

# **Philippines: Palawan, Cebu, Negros, Bohol, and Mindanao**



## **Independent Budget Birding May 10 - June 1, 2016**

Ross and Melissa Gallardy  
[www.budgetbirders.com](http://www.budgetbirders.com)

## Summary:

Overall, another great birding trip. As this was our first time in the Philippines we covered most of the “typical” birding destinations including Palawan, Cebu, Negros, Siquijor, Bohol, and Mindanao. For the most part, this was an independent trip although some local guides were used in the Visayas as well as on Mindanao. The people we met were very friendly, almost everyone spoke at least some English, and even in Mindanao I felt safe the entire time. This report covers the main birding areas we visited discussing directions/access, general birding advice/strategy for the spot, and any additional logistics with regards to costs/guides. I’ve also included a list of the “better” birds encountered on each island and notes about where to find them. This report isn’t too detailed about specialty species/subspecies as each location as there are already fantastic reports out there with that information (Radstaak 2013). Participants for the trip included myