilled some boiling hot porridge.

The Philipinos are extremely friendly and helpful people. Everywhere, we were met by great hospitality and warmth, and at no time did we feel less than completely safe.

In other words – the Philippines is a great country to visit, but birders should not wait too long to go.

Erling Krabbe
Copenhagen, Denmark

February 26th 2007

Abbreviated Birding Itinerary

- Day 1: Thursday May 12th 2005. Luzon.**
In the morning, most of the team joins at Ninoy Aquino Airport, Manila. Then drive to Los Baños at the foot of Mt. Makiling, 2 hours drive south of Manila. Afternoon birding in Los Baños Botanical Garden, the university campus and along the buttonquail trail. The rest of the team joins in the evening. Accommodation at Trees Lodge.
- Day 2 Friday May 13th 2005. Luzon**
a.m. Morning walk along road up Mt. Makiling, birding in the fine forest. Afternoon birding at Los Baños University campus, Botanical garden and the buttonquail track. Afternoon drive back to hotel in Manila. Dinner at a restaurant with Arne Jensen.
- Day 3 Saturday May 14th 2005. Luzon**
Very early morning departure by car from Manila towards Banaue in the north. Morning stop at Candaba Marsh. We continued at 9.15 a.m., and arrived at Banaue Hotel at 7.30 p.m., more than ten hours later. A long drive.
- Day 4 Sunday May 15th 2005. Luzon**
From 4.15 a.m. to 17.45 p.m. A full day birding on Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mountains, northern Luzon, near Banaue. Accommodation at Banaue Hotel.
- Day 5 Monday 16th May 2005. Luzon**
Morning drive by car from Banaue to the village of Baliwag near Tuguegarao. Afternoon walk from Baliwag to "Camp 1" at the foot of Mt. Dos Carneros, in Northern Sierra Madres Mountains. Overnight stay in tents in Camp 1.
- Day 6 Tuesday 17th May 2005. Luzon**
Walk from Camp 1 uphill to Hamut Camp through mountain forest, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.
- Day 7 Wednesday 18th May 2005. Luzon**
Birding all day around Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.
- Day 8 Thursday 19th May 2005. Luzon**
Walk from Hamut Camp down to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.
- Day 9 Friday 20th May 2005. Luzon and Palawan**
Early morning walk back to the village of Baliwag. Drive to Tuguegarao airport. Flight to Puerto Princesa, Palawan, via Manila. Arrival Palawan 16.40 p.m. Late afternoon birding at mangrove coast in Puerto Princesa.
- Day 10 Saturday 21st May 2005. Palawan**
Morning drive from Puerto Princesa to Sabang, birding in the forest along the road. Arrival at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel in Sabang at 11.30 a.m. Birding around hotel in forest, and coast in the afternoon, and after dark with spotlights.
- Day 11 Sunday 22nd May 2005. Palawan**
All day in Underground River National Park, Sabang. Evening drive to Lions Cave near Sabang, to listen for owls and frogmouth.
- Day 12 Monday 23rd May 2005. Palawan**
Walk from hotel in Sabang to Central Park Station, Underground River National Park. Birding in forest around Central Park Station and Mangrove Trail. Return to hotel by lunchtime. At 14.10 p.m. we drove back to Puerto Princesa, checking Tagburos Salt pans on the way.
- Day 13 Tuesday 24th May 2005. Palawan**
Early morning drive from Puerto Princesa to Iwahig Penal Colony. Birding in rice paddies, and along the Bautahan River Trail in the forest. Drive to Iwahig Fish ponds,

and then heading on for the village of Narra on the south coast. Check in at La Vista Lodge. Evening boat trip to the island of Rasa.

Day 14 Wednesday 25th May 2005. Palawan and Negros

Early morning drive from Narra to Puerto Princesa Airport, birding along Zigzag Road and Napsan Road on the way. Flight 10.40 a.m. to Bacolod in Negros, via Manila Airport. Unfortunately, we wasted most of the day in Manila airport. Check in at Royal Amrey Hotel in Bacolod, Negros.

Day 15 Thursday 26th May 2005. Negros

Full day birding on Mt. Kanlaon. Visit to Mambukal reserve on the way back to Bacolod. Night in Bacolod.

Day 16 Friday 27th May 2005. Negros, Cebu and Bohol

Early morning flight from Bacolod Airport to Manadaue City, Cebu. Taxi from airport to the harbour, where we waited from 9.30 a.m. to 13.45 p.m., for the ferry departure to Bohol. Arrival in Tagbilaran harbour, Bohol, and drive to Chocolate Hills Hotel. Check in, and then straight to Rajah Sikatuna National Park, where we birded until dark. Return to hotel.

Day 17 Saturday 28th May 2005. Bohol

Full day birding in Rajah Sikatuna National Park.

Day 18 Sunday 29th May, 2005. Bohol, Cebu

Morning birding in Rajah Sikatuna N.P. until 11.15 a.m. Drive to harbour of Tagbilaran, and ferry at 13.30 p.m. to Cebu City. Check in to Hotel Monte Bello, Cebu City.

Day 19 Monday 30th May 2005. Cebu

Full day birding in Central Cebu National Park. Late afternoon return to Cebu City, and boarding of passenger ship to Cagayan de Oro, Mindanao. Evening departure.

Day 20 Tuesday 31st May 2005. Mindanao

Arrival in Mindanao 7.15 a.m. Breakfast at seaside hotel in Cagayan de Oro. Drive to the village of Dalwangang in Bukidnon Province at the foothills of Mt. Kitanglad. Then drive up the mountain to the village of Damitan. From here, trekking up to Del Monte Eco-Lodge, Mt. Kitanglad. Afternoon birding around lodge.

Day 21 Wednesday 1st June 2005. Mindanao

Full day birding on Mount Kitanglad.

Day 22 Thursday 2nd June 2005. Mindanao

Full day birding on Mount Kitanglad.

Day 23 Friday 3rd June 2005. Mindanao

After breakfast, return walk down the mountain at 6.30 a.m. Full day driving from Damitan to Bislig, via Davao. Arrival at Paper Country Inn, Bislig at 18.45 p.m.

Day 24 Saturday 4th June 2005. Mindanao

Full day birding in PICOP forest area at Bislig. Late afternoon at Bislig airport.

Day 25 Sunday 5th June 2005. Mindanao

Full day birding in PICOP forest area at Bislig. From 3.30 a.m. until dark.

Day 26 Monday 6th June 2005. Mindanao

Morning birding from 4.00 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. in PICOP. Drive to Davao.

Day 27 Tuesday 7th June 2005. Mindanao

Full day birding trip to Mt. Sinaka. Return to hotel in Davao at night.

Day 28 Wednesday 8th June 2005. Mindanao and Luzon

Morning flight at 8 a.m. from Davao airport to Manila. Arrival in Manila at 9.15 a.m. Farewell to Tim. Rented dayroom in hotel. Sightseeing in Manila, before home flight (Denmark, South Africa and Canada) in the evening, or on the following day.

Books to bring

The bird book to bring along is “A Guide to the Birds of the Philippines” by R.S. Kennedy, P.C. Gonzales, E. C. Dickinson, H. C. Miranda, jr. and T. H. Fisher. Oxford 2000.

An invaluable book, with great illustrations, detailed distribution maps and, not least, a very thorough species description with habits, voice, status, and even exact distribution for each of the many endemic subspecies in the different islands.

We were lucky to have one of the authors of the book, Timothy H. Fisher, along as our trip leader, so expert information on the birds was at close hands. As might any author, Tim often talked about the few errors in the book, and the much-debated issue in Philippine birds as to whether certain subspecies should be recognized as full species or not. The book is rather conservative in this matter – but, during recent years, a number of subspecies in the book are now generally accepted to have full species status.

Weather conditions

May and June are considered to be the hottest months of the year in the Philippines. This is just before the rainy season starts. And practically all the wintering migrants are gone. So, it did not seem to be the perfect time of the year to visit the Philippines. However, this was our only opportunity in a busy schedule, so we decided to take the chance. Without a doubt, we were very lucky. The weather was dry and sunny almost the entire trip, bird activity was quite high in spite of the hot time of the year, and we just avoided the rainy season! Only in Mindanao, Negros and Bohol we had a few afternoon showers after fine, sunny mornings (Mt. Kanla-on, Mt. Kitanglad and Mt. Sinaka), but according to Tim, this is the normal situation all year round.

Practically, all our time in Luzon, Palawan, Cebu and even Bislig in Mindanao was dry and sunny – a very lucky situation. In fact, it had just cleared after several days of heavy showers prior to our arrival in both Palawan and Bohol.

On the very last day of the trip, June 8th, when we had returned from Mindanao to Manila in Luzon to fly home in the evening, it was pouring down, and the rainy season had started!

Acknowledgements

Our acknowledgments should all be given to Timothy Fisher and his staff of local guides, drivers and porters, who, together, contributed so much to make this trip such a complete success.

Thanks to Adam Riley and Bob Dermer, for proofreading and additions to this trip report.

Trip journal

Thursday May 12th: Luzon, Los Banos

This incredible bird trip started in a steaming hot Manila, the capital of the Philippines. Our local bird guide and tour operator, the renowned Timothy H. Fisher, picked up the first arrivals, Bob Dermer and Erling Krabbe, at 9.00 a.m. at the Malate Pension House in Adriatico Street in the heart of the city, and they went to the International Airport in Manila to pick up Rockjumper Birding Tours guide, David Shackelford (Shack), who arrived straight from a birding trip in Australia. The last two tour participants, Adam Riley and David Hoddinott, would only arrive from South Africa later in the afternoon, so we decided that Bob, Shack and Erling should head on with Tim's assistant to Los Baños at the foot of Mt. Makiling – our first birding destination on the trip - to get acquainted with the first endemic, Philippine birds. Meanwhile, Tim would wait for Adam and David, and join us later. A couple of hours later in Los Banos at the foot of Mount Makiling, the "scout group" enjoyed the rich bird life in the Botanical Garden, at the university campus and along the famous "Buttonquail track" among fields at the foot of the mountain – a good site for the endemic Spotted Buttonquail. We were rewarded with our first endemic Philippine birds like the stunning **Indigo-banded Kingfisher**, **Handsome Sunbird**, **Spotted Buttonquail** and the enigmatic **Stripe-headed Rhabdornis**, the latter being a representative to an endemic passerine family of three species, being somewhat similar in behaviour to nuthatches.

At dark, the rest of the team joined us at the Trees Lodge hotel. When greetings were finished, we went straight outside to spotlight a calling **Philippine Hawk-Owl**! No time to waste, and our Philippine adventure had started.

The weather of the day was cloudy, hot (37 degrees Celsius midday) and humid, with a brief shower during the drive to Los Banos.



Downtown Manila

Friday May 13th: Luzon, Mt. Makiling

At the break of dawn a quarter to five, we started to walk along the road up Mt. Makiling. Weather was clear and it was a fine morning. The mountain has a good rainforest and birding was great. Everyone was very keen, this being our first birding morning in the Philippines, at a fine locality. During the morning, we had superb views of birds like the magnificent **Spotted Wood-Kingfisher**, **Red-bellied Pitta**, **White-browed Shama**, **Luzon Tarictic Hornbill**, **Sulphur-billed Nuthatch**, **Elegant Tit**, and **Philippine Trogon**. Some of the group heard a cooing **Luzon Bleeding-heart Pigeon** – a bird becoming increasingly rare. We looked in vain for Ashy Ground Thrush along the roadside.

Fresh coconut milk was enjoyed through a straw stuck into green coconuts, bought at a foodstall along the forest road.

Back down again, we repeated yesterday's birding at the university campus, botanical garden and buttonquail track. In the botanical garden the **Indigo-banded Kingfisher** pair was not present at yesterday's site, but Adam and Dave soon found one in a gully, and as a bonus flushed **Scale-feathered Malkoha** as well as **Red-crested Malkoha**. At the "buttonquail trail" we had even more luck than yesterday, with two **Spotted** and two **Barred Buttonquails** on the trail.



After lunch in Los Banos town, we returned to Manila, and checked into a different and better hotel. We enjoyed dinner at a restaurant with Arne Jensen, a Danish conservationist and birder, who had been working in the Philippines for the last 10 years at government level on nature conservation.

Stripe-headed Rhabdornis, belonging to an endemic bird family of the Philippines. Mt. Makiling, Luzon.

Saturday May 14th: Luzon, Candaba Marsh and drive to Banaue

Our journey continued towards the north of Luzon. We left Manila by car very early in the morning in darkness and arrived at the famous bird spot Candaba Marshes after sunrise, at 6.40 am. It was a fine morning. The marsh was swarming with wetland birds. Herons, ducks, bitterns, crakes, grebes etc. Highlights were 40 **Pheasant-tailed Jacanas** in breeding plumage, with amazing long tails. Moreover, **Greater Painted-snipe**, **Black Bittern**, **Watercock**, the first sighting of 400 endemic **Philippine Ducks**, **Oriental Pratincoles** at their breeding site, **Barred Rails**, and a delayed, wintering **Arctic Warbler**.

We continued at 9.15 a.m., and arrived in Banaue at 7.30 p.m., more than ten hours later; a long drive across the cultivated Luzon landscape towards the north. Not much forest is to be seen in this landscape, with only a few, scattered patches here and there. We checked in at the comfortable Banaue Hotel.

Sunday May 15th: North Luzon. Full day at Mount Polis, Cordillera Mountains

Accommodated at the foothills of Mt. Polis, the mountain was our aim for birding this whole day. We got up at 3 in the morning, and drove in pitch darkness to the top, arriving at the police station at 4.15. From there, we walked in the beam of torchlights on a narrow, muddy path along the steep edge of the mountain side for quite a distance. Our target was the rare **Luzon Scops-Owl**. When we finally got to the place in the mountain forest, the owl started to call very close by, and continued even after the break of dawn. However, we never managed to see the bird. It did not seem to respond to the tape. It was a beautiful sunrise and a magnificent view from the mountain over the valleys deep below.

The first songster to announce the new day was **White-browed Shortwing**, with its fine, high-pitched musical song. **Luzon Bush-Warbler** seemed to be common in the mossy mountain rain forest, and if your hearing was good, the **Long-tailed Ground-Warbler** was audible with its extremely high-pitched, insect-like call from here and there. We even had good views of a few of

them. We walked back through some cabbage fields, and encountered a family group of the endemic **Mountain Shrike**, and a **Pechora Pipit** walking on the ground.



Sunrise at Mt. Polis



Mt. Polis scenery

Later in the morning, we continued birding along the asphalt road leading down along the north side of the mountain. Bird life was rich here, and the road gave good opportunities to see them at eye level or from above. Good mountain birds were, among others, **Green-backed Whistler**, **Mountain White-eye**, **Chestnut-faced Babbler**, **White-cheeked Bullfinch**, **Metallic-winged Sunbird**, **Island Thrush**, **Citrine Canary-Flycatcher**, **Mountain Verditer-Flycatcher** and **Blue-headed Fantail**. We heard the enigmatic **Whiskered Pitta** calling from a distant valley, and in the river deep below at the village of Bay-yo we scoped four **Luzon Water Redstarts** sitting on rocks in the rushing rapids. Over the mountain top a **Mountain Racquettail** was racing by, and we saw a local breeding pair of **European Buzzards** (Japanese subspecies), and a **Philippine Serpent-Eagle**. We spent some time listening to singing **Benguet Bush-Warblers** in open pine-forest grassland, but never managed to see any birds.

The day was very productive. Our last target bird was the rare **Flame-crowned Flowerpecker**, and after waiting some time at a roadside fruiting tree our patience was rewarded by a brief visit to the tree by fine male. At 17.45 we drove down the mountain, and spent the night at the hotel in Banaue, after an excellent birding day.



Terraces at Mt. Polis

Monday May 16th: North Luzon. Drive to Tuguegarao, and trekking to Camp 1 on Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.

Our next destination in north Luzon was the Sierra Madres Mountains along the North-East coast. We drove to Tuguegarao, and from there to a small village called Baliwag. It is the closest you can get to the mountain forest. Our goal the first day was “Camp 1” at the foot of the mountain, and the next day to climb to the so-called Hamut Camp high up in the mountain forest, a camp established by a group of Danish birders in the 1990’s (Arne Jensen, among others).

We arrived at Baliwag at noon in very hot and sunny weather. A group of porters was arranged in a house with a friendly family, and off we went from 2 pm. to 18.15 pm in the baking sun. Four hours of strenuous walking through hilly, open grassland, before we reached the forest and the foot of the mountain Dos Carneros. Our fitness state was severely tested during this tortuous trip. Not unexpectedly, the three young, fit men from Rockjumper were doing better than Bob, Erling and Tim. The worst factor was the heat – rather than the walk itself. However, all of us reached Camp 1 at the foot of the mountain in reasonable time. The porters had already established the camp, tents and dinner was soon ready. Before that, we cooled down with a blissful shower in a nearby stream.

During the walk we saw a beautiful pair of **Pied Harriers** close by in the glowing afternoon sun, possibly a breeding pair. Other grassland birds were **Tawny Grassbird**, **Striated Grassbird**, **Spotted Buttonquail**, **Buff-banded Rail**, **Golden-headed** and **Zitting Cisticolas** and **Oriental Skylark**. At the village near Camp 1 Shack, Adam and Hoddinott were lucky to see a flock of the rare, endemic **Green-faced Parrotfinch**. This species had an irruption year in 2004 that we probably did benefit a bit from. Best observation in Camp 1 was after dark at bedtime, when a **Northern Luzon Slender-tailed Cloud Rat** was found climbing in a tree right above our tents. This Luzon endemic, red-listed mammal is very rarely seen, being strictly nocturnal. Fine digital pictures and video were obtained by Shack and Adam. Unfortunately, Tim was already fast asleep.



Northern Luzon Slender-tailed Cloud Rat



Butterfly in Luzon

Tuesday May 17th: North Luzon, Mt. Dos Carneros from Camp 1 to Hanut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.

We started out with a morning walk at 5 am. in the vicinity of Camp 1, before leaving. Birding here was fine: Our first **Philippine Falconet**, stunning views of **Scale-feathered Malkoha**, **Rufous Coucal**, several **Rufous Hornbills** – a magnificent bird, **Blackish Cuckoo-shrike**, **Lemon-throated Warbler**, **Golden-crowned Babbler** and **White-lored Oriole**. Best bird observation of the morning was when Tim picked out a call from the rare **White-fronted Tit**, and spotted it flying over an open grass area. It landed shortly in a big tree, at a distance. Field identification marks were seen sufficiently well (black body, white front), but better views were desired. It was not seen well by the whole group.



Mountain Verditer Flycatcher



The stately Rufous Hornbill in Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Back at the camp we had breakfast, including boiling hot porridge. Poor Adam unluckily spilled a bowl-full on his leg, and got a severe burn. He was brave – it must have hurt like hell. Adam battled with this big wound for weeks after. Fortunately, he managed to keep it free from infection.

We started our walk up the mountain, through beautiful mountain rain forest. The pace was slow, and in the shadow from the trees it was much easier going than the day before. During the walk we saw good birds like **Spotted Wood-Kingfisher**, **Yellow-bellied Whistler** and **Philippine Fairy-Bluebird**. In some dense bamboo thicket Tim found the elusive and difficult **Furtive Flycatcher** – a small, fine Luzon endemic. A bit further up we heard several cooing **Luzon Bleeding-hearts** near the path! Everyone was very keen to see this bird. Tim played the tape, and out came a Bleeding-heart walking on the very trail just behind us! A stunning bird. Not all saw it well, since it walked away, but later others of the group flushed a bird just next to the trail. Eventually, all managed to get more or less good views of different specimens of this incredible icon bird of the Philippines. Apparently, the part of the trail just below Hamut camp, holds a number of territories, so chances should be good to see the bird here.

We reached Hamut Camp after midday. All the porters had already made a fine camp by the stream, and raised the tents. They were busy cutting rattan palm leaves for plaiting baskets.

We would spend our next two nights here. After a bath in the river and a damned good cup of coffee, we spent the rest of the afternoon at a fruiting tree in the gully below the camp, that produced stunning scope views of **Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove**, **Cream-bellied Fruit-Dove** and **Amethyst Brown-Dove**. Near the camp in a rocky gully, Shack was lucky to get fine views of a **Whiskered Pitta**! After dark, a **Philippine Scops-Owl** was calling near the camp.



Hamut Camp



Scenery from Hamut Camp

Wednesday May 18th: North Luzon, Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.

We spent the whole day birding in the vicinity of Hamut Camp. A singing **Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher** woke us up from its song post just above our tents. We checked the fruiting tree, and after that tried for the **Whiskered Pitta**, that was calling around the camp. It is a very secretive bird. After climbing around a bit, Adam finally spotted this star bird on its song post in a tangle on the slope above us. A large and spectacular Pitta! We continued higher to a beautiful viewpoint, and later to Hunters Camp, high up on a ridge. Best birds of the day – apart from the Pitta, of course – was **Grand Rhabdornis** (seen by Shack only), **Stripe-headed Rhabdornis**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Luzon Montane Racquet-tail**, **Scale-feathered Malkoha**, **Rufous Hornbill** (several seen well from the viewpoint), **Flaming Sunbird**, **Olive-backed Flowerpecker**, **Buzzing Flowerpecker** and two **Green-faced Parrotfinches**.

Thursday May 19th: North Luzon, Hamut Camp, and walk down to Camp 1, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mountains.

It was time to close down the camp and move down again to Camp 1. Early morning birding at the camp produced a calling **Rabor's Wren-babbler** – heard by Tim and caught in a glimpse by Erling. Shack was lucky to see a **Blue-breasted Flycatcher** in the canopy in a bird wave – a Luzon endemic.

On the way down, no less than **6 Luzon Bleeding-hearts** were recorded calling, and one was taped in, and seen well walking on the forest floor by Adam. Other birds on the way down were **Red Junglefowl**, **Red-crested Malkoha**, **Scarlet Minivet** and **Philippine Tailorbird**. After some time, Tim suddenly declared, that now we were out of Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove area, meaning that altitude was now too low. A much wanted bird by everyone, that we had missed so far. Tim's frightening statement caused some unease in the group. Adam, Hoddinott and Shack then decided to walk back up again to a fruiting tree, to give it a chance. The rest of us stupidly decided to continue down. The efforts of the dove group were fully rewarded! They found a **Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove** hidden in the crown of the fruiting tree, and eventually all saw it very well, and even got photos. They were also rewarded by the presence of a very confident pair of **Rabor's Wren-Babbler**.

Down again at Camp 1 at dusk, a **Great Eared-Nightjar** was displaying, and Adam and Hoddinott saw two **Metallic Pigeons**.



Flamebreasted Fruit-Dove



Philippine Fairy-Bluebird

Friday May 20th: North Luzon, Camp 1, trekking back to Baliwag, then flight to Puerto Princesa in Palawan from Tuguegarao, via Manila.

A fine birding morning at Camp 1 from 5 to 6.40 am. A pair of **Sooty Woodpeckers** showed well in a fork of a big tree. **Bar-bellied** and **Blackish Cuckoo-shrikes**, **Rufous Hornbill**, **Black-and-white Triller**, **Luzon Striped Babbler**, and **White-lored Orioles**.

The walk back to Baliwag through open grassland country was much easier this time. First of all, it was a cool morning, and the sun was still low on the sky. It made a huge difference. We all saw a flock of **Green-faced Parrotfinches** well. Other birds along the route were **Whiskered Tree-Swift**, **Blue-tailed** and **Blue-throated Bee-eaters**, **Pied Bush Chats**, **Long-tailed Shrikes** and a **Rufous-bellied Eagle** at Baliwag.

From Baliwag we drove to the airport of Tuguegarao, and caught a plane via Manila to the paradise island of **Palawan** in the southwest part of the archipelago, which was our next destination on our incredible journey.

The island of Palawan is situated not far from the Bornean coast. Palawan is a long, narrow island, thinly populated and almost completely covered by forest. It has beautiful landscapes, and is characterised by a central mountain range of limestone cliffs. Although this island is comparatively small, it is truly blessed with birds, holding no fewer than 16 endemic bird species! The most famous is Palawan Peacock-Pheasant – one of the most beautiful pheasants in the world, and the flagship species of Palawan. Apart from the endemic birds, Palawan holds a number of widespread South-East Asian bird species, that can be seen only on this island in the Philippines.

We landed in the island capital Puerto Princesa at 16.40 pm. During landing, Erling spotted an unidentified **Frigatebird** over the sea from the plane, either Greater or Lesser Frigatebird.

Palawan was hot, humid and very lush and green. Our local guide Arnel Mallari welcomed us in the airport, and took us straight to our comfortable hotel in town. After a short break, we made a brief, late afternoon visit to the coast at a mangrove area. A **White-vented Shama** was sitting on a telephone wire – our first Palawan endemic. At the beach there were **Stork-billed** and **White-collared Kingfishers**, **Great Crested Tern**, and the waders **Greater Sandplover**, **Gray-tailed Tattler** and **Whimbrel**. A **Hooded Pitta** was calling from the mangrove vegetation, along with **Pied Fantails**.

Saturday May 21st: Palawan, birding along drive from Puerto Princesa to Sabang, and in Sabang

We left Puerto Princesa at ten to six in the morning, and drove towards Sabang straight across the narrow island to the coast on the north side. During our drive to Sabang we passed through good primary and secondary forest, and made a number of rewarding stops. Good views of no less than eight Palawan endemics **Palawan Flowerpecker**, **Lovely Sunbird**, **Yellow-throated Leafbird**, the lovely **Palawan Tit**, **Sulphur-bellied Bulbul**, 5 **Palawan Hornbills**, the magnificent **Blue Paradise-Flycatcher** and a pair of **Palawan Blue-Flycatchers**. A pair of **Oriental Hobby** plus a third chased each other in display over the forest road.



Lovely Sunbird – endemic to Palawan



The endemic Palawan Tit



Birding along the road in Palawan forest



Palawan Hornbill

Upon arrival in Sabang we checked in at a small, sleepy place called Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, where we stayed in cabins. It was very hot and humid, almost too hot for a midday nap. From the cabins there was a nice view over a small rice paddy area, which harboured 3 **Chinese Pond-Herons** in breeding plumage, **Watercock**, **Greater Painted-snipe** and a **Blue-eared Kingfisher** skirted by, now and then. Shack saw an **Eastern Reef Egret** on the nearby beach.

In the afternoon and evening we birded at the forest edge just behind the hotel. **Great Slaty Woodpecker**, **White-bellied Woodpecker**, **Asian Fairy-Bluebird** and the small “**Palawan Crow**” - a Palawan endemic subspecies of Slender-billed Crow - showed well. After dark, a brilliant **Javan Frogmouth** was taped in and caught in the torchlight, sitting on a branch just above our heads. We also had good views of a calling **Spotted Wood-Owl**.

Sunday May 22nd: Palawan, full day birding in St. Paul’s Underground River National Park. Evening at Lion’s Cave

Today was the big day for visiting the famous national park of Sabang - St. Paul’s Underground River National Park (now renamed “Puerto Princesa N.P.”). The park is the biggest tourist attraction in Palawan, and one of the biggest attractions in the Philippines as a whole. The national park is a limestone mountain area, covered by jungle. The coast is fringed by pristine sand beaches. An underground river flows 3½ kilometres from the centre of the mountain out into the sea, through a big tunnel system and huge limestone caves. The cave entrance at the beach is quite narrow. You can hire a boat and a guide, equipped with a big torchlight, and he will take you through the entrance along the river far into the pitch dark mountain caves. Illuminated by the torch, you can see thousands of bats and two species of swiftlets on the nest – **Palawan Swiftlet** and a few **Pale-rumped Swiftlets**, and impressive “cathedral domes”, along with incredible stalactite formations; a unique experience.

Leaving by boat from Sabang harbour, we arrived at the scenic beach and jungle at the cave entrance and visitor center at 6.15 am. We stayed in the park most of the day. Tim revealed that he had actually never done the underground river boat trip, in spite of having been there many times! Fortunately, he was persuaded by Erling to come along on an extra trip, and it was clear afterwards, that Tim was glad he’d joined us.

Apart from the incredible caves, the big attraction on the bird side is a male **Palawan Peacock-Pheasant**, that for several years has been holding territory in the jungle just behind the entrance of the national park. It is rather confident – or perhaps fearless, and sometimes even seems to follow people carefully, perhaps to chase them out of its territory. To our great relief, Arnel quickly found the bird. It was certainly, one of the highlights of the trip. Photo opportunities of this star bird were excellent, as it was possible to get as near as 5-6 metres. Several times it was calling eagerly.

Other good birds around the N.P. entrance area were **Tabon Scrubfowl**, **White-bellied Sea-Eagle** (only sighting during the trip), **Ruddy Kingfisher**, **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher**, **Hooded Pittas** hopping around, **Thick-billed Green-Pigeon**, endemic **Blue-headed Racquet-tails**, **Blue-naped Parrot**, **Great Slaty Woodpecker** and **Red-bellied Pittas**. The low-lying, flooded forest area at the far end of the board-walk, before the climb, seemed especially interesting.

In the evening, we did an owl trip to Lions Cave, a short drive from Sabang. A **Palawan Scops-Owl** was taped in and admired close by in the torchlight, and a **Javan Frogmouth** was calling from the forest.



The group at the underground River N.P. From left: Arnel, Erling, David H., Bob, Tim, Adam and David S.



Scenic beach at Underground River N.P.



River Tunnel in Underground River N.P.



Tunnel entrance

Monday May 23rd: Palawan, morning birding in St. Paul's Underground River National Park at Central Park Station and along beach and Mangrove Trail. Afternoon drive back to Puerto Princesa.

At 5.10 am. we walked from the hotel along the beach into the NP to the Central Park Station. Along the beach we looked in vain for Malaysian Plovers, that Tim had found breeding here a couple of months before. When we went into the forest, the path led up and down along steep limestone cliffs; a very exciting environment. Along the route, we heard two **Palawan Peacock-Pheasants** calling, but no sightings. Around the Central Park Station the forest is tall, rich and mature, with plenty of birds. Stunning **Blue-naped Parrots** were feeding in palm trees, and **Blue-headed Racquet-tails** were skirting by. Best bird of the day was a pair of **Falcated Ground-Babbler**, a beautiful, Palawan endemic, and quite hard to get. Tim knew a good site for this bird, on a small hill behind the central station, and we were lucky to see the pair at the trail.



Blue-naped Parrot



The Palawan endemic Yellow-throated Leafbird



Javan Frogmouth



The Palawan endemic Palawan Scops Owl



Hooded Pitta



Palawan Blue Flycatcher

On the way back we saw a single **Hill Myna**, an increasingly rare bird, unfortunately, due to the pet trade.

Tim and Erling did the Mangrove Trail, while the rest of the group were tempted by a swim and snorkel in the turquoise blue sea behind the white sand beach. The Mangrove Trail produced nice views of the Palawan endemic **Ashy-headed Babbler**, and a delayed winter visitor, an immature **Common Kingfisher**. On the afternoon drive back to Puerto Princesa, we stopped at a mangrove area as well as the Tagburos Salt pans. This added South-east Asian **Pink-necked Green-Pigeon** to the list, along with **Pied Triller**, **Common Iora** and **Copper-throated Sunbird**.

Tuesday May 24th: Palawan, morning visit to rice paddies and forest trail at Iwahig Penal Colony, and to Iwahig Fish Ponds. Afternoon drive to Narra. Late afternoon and evening boat trip to Rasa Island.

Early departure from Puerto Princesa to Iwahig Penal Colony – a famous birding site, in spite of the name! At 5.40 am the full moon was setting over the horizon and the sun rising over the rice paddies – a beautiful morning. Teeming with birds: **4 white heron species, Purple Heron and Striated Herons, Cinnamon Bitterns, White-browed Crakes, 12 Watercocks, 3 Greater Painted-snipes.** Walking through a semi-dry paddy in a line we flushed a fine **Slaty-breasted Rail** and **three Blue-breasted Quail.** The forest trail was also very productive: excellent views of three **Melodious Babblers**, a Palawan endemic, along with **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Ashy-headed Babbler, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Yellow-throated Leafbird, White-vented Shama, Hill Myna, Greater Flameback, Asian Fairy-Bluebird, Little Spiderhunter, Crested Serpent-Eagle, Fiery Minivet,** a flock of **Brown-backed Needletails** in the sky, and **Hooded Pittas** on the ground. A **Common Civet Cat** was running along the trail.

Afterwards, we drove to Iwahig Fish Ponds, where we were lucky to find three **Chinese Egrets** in breeding plumage, a rare bird, along with **waders** and a **Barred Buttonquail.**

Then south to Narra, and checked in at the nice La Vista Lodge at the seaside, ready for lunch. Erling took a swim in the all too warm sea, and was burned by jellyfish threads.

In the afternoon, Tim had arranged our boat trip to the uninhabited, forest covered “bounty island” of Rasa, not far from the coast. The aim was to see one of the Philippines most threatened endemic birds – the critically endangered parrot **Philippine Cockatoo.** A number of birds are known to come to roost for the night on this island. We sailed to the north tip of the island, and waited. The full moon was rising at sunset, and the sea around the beautiful coral reef was calm. In the distance, over the mainland mountains, there was thundering and lightening. At twilight, the white parrots silently appeared out of nowhere from the forest, and landed in the dead branches of a large tree. More and more came in, and eventually 75 birds had turned it into a brilliant, white Christmas tree! This holy moment was another of the many highlights of this trip.

After dark, we landed on the south side of the island, and managed to tape in and see a fine **Mantanani Scops-Owl.** 3-4 other birds were heard calling.



Philippine Cockatoos at night roost on Rasa Island



Palawan Hotel in Narra

Wednesday May 25th: Palawan, early morning drive from Narra to Puerto Princesa, with stops along the “Zig-zag Road” and Napson Road. Flight 10.40 am. from Palawan to Negros, via Manila.

At 5.10 am. We left Narra for Puerto Princesa – bound for a 10.40 am flight to Negros. However, we still had the morning drive along the so-called “Zig-zag Road” through good forest, on our way to the Palawan capital. A dense bamboo thicket was a stake out for the difficult and most wanted Palawan endemic, **Palawan Flycatcher**, and we were lucky to see and hear this fine, little elusive bird at close quarters. The site also had **Ashy-headed Babbler**. Along Napson Road, we birded in a wooded river bed. Six, stunning **Blue-headed Racquettails** came racing over, one by one, showing their fine racquets in the morning sun. Other nice birds were **Philippine Cuckoo-Dove**, **Blue-naped Parrot**, **Asian Drongo-Cuckoo**, **Rufous-tailed Tailorbird**, **Striped Tit-babbler**, **Palawan Flowerpecker** and **Ashy** and **Hair-crested Drongo**.

During the flight to Negros, we wasted most of the day on a stopover in Manila Airport, waiting for the Negros plane. Our only encouragement was 5 **Oriental Pratincoles** around the runway – they were probably breeding birds.

After dark, we finally arrived in Bacolod, the capital of the island of Negros, and checked in at the fancy Royal Amrey Hotel.

Thursday May 26th: Negros, morning on Mt. Kanla-on and afternoon visit to Mambukal Reserve. Evening in Bacolod.

The island of Negros is part of the Visayan Islands of the central Philippines. These islands also include Cebu and Bohol, among others. Not much forest is left in these islands, but the little there is contains important, endemic species. Therefore, we had decided to visit all the three mentioned islands, to see as much as possible. Except two almost extinct species (Negros Bleeding-heart and Negros Fruit-Dove) we managed to see all the Visayan specialities during our visit to the three islands.

Only the island of Mindoro (with five endemic birds), the Sulu Islands in the extreme south (also with five endemic birds) and the island of Calayan in the extreme north (with the newly discovered Calayan Rail) are places in the Philippines with additional endemic birds that we did not have time to visit during our four weeks journey to the Philippines. Probably, our planned itinerary could not have been composed any better within four weeks, if you wish to see as many of the Philippine specialities as possible, in a realistic way.

Large parts of the Negros landscape has been turned into sugar cane fields, but the large and scenic mountain of Mt. Kanla-on in the northern part of the island is still covered by jungle on the upper parts, below the crater, and is the best place in the island to see the Negros specialities.

We only spent 36 hours in Negros, and they were all donated to a short “Mt. Kanla-on expedition”. We started out extremely early at around 4 a.m. from Bacolod, and drove in darkness in a hired jeepney to the mountain. While ascending, the road got steadily worse, muddy and stony, and it remains a mystery how we made it the last stretch to the national park entrance. Thousands of roosters were calling from little cages scattered all over the hill grass fields – probably a production site for these birds, meant for cock-fighting? At 6 am. we started to walk up through the forest along a good trail, and had a very succesful birding trip until the rain started around 12.30 p.m. During these hours we managed to get all the Negros birds (except the two extreme rarities). Best bird of the day was the gorgeous **Flame-templed Tree-Babbler**, seen in two little flocks. We also had the luck to see a single **Visayan Tarictic Hornbill**, now considered an endangered species. Other specialities were **White-winged Cuckoo-shrike**, **White-vented Whistler**, **Negros White-browed Shama** (a distinct subspecies lacking rufous rump and white wing bar) and the white-bellied subspecies of **Balicassio**. More goodies were **Blue-crowned Racquettails** and **Lemon-throated**

Leaf-Warbler. And finally, we managed to see the strange forest starling **Coletto**, with the naked, pink, “rubber-helmet” (à la Rockfowl) and the strange call.

During our visit in Mambukal Reserve on the way back to Bacolod, we saw several **Red-keeled Flowerpeckers**, now considered a Visayan endemic and a full species (split from Red-striped Flowerpecker). In a big tree in the reserve 500 **Philippine Flying Fox** were hanging from the branches.

Back in Bacolod in the evening, we went out for a nice meal at a restaurant.



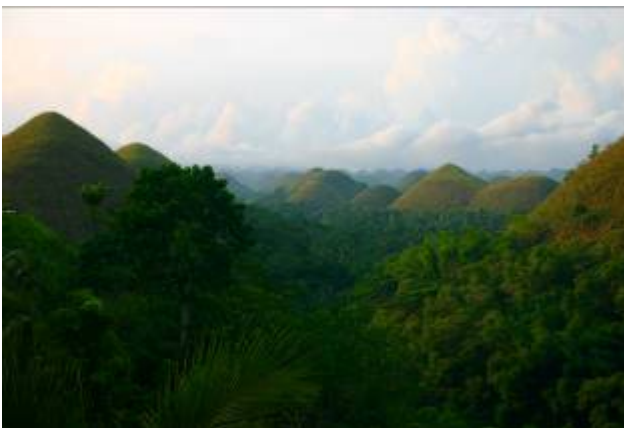
Buttress root on Mt. Kanlaon, Negros



The magnificent Flame-templed Babbler, Negros

Friday May 27th: Bohol. Flight from Negros to Cebu and ferry to Bohol. Late afternoon visit to Rajah Sikatuna National Park.

Up early, and off for the airport at Bacolod at 7 am. We took a plane to Mandaue City, Cebu – a big, modern sky-scraper city. Through heavy traffic in a taxi to the harbour. We waited here in a passenger hall from 9.30 am to 13.45 pm – more than four hours! Finally, the jet-ferry to Bohol departed. During the trip we saw an unidentified, immature **booby** in the strait between Cebu and Bohol, either a Brown Booby or Red-footed, probably the former. Flocks of unidentified **terns** in the distance, our first **Brahminy Kite** seen in the harbour of Tagbilaran on Bohol, and **dolphins** and **flying fish** during the boat-ride.



The picturesque Chocolate Hills in Bohol



The flying Lemur of the Philippines, the Colugo. At Rajah Sikatuna N.P., Bohol

Upon arrival in Bohol, we drove through a remarkable and scenic landscape with hundreds of perfectly rounded, grass-covered hills, scattered through the wooded countryside. A very picturesque sight. We arrived at the nice Chocolate Hills Hotel, checked in, and proceeded promptly to the famous Rajah Sikatuna National Park situated not far away. It is a large forest area in a limestone landscape, and a very good birding site with many trails and gorges in the forest. We spent two and a half days here, and they were very successful. It had been raining heavily for several days just before our arrival, but to our luck it was sunny and clear almost all of the time during our stay. The temperature was pleasant, and it was much cooler than on Palawan.

The first afternoon, we birded for 2½ hours from 17 til 19.30 pm, from the big lawn at the entrance of the National Park Headquarters. The lawn is surrounded by tall forest on hills on each side. The Philippine endemics **Steere's Pitta** and **Black-faced Coucal** were calling from the jungle. **Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove** and **Samar Tarictic Hornbill** were crossing over, and in the twilight three, magnificent **Philippine Flying Lemur** (or **Colugo**) soared from one tree to the other, and showed incredibly well in the torchlight, when sitting on the tree trunks or jumping up along them. What an experience! It is still unclear to science where this strange animal should be placed in the Mammal systematism.

Flying Foxes were crossing over. After dark, we heard 3-4 **Philippine Scops-Owls**, and managed to see one. Two **Philippine Hawk-Owls** were heard.

Back at the hotel, we enjoyed a nice dinner in the restaurant. However, the enjoyment weakened a bit with the spotting of a big, **brown rat** crawling on a curtain!

Saturday May 28th : Bohol, full day birding in Rajah Sikatuna National Park.

This full day in Rajah Sikatuna N.P. was one of the best birding days on the whole trip. We started out at sunrise around the park headquarters. Then proceeded on a long hike along different trails, and returned in the afternoon to the headquarters. A rainshower around 13 pm quieted things down a bit, but after it had cleared, we started birding again. In the morning around the H.Q. best birds were five **Pompadour Green-Pigeons**, **Black-faced Coucal** seen, three **Samar Tarictic Hornbills**, **Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo**, and not to forget, incredible views of the best looking tailorbird of the Philippines, the **Yellow-breasted Tailorbird**. Worldwide, it is only found on the three, small, Philippine islands of Bohol, Leyte and Samar. A fine male was calling and showing off in the forest edge just behind the headquarters.

Along the hike, one of the highlights of the trip was a stunning **Steere's Pitta**, calling in the open from a tree top, and seen in eye level from a trail through the scope. What a bird! A large, endemic pitta, with splendid bluish-turquoise, red and white colours. Other great birds along the hike were **Philippine Oriole**, **Brown Tit-Babbler**, **Black-crowned Babbler**, **Blue Fantail**, **Philippine Leaf-Warbler**, **Rufous-fronted Tailorbird**, **Philippine Trogon** and a magnificent **Rufous-lored Kingfisher**.

Back at the headquarters, for a lunch break in shelter from a short rain shower. We resumed birding, and found a nice **Streaked Ground-Babbler** at the forest edge, along with a **Rufous-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher**. We decided to do a last loop trail just behind the HQ, to give the rare and difficult Visayan Broadbill a last shot, a bird we had been looking in vain for most of the day. And it became one of the unreal moments of the trip, when Hoddinott revealed this "needle in a haystack". David checked what he thought was a falling raindrop in the leaves, at 50 meters distance through dense foliage, only to realize that it was a sitting **Visayan Wattled Broadbill**. It turned out there was a pair, and we approached them and eventually had excellent views of this star bird! Respect to incredible Hoddinott. What incredible eyesight.

In the evening, the **Colugos** were out again, and a **Great Eared-Nightjar** was displaying over the forest. **Philippine Scops-Owl**, **Frogmouth** and **Hawk-Owl** were calling from the forest.

We returned to our hotel, after a great day.



Steere's Pitta, Bohol



Visayan Wattled Broadbill, Bohol

Sunday May 29th: Bohol. Morning in Rajah Sikatuna N.P., Bohol. Afternoon ferry ride to Cebu

We repeated yesterday's hiking success, and picked a different trail in the fine Rajah Sikatuna N.P. This time, Shack flushed the huge rarity **Mindanao Bleeding-heart** from the trail. But unfortunately he was the only one to see it. A pair of **Yellow-breasted Tailorbirds** showed well, and otherwise the bird list was largely a repetition from yesterday. On the drive to Tagbilaran we saw our first **Oriental Magpie Robin** on the trip – apparently a scarce bird in the Philippines. At 13.30 pm we took a ferry to the island of Cebu, and arrived at the capital Cebu City. We checked in at the fine hotel Monte Bello.

Monday May 30th: Cebu. Full day birding in Central Cebu National Park at the village of Tabunan, Cebu. Evening departure on a passenger ship to Mindanao.

Cebu was the last of the Visayan Islands, visited during our trip. Cebu is a tourist destination, a divers paradise, and it has a very large, modern city, Cebu City. There is hardly any forest left on the island- only a narrow strip of degraded forest along a mountain side in the central part, at the village of Tabunan, now a protected area named Central Cebu National Park. Cebu holds no less than two endemic birds – the Black Shama, and the Cebu Flowerpecker. The latter is considered one of the most endangered bird species of the world. Only a tiny population is left, and all of it within a few hectares of this forest lot. Moreover, the very rare Streak-breasted Bulbul is one of Cebu's other few bird attractions, a Philippine endemic, found only in the four, small islands of Romblon, Tablas, Cebu and Siquijor.

Breakfast at 3.30 am! No mercy from Tim. We left the hotel at 4.10 am, bound for the forest at Tabunan. **Black Shama** turned out to be easy. Quickly, 4-5 birds were found in the dense bamboo thickets along the outer edge of the forest.

The place to watch out for the Cebu Flowerpecker was a viewpoint on top of a sharp limestone cliff in the forest. We climbed the rock, and sat there waiting for almost nine hours! All we saw was a number of Red-striped Flowerpeckers, but after 6 hours a male **Cebu Flowerpecker** male suddenly appeared swiftly in a tree close by. David Shackelford managed to see the diagnostic orange-red back well – the rest of us only managed to see the bird, before it was gone – not to be seen again!

The large **Streak-breasted Bulbul** appeared after some time in the forest, and we had good looks of several birds, sitting and flying.

With sore buttocks, we climbed down again, and returned to Cebu City. Went straight to the harbour to embark the good ship of “Lady of the Rule” – a passenger ship bound for Cagayan de Oro on the island of Mindanao. Tim had arranged comfortable luxury cabins, a meal in the restaurant and we enjoyed being on board.

Tuesday May 31st: Mindanao. Mt. Kitanglad

Our last goal on the trip was Mindanao, the large island to the south. No other island in the Philippines holds so many endemic bird species as Mindanao does. And this is the place where the national bird of the Philippines, the Great Philippine Eagle, should be seen. The icon of nature protection in the Philippines. And by some global twitchers considered to be the most wanted bird species on Earth! (See Don Roberson: [www.the best bird in the world](http://www.thebestbirdintheworld.com))

In Mindanao, we visited three localities: Mt. Kitanglad, PICOP lowland jungle at Bislig and Mt. Sinaka, in the mentioned order.

We arrived at Cagayan de Oro in the Bukidnon Province of northern Mindanao in the morning at 7.15 a.m., and drove to a fine hotel at the seaside in the outskirts of town, to have a good breakfast. Then off to Mt. Kitanglad, the home of the Philippine Eagle! We reached the village of Dalwangang and turned off towards the small village of Damitan, arriving at 10.30 a.m. From here, we started a trek up the mountain. Our luggage was packed on horses.

We spent three nights at Del Monte Lodge, an old wooden house used by bird groups. It had an open ground floor with a kitchen, a long dining table and a toilet. On first floor, there was a large dormitory, where we could sleep on the floor on mattresses. The lodge was situated only an hour's trek up the mountain, and was surrounded by fields and small forest lots. Each day, we took treks further up the mountain to the different view-points, where we had a wonderful view over vast mountain rain forest and wooded gorges.

However, before our trek started, we had to go through a religious ceremony in the village below, at an old man's house, in order to be approved. The old man was the religious head of the village. Many different items were placed on an offering table, the man spoke out a long prayer and performed a trance-like song. As a final, he slit the throat of a chicken with a sharp knife, and let the blood run into a little bowl. He then dipped a feather in the blood, and smeared it into our palms, and on some coins on the table.

Then the ceremony was over, the coast was clear, and the mountain gods had approved our visit to the holy mountain!

Our expectations were great, since a pair of Philippine Eagles used to breed on the mountain. And in some years, it has been possible to look right down into the nest. This year, the pair was supposed to stay around with their young one, that was still being fed by its parents. Tim had seen them on all his previous four trips this year!

The trek only took one hour and five minutes, including birding, and it was very easy. Nothing compared to the cross-country trek towards Hamut in Luzon! We walked mostly through fields, since the forest has been cut away in all the low lying parts. The weather was nice and cool, and dry. There was a fine view towards the mountain tops.



Getting ready for the hike to Mt. Kitanglad



The hike has started



Mt. Kitanglad hike



Our camp on Mt. Kitanglad



Forest of Mt. Kitanglad



Flame-crowned Flowerpecker at the campsite

Upon arrival to the lodge, Hoddinott spotted a fine male **Flame-crowned Flowerpecker** – a bird he missed on Mt. Polis. We made a short walk further up the trail, and Erling spotted a **Frigatebird sp.** immature, soaring over the mountain. Most surprising, and not exactly the expected biotope for this seabird! Other fine birds were five **Mindanao Montane Racquettails** passing by, **Philippine Serpent-Eagle**, **Blue-breasted Quail**, **Plain Bush Hen** heard, the gorgeous **Black-and-cinnamon Fantail**, **Gray-hooded Sunbird**, **Black-masked White-eye**, **Cinnamon Ibon** and **Short-tailed Glossy-Starling**.

In the twilight at the lodge, a **Bukidnon Woodcock** started to rode. It gave a strange snoring and ringing sound, while flying low over the fields and trees around the lodge, in the misty weather. We

even saw it land briefly on the ground, just next to us and the house. It was one of the great bird experiences on the trip to see this mythical bird on its breeding ground. Tim Fisher himself discovered this species in 1993 on Mt. Kitanglad, and in 1995 managed to catch an individual. This made it possible for him to describe it as a new species to science.

After dark, we heard calling **Giant Scops-Owl** and **Philippine Frogmouth** close to the lodge.

Wednesday June 1st: Mindanao. Mt. Kitanglad

We spent the whole day on the mountain. A fine birding day, but to our disappointment no eagle!

We got up at 4:30 am., had breakfast at 5 and went out at 6:40. Weather was fine most of the day, but we returned to the lodge walking in rain at 5 pm. On the way up, Hoddinott found a superb **Spotted Imperial-Pigeon** sitting in a dead tree – nice scope views of this most difficult and threatened bird. A flock of four **Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis** completed our Rhabdornis-list, a most peculiar and endemic bird family of the Philippines. **White-cheeked Bullfinch**, **12 Metallic Pigeons**, **15 Mindanao Montane Racquettails**, **Colasisi**, **White-browed Shortwing**, **Long-tailed Ground-Warbler**, the fine, endemic **Rufous-headed Tailorbird**, **Little Pied Flycatcher**, **Mountain Verditer-Flycatcher**, **Sulphur-billed Nuthatch**, **Gray-hooded Sunbird**, hundreds of **Mountain White-eyes**, **Black-masked White-eye**, the strange **Cinnamon Ibon** and the magnificent **Red-eared Parrotfinch** (not seen by all of us) all contributed to a successful day.

We walked up to “upper-upper viewpoint” and waited two and a half hours for the eagle to show up, but nothing happened. The only raptors around were **Oriental Honey-Buzzards**, **Crested Goshawk** and **Philippine Falconets**. We then decided to climb further up the trail, to a mossy cloud forest to look for the endemic Apo Sunbird. On the way up, Tim took us to a small forest where we saw a male **Blue-capped Wood-Kingfisher** at its nesting hole. This large wood kingfisher is probably the most splendid kingfisher of the Philippines. The small forest also revealed a pair of the Mindanao endemic **McGregor’s Cuckoo-shrike**

Walking through the mossy forest, Hoddinott suddenly hushed us carefully, and whispered: “Everybody quiet! There is a beautiful owl sitting in the open on a low branch just next to us”! And so there was. An amazing **Giant Scops-Owl**, looking at these strange intruders through its half-closed eyes.



The incredible Giant Scops Owl on Mt. Kitanglad



Blue-capped Wood-kingfisher at nest-site

A bit further up, a fine male **Apo Sunbird** showed up. And Tim’s trained ears heard the call of a most wanted bird: the incredible **Apo Myna**, endemic to a few mountain tops of Mindanao. Adam soon discovered the flock of five birds sitting in the top of a dead tree in the valley below. One of Asia’s most spectacular mynas, with its long tail, large crown and big yellow eyering, was admired through the scope.



White-cheeked Bullfinch on Mt. Kitanglad



Mindanao Montane Racquet-tail

Thursday June 2nd: Mindanao. Mt. Kitanglad

After a good sleep in the cold night with clear sky, we walked up to “Central-central Viewpoint”, which we reached around 7:50 am. On the way up we tried in vain for Bagoba Babbler on different good sites. This was one of only two or three proper “dips” of possible birds in the places we visited during the whole trip (also including Ashy Ground-Thrush on Mt. Makiling and (perhaps) Whitehead’s Swiftlet on Mt. Polis).

Bob and our local guide Carlito saw an **Australasian Grass-Owl** hunting over a grass field in the morning sun – a beautiful sight, according to Bob.

Virtually all day, we stood at central-central viewpoint and waited in vain for the unmentionable, the big eagle. We tried to keep up the spirits through endless bird-quiz sessions, good fun, and good mental training. Eventually, we knew all the local raptors and could identify them individually – **Oriental Honey-Buzzard, Brahminy Kite, Philippine Serpent-Eagle, Rufous-bellied Hawk-Eagle, Philippine Hawk-Eagle** and **Philippine Falconet**, but no great Philippine Eagle. The most important bird of the trip was hanging by a thin thread!

Good birds during the day was another **Blue-capped Wood-Kingfisher** (a female, in the “Bagoba Babbler forest”), **White-bellied Woodpeckers**, **Mc Gregor’s Cuckoo-shrike** heard, four **Rufous-headed Tailorbird** seen well, **Yellow-bellied Whistler**, ten **Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis**, **Olive-capped Flowerpecker**, **Short-tailed Glossy-Starling**, **White-bellied Munia** and, by some, **Red-eared Parrotfinch**. Adam, Shack and Hoddinott stayed out after dark, and managed to hear the endemic **Mindanao Montane Scops-Owl** calling, but to their disappointment, they unfortunately never managed to locate the bird with the torchlight. They also heard **Philippine Frogmouth**, four **Giant Scops-Owl**, and **Great Eared-Nightjar**. Meanwhile, Tim, Bob, Erling and Carlito enjoyed a nice dinner, and the sight of the local Bukidnon Woodcock, roding around the lodge.

Friday June 3rd: Mindanao. Mt. Kitanglad and drive to Bislig via Davao.

Last morning on Mt. Kitanglad. It was a beautiful, chilly, clear morning, and we were woken up by the eerie, ringing sound of – not an alarm clock – but our local, roding **Bukidnon Woodcock**.

After a nice breakfast we made a small walk around the camp and then started to descend the mountain back to the village. The morning and the walk down produced among others **Plain Bush Hen** heard, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, **Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher**, **Long-tailed Shrike**, **Pied Bushchat** and **Coletto**; but no Philippine Eagle. We had to leave the mountain without this iconic bird of the Philippines.

When back in the village at 8 am., we started an eleven hours long and strenuous drive through Mindanao to Bislig on the east coast, via the island capital Davao in the south. Best birds during the day along the drive was nine **Javan Pond-Herons** in breeding plumage in a rice paddy, **Yellow Bittern**, **Guaiabero**, **White-throated** and **White-collared Kingfishers**, **Red-striped** and **Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers** and **Spangled Drongo**. We reached the start of the lowland jungle of PICOP, Bislig just before dark, and got the first taste of this fine birding area in a forest clearing: Impressive **Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeons**, **Philippine Needle-tail**, **Purple Needle-tail**, the stately Mindanao endemic **Writhed Hornbill** flying to night roost, **Dollarbirds** and a **Philippine Nightjar** sitting on the road.

We checked in at a small, pleasant hotel in Bislig.



Flame of the forest tree on our way to Bislig, Mindanao



Javan Pond Heron in breeding plumage, Mindanao

Saturday June 4th: Mindanao. PICOP lowland jungle at Bislig.

The vast lowland jungle area at Bislig on the east coast of Mindanao is usually called PICOP, named after the large logging concession company that formerly exploited the forest. PICOP has since left the area, and the forest is now under state “control”. However, thousands of settlers illegally moved into the area. Virtually every day, new huts are popping up and the surrounding forest is cleared, burned off, and crops planted, to support the poor settler families. These settlers are mostly Christian Philipinos, refugees from the rebellious, Muslim, western parts of Mindanao. Fortunately, there is still much good forest left in the PICOP area, but it is probably one of the places in the Philippines where forest degradation takes place in the fastest and most devastating way, and with the most severe consequences to lowland rainforest wildlife. It is really shocking to see the ongoing destruction, bearing in mind that this is the last, proper piece of lowland jungle left in the Philippines, and very important to the survival of a number of bird and mammal species.

The worst part of it is, that all settlement in the area is strictly forbidden, but the authorities do nothing to prevent it! This is an example of the complex religious, political and social problems in a poor Third World country, that are difficult to deal with; the environment versus the “refugee and poverty” situation.



Deforestation in PICOP



One of the many logging trucks in PICOP

We were accommodated in Bislig, and went around to different parts of the large forest area in a jeepney for the next three days. We were rewarded by an incredible luck, and managed to get virtually every single bird species of the area we had hoped for.

The first morning was the start of one of the best birding days during the whole trip. I have said this before in this dairy, but this time it is even more true! We started at 3.30 am in darkness, and returned to the hotel after dark. We drove along Road 1, Road 4A and 4, and ended by late afternoon and sunset at the condemned Bislig Airport, that has a neighboring, large marsh area. Birding highlights of the day in the jungle included many of the great birds of the Philippines, including several Mindanao endemics. Remarkable birds during the day were **Barred Honey-Buzzard** in display, the elusive, endemic **Plain Bush Hen** standing in the open at a small pond, **Violet Cuckoo**, **Chocolate Hawk-Owl** seen, **Mindanao Hawk-Owl** seen, great views of **Philippine Trogons**, three stunning **Silvery Kingfishers** at a stake-out pond, **Rufous, Writhed** and **Mindanao Tarictic Hornbills**, **Black-bibbed Cuckoo-shrike**, **Yellowish Bulbul**, **Philippine Leafbird**, **Black-headed Tailorbird**, a magnificent male **Short-crested Monarch**, **Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher**, **Pygmy Babbler**, **Rusty-crowned Babbler** and our only **Naked-faced Spiderhunter** of the trip.



Silvery Kingfisher



Plain Bush Hen

At Bislig airport a huge, approaching storm system (with thunder, rain and strong winds) threatened, but never hit us. Hunting **Australasian Grass-Owl** was finally spotted, well done Tim,

and additional sightings were **Wandering Whistling-Duck**, **Philippine Duck**, a **Great-billed Heron** struggling against the wind, **Black Bittern**, **Purple Heron**, **White-browed Crake**, **Watercock**, **Clamorous Reed-Warbler** and a fine **Philippine Nightjar** calling from the top of a pole in the swamp.

Sunday June 5th : Mindanao. PICOP lowland jungle at Bislig.

Birding in the forest today had difficulties competing with yesterday, since we had already seen most of the birds.

However, the start was great. We had breakfast at 3 am., left at 3.30 and went to a stretch of forest road that Tim knew was good for owling. A brilliant **Philippine Frogmouth** was taped in, and admired in the torchlight. Same procedure with a **Chocolate Hawk-Owl** immediately after (a split from Asian Brown Hawk-Owl). A displaying **Great Eared-Nightjar** in the first morning light marked the end of the night, and the beginning of a new, enjoyable birding day.

It became a very hot and quiet day. Birding was a little slow. Along Road 4.2 we saw the best bird of the day, a fine male of the endemic **Little Slaty Flycatcher** on its territory.



The strange-looking starling Coledo



Short-crested Monarch, male. In Picop. One the fine, endemic birds of the Philippines

Another surprise was a calling **Mindanao Bleeding-heart** close by road, but we never managed to see the bird. The day also gave good views of **Pompadour Green-Pigeon** on the nest, feeding young, **Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeons**, **Blue-naped Parrots**, **Black-faced Coucal**, **Steere's Pitta** heard, **Yellow-wattled Bulbul**, **Black-headed Tailorbird**, **Blue Fantail**, two **Short-crested Monarchs**, **Brown Tit-Babbler**, **Metallic-winged Sunbird**, **Handsome Sunbird**, an aberrant local subspecies of **Pygmy Flowerpecker**, **Everett's White-eye**, **Philippine Oriole**, **Coledo** – and a group of **Long-tailed Macaques**.

Monday June 6th: Mindanao. PICOP lowland jungle at Bislig. Afternoon drive to Davao.

This last morning in Bislig was extremely fortunate. We got out at 4 am. and birded in the forest from 5 am until 10:15 am. We started at a forest clearing, watching **Violet Cuckoo** and a number of pigeons, including **Emerald Dove**, **Amethyst Brown-Dove**, **White-eared Brown-Dove**, **Pompadour Green-Pigeon** and **Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon**. **Mindanao Tarictic Hornbills** were showing in a large tree.

We then started to stroll down the forest road. Suddenly we could hear the distant call of a **Celestial Monarch** from the forest, a loud, ringing three-note whistle, repeated constantly - and followed the sound. After 20 to 30 minutes searching and climbing through limestone rocks in the jungle, we eventually found a birdwave. And the Celestial was in there somewhere, since we could hear it

calling eagerly. Hoddinott spotted the bird, and we all (except Tim and Bob, who did not join us), saw it well a couple of times, though briefly. It was seen only a little above eyelevel, since we were sitting on the top of a tall rock in the forest. The male bird is not as bright cobalt blue as shown in the book – rather more pale, turquoise or sky blue. And the long crest was not raised. Still – this was a heavenly moment on the trip, to have the luck to see this enigmatic and rare species on our last morning in PICOP.

Our extreme good luck in locating this tiny, elusive gem, in this haystack of a jungle, was all too soon followed by its frequent travelling companion – bad luck. Ahead of Erling, Shack climbed down a steep limestone cliff, while holding onto a small tree for support. What Shack didn't notice was, that there was a wasp nest in the crown of this small tree. Suddenly the wasps attacked him, and he let the tree go. And SLAP – the nest hit right back in the face of Erling behind him. Then *he* was stung. Both tumbled down the cliff, screaming and trying to escape from the little black, stinging devils. Back on the forest road they looked like Frankenstein junior and brother. Adam and Hoddinott lost their way on their later return, and had to be whistled and called back to find the road again. What a jungle expedition!

Our last stop was a small, forested hill, where Tim on earlier trips had seen **Mindanao Wattled Broadbill**. A pair with an immature bird was quickly and brilliantly found by Shack, who also succeeded to get great photos. Well done, Shack. Thus, we were lucky to nail both Philippine Wattled Broadbill species during our trip. A birding highlight.

A harsh scream from a flying parrot through the canopy woke our interest. It landed, and turned out to be the now very rare and difficult **Blue-backed Parrot**. A female, with the diagnostic, pale bill.

Full house in PICOP, with the three star birds on the last day: The monarch, the broadbill and the parrot.



Butterflies in the lowland jungle of Mindanao



The stunning Mindanao Wattled Broadbill in PICOP, Bislig

Other nice birds of the morning was a stunning **Rufous-lored Kingfisher**, **Green Imperial-Pigeon**, **Blue-crowned Racquettail**, **Philippine Trogon**, **Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike**, **Yellowish Bulbul**, **Short-crested Monarch** heard, **Philippine Fairy-Bluebird** and **Coletto**.

After lunch at the hotel, where we had the pleasure of meeting Arne Jensen again, we drove south to Davao. We reached Davao at 6 pm., checked in to our hotel, and went out to eat. Adam had his hair shaved off in a barber shop, and looked like someone you don't want to mess with, maybe Vin Diesel.

Tim had been busy for several days on the mobile phone, trying to find a solution that would allow us to see the Great Philippine Eagle on the following day, our last birding day of the trip. It turned out there was a pair with a youngster on the nest in a place somewhere west of Davao, but this site

was not accessible to us due to security problems in the area. But there was one other possibility: According to Tim's network of Great Philippine Eagle experts, an eagle pair on Mt. Sinaka north of Davao had failed in their breeding attempt during March this year, and the nest had been abandoned. In spite of this, we decided to give the site a chance, hoping that the pair still would be around in June.

After we had missed the bird on Mt. Kitanglad, we had no other choice. Our only chance was a visit to Mt. Sinaka in central Mindanao on the very last birding day of the trip!



Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeons



Philippine Trogon



Sulphur-billed Nuthatch



Philippine Serpent-Eagle



Flying Lizard in Mindanao lowland jungle, Bislig



Snake in PICOP, Mindanao

Tuesday June 7th: Mindanao. Mount Sinaka.

We started at 3 am. from our hotel in Davao, and drove for 2½ hours north to the village of Kapitunan, along the main road (Arakan Province). From here, a strenuous, two-hours, daring motorcycle ride started, along muddy roads to the village of Barangay Greenfield, where the mayor invited us for coffee. Our welcome was very hearty. The mayor even offered us his secretary for marriage!

Tim had to negotiate, to be allowed to take the group to Mt. Sinaka. Things fell in place, but a military officer afterwards interfered, and claimed there were problems. Thanks to Tim and his great experience with the country, he managed to sort things out with the officer, who eventually allowed our visit. Off we went, and we arrived at the eagle-viewpoint on the mountain around 10.45 am. It was a beautiful site, overlooking a vast jungle area covering the whole back side of the mountain, including two valleys. The sun was out, and after only 15 minutes Adam said the famous words: "I've got the bird". And right he was. A huge **Great Philippine Eagle**, with all white underparts and warm brown upperparts, came soaring over a ridge. Later, Erling discovered another bird sitting in a tree, overlooking the valley. In the scope, it showed its incredible, raised crest, and enormous, black bill. It took off, and was met in the air by its mate, and the pair then performed an impressive mating display, including synchronic flight. The two birds flew straight towards us – probably to check us out - , and we had "unbelieeevable" looks, close by. What a bird. They landed in a big tree at some distance, but scope views were excellent. And they were still perched when we had our fill and left.

So, after about one hour "in heaven", a drizzling rain started, and we walked happily down the mountain. And after a tough, long and muddy motorcycle drive back to the village, and a car drive, we arrived in Davao at 6 pm. The experiences of the day were celebrated at dinner – a better way to end an incredible journey to the Philippines was hard to imagine!

Without a doubt, our encounter with this majestic creature, the national bird of the Philippines, was the absolute highlight during the whole trip.



Eagle success!



Motorcycle ride to Mt. Sinaka



Meeting with the mayor



Military patrol on Mt. Sinaka

Wednesday June 8th : Mindanao to Luzon. Day in Manila, and flying home in the evening.

Our last day of the trip. We got up at 5.15 am, and caught a taxi to Davao Airport at 6.30. Our plane back to Manila departed at 8 am, and we landed in a rainy Manila at 9.15 am. Obviously, it had been raining all morning.

We got a day room in Malate Pension House, and had most of the day to explore Manila, before our flight home in the evening or the following day. Tim got the sad news that his brother in Australia had fallen seriously ill, so Tim quickly had to say goodbye to everyone. We all thanked him for a wonderful trip, and wished his family all the best.

Adam had caught a bad cold – he claimed it was the first time he was sick for years. So he stayed in the hotel room most of the day. Erling explored the big malls of the city, had a great foot massage, and saw the interesting National Museum, with many cultural items from the peoples history in the Philippine Islands.

Bob stayed in Manila for a couple of days more before going home to Canada. Shack continued to Malaysia to check out bird calls before his next Rockjumper trip, Adam and Hoddinott flew home to South Africa, and Erling home to Denmark.

Everyone was exhausted after this trip, but agreed that it had been a most memorable one.

Annotated checklist of the Birds, Mammals and Reptiles recorded during the Rockjumper reconnaissance Philippines Tour 12th May – 8th June 2005

BIRDS

Key to abbreviations:

ENDEMISM

E: an endemic species (found only in the Philippines)

NE: a near endemic species (i.e. found mainly in the Philippines but that occur on a few nearby small islands in other countries)

M: breed outside the Philippines and migrate to the country. Some migrants may oversummer

e: an endemic subspecies

ne: a near endemic subspecies

I: an introduced species

CONSERVATION STATUS

Threatened CR: critical EN: endangered VU: vulnerable

Lower risk CD: conservation dependent DD: data deficient NT: near-threatened

WORLD CHECKLISTS

C: Treated as a full species in James F. Clements: "Birds of the World. A checklist". Fifth edition (including updates until December 2005 – see <http://www.ibispub.com/updates.html>).

1. **Little Grebe (e)** (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 4 Candaba Marsh. (endemic subspecies *philippensis*).

2. **Red-footed/Brown Booby** (*Sula sula/leucogaster*) (C)
Negros-Cebu
 27/5 1 immature, brown-coloured bird, either a Brown Booby or a Red-footed Booby, was seen at a distance from the jet-ferry, in the strait between Negros and Cebu.

3. **Greater/Lesser Frigatebird** (*Fregata minor/ariel*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 An unidentified frigatebird was seen from the airplane over the sea, during landing at Puerto Princesa.
Mindanao
 31/5 Much to our surprise, a frigate bird was soaring over the inland mountain jungle of Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, for 15 minutes, and then disappearing behind the mountain towards the coast to the north west. It was an immature bird, and not identified by species.

4. **Grey Heron (M)** (*Ardea cinerea*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 15 Candaba Marsh
5. **Great-billed Heron** (*Ardea sumatranus*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 1 at Bislig Airport. In the evening, a threatening thunderstorm with rain was approaching. It was cloudy and gloomy, and a strong wind started to blow over the airfield and neighbouring marshes, but the rain never came. A very large, grey heron flew in from the sea towards the big marsh area. It had a huge bill and the body size looked like a Great-billed Heron. It was struggling against the strong wind, so the wingbeats were very slow, like Goliath Heron of Africa. However, what confused us about the bird was the slight, but obvious contrast between dark grey flight feathers and grey wing coverts, like Gray and Purple Heron, since Great-billed is not supposed to show this, according to the books. Later, it has turned out that Great-billed actually shows this contrast, in spite of what the field guides say. The contrast is depicted in "A guide to the Birds of the Philippines" (see plate 3), but "denied" in the text. We saw a Purple Heron at the same time, also flying in against the wind, and this was much smaller, with reddish brown body, and with faster wing beats.
6. **Purple Heron** (*Ardea purpurea*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 50 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 1 Banaue-Tuguegarao.
Palawan
 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony.
Mindanao
 4/6 1 Bislig Airport
7. **Great Egret (M)** (*Ardea alba*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 10 Candaba Marsh
Palawan
 22/5 1 Sabang, 23/5 1 Tagburos salt pans at mangrove coast near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 3 Iwahig Penal Colony,
8. **Intermediate Egret (M)** (*Egretta intermedia*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 70 Candaba Marsh
Palawan
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 20 Sabang, 23/5 25 Tagburos salt pans at mangrove coast near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 20 Iwahig Fish Ponds, 25/5 5 Narra – Puerto Princesa
9. **Little Egret (M)** (*Egretta garzetta*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 10 Candaba Marsh
Palawan
 21/5 4 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 20 Sabang, 23/5 5 Tagburos salt pans at mangrove coast near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 10 Iwahig Penal Colony, 10 Iwahig Fish Ponds, 25/5 5 Narra – Puerto Princesa

Bohol

27/5 8 between Tagbilaran and Chocolate Hills

Mindanao

3/6 2 between Mt. Kitanglad and Davao, 4/6 5 Bislig Airport.

10. Chinese Egret (M) (VU)

(Egretta eulophotes) (C)

Palawan

24/5 3 adults in breeding plumage at Iwahig Fish Ponds, 1 adult at Rasa Island.

Note: The Philippine islands of Palawan, Bohol and Olango may be a main wintering area for this globally endangered species. (Kennedy & Fisher).

11. Pacific Reef-Heron

(Egretta sacra) (C)

Palawan

21/5 1 at beach, Sabang, 22/5 3 do., 23/5 1 do.

12. Chinese Pond-Heron (M)

(Ardeola bacchus) (C)

Palawan

21/5 3 in breeding plumage in rice paddies at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 2 do.

13. Javan Pond-Heron

(Ardeola speciosa) (C)

Mindanao

3/6 9 in breeding plumage in rice paddies between Mt. Kitanglad and Davao, 6/6 2 during drive from Bislig to Davao.

Note: A recent colonist of the Philippines. Breeding is suspected, but not recorded. (Kennedy & Fisher).

14. Cattle Egret

(Bubulcus ibis coromandus) (C)

Luzon

14/5 150 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 50 Banaue-Tuguegarao.

Palawan

21/5 40 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 80 Sabang, 23/5 60 Sabang, 50 Tagburos salt pans at mangrove coast near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 30 Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 12 Narra – Puerto Princesa

Bohol

29/5 50 fields around Tagbilaran.

15. Striated (Little) Heron

(Butorides striata carcinophilus) (C)

Palawan

20/5 1 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa, 23/5 1 Tagburos salt pans at mangrove coast near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 2 Rasa Island

16. Black-crowned Night-Heron (M)

(Nycticorax nycticorax) (C)

Luzon

14/5 300 in breeding colony, Candaba Marsh.

(Note: Formerly considered a migrant species only, but by our observation, a.o., now proved to breed as well)

17. Yellow Bittern

(Ixobrychus sinensis) (C)

Luzon

14/5 50 Candaba Marsh

Palawan

21/5 1 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 Sabang

Mindanao

3/6 1 between Mt. Kitanglad and Davao, 4/6 1 Bislig Airport.

18. Cinnamon Bittern*(Ixobrychus cinnamomeus)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 8 Candaba Marsh

Palawan

22/5 1 Sabang, 24/5 3 rice paddies outside Iwahig Penal Colony.

Bohol

29/5 2 fields around Tagbilaran.

Mindanao

4/6 1 Bislig Airport.

19. Black Bittern*(Ixobrychus flavicollis)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 2 Candaba Marsh.

Mindanao

4/6 4 in marshes at Bislig Airport.

20. Wandering Whistling-Duck*(Dendrocygna arcuata)* (C)*Mindanao*

4/6 20 at wetlands in Bislig Airport

21. Eurasian Wigeon (M)*(Anas penelope)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 1 female with injured wing, Candaba Marsh.

22. Philippine Duck (E)*(Anas luzonica)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 400 Candaba Marsh, 2 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue.

Mindanao

4/6 3 at wetlands in Bislig Airport.

23. Garganey (M)*(Anas querquedula)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 4 Candaba Marsh

24. Northern Shoveler (M)*(Anas clypeata)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 6 Candaba Marsh

25. Barred Honey-buzzard (e)*(Pernis celebensis)* (C)*Mindanao* (ssp. *steerei*)

4/6 2 heard and seen in display in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

26. Oriental Honey-buzzard (e)*(Pernis ptilorhynchus)* (C)*Luzon* (ssp. *philippensis*)

17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Mindanao (ssp. *philippensis*)

1/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 5-6 do., seen from "central-central viewpoint", waiting in vain a whole day for the unmentionable, big eagle, 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

27. Black-shouldered Kite*(Elanus caeruleus hypoleucus)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 1 probably this species hovering over a rice paddy area, just before the turn off from main road to Candaba Marsh, observed from the car by Adam R. However, this was not a 100% positive identification. According to Tim Fisher, Black-shouldered Kite has become very rare in Luzon.

Mindanao

7/6 1 in open landscape along road between the village of Kapitunan and Barangay Greenfield, Arakan Barangay Province, central Mindanao. Seen during the motorcycle drive on the way to Mt. Sinaka.

28. Brahminy Kite*(Haliastur indus intermedius)* (C)*Bohol*

27/5 1 in the harbour of Tagbilaran, 28/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.

Cebu

30/5 1 in Central Cebu National Park at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao

2/6 1 at "central-central viewpoint", Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 7/6 1 Mt. Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

29. White-bellied Sea-Eagle*(Haliaeetus leucogaster)* (C)*Palawan*

22/5 1 adult at St. Paul's Underground River National Park, Sabang, was our only sighting during the trip.

30. Crested Serpent-Eagle (e)*(Spilornis cheela)* (C)*Palawan* (endemic ssp. *palawanensis*)

21/5 1 heard Puerto Princesa –Sabang, 22/5 2 Sabang, 24/5 2 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.

31. Philippine Serpent-Eagle (E)*(Spilornis holospilus)* (C)*Luzon*

15/5 1 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 17/5 1 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 Hamut Camp, 19/5 3 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.

Negros

26/5 1 Mt. Kanlaon

Bohol

29/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna N.P.

Mindanao

31/5 1 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 2 at "central-central viewpoint", do., 5/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 1 Mt. Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

Note: The Philippine subspecies *holospilus* of Crested Sepent Eagle is by some authors treated as a separate species Philippine Serpent-Eagle, due to smaller size, different voice etc. The race *palawanensis* is placed with *cheela* – see below. (Kennedy & Fisher).

32. Pied Harrier (*Circus melanoleucos*) (C)

Luzon

16/5 Stunning views in the afternoon glowing sunlight of a pair in open grassland between the village of Baliwag and Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. Probably a breeding pair - however, the birds were not seen on the return walk 3 days later.

33. Crested Goshawk (e) (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) (C)

Palawan (endemic ssp. *palawanus*)

21/5 1 male in display, Puerto Princesa – Sabang

Bohol (ssp. *extimus*)

28/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.

Mindanao (ssp. *extimus*)

1/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 1 do.

34. Besra (e) (*Accipiter virgatus*) (C)

Mindanao (ssp. *quagga*)

4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

Note: Our only observation. However, this is a common breeding bird of forests of the Philippines.

35. Eurasian Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) (C)

Luzon

15/5 2 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., probably breeding birds. ssp. *japonicus*.

36. Great Philippine Eagle (E) (CR) (*Pithecophaga jefferyi*) (C)

Mindanao

7/6 1 pair at breeding site, Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

Without a doubt, our encounter with this majestic creature, the national bird of the Philippines, was the absolute highlight during the whole trip. After we had missed it on Mt. Kitanglad, our only chance was a visit to Mt. Sinaka in central Mindanao on the very last birding day of the trip. According to Tim's network of Philippine eagle experts, a pair on Mt. Sinaka had failed their breeding in March this year, and the nest had been abandoned. In spite of this, we decided to give the site a chance, hoping that the pair still would be around in June. We did a strenuous one-day trip from Davao and return, and our hopes were fully rewarded. We arrived at the eagle-viewpoint on the mountain around 10.45 am. It was a beautiful site, overlooking a vast jungle area covering the whole back side of the mountain, including two valleys. The sun was out, and after only 15 minutes Adam said the famous words: "I've got the bird". And right he was. A huge Philippine Eagle, with all white underparts and warm brown upperparts, came soaring over a ridge. Later, Erling discovered another bird sitting in a tree, overlooking the valley. In scope, it showed its incredible, raised crest, and enormous, black bill. It took off, and was met by the the other bird, and the pair then performed an impressive mating display, including synchronic flight. The two birds came in active flight straight towards us – probably to check us out - and we had unbelieeevable looks, close by. What a bird. They landed in a big

tree at some distance, but scope views were excellent. And they still sat there when we left. (See photo of one of the birds on the cover of this report).

So, after about one hour "in heaven", a drizzle rain started, and we walked happily down the mountain, and after a tough, long and muddy motorcycle drive back to the village, and a car drive, we arrived in Davao at 18 hours. The experiences of the day were celebrated at dinner – a better way to end an incredible journey to the Philippines was hard to imagine!

37. Rufous-bellied Eagle (*Hieraaetus kienerii formosus*) (C)

Luzon

20/5 1 immature came low over Baliwag Village, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Mindanao

2/6 1 immature at "central-central viewpoint", Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province.

38. Philippine Hawk-Eagle (E) (VU) (*Spizaetus philippensis*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *philippensis*)

13/5 1 heard Mt. Makiling, 16/5 1 seen Camp 1, Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 seen during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Mindanao (ssp. *pinskeri*)

2/6 2 seen from "central-central viewpoint", Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province.

39. Philippine Falconet (E) (*Microhierax erythrogenys*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *erythrogenys*)

16/5 1 Camp 1, Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 1 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.

Mindanao (ssp. *meridionalis*)

1/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 1 do., 4/6 3 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 6 do., 6/6 3 do., 7/6 2 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

40. Oriental Hobby (*Falco severus*) (C)

Palawan

21/5 Crippling views of 3 birds (a pair plus a single bird) in display over forest, along road midway between Puerto Princesa and Sabang.

41. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) (C)

Luzon

18/5 1 at viewpoint, Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. (resident subspecies *ernesti*).

Mindanao

31/5 1 distant Peregrine was mobbing an unidentified Hawk-Eagle on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province (ssp. *ernesti*).

42. Tabon Scrubfowl (*Megapodius cumingii*) (C)

Palawan (ssp. *cumingii*)

22/5 4 birds at close quarters on forest trail at entrance of St. Paul's Underground River National Park at Sabang, 23/5 1 heard at Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang.

43. Blue-breasted Quail (e)*(Coturnix chinensis lineata)* (C)*Palawan*

24/5 3 flushed in wet grassland outside Iwahig Penal Colony.

Mindanao

31/5 1 male flushed during walk up the Mount Kitanglad through fields and grassland from the village of Damitan, Bukidnon Province to the Del Monte Ecolodge.

44. Red Junglefowl (e)*(Gallus gallus philippensis)* (C)*Luzon*

18/5 1 heard Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 6 seen during return walk from Hamut Camp to Camp 1.

Palawan

23/5 2 heard at Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang

Bohol

28/5 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.

45. Palawan Peacock-Pheasant (E) (VU)*(Polyplectron napoleonis)* (C)*Palawan*

22/5 1 male seen at the entrance of St. Paul's Underground River National Park. One of the highlights of our trip was the encounter with this spectacular, icon bird. One of the the most beautiful pheasants of the world (see photo of our bird on the cover of this report).

A male has for several years held a territory in the forest just behind the entrance of the national park. It is rather confident – or perhaps fearless, and sometimes even seems to follow people carefully, perhaps to chase them out of its territory? Photo opportunities are excellent of this star bird, as it is possible to get as near as 5-6 metres. Several times it was calling eagerly.

23/5 During a walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P. and back, plus Mangrove Trail, we heard 3 birds calling nearby.

Note: The Palawan Peacock Pheasant is the "national bird" of the island, and depicted many places in boards etc.. It is now a vulnerable species. Heavily hunted for pet trade and for local consumption. Fortunately, Palawan is still rich in forest.

46. Spotted Buttonquail (E)*(Turnix ocellata)* (C)*Luzon*12/5 1 bright coloured female appeared on the famous "Buttonquail track", at the foot of Mt. Makiling. ssp *ocellata*. 13/5 Do., 2 birds seen on the trail. 16/5 1 female crossing the trail near the village just before reaching Camp 1, during the walk from Baliwag to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., ssp. *benguensis*.**47. Barred Buttonquail (e)***(Turnix suscitator)* (C)*Luzon*13/5 2 birds showed on "Buttonquail track" at the foot of Mt. Makiling. ssp *fasciata**Palawan*24/5 1 on the road at Iwahig Fish Ponds. ssp. *haynaldi*.**48. Buff-banded Rail (e)***(Gallirallus philippensis philippensis)* (C)*Luzon*

16/5 1 flying across the trail in open grassland, observed by Erling. During walk from Baliwag to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

49. Barred Rail (e)*(Gallirallus torquatus)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 7 Candaba Marsh, showed very well in the open.

Negros

26/5 1 Mt. Kanlaon

Mindanao

4/6 3 at "Silvery Kingfisher Pond", in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 during drive from Bislig to Davao.

50. Slaty-breasted Rail*(Gallirallus striatus)* (C)*Palawan*

24/5 1 flushed in wet grassland outside Iwahig Penal Colony.

51. Plain Bush-hen (NE)*(Amaurornis olivaceus)* (C)*Mindanao*

31/5 1 heard calling on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 1 heard calling do., 4/6 crippling views of 1 standing in the open, at the water edge in "Silvery Kingfisher Pond", lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 1 heard on Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

52. White-breasted Waterhen*(Amaurornis phoenicurus)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 4 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 1 walk Baliwag to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Palawan

21/5 1 heard at rice paddies, Sabang, 22/5 1 Sabang, 24/5 2 Iwahig Penal Colony

Mindanao

1/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 2-3 heard do.

53. White-browed Crake (e)*(Porzana cinerea ocularis)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 5 Candaba Marsh

Palawan

22/5 3 at rice paddies, Sabang, 24/5 6 rice paddies outside Iwahig Penal Colony,

Mindanao

4/6 2 at wetland in Bislig Airport.

54. Watercock*(Gallicrex cinerea)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 2 flushed at Candaba Marsh.

Palawan

22/5 2 at rice paddies at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 24/5 12 in rice paddies outside Iwahig Penal Colony.

Mindanao

4/6 1 male at wetland in Bislig Airport.

55. Purple Swampphen (e)*(Porphyrio porphyrio)* (C)*Luzon*

14/5 8 Candaba Marsh

- 56. Common Moorhen (e)** (*Gallinula chloropus*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 100 Candaba Marsh (endemic, breeding ssp. *lozanoi*)
Palawan (endemic, breeding ssp. *lozanoi*)
 24/5 2 in wet grassland outside Iwahig Penal Colony.
Mindanao (endemic, breeding ssp. *lozanoi*)
 4/6 2 at wetland in Bislig Airport.
- 57. Pheasant-tailed Jacana** (*Hydrophasianus chirurgus*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 40 in breeding plumage, Candaba Marsh. In breeding plumage, with its long tail, this must be one of the worlds most elegant waders.
- 58. Greater Painted-snipe** (*Rostratula benghalensis*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 10 flushed at Candaba Marsh.
Palawan
 22/5 1 at rice paddies at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 24/5 3 rice paddies outside Iwahig Penal Colony.
- 59. Black-winged Stilt (M)** (*Himantopus himantopus*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 50 Candaba Marsh. Northern migrant ssp. *himantopus* (absence of black hind neck in ad.)
 (Note: Some authors treat the 2 races found in the Philippines as full species: Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* and White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*).
- 60. Oriental Pratincole** (*Glareola maldivarum*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 Ninoy Aquino Int. Airport (observed by Shack). 14/5 20 Candaba Marsh, apparently breeding birds, 25/5 5 Ninoy Aquino Int. Airport, 8/6 1 over Manila.
Negros
 26/5 5 in fields between Bacolod and Mt. Kanlaon.
- 61. Little Ringed Plover** (*Charadrius dubius*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 12 Candaba Marsh, 9 in rice paddies, drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue.
Mindanao
 4/6 1 at wetland in Bislig Airport.
- 62. Greater Sandplover (M)** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 6 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa.
- 63. Bukidnon Woodcock (E)** (*Scolopax bukidnonensis*) (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 1 in display flight in twilight around the Del Monte Lodge, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. It gave a strange snoring and ringing sound, while flying low over the fields and trees around the lodge, in the misty weather. We even saw it land briefly on the ground, just next to us and the house.

One of the great bird experiences on the trip to see this mythic bird on its breeding ground.

Tim Fisher discovered this species in 1993 on Mt. Kitanglad, and in 1995 managed to catch an individual. This made it possible for him to describe it as a new species to the world.

1/6 1-2 birds seen and heard around camp, at dawn and dusk. 2/6 3 birds, do., 3/6 1 heard at Del Monte Lodge, waking up the team by its strange display call. A nice alarm clock!

- 64. Whimbrel (M)** (*Numenius phaeopus*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 5 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa, 24/5 2 Rasa Island
- 65. Common Greenshank (M)** (*Tringa nebularia*) (C)
Palawan
 24/5 1 Iwahig Fish Ponds
- 66. Wood Sandpiper (M)** (*Tringa glareola*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 1 Candaba Marsh
- 67. Common Sandpiper (M)** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 1 Candaba Marsh
Palawan
 24/5 1 Iwahig Fish Ponds
- 68. Gray-tailed Tattler (M)** (*Heteroscelus brevipes*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 10 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa.
- [Gull-billed Tern** (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) (C) **]**
 27/5 1 almost certainly this species, seen from the jet-ferry between Negros and Cebu.
- [Black-naped/ Common Tern** (*Sterna sumatrana/hirundo*) (C) **]**
 27/5 20 unidentified terns, either Black-naped or Common, were seen from the jet-ferry between Negros and Cebu.
- 69. Great Crested Tern** (*Sterna bergii*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 4 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa.
- 70. Whiskered Tern (M)** (*Chlidonias hybridus*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 10 Ninoy Aquino Int. Airport (observed by Shack). 14/5 20 Candaba Marsh
- 71. White-winged Tern (M)** (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 8 Candaba Marsh

- 72. Rock Pigeon (I)** (*Columba livia*) (C)
All islands
 Feral Rock Pigeons were seen in all cities. An introduced, non-native bird.
- 73. Thick-billed Green-pigeon** (*Treron curvirostra*) (C)
Palawan
 22/5 1 St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 3 during walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P. and back, plus Mangrove Trail.
- 74. Pompadour Green-pigeon (e)** (*Treron pompadora*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *canescens*)
 28/5 5 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.
Cebu (ssp. *canescens*)
 30/5 1 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *canescens*)
 5/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
 One bird was seen on its nest, feeding young ones, 6/6 4 do.
- 75. Pink-necked Green-pigeon (e)** (*Treron vernans vernans*) (C)
Palawan
 22/5 1 at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 23/5 1 in mangrove forest at Tagburos salt pans near Puerto Princesa, 25/5 10 Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa
Mindanao
 4/6 3 seen and heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
- 76. White-eared Brown-dove (E)** (*Phapitreron leucotis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *leucotis*)
 13/5 3 Mt. Makiling, 15/5 2 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 16/5 1 heard Camp 1, off Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 5 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 2 Hamut Camp, 19/5 10 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 5 Camp 1
Bohol (ssp. *brevirostris*)
 27/5 1 heard at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park., 28/5 4 do., 29/5 25 do.
Cebu (ssp. *nigrorum*)
 30/5 6 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *brevirostris*)
 31/5 1 heard Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 1 heard in forest near Bislig, along the road between Davao and Bislig, 4/6 4 seen and 10 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 20 do., 6/6 10 do., 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
- 77. Amethyst Brown-dove (E)** (*Phapitreron amethystina*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *amethystina*)
 17/5 3 in fruiting tree at Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 8 do., 19/5 4 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Bohol (ssp. *amethystina*)
 28/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.

Mindanao (ssp. *amethystina*)

1/6 1 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 6/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

78. Flame-breasted Fruit-dove (E) (VU)

(*Ptilinopus marchei*) (C)

Luzon

19/5 1 in a fruiting tree by the trail, during walk down from Hamut Camp to Camp 1, seen by Shack, Adam and Hoddinott only. Not far below Hamut Camp. Photo obtained. According to Tim, this species was quite plentiful around Hamut Camp earlier in the year, but they seemed to be vanished during our visit. On the walk down the mountain, the three "Rockjumpers" decided to walk back up again to a fruiting tree, to give this most wanted bird a last chance. And they were succesful and very happy!

79. Cream-bellied Fruit-dove (E) (NT)

(*Ptilinopus merrilli*) (C)

Luzon

This fine Luzon endemic was only encountered on Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. (ssp. *faustinoi*). 17/5 1 seen in a fruiting tree at Hamut Camp, 18/5 2 do., plus several heard in the area, 19/5 10 seen and heard during walk from Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 1 heard Camp 1.

80. Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove (E)

(*Ptilinopus occipitalis*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *occipitalis*)

16/5 2 heard Camp 1, off Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. 17/5 stunning views of 3 in fruiting tree at Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 2 do., 19/5 3 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.

Bohol (ssp. *occipitalis*)

27/5 2 seen flying over at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 6 heard do., 29/5 10 heard do.

Cebu (ssp. *occipitalis*)

30/5 2-3 heard in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *incognitus*)

31/5 1-2 heard Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 2 seen do., 2/6 1 heard do., 4/6 2 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard do.

81. Black-chinned Fruit-dove (NE)

(*Ptilinopus leclancheri*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *leclancheri*)

13/5 2 seen Mt. Makiling..

Palawan (ssp. *gironieri*)

21/5 1 heard Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 25/5 2 heard Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa

Bohol (ssp. *leclancheri*)

27/5 1 heard at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 3 heard do., 29/5 12 heard do.

Mindanao (ssp. *leclancheri*)

4/6 1 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard do.

82. Pink-bellied Imperial-pigeon (E) (NT)*(Ducula poliocephala)* (C)*Mindanao*

3/6 5 at dusk in lowland rainforest near Bislig, along the road between Davao and Bislig, at the entrance of the PICOP forest area. 4/6 1 seen and 2 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 4 do., 6/6 2 heard, do.

Note: A magnificent lowland rainforest species, becoming threatened due to hunting and the clearing of the Philippine lowland forests.

83. Spotted Imperial-pigeon (E) (VU)*(Ducula carola)* (C)*Mindanao (ssp. mindanensis)*

1/6 1 female Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. Brilliant Hoddinott spotted this scarce bird, sitting at some distance in the top of a dead tree. Our only sighting during the trip. Fine scope views.

84. Green Imperial-pigeon (3 of 4 ssp. e)*(Ducula aenea)* (C)*Palawan (non-endemic ssp. palawanensis)*

21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 1 heard in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang. 22/5 10 St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 10 during walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P. and back, plus Mangrove Trail, 24/5 1 Rasa Island, 25/5 1 Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

Mindanao (endemic ssp. aenea)

6/6 1 seen in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

85. Metallic Pigeon (ne)*(Columba vitiensis)* (C)*Luzon (ssp. griseogularis)*

19/5 2 flying at Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. Seen by Adam and Hoddinott.

Mindanao (ssp. griseogularis)

1/6 12 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 7 do.

86. Philippine Cuckoo-dove (E)*(Macropygia tenuirostris)* (C)*Luzon (ssp. tenuirostris)*

16/5 2 near Camp 1, walk Baliwag to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 5 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 5 Hamut Camp, 19/5 10 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 4 Camp 1.

Palawan (ssp. tenuirostris)

21/5 2 calling Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 25/5 1 Zigzag Road from Narra to Puerto Princesa

Bohol (ssp. tenuirostris)

28/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.

Mindanao (ssp. tenuirostris)

1/6 10 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 8 do., 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

Note: Recent authors recognize the 3 endemic Philippine races to be part of the Philippine Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia tenuirostris*, separated from the Brown Cuckoo Dove *M. phasaniella* and Ruddy Cuckoo Dove *M. emiliana*. Complex not yet resolved. (Kennedy & Fisher).

- 87. Island Collared-dove (e)** (*Streptopelia bitorquata*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 3 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 5 Banaue- Tuguegarao
- 88. Spotted Dove** (*Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 heard Los Baños, Mt. Makiling, 16/5 1 Banaue-Tuguegarao
Palawan
 21/5 5 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 3 Sabang, 23/5 Sabang to Puerto Princesa, 24/5 1 Iwahig to Narra, 25/5 1 Narra – Puerto Princesa.
Mindanao
 31/5 2 between Cagayan del Oro and Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 1 Mt. Kitanglad, 2 between Mt. Kitanglad and Davao, 4/6 1 Bislig area, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 20 along the road between Mt. Sinaka and Davao.
- 89. Zebra Dove** (*Geopelia striata striata*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 drive Manila-Los Banos. 14/5 10 Candaba Marsh
Palawan
 20/5 3 Puerto Princesa. 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 3 Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang. 23/5 6 Sabang – Puerto Princesa, 24/5 4 Iwahig to Narra, 25/5 5 Zigzag Road from Narra to Puerto Princesa
Mindanao
 31/5 10 between Cagayan del Oro and Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 6/6 1 during drive from Bislig to Davao, 7/6 30 along the road between Mt. Sinaka and Davao.
- 90. Emerald Dove** (*Chalcophaps indica indica*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 1 Mount Makiling, 16/5 1 at Camp 1, Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 heard walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang. 22/5 1 St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 heard and 1 seen during walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P. and back, plus Mangrove Trail, 24/5 2 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 1 Zigzag Road from Narra to Puerto Princesa.
Negros
 26/5 5 Mt. Kanlaon.
Bohol
 28/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 heard do.
Cebu
 30/5 1 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao
 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do., 6/6 1 do.
- 91. Luzon Bleeding-heart (E) (NT)** (*Gallicolumba luzonica*) (C)
Luzon

13/5 1 cooing on Mt. Makiling, heard by part of the group (ssp. *luzonica*). 17/5 1 flushed from the trail just below Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. Shortly after, it appeared on the trail, walking close by, attracted by our play back of the song. 19/5 6 seen and/or heard along trail during walk down from Hamut Camp to Camp 1. Some bleeding-hearts were seen in display on the ground, by some of the group. One of the star birds of the trip! Very responsive to tape. (ssp. *griseolateralis*)

92. Mindanao Bleeding-heart (E) (EN) (*Gallicolumba criniger*) (C)

Bohol (ssp. *leytensis*)

29/5 David Shackelford was lucky to flush this big rarity while we walked along a remote and little used forest trail, in Rajah Sikatuna N.P. Unfortunately, Shack was the only one to see the bird.

Mindanao (ssp. *criniger*)

5/6 Much to our surprise, we heard this endangered species calling a number of times close by, in the forest along the roadside, in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

We climbed into the forest and tried play back to get a view, without success. The bird was heard well by all of us.

93. Guaiabero (E) (*Bolbopsittacus lunulatus*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *lunulatus*)

13/5 4 in top of large, dead tree at Trees Lodge, plus 2 in forest, Mt. Makiling.

Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)

3/6 2 during drive from Mt. Kitanglad to Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 5 do.

94. Philippine Cockatoo(E) (CR) (*Cacatua haematuropygia*) (C)

Palawan

24/5 In the evening, 75 Cockatoos came to roost, in a big, dead tree, on Rasa Island off the south coast. This was one of the many highlights of trip. We waited in our boat at the roosting site on the north tip of the island. The full moon was rising at sunset, and the sea around the beautiful coral reef was calm. In the distance, over the mainland mountains, there was thundering and lightening. At twilight, the parrots silently appeared "out of nothing" from the forest, and landed in the dead branches of the large tree. More and more came in and eventually, 75 birds had turned it into a brilliant, white Christmas tree!

Note: The endemic Philippine Cockatoo may now be the most threatened birds in the Philippines, due to pet trade. It is critically endangered. Now only found regularly in Palawan and Sulu Archipelago. (Kennedy & Fisher).

95. Blue-naped Parrot (NE) (NT) (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*) (C)

Palawan (ssp. *salvadorii*)

21/5 1 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 at entrance of St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 great views of 2 birds in palm tree (photos obtained) at Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P., 25/5 1 Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

Mindanao (ssp. *salvadorii*)

5/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

96. Blue-backed Parrot (Azure-rumped P.) (e) (*Tanygnathus sumatranus*) (C)

Mindanao

6/6 1 female seen flying and sitting in the tall canopy of lowland rainforest, PICOP logging

concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. Very noisy, but shy. The pale bill of the female was noticed. A very lucky find in PICOP of this rarity (ssp. *everetti*).

Note: Now, a very rare bird through most of its range. (Kennedy & Fisher).

97. Blue-crowned Racquet-tail (E) (*Prioniturus discurus*) (C)

Negros

26/5 6 Mt. Kanlaon (ssp. *whiteheadi*)

Mindanao

4/6 1 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 seen do. (ssp. *discurus*)

98. Blue-headed Racquet-tail (E) (VU) (*Prioniturus platenae*) (C)

Palawan

22/5 3 at entrance of St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 at Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P., 25/5 nice views of 6 flying by in the morning sun, some showing fine racquets, Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

99. Montane Racquet-tail (Luzon Racquet-tail) (E) (*Prioniturus montanus*) (C)

Luzon

15/5 1 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts. passed swiftly by, over the ridge, 18/5 2 passing by at Hunters Camp, above Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Note: Some authors, including Clements, split the Luzon and the Mindanao Montane Racquet-tails into two different species.

100. Mindanao Racquet-tail (E) (NT) (*Prioniturus waterstradti*) (C)

Mindanao

31/5 5 seen flying by, swiftly, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. Nice racquets observed, 1/6 15 do., 2/6 20 do.

101. Colasisi (Philippine Hanging-Parrot) (E) (*Loriculus philippensis*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *philippensis*)

13/5 5 Mt. Makiling, 16/5 3 Camp 1 off Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 5 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 5 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 4 Camp 1.

Cebu (Cebu endemic ssp. *chrysonotus*)

30/5 2 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *apicalis*)

31/5 10 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 6 do., 2/6 3 do., 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 do.

102. Philippine Hawk-cuckoo (E) (*Cuculus pectoralis*) (C)

Luzon

13/5 1 seen well Mt. Makiling, and another heard. 17/5 1 heard during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 seen at viewpoint, Hamut Camp, 19/5 1 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.

Cebu

30/5 3 (1 seen and 2 heard) in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao

1/6 1 heard calling, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 1 heard do.

(Note: A rather recent split from Hodgson's Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus fugax*)

- 103. Plaintive Cuckoo** (*Cacomantis merulinus*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 heard Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 heard Sabang, 23/5 1 heard during walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P, 24/5 1 seen and heard Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 1 Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa
Mindanao
 4/6 1 seen Bislig Airport, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 heard do.
- 104. Brush Cuckoo** (*Cacomantis variolosus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *sepulcralis*)
 15/5 2 heard calling Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 18/5 1 heard viewpoint, Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 1 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Bohol (ssp. *sepulcralis*)
 28/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 2 heard do.
Cebu (ssp. *sepulcralis*)
 30/5 3 (1 seen and 2 heard) in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *sepulcralis*)
 31/5 1 heard Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 heard do., 2/6 2-3 heard do., 3/6 1 heard do., 7/6 1 heard Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
 Note: Some authors treat the resident Philippine subspecies *sepulcralis* as a full species Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*. This is not followed here.
- 105. Violet Cuckoo (e)** (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 1 seen and another 2 heard, in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 seen do. (endemic ssp. *amethystinus*).
- 106. Asian Drongo-Cuckoo (e)** (*Surniculus lugubris*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *minimus*)
 21/5 3 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 1 heard Sabang, 23/5 1 heard during walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P., 24/5 1 heard Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 1 heard Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa
- 107. Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo (E)** (*Surniculus velutinus*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *velutinus*)
 28/5 3 (1 seen and 2 heard) Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 2 heard do.
Cebu (ssp. ?)
 30/5 1 heard in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *velutinus*)
 4/6 2 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard do., 6/6 1 heard do.

- 108. Asian Koel (e)** (*Eudynamus scolopacea*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 17/5 2 heard Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 4 heard do., 19/5 1 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Palawan (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 21/5 1 heard calling at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 4 heard Sabang, 23/5 2 heard at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.
Bohol (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 29/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna N.P.
Cebu (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 30/5 1 heard in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 1/6 1 heard calling, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 4/6 2 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 heard do., 6/6 1 heard do.
- 109. Scale-feathered Malkoha (E)** (*Phaenicophaeus cumingi*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 1 Mt. Makiling, along river bed in the Botanical Gardens. 17/5 superb views of 2 birds of this magnificent Luzon endemic, Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 4 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 1 during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 Camp 1
- 110. Chestnut-breasted Malkoha (e)** (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris harringtoni*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 3 Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk through forest from Sabang village to the Central Park Station of St. Paul's Underground River N.P.
- 111. Red-crested Malkoha (Rough-crested M.) (E)** (*Phaenicophaeus superciliosus*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 1 Mt. Makiling, along river bed in the Botanical Gardens, seen by Adam and Hoddinott. (ssp. *superciliosus*), 17/5 2 seen briefly crossing the trail, Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, 19/5 2 seen in bamboo thicket, stunning views, during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1. Seen by Erling. (ssp. *cagayanensis*).
- 112. Greater Coucal** (*Centropus sinensis*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 heard Sabang, 24/5 1 heard Iwahig Penal Colony, 2 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa (ssp. *bubutis*).
- 113. Lesser Coucal (one of two subspecies e)** (*Centropus bengalensis*) (C)
Luzon (endemic ssp. *philippinensis*)
 12/5 1 seen, several heard. Mount Makiling, "Buttonquail track". 13/5 do., 3 in fields along "Buttonquail Track". 14/5 1 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 3 walk Baliwag-Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 heard during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 2 heard, walk from Camp 1 to Baliwag.
Palawan (non-endemic ssp. *javanensis*)

20/5 1 heard at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa, 21/5 3 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 Sabang, 23/5 1 do., 24/5 3 Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 1 heard Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa

Bohol (ssp. *philippinensis*)

27/5 1 between Tagbilaran and Chocolate Hills.

Cebu (ssp. *philippinensis*)

30/5 1 heard in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *philippinensis*)

4/6 1 seen in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

Note: HBW describes only one subspecies in the Philippines: *javanensis*

114. Philippine Coucal (E) (Centropus viridis) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *viridis*)

12/5 1 seen Mt. Makiling Botanical Gardens. 13/5 1 heard Mt. Makiling. 14/5 1 heard Candaba Marsh – Banaue. 15/5 1 heard Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts. 16/5 2 seen, 3 heard Banaue Hotel, 4 walk Baliwag-Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 5 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 heard Hamut Camp area, 19/5 1 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 heard Camp 1.

Negros (ssp. *viridis*)

26/5 1 heard Mt. Kanlaon.

Bohol (ssp. *viridis*)

28/5 1 heard calling, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 heard do.

Cebu (ssp. *viridis*)

30/5 4 heard in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *viridis*)

31/5 1 heard Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 seen and 5 heard, do., 2/6 4 heard do., 3/6 1 seen, do., 4/6 1 heard in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard do., 6/6 1 during drive from Bislig to Davao, 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

115. Black-faced Coucal (E) (Centropus melanops) (C)

Bohol (ssp. *banken*)

27/5 1 heard calling at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 4 (2 seen and another 2 heard) do., 29/5 1 heard do.

Mindanao (ssp. *melanops*)

3/6 1 heard in forest near Bislig, along the road between Davao and Bislig, 4/6 3 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 seen do.

116. Rufous Coucal (E) (NT) (Centropus unirufus) (C)

Luzon

17/5 2 Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

117. Australasian Grass-Owl (e) (Tyto longimembris) (C)

Mindanao

2/6 1 seen flying over grass fields in the early morning, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. Seen by Robert Dermer and our local co-guide Carlito. 4/6 2 flying low over wetland grassland at Bislig Airport area, at dusk, found by Tim, seen by all (ssp. *amauronota*).

- 118. Mindanao Scops-Owl (E) (NT) (*Otus mirus*) (C)**
Mindanao
 2/6 A hardy "Rockjumper night-team" consisting of Shack, Adam and Hoddinott stayed out till after dark after a long birding day on the Kitanglad mountain, and succeeded to hear 2 calling Mindanao Scops-Owls. Unfortunately, they did not have the luck to see them, in spite of strong efforts with torch-lights. A Mindanao endemic.
- 119. Luzon Scops-Owl (E) (NT) (*Otus longicornis*) (C)**
Luzon
 15/5 1 calling near summit of Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts. on trail behind police station, from 4.15 a.m., just before dawn. It was calling actively at close range in open, low forest, even after the break of dawn, but unfortunately, we never managed to see the bird.
- 120. Mantanani Scops-Owl (NE) (NT) (*Otus mantananensis*) (C)**
Palawan
 24/5 1 seen well in spotlight at close range, and another 4-5 heard calling, on Rasa Island, after dark.
- 121. Palawan Scops-Owl (E) (NT) (*Otus fuliginosus*) (C)**
Palawan
 22/5 1 heard and seen well in spotlight at small forest lot along trail to Lion Cave, Sabang.
- 122. Philippine Scops-Owl (E) (*Otus megalotis*) (C)**
Luzon (ssp. *megalotis*)
 18/5 1 heard calling at Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Bohol (ssp. *everetti*)
 27/5 1 seen and 3-4 heard at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 3 heard do.
Mindanao (ssp. *everetti*)
 4/6 1 seen in spotlight and heard, before dawn, in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
 Note: The 3 races in the Philippines may represent 3 different species. Results on this are not yet published. (Kennedy & Fisher)
- 123. Giant Scops-Owl (Mindanao Eagle-Owl) (E) (VU) (*Mimizuku guerneyi*) (C)**
Mindanao
 31/5 1 calling at night at Del Monte Lodge, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 seen by five metres distance, sitting motionless on a low branch in a high-altitude moss forest of Mt. Kitanglad, above "upper-upper viewpoint". Discovered by David Hoddinott. One of the great birds of the trip. Another calling bird was caught in spotlight after dark at Del Monte Camp, same evening. A rarely seen species, especially in daylight, and even more rarely photographed. 2/6 4 birds calling on the mountain, heard by the "night team" Adam, Shack and Hoddinott, 3/6 1 heard calling at the camp before dawn.

124. **Chocolate Hawk-Owl (Boobok) (E)** (*Ninox randi*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 1 seen in spotlight and heard, before dawn, in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do., seen well in spotlight, at 4 a.m., before dawn.
 Note: The resident *randi* subspecies of the Philippines (except Palawan) is now considered a full species, and a rather recent split from the widespread Asian Brown Hawk Owl *Ninox scutulata*, a winter migrant to the Philippines. The Chocolate Hawk-Owl has a distinctive call.
125. **Philippine Hawk-Owl (E)** (*Ninox philippensis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *philippensis*)
 12/5 1 seen well in spotlight after dark, and another 5-6 heard. Trees Lodge, Mount Makiling, 13/5 1 heard early morning, do., 16/5 3 heard Camp 1, off Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 do., 18/5 1 calling at Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 1 do., 20/5 3-4 heard calling at Camp 1
Bohol (ssp. *centralis*)
 27/5 2 heard calling at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 2 (1 seen and 1 heard) do.
 Note: The whole Philippine Hawk-Owl complex has currently been under review. (Kennedy & Fisher). Now, this and the next species have been split (Koenig et al. 1999). They both have distinctive vocalizations. There may be more species represented in this group in other islands. The Philippine Hawk Owl and the Mindanao Hawk-Owl are much smaller than the Brown Hawk Owl.
126. **Mindanao Hawk-Owl (E)** (*Ninox spilocephala*)
Mindanao
 4/6 1 seen in spotlight and heard, before dawn, in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
 Note: Now considered a full species - a split from Philippine Hawk-Owl. Endemic to Mindanao, Basilan, Dinagat and Siargao. See preceding comment.
127. **Spotted Wood-Owl (e)** (*Strix seloputo*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *wiepkeni*)
 21/5 1 calling bird, caught in the spotlight, sitting high in a tall, single tree in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.
128. **Philippine Frogmouth (E)** (*Batrachostomus septimus*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *septimus*)
 28/5 1 heard calling, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.
Mindanao (ssp. *septimus*)
 31/5 1 heard Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 1 heard calling do., 4/6 1 heard calling, in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. 5/6 1 do., seen in spotlight and heard, before dawn, We managed to call this bird in by play-back, and had stonking, close views of the bird, sitting still on a branch in eye-level. What a strange creature!
129. **Javan Frogmouth (Horsfield's Frogmouth) (e)** (*Batrachostomus javensis*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *chasei*)

21/5 1 attracted by tape play of call, seen very close sitting on branch in tangle, in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang. And another bird heard. 22/5 1 heard at small forest lot along trail to Lion Cave, Sabang.

- 130. Great Eared-Nightjar (e)** (*Eurostopodus m. macrotis*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 2 Camp 1, off Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 heard do., 18/5 1 heard Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 1 seen Camp 1, 20/5 1 do.
Palawan
 21/5 3 heard at forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.
Bohol
 27/5 1 heard calling at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 1 seen do.
Mindanao
 2/6 1 heard calling, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 5/6 1 heard calling at dawn in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
- 131. Large-tailed Nightjar (e)** (*Caprimulgus macrurus*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *johnsoni*)
 21/5 1 seen and 2 heard at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang. 22/5 2 seen at small forest lot along trail to Lions Cave, Sabang, 24/5 1 heard La Vista Lodge, Narra, 25/5 2 do.
- 132. Philippine Nightjar (E)** (*Caprimulgus manillensis*) (C)
Mindanao (ssp. *manillensis*)
 3/6 1 on the road after dark, between Davao and Bislig, not seen by all. 4/6 1 seen in Bislig Airport, sitting on a pole in a wetland area.
- 133. Island Swiftlet (Uniform Swiftlet) (e)** (*Aerodramus vanikorensis amelis*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 10 Camp 1, off Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 5 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 5 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Negros
 26/5 3 Mt. Kanlaon.
Bohol
 27/5 30 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 30 do., 29/5 20 do.
Cebu
 30/5 20 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao
 31/5 10 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 10 during drive from Mt. Kitanglad to Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 40 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 10 do., 6/6 15 do., 7/6 10 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
 Note: Some authors consider *amelis* of the Philippines belonging to Pale-rumped Swiftlet *Collocalia francica*, also including the race *germani*. We follow Kennedy & Fisher, placing *amelis* with the Uniform or Island Swiftlet, *Aerodromus vanikorensis*.

- 134. Palawan Swiftlet (E)** *(Aerodramus palawanensis)* (C)
Palawan
 21/5 50 Puerto princesa – Sabang, 22/5 app. 1000 at nests in underground river caves in St. Pauls's Underground River N.P., 23/5 100 over N.P. area, 24/5 3 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 10 Zigzag and Napsan Roads between Narra and Puerto Princesa
 Note: A split from Island Swiftlet The split of this taxon has recently been supported by biochemical evidence (Price et al. 2004 , Thomassen et al. 2005). Ct.: Philippine Trip report 2006 by Don Roberson & Blake Matheson. <http://montereybay.com/creagrus/Philippines2005.html>
- 135. Philippine Swiftlet (E)** *(Aerodramus mearnsi)* (C)
Luzon
 15/5 11 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 16/5 4 Banaue Hotel .
Mindanao
 31/5 20 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 30 do., 2/6 50 do.
 Note: A mountain species, usually found at elevations above 900 m.
- 136. Pale-rumped Swiftlet** *(Aerodramus germani)* (C)
Palawan
 22/5 3 birds at nests in underground river caves in St. Paul's Underground River N.P., were identified by distinct pale rump.
 Note: By some authors treated as a race of Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fuciphaga*, but now a recent split, supported biochemically. See Price et al. 2004. Ct.: Philippine Trip report 2005 by Don Roberson & Blake Matheson. <http://montereybay.com/creagrus/Philippines2005.html>
- 137. Glossy Swiftlet (e)** *(Collocalia esculenta)* (C)
Luzon
 12/5 20 Los Banos. ssp *marginata*, 13/5 10 do., 14/5 10 Lagawe Gorge, south of Banaue. ssp. *isonota*, 15/5 10 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 16/5 4 Banaue Hotel, 10 Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 10 Hamut Camp area, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 3 during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Palawan (ssp. *marginata*)
 21/5 10 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 6 at forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang. 22/5 30 St. Paul's Underground River N.P., 23/5 20 do., 4 Sabang – Puerto Princesa.
Negros (ssp. *marginata*)
 26/5 10 Mt. Kanlaon.
Bohol (ssp. *marginata*)
 27/5 1 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 10 do.
Cebu (ssp. *marginata*)
 30/5 25 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *bagobo*)
 1/6 50 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 40 do., 3/6 10 do., 4/6 10 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 10 do.
 Note: Some treat *marginata* of Luzon, Mindoro, Masbate, Cebu, Bohol and Palawan and *septentrionalis* of Babuyan, Calayan and Camiguin Isl. as a species, Grey-rumped (or Philippine) Swiftlet. This is not followed here.
- 138. Pygmy Swiftlet (E)** *(Collocalia troglodytes)* (C)

Luzon

12/5 32 Los Banos.13/5 10 do.14/5 5 Lagawe Gorge, south of Banaue.16/5 2 Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 4 do., 18/5 3 Hamut Camp area, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 10 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 10 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag.

Bohol

28/5 20 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 3 do.

Cebu

30/5 10 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao

4/6 1 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 do., 7/6 5 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

- 139. Philippine Needletail (P. Spinetail) (E) (NT)** (*Mearnsia picina*) (C)
Mindanao
 3/6 6 in forest near Bislig, along the road between Davao and Bislig, 5/6 1 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
- 140. Brown-backed Needletail** (*Hirundapus giganteus*) (C)
Palawan
 24/5 20 over forest, Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony.
- 141. Purple Needletail** (*Hirundapus celebensis*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 Ninoy Aquino International Airport, Manila (observed by Shack)
Mindanao
 3/6 1 in forest near Bislig, along the road between Davao and Bislig, 5/6 3 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
- 142. House Swift** (*Apus nipalensis*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 5 Los Banos.13/5 1, do.
- 143. Asian Palm-Swift (e)** (*Cypsiurus balasiensis pallidior*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 5 Los Banos, 13/5 2 do., 16/5 2 Banaue-Tuguegarao, 20/5 4 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
- 144. Whiskered Treeswift (e)** (*Hemiprocne comata major*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 1 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag.
- 145. Philippine Trogon (E)** (*Harpactes ardens*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 3 Mt. Makiling, ssp. *luzoniensis*. 17/5 1 heard during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 2 seen Hamut Camp area, 19/5 3 seen, 2 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.spp. *herberti*.

Bohol (ssp. lineae)

28/5 1 heard calling, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 2 heard do.

Mindanao (ssp. lineae)

4/6 Crippling views of 3 birds in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 do., 6/6 1 heard do.

- 146. Dollarbird** (*Eurystomus orientalis*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 1 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 3 forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.
Mindanao
 3/6 4 in forest at dusk, along the road near Bislig.
- 147. Common Kingfisher (M)** (*Alcedo atthis*) (C)
Palawan
 23/5 1 probably immature bird, at wooden bridge in river outlet at start of Mangrove Trail, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang.
 A late winter visitor, still hanging around. Probably belonging to the subspecies *bengalensis*.
- 148. Blue-eared Kingfisher** (*Alcedo meninting*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. verreauxii)
 21/5 1 heard at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 1 heard Sabang, 23/5 1 seen Sabang
- 149. Indigo-banded Kingfisher (E)** (*Alcedo cyanopectus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. cyanopectus)
 12/5 2 (a pair) at the bridge, Botanical Gardens, Los Banos, 13/5 1 do. (observed by Adam and Hoddinott), 14/5 3 Lagawe Gorge, south of Banaue, 15/5 1 Bay Yo River, Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts.
- 150. Silvery Kingfisher (E) (VU)** (*Alcedo argentata*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 3 at "Silvery Kingfisher Pond" in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. A very special, small, black-and-white kingfisher with red feet. The black parts have a dark, cobalt blue tinge.
- 151. Oriental Dwarf-kingfisher (Rufous-backed K.)** (*Ceyx erithaca motleyi*) (C)
Palawan
 22/5 1 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 2 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 1 Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
 Note: Some authors, including Clements, split *Ceyx erithacus* into Black-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus* and Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*, the form occurring in the Philippines. (Kennedy & Fisher). However, this is not recognized in HBW, since they have proved to be merely morphs of a single species.
- 152. Stork-billed Kingfisher (e)** (*Pelargopsis capensis*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. gouldi)
 20/5 4 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa. 22/5 1 at St. Paul's Underground River

N.P., Sabang, 24/5 4 Rasa Island.

- 153. Ruddy Kingfisher (e, M)** (*Halcyon coromanda*) (C)
Palawan (endemic ssp. *linae*)
 21/5 1 heard calling, Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang.
- 154. White-throated Kingfisher (e)** (*Halcyon smyrnensis gularis*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 Los Banos University Campus, 15/5 1 Bay Yo River, Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 16/5 1 Banaue- Tuguegarao, 20/5 1 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Mindanao
 3/6 3 along the road between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 1 heard in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
- 155. Rufous-lored Kingfisher (E) (VU)** (*Todirhamphus winchelli*) (C)
Bohol
 28/5 2 (1 seen and 1 heard) Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills. Brilliantly found in dense foliage by Hoddinott. Excellent scope views of this stunning, but secretive kingfisher (ssp. *nigrorum*).
Mindanao
 6/6 1 seen and photographed by Adam, Shack and Hoddinott, in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*).
- 156. Collared Kingfisher** (*Todirhamphus chloris chloris*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 2 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa. 21/5 3 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 5 Rasa Island, 25/5 5 Zigzag and Napsan Roads between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
Bohol
 29/5 3 Chocolate Hills area
Cebu
 30/5 4 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao
 3/6 3 along the road between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 7/6 1 along the road between Mt. Sinaka and Davao.
- 157. Spotted Kingfisher (E)** (*Actenoides lindsayi*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *lindsayi*)
 13/5 4 seen, one well, Mt. Makiling, 16/5 1 heard Camp 1, Sierra Madres Mts. near Baliwag, 17/5 1 seen walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 seen Hamut Camp area, 19/5 2 seen walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
- 158. Blue-capped Kingfisher (E) (VU)** (*Actenoides hombroni*) (C)
Mindanao

1/6 1 male at nesthole, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. A magnificent, large kingfisher species, and a Mindanao endemic. A small forest lot high up along the trail, known to Tim, was holding a breeding pair, and the male was - to our luck - still at the nest site. 2/6 1 female encountered in another forest lot on Mt. Kitanglad, not far above del Monte Lodge (stream trail), while we were looking in vain for Bagoba Babbler. 4/6 1 heard in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

- 159. Blue-throated Bee-eater (e)** (*Merops viridis americanus*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 5 near village at Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. near Baliwag, 17/5 1 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 3 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 4 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag.
- 160. Blue-tailed Bee-eater** (*Merops philippinus*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 8 Los Banos. 13/5 10 do. 14/5 6 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 1 Banaue-Tuguegarao, 5 Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 2 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag.
- 161. Luzon Tarictic Hornbill (E)** (*Penelopides manillae*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 2 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 1 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
 (Note: Former Tarictic Hornbill *Penelopides panini* has been divided into 4 species: Tarictic, Mindanao, Visayan and Mindoro Tarictic Hornbills, and by Clements even into 5 species, adding the Samar Tarictic Hornbill).
- 162. Mindanao Tarictic Hornbill (E)** (*Penelopides affinis*) (C)
Mindanao (ssp. *affinis*)
 2/6 2-3 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 4/6 6 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 3 do., 6/6 2 do.
- 163. Samar Tarictic Hornbill (E)** (*Penelopides samarensis*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *samarensis*)
 27/5 1 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 3 do., in the N.P
 Note: Clements considers the subspecies *samarensis* of Biliran, Bohol, Calicoan, Leyte and Samar a distinct species. Kennedy and Fisher place this subspecies with the Mindanao Tarictic Hornbill *Penelopides affinis*. We follow Clements.
- 164. Visayan Tarictic Hornbill (E) (EN)** (*Penelopides panini*) (C)
Negros
 26/5 1 Mt. Kanlaon in forest, seen well. Flying and sitting.
 Note: The Visayan Hornbill is now considered an endangered species.
- 165. Writhed Hornbill (E) (NT)** (*Aceros leucocephalus*) (C)
Mindanao
 3/6 4 in lowland rainforest, along the road near Bislig, between Davao and Bislig, 4/6 2 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 4 do., 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

- 166. Palawan Hornbill (E) (VU)** (*Anthracoceros marchei*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 5 seen well in forest along road from Puerto Princesa to Sabang, 1 seen in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.
- 167. Rufous Hornbill (E) (NT)** (*Buceros hydrocorax*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *hydrocorax*)
 16/5 This large and stately hornbill was seen by one in Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts, near Baliwag, 17/5 7 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 5 Hamut Camp area, incl. view point, 19/5 8 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 Camp 1.
Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 4/6 6 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 heard do.
- 168. Coppersmith Barbet (e)** (*Megalaima haemacephala*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *haemacephala*)
 12/5 4 (3 seen, 1 heard) Los Banos, 13/5 1 do., 16/5 5 walk Baliwag-Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 heard Hamut Camp area, 19/5 1 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 3 Camp 1.
Bohol (ssp.?)
 27/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 29/5 1 heard do.
Cebu (Cebu endemic ssp. *cebuensis*)
 30/5 No less than 20 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. A distinctive red-headed subspecies.
Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 1/6 1 heard calling, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 1 do., 4/6 3 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do., 6/6 2 do., 7/6 10 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
- 169. Philippine Woodpecker (E)** (*Dendrocopos maculatus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *validirostris*)
 12/5 2 Mt. Makiling, Los Banos, "Buttonquail track". 13/5 4 do., 16/5 2 walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 1 heard walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 3 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Negros (ssp. *maculatus*)
 26/5 3 Mt. Kanlaon.
Bohol (ssp. *leytensis*)
 28/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.
Cebu (ssp. *maculatus*)
 30/5 2-3 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *fulvifasciatus*)
 1/6 1 heard calling, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province

170. **Sooty Woodpecker (E)** (*Mulleripicus funebris*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *mayri*)
 19/5 1 during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.. 20/5 2
 Camp 1 - a fine pair, sitting together in a fork of a large tree trunk, seen and heard
 from the camp. Good find, Adam.
171. **Great Slaty Woodpecker** (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 4 heard at St. Paul's
 Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 heard during walk to Central Park Station,
 St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang.
172. **White-bellied Woodpecker (e)** (*Dryocopus javensis*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *hargitti*)
 21/5 2 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.
Bohol (ssp. *pectoralis*)
 28/5 2 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.
Mindanao (ssp. *multilunatus*)
 1/6 1 heard calling, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 1 seen do., 5/6 1 in PICOP
 logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 1 heard Mount Sinaka,
 Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
173. **Greater Flameback (e)** (*Chrysocolaptes lucidus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *haematribon*)
 15/5 1 heard Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp,
 Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan (ssp. *erythrocephalus*)
 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.
Mindanao (ssp. *montanus*)
 1/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 1 heard do., 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest,
 PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do.
174. **Common Flameback (e)** (*Dinopium javanense*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *everetti*)
 21/5 1 female at nesthole Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground
 River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-
 ground River N.P., Sabang.
175. **Visayan Wattled Broadbill (E) (VU)** (*Sarcophanops samarensis*) (C)
Bohol
 28/5 A pair in Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, on the trail behind
 headquarters. One of the unreal moments of the trip, when Hoddinott revealed this
 "needle in a haystack". Our last walk of the day, in late afternoon when rain was
 starting, we decided to do a short loop trail behind HQ. Hoddinott checked what he
 thought was a falling raindrop in the leaves, at 50 meters distance through dense
 foliage, only to realize that it was a sitting Visayan Wattled Broadbill. It turned out
 there was a pair, and we approached them and eventually had excellent views of this
 star bird! Respect to incredible Hoddinott. What an eyesight.

- 176. Mindanao Wattled Broadbill (E) (VU)** (*Sarcophanops steeri*) (C)
Mindanao
 6/6 3 seen at close range in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
 A pair with an immature bird was brilliantly found by Shack on our last morning in PICOP, thus nailing both broadbill species during the trip. A birding highlight. (ssp. *mayri*). Well done, Shack!
- 177. Red-bellied Pitta (e)** (*Pitta erythrogaster*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *erythrogaster*)
 13/5 1 seen and another heard calling, Mt. Makiling. Excellent views of this fine Pitta species.
Palawan (ssp. *propinqua*)
 21/5 1 heard in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 3 heard at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 seen and 1 heard during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang.
Negros (ssp. *erythrogaster*)
 26/5 1 heard on Mt. Kanlaon.
Bohol (ssp. *erythrogaster*)
 28/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.
- 178. Whiskered Pitta (E) (VU)** (*Pitta kochi*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 2 heard calling at far distance, Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 17/5 1 seen by Shack in the rocky gully just below Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 Great views of a calling bird in gully just above Hamut Camp. Sitting still on a branch in dense tangle up the hill, seen from below, brilliantly spotted by Adam, and enjoyed by grateful Hoddinott and Erling (possibly the same bird as the day before), 19/5 1 heard Hamut Camp.
 Note: This enigmatic, Luzon endemic is considered to be one of the most skulking birds in the world! Together with Luzon Bleeding-heart, this is THE famous bird of Hamut Camp.
- 179. Hooded Pitta (e)** (*Pitta sordida*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 1 heard at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa. (ssp. *palawanensis*), 22/5 1 seen and another 2 heard at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 heard during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 4 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 1 heard in mangrove at Puerto Princesa.
Cebu
 30/5 2 (1 seen and another 1 heard) in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (ssp. *sordida*).
- 180. Azure-breasted Pitta (Steere's P.) (E) (VU)** (*Pitta steerii*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *coelestis*)
 27/5 1-2 heard calling at dusk, park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, at our arrival to the park the first evening. 28/5 4 (1 seen and 3 heard calling) do. Much to our joy, this gorgeous, endemic Pitta was seen perched high in a tree on its song post.

It was scoped and admired. A most wanted bird on trip.

Mindanao (ssp. *steeri*)

5/6 1 heard in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.

- 181. Bank Swallow (Collared Sand Martin) (M)** (*Riparia riparia*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 1 Candaba Marsh – a very late record of this rare winter visitor (observed by Erling).
- 182. Barn Swallow (M)** (*Hirundo rustica*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 30 Candaba Marsh, were late winter migrants.
Palawan
 24/5 4 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail were even later winter migrants.
- 183. Pacific Swallow** (*Hirundo tahitica javanica*) (C)
Luzon
 11/5 10 Manila city. 12/5 6 Manila Int. Airport, 1 Manila – Los Banos, 10 Los Banos.
 13/5 2 Los Banos. 14/5 5 drive Manila-Banuae, 5 Lagawe Gorge, 16/5 4 Banaue Hotel,
 10 Banaue-Tuguegarao, 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra
 Madres Mts., 20/5 1 Camp 1 to Baliwag.
Palawan
 23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P.,
 Sabang, 24/5 2 Rasa Island, 25/5 2 mangrove at Puerto Princesa.
Bohol
 27/5 10 at Tagbilaran, 29/5 5 do.
Cebu
 30/5 4 around Cebu City.
Mindanao
 31/5 5 Cagayan del Oro, 4/6 6 Bislig Airport, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 4 during
 drive from Bislig to Davao, 7/6 30 along road between Mt. Sinaka and Davao.
- 184. Striated Swallow** (*Cecropis striolata striolata*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 20 in breeding colony, Los Banos University Campus. 13/5 5 do. 14/5 10 Lagawe
 Gorge, 16/5 6 at nests Banaue Hotel, 17/5 5 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp,
 Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 5 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 Camp 1 to
 Baliwag.
- 185. Oriental Skylark** (*Alauda gulgula wattersi*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 2 in grassland during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.,
 20/5 3 during return walk.
 Note: Former Philippine endemic subspecies *wolfei* of Luzon has been merged with subspecies
wattersi of Taiwan and Luzon, according to HBW).
- 186. Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike (e)** (*Coracina striata*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *striata* - grey underparts subspecies)
 13/5 1 Mt. Makiling., 17/5 2 Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 3 do.

Palawan (ssp. *difficilis*- grey underparts subspecies)

21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 2 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 4 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 4 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 1 Sabang – Puerto Princesa, 25/5 1 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

Bohol (ssp. *boholensis* - bar-bellied subspecies)

28/5 2 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 heard do.

Mindanao (ssp. *kochii* – bar-bellied subspecies)

4/6 3 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 1 do.

- 187. Blackish Cuckoo-shrike (E) (Coracina coerulescens) (C)**
Luzon (ssp. *coerulescens*)
 17/5 4 Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 5 do.
- 188. Black-bibbed Cuckoo-shrike (Bb.Cicadabird) (E)(VU)(Coracina mindanensis) (C)**
Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
 Note: Formerly lumped with *Coracina morio*. Now, the Philippine endemic subspecies *mindanensis* is considered a full species. (Kennedy & Fisher and HBW).
- 189. White-winged Cuckoo-shrike (E) (VU) (Coracina ostenta) (C)**
Negros
 26/5 10 in forest on Mt. Kanlaon.
 Note: This fine, Philippine endemic is restricted to the three, small islands of Guimaras, Negros and Panay. Therefore, a must to see while visiting Negros.
- 190. McGregor's Cuckoo-shrike (E) (NT) (Coracina mcgregori) (C)**
Mindanao
 1/6 A pair of this scarce, Mindanao endemic was discovered by Tim, and seen very well by everyone, in the canopy of a small forest lot, placed high up along the trail on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. 2/6 1 heard Mt. Kitanglad.
- 191. Black-and-white Triller (E) (Lalage melanoleuca) (C)**
Luzon (ssp. *melanoleuca*)
 13/5 3 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 2 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 5 Camp 1.
Mindanao (ssp. *minor*)
 5/6 3 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
- 192. Pied Triller (Lalage nigra nigra) (C)**
Palawan
 20/5 6 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa, 23/5 1 at mangrove forest, Tagburos salt pans near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 6 Rasa Island
Cebu
 30/5 10 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao
 1/6 5 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 3 between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 7/6 7/6 4 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

Note: Former Philippine endemic subspecies *chilensis* now lumped with Bornean nominate subspecies (HBW).

- 193. Fiery Minivet (NT)** (*Pericrocotus igneus*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *igneus*)
 21/5 10 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.
 Note: By some authors considered conspecific with Small Minivet *P. cinnamomeus*. We do not follow this consideration.
- 194. Scarlet Minivet (e)** (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *novus*)
 19/5 1 male during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1 (near Camp 1), seen by Erling.
- 195. Philippine Leafbird (E) (VU)** (*Chloropsis flavipennis*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do.
- 196. Yellow-throated Leafbird (E)** (*Chloropsis palawanensis*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 4 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 heard during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 5 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 197. Common Iora** (*Aegithina tiphia aequanimis*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 3 Puerto Princesa – Sabang in mangrove area, 22/5 1 heard at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 4 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 1 at mangrove forest, Tagbueros salt pans near Puerto Princesa, 24/5 2 Rasa Island, 25/5 6 Zigzag and Napsan Roads between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 198. Black-headed Bulbul** (*Pycnonotus atriceps*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang., 6 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 4 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 4 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 6 Zigzag and Napsan Roads between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 199. Yellow-vented Bulbul (e)** (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *goiavier*)
 12/5 20 Los Banos, 13/5 15 do., 14/5 10 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 10 walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 5 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 1 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 Camp 1 to Baliwag.
Cebu (ssp. *samarensis*)

30/5 2 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *suluensis*)

31/5 5 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 10 do., 2/6 8 do., 3/6 10 do., 4/6 10 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 do., 7/6 20 Along road on the way to Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

200. Yellow-wattled Bulbul (E) *(Pycnonotus urostictus)* (C)

Luzon

12/5 6 Los Banos, Botanical Gardens, 13/5 5 Mt. Makiling. (ssp. *urostictus*.)

Bohol

28/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 2 heard do. (ssp. *atricaudatus*).

Mindanao

4/6 10 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 5 do. (ssp. *philippensis*).

201. Olive-winged Bulbul (e) *(Pycnonotus plumosus)* (C)

Palawan (endemic ssp. *cinereifrons*)

21/5 10 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 2 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony

202. Grey-cheeked Bulbul (e) *(Alophoixus bres frater)* (C)

Palawan

21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 4 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 4 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony.

Note: Latin name by some authors is *Criniger bres*.

203. Sulphur-bellied Bulbul (E) *(Ixos palawanensis)* (C)

21/5 2 of this Palawan endemic in forest between Puerto Princesa and Sabang, 24/5 1 heard Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony

204. Philippine Bulbul (E) *(Ixos philippinus)* (C)

Luzon (ssp. *philippinus*)

12/5 20 Los Banos. 13/5 15 Mt. Makiling and Los Banos, 16/5 10 walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 15 walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 20 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 20 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 heard during walk Camp 1 to Baliwag.

Negros (ssp. *guimarasensis*)

26/5 20 on Mt. Kanlaon.

Bohol (ssp. *saturation*)

27/5 4 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 5 do., 29/5 10 do.

Cebu (ssp. *saturation*)

30/5 15 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. Two birds were seen on the nests.

Mindanao (ssp. *saturation*)

1/6 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 5 do., 3/6 1 do., 4/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 10 do., 6/6 10 do., 7/6 4 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

- 205. Streak-breasted Bulbul (E) (EN)** (*Ixos siquijorensis*) (C)
Cebu (ssp. *monticola*)
 30/5 4-6 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. This large bulbul appeared after some time in the forest, where we sat for 9 hours on a hard limestone cliff, waiting for the Cebu Flowerpecker. We had good looks of the birds, sitting and flying. This forest patch at Tabunan is the only forest left in Cebu, and therefore strictly protected. Apart from the bulbul, it holds the Cebu endemics Black Shama and Cebu Flowerpecker.
 Note: Endemic to the four small islands of Romblon, Tablas, Cebu and Sequijor. The Cebu race *monticola* is very rare and nearly extinct (Kennedy & Fisher), and was recently rediscovered on Cebu.
- 206. Yellowish Bulbul (E)** (*Ixos everetti*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 10 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 5 do., 6/6 2 heard do. This fine, endemic bulbul has a very joyful song. (ssp. *everetti*).
- 207. Ashy Drongo** (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 10 Puerto Princesa – Sabang (one on the nest), 22/5 6 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 2 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 208. Balicassiao (E)** (*Dicrurus balicassius*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 2 Los Banos "Buttonquail Track", Mt. Makiling, 13/5 5 Mt. Makiling (ssp. *balicassius*), 20/5 1 Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. (ssp. *abraensis*).
Negros
 26/5 15 on Mt. Kanlaon (whitebellied ssp. *mirabilis*)
Cebu
 30/5 3 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (ssp. *mirabilis*)
- 209. Hair-crested Drongo (e)** (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) (C)
Palawan (endemic ssp. *palawanensis*)
 21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 1 Sabang – Puerto Princesa, 24/5 4 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 1 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 210. Spangled Drongo (E)** (*Dicrurus bracteatus*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *samarensis*)
 27/5 5 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 10 do., 29/5 4 do.
Mindanao (ssp. *striatus*)
 3/6 1 in forest, along the road near Bislig, 4/6 6 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging

concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 5 do., 6/6 2 do.

Note: There is much confusion over the Spangled Drongos of the Philippines. Some authors divide them into two species (we follow this division, recommended by Tim Fisher): Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus* including *palawanensis*, *cuyensis*, *menagei* and *suluensis*; and Spangled Drongo *Dicrurus bracteatus* including *samarensis* and *striatus*.

The species is further divided outside the Philippines into Wallacean Drongo *Dicrurus densus* in the Moluccas and Lesser Sundas, Sumatran Drongo *Dicrurus sumatranus* of Sumatra and Sulawesi Drongo *Dicrurus montanus* of Sulawesi. (Kennedy & Fisher).

- 211. Dark-throated Oriole (e) (NT)** (*Oriolus xanthonotus*) (C)
Palawan (endemic subspecies *persuasus*)
 21/5 3 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 1 at St. Paul’s Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul’s Underground River N.P., Sabang.
- 212. Philippine Oriole (E)** (*Oriolus steerii*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *samarensis*)
 28/5 1 male Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 heard do.
Mindanao (ssp. *samarensis*).
 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 4 do.
- 213. White-lored Oriole (E)** (*Oriolus albiloris*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 2 around Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 2 do.
 Note: A split from Philippine Oriole, *Oriolus steerii*.
- 214. Black-naped Oriole (e)** (*Oriolus chinensis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *chinensis*)
 12/05-2005 1 male Los Banos buttonquail track, 16/5 1 male Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan (ssp. *chinensis*)
 21/5 1 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul’s Under-ground River N.P., Sabang.
Bohol (ssp. *yamamurae*)
 28/5 4 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 3 heard do.
- 215. Philippine Fairy-bluebird (E)** (*Irena cyanogastra*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *cyanogastra*)
 17/5 10 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 6 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 5 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Bohol (ssp. *ellae*)
 28/5 1 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 2 seen do.
Mindanao (ssp. *hoogstraali*).
 4/6 1 heard singing in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 2 heard do.
- 216. Asian Fairy-bluebird (e)** (*Irena puella tweeddalei*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul’s

Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 8 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 2 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

- 217. Slender-billed Crow (e)** (*Corvus enca*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *sierramadrensis*)
 16/5 1 Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., near Baliwag., 18/5 3 seen from viewpoint, Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan (ssp. *pusillus* "Palawan Crow")
 21/5 4 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 1 forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 8 Sabang, 23/5 1 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 3 Sabang – Puerto Princesa, 24/5 10 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 1 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 218. Large-billed Crow (e)** (*Corvus macrorhynchos philippinus*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 heard Los Banos, "Buttonquail Track", Mt. Makiling, 20/5 3 during walk Camp 1 to Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Negros
 26/5 1 heard on Mt. Kanlaon
Bohol
 27/5 3 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 1 do.
Mindanao
 4/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard do., 6/6 1 during drive from Bislig to Davao, 7/6 during drive between Mt. Sinaka and Davao.
- 219. Palawan Tit (E) (NT)** (*Pardaliparus amabilis*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 Only one bird of this beautiful Palawan endemic was encountered in forest during the drive from Puerto Princesa to Sabang, 23/5 1 bird observed during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.
- 220. Elegant Tit (E)** (*Pardaliparus elegans*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 4 Mt. Makiling. (ssp. *elegans*) 15/5 6 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 17/5 30 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 20 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 10 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 Camp 1 (ssp. *montigenus*).
Negros
 26/5 7 on Mt. Kanlaon. (ssp. *albescens*)
Cebu
 30/5 5 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (Cebu endemic ssp. *visayanus*)
Mindanao
 31/5 3 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 5 do., 2/6 8 do., 3/6 4 do. (ssp. *mindanensis*).

221. **White-fronted Tit (E) (NT)** (*Sittiparus semilarvatus*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 1 in secondary forest behind Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madre Mts. (ssp. *snowi*). This rare bird was picked out by the call by Tim, while it flew over an open grass area in the early morning. It landed shortly in a big tree, at a distance. Field identification marks seen sufficiently well (black body, white front), but better views desired. Not seen well by the whole group.
222. **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (e)** (*Sitta frontalis*) (C)
Palawan
 24/5 3 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail. (endemic ssp. *palawana*)
223. **Sulphur-billed Nuthatch (E)** (*Sitta oenochlamys*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 2 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 3 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern, Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 5 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 10 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1 (ssp. *isarog*).
Mindanao
 31/5 1 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province (showing violet underparts), 1/6 5 do., 2/6 5 do. (ssp. *apo*).
 Note: Apart from the Palawan race, the Philippine birds have been split from S.E. Asian Velvet-fronted Nuthatch into a distinct species, Sulphur-billed Nuthatch. (Kennedy & Fisher).
224. **Stripe-headed Rhabdornis (Stripe-sided R.) (E)** (*Rhabdornis mystacalis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *mystacalis*)
 12/5 4 Los Banos buttonquail track, Mt. Makiling, 13/5 20 Los Banos and Mt. Makiling. A common bird of forest and wooded countryside, and our first encounter with this intriguing, endemic bird family of the Philippines. 18/5 3 in birdwave at trail, just above viewpoint, Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 2 return walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Negros (ssp. *mystacalis*)
 26/5 8 on Mt. Kanlaon.
Mindanao (ssp. *minor*)
 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
225. **Grand Rhabdornis (Long-billed R) (E)** (*Rhabdornis grandis*) (C)
Luzon
 18/5 1 observed by Shack in a canopy birdwave along the trail, just above viewpoint, Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. – the only bird during the trip.
226. **Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis (E)** (*Rhabdornis inornatus*) (C)
Mindanao (ssp. *alaris*)
 1/6 4 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 10 do., 3/6 1 do., 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 2 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

227. **Ashy-headed Babbler (E)** (*Malacocincla cinereiceps*) (C)
Palawan
 23/5 Nice views of this fine Palawan endemic, 1 seen and 1 heard at close range by Tim and Erling, Mangrove Trail, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang. 24/5 2 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 1 seen well in dense bamboo thicket at Palawan Flycatcher site along Zigzag Road, between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
228. **Melodious Babbler (Palawan B.) (E) (NT)** (*Malacopteron palawanense*) (C)
Palawan
 This Palawan endemic was encountered only at Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, May 24th, where three birds showed well, coming out of a dense bamboo thicket. Song also heard well.
229. **Falcated Ground-Babbler (F. Wren-Babbler) (E) (VU)** (*Ptilocichla falcata*) (C)
Palawan
 23/5 Tim found a pair of this magnificent and difficult bird at a small hill along the forest trail, just behind Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang. Seen very well by all of us. One of Palawans endemic birds.
230. **Streaked Ground-Babbler (Striat.Wren-Babbler)(E)(Ptilocichla mindanensis)(C)**
Bohol (ssp. *fortichi*)
 28/5 1 seen well in forest edge at headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 heard do.
Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 4/6 2 seen in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao.
231. **Rabor's Wren-Babbler (Luzon Wren-Babbler) (E) (NT)** (*Napothera rabori*) (C)
Luzon
 18/5 1 heard (and seen in a glimpse by Erling) Hamut Camp. 19/5 2 (a pair), very confident, seen by Shack, Adam and David at the "Flame-breasted Fruit-Dove tree", during walk down from Hamut Camp to Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. (ssp. *rabori*).
232. **Pygmy Babbler (E) (NT)** (*Stachyris plateni*) (C)
Mindanao (ssp. *plateni*)
 4/6 4 seen well in a mixed babbler party, in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 4 do., 6/6 5 do.
233. **Rusty-crowned Babbler (E)** (*Stachyris capitalis*) (C)
Mindanao (ssp. *euroaustralis*)
 4/6 6 in lowland rainforest in mixed babbler party, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 5 do., 6/6 6 do.
234. **Black-crowned Babbler (E)** (*Stachyris nigrocapitata*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *boholensis*)
 28/5 6 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.

235. **Golden-crowned Babbler (E) (NT)** (*Stachyris dennistouni*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 10 Camp 1 and during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 3 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 1 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
236. **Flame-templed Tree-babbler (E) (EN)** (*Stachyris speciosa*) (C)
Negros
 26/5 8 in forest on Mt. Kanlaon. After a couple of hours climbing the trail up the mountain, we finally saw two groups of this most wanted bird, and had great views.
 Note: This magnificent and uncommon bird is on of the most spectacular endemics of the Philippines, only found on the two small islands of Negros and Panay. It is now considered an endangered species.
237. **Chestnut-faced Babbler (E)** (*Stachyris whiteheadi*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 20 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 2 Banaue Hotel garden. ssp. *whiteheadi*.
238. **Luzon Striped-Babbler (E) (NT)** (*Stachyris striata*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 5 at Camp 1, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 3 do.
239. **Striped Tit-Babbler (e)** (*Macronous gularis*) (C)
Palawan (endemic ssp. *woodi*)
 21/5 4 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul’s Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 4 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul’s Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 2 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 4 Zigzag road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
240. **Brown Tit-Babbler (E)** (*Macronous striaticeps*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 28/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 3 (2 ad. with 1 pulli) do.
Mindanao (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 31/5 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 2 do., 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest in mixed babbler party, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 10 do., 7/6 10 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
241. **White-browed Shortwing (e)** (*Brachypteryx montana*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 1 seen, 10 heard singing, Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. The first bird song to announce the break of dawn in the forest (ssp. *poliogyna*).
Mindanao
 31/5 1 heard singing Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 2 seen and heard do., 2/6 1 do. (ssp. *mindanensis*)
 Note: Based on differences in vocalisations, Morris (1996) and other naturalists have speculated that there may in fact be two sympatric, very similar species of shortwings in the Philippines. This intriguing problem is currently under study (Kennedy et al. 2000).
242. **Oriental Magpie-robin (e)** (*Copsychus saularis mindanensis*) (C)
Bohol
 29/5 1 seen on a telephone wire in the countryside between Chocolate Hills and

Tagbilaran.

Cebu

30/5 4 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Note: This widespread, South-East Asian bird seems to be a scarce bird in the Philippines.

243. White-browed Shama (E) *(Copsychus luzoniensis)* (C)

Luzon (ssp. *luzoniensis*).

13/5 10 Mt. Makiling Our first encounter with this beautiful, endemic songster. 16/5 1 heard Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., near Baliwag, 17/5 heard during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 heard Hamut Camp area, 19/5 heard during walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 heard Camp 1.

Negros (ssp. *superciliaris*)

26/5 5 on Mt. Kanlaon.

Note: The Negros subspecies is quite different from the three other subspecies in the Philippines, by lacking rufous rump and white wing bars. A possible split. Two species could be involved: White-browed and "Visayan Shama".

244. White-vented Shama (E) *(Copsychus niger)* (C)

Palawan

20/5 Our first encounter with this fine Palawan endemic was just after our landing in Puerto Princesa, a singing male on a telephone wire at the mangrove beach, in the late afternoon. 21/5 3 heard singing, Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 3 heard calling at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 3 Sabang, 23/5 3 heard during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 1 Sabang – Puerto Princesa, 24/5 2 heard singing, Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 2 heard along Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

245. Black Shama (E) (EN) *(Copsychus cebuensis)* (C)

Cebu

30/5 4-5 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. This fine, all black, long-tailed Cebu endemic was quite easily seen when we entered the forest. It was mostly seen in bamboo thicket.

Note: Now very rare and endangered, restricted to the small forest patch at Tabunan of central Cebu.

246. Luzon Water-redstart (E) (VU) *(Rhyacornis bicolor)* (C)

Luzon

15/5 4 at the river at Bay-Yo, on the north side of Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. The birds stayed at a river stretch around a bridge. Fine scope views from the mountain road above, although from quite a distance.

247. Pied Bushchat (e) *(Saxicola caprata)* (C)

Luzon (ssp. *caprata*).

14/5 5 Candaba Marsh, 2 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue. 15/5 3 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 15 1 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 8 do., return walk.

Mindanao (ssp. *anderseni*)

31/5 2 in grass fields on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 3 do.

248. **Island Thrush (e)** (*Turdus poliocephalus*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 1 seen in flight Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. (ssp. *thomassoni*). An all brownish-black subspecies, with brownish hood.
249. **Arctic Warbler (M)** (*Phylloscopus borealis*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 1 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 1 Banaue Hotel, 1 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., were late winter migrants.
250. **Philippine Leaf-warbler (E)** (*Phylloscopus olivaceus*) (C)
Bohol
 28/5 4 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 do.
Mindanao
 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 2 do.
251. **Lemon-throated Leaf-warbler (L.-t. Warbler) (E)** (*Phylloscopus cebuensis*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 5 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. 18/5 6 Hamut Camp and Hunters Camp area, 19/5 3 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1. (ssp. *luzonensis*),
Negros (ssp. *cebuensis*)
 26/5 1 on Mt. Kanlaon.
252. **Mountain Leaf-warbler (Mountain Warbler) (e)** (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 30 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. (ssp. *benguuetensis*)
Mindanao
 31/5 1 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 5 do., 2/6 2 do. (ssp. *flavostriatus*)
253. **Clamorous Reed-warbler (e)** (*Acrocephalus stentoreus harterti*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 10 Candaba Marsh.
Mindanao
 4/6 2 singing in marsh area at Bislig Airport, east coast of Mindanao.
254. **Tawny Grassbird (e)** (*Megalurus timoriensis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *tweeddalei*)
 13/5 1 seen and heard in field along "Buttonquail Track", Los Banos, Mt. Makiling.
 15/5 1 heard Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 2 Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Mindanao (ssp. *crex*)
 31/5 2 in grass fields Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 seen and 10 heard, do., 2/6 3 heard do., 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
255. **Striated Grassbird** (*Megalurus palustris forbesi*) (C)

Luzon

12/5 8 Los Banos, "Buttonquail Track", 13/5 4 do. 14/5 20 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 6 Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 2 heard do., return walk.

Palawan

20/5 1 heard at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa, 25/5 1 Napsan Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

Mindanao

6/6 1 during drive from Bislig to Davao, 7/6 2 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

- 256. Philippine Tailorbird (E)** (*Orthotomus castaneiceps*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *chloronotus*)
 17/5 3 seen, many heard during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 3 heard Hamut Camp area, 19/5 4 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 2 heard Camp 1.
Negros (ssp. *rabori*)
 26/5 2 on Mt. Kanlaon.
- 257. Rufous-fronted Tailorbird (E)** (*Orthotomus frontalis*) (C)
Bohol (ssp. *frontalis*)
 28/5 5 (1 seen and a nother 4 heard) Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 heard do.
Mindanao (ssp. *frontalis*)
 4/6 2 seen in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 heard do.
 Note: A split from Philippine Tailorbird
- 258. Grey-backed Tailorbird (E)** (*Orthotomus derbianus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *derbianus*)
 13/5 2 seen and heard well, Mt. Makiling.
- 259. Mountain Tailorbird (e)** (*Orthotomus cucullatus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *philippinus*)
 15/5 20 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts.
 Note: Some naturalists treat *Orthotomus cucullatus* as 2 species: Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cucullatus* including the races *philippinus* and *viridicollis*, and Rufous-headed Tailorbird *Orthotomus heterolaemus*. This division is followed here. The two species look very different. The Luzon Mountain Tailorbird looks similar to birds of northern Borneo.
- 260. Rufous-headed Tailorbird (E)** (*Orthotomus heterolaemus*) (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 1 seen Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 seen and 2 heard, do., 2/6 4 seen very well, Mt. Kitanglad, 3/6 1 heard do. A shy and skulking bird, very hard to get a good look at.
 Note: A Mindanao endemic, restricted to 5 mountains.
- 261. Rufous-tailed Tailorbird** (*Orthotomus sericeus*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 1 heard at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa. 21/5 4 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 6

at Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 2 heard during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 3 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 4 Zigzag and Napsan Roads between Narra and Puerto Princesa

- 262. Yellow-breasted Tailorbird (E) (NT)** (*Orthotomus samarensis*) (C)
Bohol
 28/5 1 male seen well on its song post just behind headquarters, and another 2 heard, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills. The finest looking tailorbird species of the Philippines, and a very range restricted species – found only on the 3 small islands of Bohol, Leyte and Samar. Naturally, this is one of the star birds of Chocolate Hills! 29/5 2 (a pair) Rajah Sikatuna N.P.
- 263. Black-headed Tailorbird (White-browed T.) (E)** (*Orthotomus nigriceps*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 2 seen in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. An extremely skulky bird, and very hard to get in the bins. Whenever you see a movement in the foliage, it means that the bird was just there and is already gone! 5/6 5 do., 6/6 2 heard do.
- 264. Golden-headed Cisticola (e)** (*Cisticola exilis semirufus*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 2 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. (photo obtained), 20/5 1 during return walk.
- 265. Zitting Cisticola (one of three ssp.e)** (*Cisticola juncidis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. non-endemic *tinnabulans*)
 14/5 6 Candaba Marsh, 16/5 1 heard during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan (endemic *nigrostriata*)
 24/5 5 rice paddies outside Iwahig Penal Colony,
- 266. Philippine Bush-warbler (E)** (*Cettia seebohmi*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 3 seen, 30 heard, Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. A very common bird of dense scrub at this locality, but very skulking!
- 267. Russet (Benguet) Bush-warbler** (*Bradypterus seebohmi*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 2 singing birds heard from grassland clearings in pine forest, Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts.
 Note: Formerly considered a rare bird. Now, it is known to be a widespread bird of grassland in open pine forest of Cordilleran Mts. in northern Luzon. Recent studies suggest that the Philippine endemic Benguet Bush-Warbler should be lumped back again as a subspecies of Russet Bush-Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi* with other subspecies as *mandelli*, *montis* and *timorensis*. We follow this suggestion.

- 268. Long-tailed Bush-warbler (E) *(Bradypterus caudatus)* (C)**
Luzon
 15/5 2 seen, at least 10-15 heard, Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. ssp. *caudatus*. A very skulking bird of dense forest ground vegetation. If you are lucky still to have your hearing intact, this intriguing bird is detected by its extremely high-pitched, insect-like call. Rather confident.
Mindanao
 31/5 1 seen Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 heard, 2/6 1 heard do. (ssp. *unicolor*).
- 269. Chestnut-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher (Rufous-t. J.-f.) (e) *(Rhinomyias ruficauda)* (C)**
Bohol
 28/5 1 in forest edge behind headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills. (ssp. *boholensis*, endemic to Bohol).
Mindanao
 4/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. (ssp. *samarensis*)
- 270. Rusty-flanked Jungle-flycatcher (White-browed J.-f.) (E) (VU) *(Rhinomyias insignis)* (C)**
Luzon
 17/5 1 along trail, just below Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
 Seen by Adam only.
- 271. Island Verditer-flycatcher (Island Flycatcher) (e) *(Eumyias panayensis)* (C)**
Luzon (ssp. *nigrimentalis*)
 15/5 10 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts.
Mindanao (ssp. *nigriloris*)
 31/5 1 heard Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 5 seen do.
- 272. Snowy-browed Flycatcher (e) *(Ficedula hyperythra)* (C)**
Mindanao
 3/6 1 seen on Mt. Kitanglad during the return walk down the mountain. Not seen by everyone. The only observation of this species during the trip. (ssp. *montigena*, endemic to Mt. Apo, Mt. Kitanglad and Mt McKinley in C Mindanao).
- 273. Little Slaty Flycatcher (E) (VU) *(Ficedula basilanica)* (C)**
Mindanao
 5/6 1 in PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. (ssp. *basilanica*).
 A male of this attractive, scarce, Philippine endemic was encountered in dense foliage in a small gully at the roadside, probably on a breeding site. Tim had recorded the species on this stake-out spot before ("road 4.2"). Especially Shack had been hoping for this species, and was very happy.
- 274. Palawan Flycatcher (E) (VU) *(Ficedula platenae)* (C)**
Palawan
 25/5 This small, fine, elusive Palawan endemic was encountered at a stake out along

Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa, in a roadside gully with dense bamboo thicket. One male was seen and heard singing, at a very close range. The "Zigzag Road" stretch holds good forest parts, good for birding.

275. **Furtive Flycatcher (E) (NT)** (*Ficedula disposita*) (C)
Luzon
 17/5 1 bird of this elusive, Luzon endemic was brilliantly found by Tim in a dense bamboo thicket below Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 heard Hamut Camp area, 19/5 1 return walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1 (probably the same bird as 17/5).
276. **Little Pied Flycatcher (e)** (*Ficedula westermanni*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *rabori*)
 15/5 4 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts.
Mindanao (ssp. *westermanni*)
 31/5 1 male Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 pair do., 2/6 1 heard do.
277. **Blue-breasted Blue-flycatcher (E)** (*Cyornis herioti*) (C)
Luzon
 19/5 1 in canopy at Hamut Camp, observed by Shack only, ssp. *herioti*.
278. **Palawan Blue-flycatcher (E) (NT)** (*Cyornis lemprieri*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 1 pair at close range, in thicket along roadside near Sabang, along Puerto Princesa – Sabang Road, 22/5 1 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 1 male seen and heard singing during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 1 heard singing Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony.
279. **Mangrove Blue-flycatcher (e)** (*Cyornis rufigastra*) (C)
Cebu
 30/5 4 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (ssp. *philippinensis*).
Mindanao
 3/6 1 seen by some of the group on Mt. Kitanglad during the return walk down the mountain (ssp. *philippinensis*).
280. **Citrine Canary-flycatcher (e)** (*Culicicapa helianthea*) (C)
Luzon
 15/5 2 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 17/5 3 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 4 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 4 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1 (ssp. *septentrionalis*).
281. **Pied Fantail (e)** (*Rhipidura javanica nigritorquis*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 5 Candaba Marsh.
Palawan
 20/5 2 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa.
Negros

26/5 1 on Mt. Kanlaon.

Cebu

30/5 10 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao

7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

- 282. Blue Fantail (E)** *(Rhipidura superciliaris)* (C)
Bohol
 28/5 10 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 3 heard do. (ssp. *samarensis*)
Mindanao
 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 4 do., 6/6 1 do. (ssp. *apo*).
- 283. Blue-headed Fantail (E)** *(Rhipidura cyaniceps)* (C)
Luzon
 15/5 3 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. (ssp. *pinicola*), 17/5 2 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 10 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 7 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 1 Camp 1 (ssp. *cyaniceps*).
Negros (ssp. *albiventris*)
 26/5 4 on Mt. Kanlaon. (Note: This is a whitebellied subspecies).
- 284. Black-and-cinnamon Fantail (E)** *(Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea)* (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 4 in mountain forest on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 10 do., 2/6 3 do., 3/6 2 do. (ssp. *hutchinsoni*). A very handsome Fantail, and a Mindanao endemic.
- 285. Rufous Paradise-flycatcher (NE)** *(Terpsiphone cinnamomea)* (C)
Luzon (ssp. *unirufa*)
 18/5 1 male at song-perch just above our tents, Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. It was singing actively in the early morning. Superb views. 19/5 1 do.
Mindanao (ssp. *unirufa*)
 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 male, do., 6/6 2 heard do.
- 286. Blue Paradise-flycatcher (E) (NT)** *(Terpsiphone cyanesceus)* (C)
Palawan
 21/5 this magnificent Palawan endemic was encountered by 3 birds in forest mid way between Puerto Princesa and Sabang, plus 1 male in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 2 Sabang, 23/5 2 males heard calling and 1 female seen during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 4 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 1 male Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
- 287. Black-naped Monarch (e)** *(Hypothymis azurea azurea)* (C)
Luzon
 13/5 3 Mt. Makiling. We noticed that the females sing as well. 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 8 Hamut Camp

area, 19/5 8 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 1 Camp 1.

Palawan

21/5 4 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, and 1 male in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 3 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 4 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 1 heard Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony.

Bohol

28/5 2 heard Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 5 do.

Cebu

30/5 3 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao

4/6 2 heard in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 seen, do., 6/6 5 heard calling, do., 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

288. Celestial Monarch (E) (VU) *(Hypothymis coelestis)* (C)

Mindanao

6/6 One male seen in a mixed bird party in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao (ssp. *coelestis*).

We could hear the distant call of this incredible species from the forest, a loud, ringing three-note whistle, repeated constantly - and followed the sound. After 20 to 30 minutes searching and climbing through limestone rocks in the jungle, we eventually found a birdwave. And the Celestial was in there somewhere, since we could hear it calling eagerly. Hoddinott spotted the bird, and we all (except Tim and Bob, who did not join us), saw it well a couple of times, though briefly. It was seen only a little above eyelevel, since we were sitting on the top of a tall rock in the forest. The male bird is not as bright cobalt blue as shown in the book – rather more pale, turquoise or sky blue. And the long crest was not raised. Still – this was a heavenly moment on the trip, to have the luck to see this enigmatic and rare species on our last morning in PICOP.

289. Short-crested Monarch (E) (NT) *(Hypothymis helenae)* (C)

Mindanao (ssp. *agusanae*)

4/6 1 fine male on its song post, in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. Crippling, close views of this magnificent Philippine endemic, 5/6 2 seen, do., 6/6 3 heard calling, do.

290. Green-backed Whistler (E) *(Pachycephala albiventris)* (C)

Luzon

15/5 5 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. ssp. *albiventris*.

291. White-vented Whistler (NE) *(Pachycephala homeyeri)* (C)

Negros (ssp. *winchelli*)

26/5 4 on Mt. Kanlaon, seen from quite low in the secondary forest and further up. We noticed, that a singing bird on a song post did not respond to tape at all.

Cebu (Cebu endemic ssp. *major*)

30/5 5 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

- 292. Yellow-bellied Whistler (E)** (*Pachycephala philippinensis*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *philippinensis*)
 13/5 3 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 4 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 3 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 2 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Bohol (ssp. *boholensis*)
 28/5 3 Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, 29/5 1 do.
Mindanao (ssp. *apoensis*)
 31/5 1 seen Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 1 do., 2/6 2 do., 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do., 6/6 3 do.
- 293. Grey Wagtail (M)** (*Motacilla cinerea*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 2 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue, 15/5 1 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., 16/5 1 Banaue-Tuguegarao
Mindanao
 1/6 1 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province
 All late winter migrants.
- 294. Paddyfield Pipit (Oriental Pipit) (e)** (*Anthus rufulus lugubris*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 1 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue, 16/5 5 walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan
 24/5 1 Iwahig to Narra
Bohol
 29/5 1 around Tagbilaran.
 (Note: It is now generally accepted that the two Asian forms of *Anthus novaeseelandiae* are treated as 2 species – Richards Pipit *Anthus richardi* and Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus* – the latter species breeding in the Philippines, as the endemic race *lugubris*).
- 295. Pechora Pipit (M)** (*Anthus gustavi*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 1 Los Banos University Campus, on grass lawn (observed by Shack), 15/5 1 Mt. Polis, Cordillera Mts., walking on ground in cabbage field, excellent views. Rather small and short-tailed. The distinct, pale, V-shaped stripe on the back was obvious. Note: This most wanted Siberian straggler to the western Palearctic is a winter migrant bird to the Philippines. We were lucky to see two delayed birds.
- 296. White-breasted Woodswallow** (*Artamus l. leucorhynchus*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 5 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 4 do., return walk.
Palawan
 24/5 2 Iwahig Penal Colony.
Bohol
 29/5 2 Rajah Sikatuna N.P.

Mindanao

31/5 1 in harbour of Cagayan de Oro, 3/6 20 between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 2 Bislig Airport, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 2 during drive from Bislig to Davao.

- 297. Long-tailed Shrike (e)** (*Lanius schach*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *nasutus*)
 12/5 2 Los Banos, "Buttonquail Track", Mt. Makiling. 13/5 1 do. 14/5 2 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue. 15/5 1 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 3 Banaue-Tuguegarao, 2 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 2 around Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 10 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag.
Mindanao (ssp. *nasutus*)
 1/6 1 in grass fields, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 4 do.
- 298. Mountain Shrike (E) (NT)** (*Lanius validirostris*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *validirostris*)
 15/5 5 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. A family group, with 2 adults and 3 juveniles, still being fed by the parents. Seen very well, in cabbage fields behind the police station.
- 299. Brown Shrike (M)** (*Lanius cristatus*) (C)
Luzon
 14/5 2 Candaba Marsh, 2 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue. 15/5 3 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 3 Banaue-Tuguegarao, 1 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 19/5 2 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
- 300. Short-tailed Glossy Starling (e)** (*Aplonis minor todayensis*) (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 10 on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 6 do., 2/6 4 do., 3/6 2 do.
- 301. Asian Glossy Starling** (*Aplonis panayensis*) (C)
Palawan
 20/5 8 at mangrove coast, Puerto Princesa, 21/5 2 Sabang, 23/5 15 Sabang – Puerto Princesa, 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 5 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.
Bohol
 27/5 10 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 5 do., 29/5 20 do.
Cebu
 30/5 100 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao
 3/6 20 between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 15 Bislig Airport, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 50 during drive from Bislig to Davao.
- 302. Coletto (NE)** (*Sarcops calvus*) (C)
Negros (ssp. *melanonotus*).
 26/5 5 in forest on Mt. Kanlaon. Our first and long awaited encounter with this peculiar, bald-headed endemic, with the strange call.
Bohol (ssp. *melanonotus*)
 27/5 3 at Park HQ, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 4 do., 29/5 1 heard do.

Cebu (ssp. *melanonotus*)

30/5 2 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *melanonotus*)

3/6 4 seen on Mt. Kitanglad during the return walk down the mountain, 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 3 do., 6/6 2 do., 7/6 2 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

303. **Crested Myna** (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) (C)

Luzon

12/5 1 drive Manila-Los Banos. 14/5 2 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue, 16/5 10 at breeding colony Banaue-Tuguegarao, 20/5 1 walk Camp 1 to Baliwag, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Palawan

24/5 2 Iwahig to Narra

304. **Apo Myna (E) (NT)** (*Basilornis miranda*) (C)

Mindanao

1/6 A small flock of 5 birds in the top of a dead tree, deep below us in the jungle valley, was noticed by the call by Tim, and eventually found in the telescope. Good, but distant views of this magnificent, endemic starling, only known from a few mountains of Mindanao. The yellow eye-ring and impressive crest was obvious. Our only sighting during our 4 days stay on Mt. Kitanglad.

305. **Hill Myna (e)** (*Gracula religiosa*) (C)

Palawan (endemic ssp. *palawanensis*)

23/5 2 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 5 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.

Note: The Hill Myna in Palawan is becoming increasingly rare, due to capture in large numbers for pet trade. (Kennedy & Fisher).

306. **Plain-throated Sunbird (e)** (*Anthreptes malacensis*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *birgita*)

13/5 10 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Palawan (ssp. *paraguae*)

21/5 2 in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang.

307. **Copper-throated Sunbird** (*Leptocoma calcostetha*) (C)

Palawan

21/5 4 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 23/5 2 at mangrove forest, Tagburos salt pans near Puerto Princesa

308. **Olive-backed Sunbird (e)** (*Cinnyris jugularis*) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *obscurior*)

16/5 2 Banaue Hotel, 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.

Palawan (ssp. *aurora*)

21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 2 Sabang, 23/5 2 do., 24/5 4 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony, 25/5 3 Zigzag and Napsan Roads between Narra

and Puerto Princesa.

Note: The male of the endemic Palawan race *aurora* looks different and very handsome, with its bright orange breast.

Negros (ssp. *jugularis*)

26/5 5 on Mt. Kanlaon.

Bohol (ssp. *jugularis*)

29/5 1 Rajah Sikatuna N.P.

Cebu (ssp. *jugularis*)

30/5 3 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.

Mindanao (ssp. *jugularis*)

31/5 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 2 do.

- 309. Purple-throated Sunbird (e, except one ssp.)** (*Leptocoma sperata*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 10 Mt. Makiling. Endemic ssp. *sperata*.
Palawan
 21/5 3 males Puerto Princesa – Sabang (non-endemic ssp. *trochilus*).
- 310. Flaming Sunbird (E)** (*Aethopyga flagrans*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 3 Mt. Makiling (ssp. *flagrans*), 17/5 2 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 4 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 2 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 1 male Camp 1 (ssp. *decolor*)
- 311. Grey-hooded Sunbird (E) (NT)** (*Aethopyga primigenius*) (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 4 seen of this montane Mindanao endemic, in forest of Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 5 do., 2/6 4 do., 3/6 2 do., 7/6 2 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao. (ssp. *primigenius*).
- 312. Metallic-winged Sunbird (E)** (*Aethopyga pulcherrima*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *jefferyi*)
 15/5 8 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts.
Bohol (Bohol endemic ssp. *decorosa*)
 29/5 4 Rajah Sikatuna N.P.
Mindanao (ssp. *pulcherrima*)
 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 1 do.
- 313. Mount Apo Sunbird (E) (NT)** (*Aethopyga boltoni*) (C)
Mindanao
 1/6 1 male on top of trail, in mossy, high altitude, cloud forest, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. Above 1900 m.a.s.l. Our only record of this Mindanao endemic (ssp. *malindangensis*).
- 314. Handsome Sunbird (E)** (*Aethopyga bella*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 2 (a pair) Los Banos Botanical Gardens, Mt. Makiling. ssp. *minuta*. 13/5 2 do.
Mindanao

4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 3 do. (ssp. *bella*)

- 315. Lovely Sunbird (E)** (*Aethopyga shelleyi*) (C)
Palawan
 21/5 2 males Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 1 male in forest behind Last Frontier Paradise Hotel, Sabang, 22/5 1 Sabang, 23/5 2 do., 24/5 4 Iwahig Penal Colony
 Note: A recent split from Handsome Sunbird (*Aethopyga bella*), due to different song, larger size and different plumage characters, a.o red streaking of breast. See Cheke & Mann 2001, and split accepted by Dickinson 2003. The English names of the now two different species have created some confusion. For more info, see Don Roberson Philippines trip report 2005 about this: <http://montereybay.com/creagrus/Philippines2005.html>
- 316. Crimson Sunbird (e)** (*Aethopyga siparaja*) (C)
Cebu
 30/5 3 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (ssp. *magnifica*)
- 317. Naked-faced Spiderhunter (E)** (*Arachnothera clarae*) (C)
Mindanao
 4/6 Brilliant views of a single bird, foraging in exotic flowers in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. Our only observation of this attractive Philippine endemic – and finally seen on one of our last days of the trip, much to our relief. (ssp. *clarae*).
- 318. Little Spiderhunter (e)** (*Arachnothera longirostra*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *dilutior*)
 21/5 1 heard between Puerto Princesa and Sabang, 22/5 1 heard Sabang, 23/5 One heard and one seen during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 1 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.
Mindanao
 4/6 3 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 3 do. (ssp. *flammeifera*).
- 319. Olive-backed Flowerpecker (E)** (*Prionochilus olivaceus*) (C)
Luzon 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 2 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 2 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1. (ssp. *parsonsi*).
Mindanao
 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. (ssp. *olivaceus*).
- 320. Palawan Flowerpecker (E)** (*Prionochilus plateni*) (C)
Palawan (ssp. *plateni*)
 21/5 4 of this fine Palawan endemic were seen during drive Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 4 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 3 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 24/5 4 Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail, 25/5 1 Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

321. **Striped Flowerpecker (E)** (*Dicaeum aeruginosum*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. striatissimum)
 13/5 1 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
322. **Olive-capped Flowerpecker (E)** (*Dicaeum nigrilore*) (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 3 of this montane, Mindanao endemic seen in mossy forest on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 2 do., 3/6 1 do. (ssp. *nigrilore*).
323. **Flame-crowned Flowerpecker (E) (NT)** (*Dicaeum anthonyi*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. anthonyi)
 15/5 1 male Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. We were lucky, eventually, to see a fine male of this rare flowerpecker in the afternoon, by waiting patiently at a fruiting tree along the roadside.
Mindanao (ssp. kampilili)
 31/5 One of the first birds to be seen while arriving at Del Monte Lodge on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. Sitting in a low berry-bush next to the house. It was found by Hoddinott, who was the only one to miss this rare bird on Mt. Polis in Luzon, so David was a happy man!
324. **Bicoloured Flowerpecker (E)** (*Dicaeum bicolor*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. inexpectatum)
 13/5 2 males, Mt. Makiling, 17/5 2 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 2 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 19/5 1 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Mindanao (ssp. bicolor)
 31/5 3 on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 1 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
325. **Cebu Flowerpecker (E) (CR)** (*Dicaeum quadricolor*) (C)
Cebu
 30/5 1 male in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. We waited for almost 6 hours on our observation point on a tall limestone rock in the forest. All we saw were a number of Red-striped Flowerpeckers, but suddenly a Cebu male appeared swiftly in a tree close by. David Shackleford managed to see the diagnostic orange-red back – the rest of us just managed to see the bird, before it was gone – not to be seen again.
 Note: Nearly extinct. A few hundred birds may survive in this few square kilometer of forest patch in the central part of Cebu. It is considered threatened by the dominant Red-striped Flowerpecker. Now, Cebu Flowerpecker is probably the rarest bird in the Philippines.
326. **Red-keeled Flowerpecker (E) (VU)** (*Dicaeum haematostictum*) (C)
Negros
 26/5 3 (two males and one female) at the Mambukal Reserve near Bacolod (a sort of Botanical garden).
 Note: A fairly recent split from Red-striped Flowerpecker. Found only on Panay, Negros and Guimaras, and now a vulnerable species.

- 327. Red-striped Flowerpecker (E)** (*Dicaeum australe*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *australe*)
 13/5 5 Mt. Makiling, 16/5 3 Banaue Hotel garden, 17/5 1 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Bohol (ssp. *australe*)
 27/5 2 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 29/5 1 do.
Cebu (ssp. *australe*)
 30/5 30 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *australe*)
 3/6 1 between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 2 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 10 do.
- 328. Buzzing Flowerpecker (White-bellied F.) (E)** (*Dicaeum hypoleucum*) (C)
Luzon
 13/5 4 Mt. Makiling. ssp. *obscurum*. 17/5 2 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 2 Hamut camp area, 19/5 5 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1, 20/5 1 heard Camp 1 (ssp. *cagayanensis*).
Mindanao
 31/5 2 Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 3/6 1 heard do., 4/6 1 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 2 do. (ssp. *pontifex*).
- 329. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker (e)** (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *xanthopygium*)
 13/5 2 Mt. Makiling, 14/5 1 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue, 17/5 1 heard during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 1 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 1 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.
Bohol (ssp. *cinereigularis*)
 28/5 1 male Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills.
Cebu (endemic Cebu ssp. *pallidius*)
 30/5 1 male in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
Mindanao (ssp. *cinereigularis*)
 3/6 2 between Mt. Kitanglad and Bislig, via Davao, 4/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 10 do., 6/6 2 do., 7/6 4 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.
 Note: The Cebu race is very rare and close to extinction. It once was described as the most common flowerpecker in Cebu.
- 330. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (e)** (*Dicaeum ignipectus*) (C)
Luzon (ssp. *luzoniense*)
 15/5 3 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts.
Negros (ssp. *apo*)
 26/5 1 male on Mt. Kanlaon.
Mindanao (ssp. *apo*)
 31/5 1 male on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 2 do.
- 331. Pygmy Flowerpecker (E)** (*Dicaeum pygmaeum*) (C)
Luzon

13/5 2 Mt. Makiling. ssp. *pygmaeum*. 16/5 2 during walk Baliwag – camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 2 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. ssp. *salomonseni*.

Cebu

30/5 3 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (ssp. *pygmaeum*).

Mindanao

5/6 1 male in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao. The male of the Mindanao subspecies *davao* is quite different to the other subspecies: We noticed a bluish-black back, uniform upperparts, white vent, pale underparts and with a striking, broad, black stripe on the belly.

332. Lowland White-eye (E) (Zosterops meyeri) (C)

Luzon

12/5 10 Los Banos University Campus. ssp. *meyeri*. 13/5 2 do. in large, solitary acacia tree on a lawn.

333. Everett's White-eye (e) (Zosterops everetti) (C)

Cebu

30/5 4 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan. (Cebu endemic ssp. *everetti*).

Mindanao

4/6 4 in lowland rainforest, PICOP logging concession area at Bislig, east coast of Mindanao, 5/6 5 do., 7/6 2 Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao. (ssp. *basilanicus*).

Note: Formerly believed extinct on Cebu, but has been seen regularly since 1985.

334. Yellowish White-eye (E) (Zosterops nigrorum) (C)

Luzon

13/5 10 Mt. Makiling. ssp. *luzonicus*. 16/5 1 Banaue Hotel. ssp. *aureiloris*(?) , 10 during walk Baliwag – camp 1, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 17/5 20 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 18/5 10 Hamut camp area, 19/5 10 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1. ssp. *innominatus*.

Negros

26/5 10 on Mt. Kanlaon. (ssp. *nigrorum*.)

335. Mountain White-eye (e) (Zosterops montanus) (C)

Luzon (ssp. *whiteheadi*)

15/5 25 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts.

Mindanao (ssp. *vulcani*)

31/5 50 on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 200 do., 2/6 180 do., 3/6 50 do.

336. Black-masked White-eye (Mindanao W.) (E) (Lophozosterops goodfellowi) (C)

Mindanao

31/5 1 seen in mossy mountain forest on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. This handsome, Mindanao endemic of the mountain forest is usually seen in mixed groups with Mountain Whiteeye, Black-and-cinnamon Fantail and Cinnamon Ibon. However, it seems to be scarce. 1/6 1 do. (ssp. *goodfellowi*). So, actually only two birds were seen on Mt. Kitanglad..

337. **Cinnamon Ibon (C. White-eye) (E)** (*Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus*) (C)
Mindanao
 31/5 2 in mountain forest of Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 10 do., 2/6 4 do., 3/6 1 do.
338. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow** (*Passer montanus*) (C)
Luzon
 12/5 20 Manila. 13/5 30 Manila. 14/5 150 Candaba Marsh, 300 drive Candaba Marsh – Banaue, 16/5 2 Banaue Hotel, 50 Banaue- Tuguegarao, 20/5 4 Tuguegarao.
Palawan
 20/5 2 Puerto Princesa, 21/5 5 Sabang, 23/5 10 Sabang, 24/5 10 Iwahig to Narra, 25/5 10 Narra to Puerto Princesa.
Negros
 26/5 20 in urban areas around Bacolod.
Bohol
 29/5 10 Chocolate Hills
Cebu
 30/5 10 Cebu City and countryside.
Mindanao
 31/5 20 Cagayan de Oro and Bukidnon Province, 3/6 10 on Mt. Kitanglad during the return walk down the mountain, 4/6 20 in Bislig area, east coast of Mindanao, 6/6 25 during drive from Bislig to Davao.
 Note: This non-native introduced species was common in all towns and cities.
339. **Green-faced Parrotfinch (E) (VU)** (*Erythrura viridifacies*) (C)
Luzon
 16/5 40 in bamboo growth at fields just below the village at Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts. (seen by Hoddinott and Shack). A rare bird. 2004 was an irruption year of the species, and our observations probably indicated remnant birds from this. 18/5 2 Hamut Camp area, 20/5 10 birds seen on the return walk from Camp 1 to Baliwag in an old bamboo growth, at the same fields. Several of the birds showed buffish on the lower half of the underparts, and shortish tail. This led us to wonder if they could be Tawnybreasted Parrotfinches in a mixed flock with Green-faced. However, later literature studies (Finches and Sparrows of the world, Croom & Helm) revealed that they were immature birds of Green-faced. Please note, that "A guide to the birds of the Philippines" states that the immature birds of Greenfaced are similar to adult but "paler". This description could be misleading, since the immature Green-faced is actually green, but with a buffish belly, somewhat similar to Tawnybreasted.
340. **Red-eared Parrotfinch (E) (NT)** (*Erythrura coloria*) (C)
Mindanao
 1/6 2 in tall cogon grass along the trail, Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province. This skulking and shy, beautiful Mindanao endemic was not seen by all the participants. 2/6 1 do. seen by Shack, Hoddinott and Adam.
341. **Java Sparrow (VU) (I)** (*Padda oryzivora*) (C)
Mindanao

7/6 4 passing the road in grassland area, seen by Hoddinott and others from the motorcycle gang while driving between the village of Barangay Greenfield and Mount Sinaka, Arakan Province, central Mindanao.

Note: A Java and Bali endemic, introduced to other parts of S.E. Asia and Australia, including the Philippines, where uncommon.

- 342. White-bellied Munia (2 of 3 ssp. endemic) (Lonchura leucogastra) (C)**
Luzon (endemic ssp. *everetti*)
 13/5 8 Mt. Makiling, 17/5 6 during walk from Camp 1 to Hamut Camp, Northern Sierra Madres Mts.
Palawan (non-endemic ssp. *palawana*)
 21/5 20 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 15 Sabang, 23/5 15 do., 24/5 1 Bautahan River Trail, Iwahig Penal Colony.
Mindanao
 1/6 10 on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 10 do., 3/6 1 do. (ssp. *manueli*).
- 343. Scaly-breasted Munia (Nutmeg Mannakin) (e) (Lonchura punctulata cabanisi) (C)**
Luzon
 15/5 6 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 5 during walk Baliwag – Camp 1, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., 20/5 15 do., during return walk.
Palawan
 21/5 2 Sabang, 24/5 20 Iwahig Fish Ponds.
Cebu
 30/5 10 in Central Cebu National Park, at the village of Tabunan.
- 344. Chestnut Munia (Lonchura atricapilla) (C)**
Luzon
 14/5 40 Candaba Marsh. (ssp. *jagori*), 15/5 3 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts., 16/5 5 Banaue-Tuguegarao (ssp. *formosana*)
Palawan
 22/5 10 Sabang, 24/5 100 rice paddies Iwahig Penal Colony, 10 Narra to Puerto Princesa. (ssp. *jagori*)
Mindanao
 31/5 10 in grass fields at Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 1/6 20 do., 2/6 20 do., 3/6 10 do., 4/6 10 Bislig Airport, east coast of Mindanao, 7/6 10 along the road between Mt. Sinaka and Davao (ssp. *jagori*).
 Note: In Clements Checklist of the birds of the World this species has the latin name *Lonchura atricapilla*. (name of the subspecies of NE.-India, Bangladesh, Assam and Burma).
- 345. White-cheeked Bullfinch (E) (Pyrrhula leucogenis) (C)**
Luzon (ssp. *leucogenys*)
 15/5 7 Mt. Polis, Cordilleran Mts. along roadside on north side of mountain, below police station.
Mindanao (ssp. *steeri*)
 1/6 5 on Mt. Kitanglad, Bukidnon Province, 2/6 2 do.

Recorded: 345 species, including 164 endemics (or near-endemics).

Mammals

Bat sp.

Luzon

13/5 1 Mt. Makiling.

Bat sp.

Palawan

22/5 thousands in St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Palawan

Philippine Flying Fox

(*Pteropus speciosus*)

Negros

26/5 500 roosting in trees in Mambukal Reserve outside Bacolod.

Bohol

27/5 10 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, 28/5 5 do.

Philippine Flying Lemur (Colugo or Kaguang) (E)

(*Cynocephalus volans*)

Bohol

27/5 3 observed at dusk at headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna N.P., Bohol. One female with its young, plus one. The adult has a distinct yellow stripe on front and nose. The lemurs soared from one tree to the other, and climbed up the trunks. Seen very well in spotlight. Excellent!, 28/5 2 do.

Northern Luzon Slendertailed Cloud Rat (E)

(*Phloeomys pallidus*)

Luzon

16/5 1 Camp 1, Mt. Dos Carneros, Northern Sierra Madres Mts., near Baliwag. Seen after dark in a tree at our tents. It was climbing along a branch, looking very "unstable". Great digiphotographs and video was obtained of this red-list mammal, endemic to Luzon rainforest. Belonging to the mouse family Muridae, Cloud Rats are thus considered to be the biggest mice species in the world!

Brown Rat

(*Rattus norvegicus*)

Bohol

28/5 1 Chocolate Hills Hotel restaurant.

Long-tailed Macaque

(*Macaca fascicularis*)

Luzon

18/5 2 Hamut Camp area, 19/5 4 walk Hamut Camp to Camp 1.

Palawan

21/5 10 on limestone cliffs, in jungle near Sabang. Along Puerto Princesa – Sabang road, 25/5 1 heard Zigzag Road between Narra and Puerto Princesa.

Mindanao

5/6 1 PICOP, Mindanao.

Northern Palawan Tree Squirrel

(*Sundasciurus juvenis*)

Palawan

21/5 2 Puerto Princesa – Sabang, 22/5 10 Sabang, 22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang, 23/5 3 during walk to Central Park Station, St. Paul's Under-ground River N.P., Sabang.

Mindanao Squirrel*(Sundasciurus mindanensis)**Mindanao*

4/6 2 PICOP.

Small Indian Civet*(Viverricula indica)**Palawan*

24/5 1 on forest trail, Iwahig Penal Colony, Bautahan River Trail.

Common Palm Civet*(Paradoxus hermafroditus)**Bohol*

27/5 1 at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Chocolate Hills, at park headquarters, Rajah Sikatuna National Park, Bohol Bohol.

Dolphin sp.*(Delphinus/Orcaella sp.)**Negros/Cebu*

27/5 2 schools of dolphins observed from the jet-ferry between Negros and Cebu.

Reptiles

Monitor Lizard*(Varanus sp)**Palawan*

22/5 2 at St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang.

Snake sp.*Palawan*

22/5 1 unidentified dark snake inside St. Paul's Underground River N.P., Sabang.

Snake sp.

4/6 1 green-coloured snake in PICOP, Bislig.

Flying Lizard sp.*Mindanao*

4/6 3 at PICOP.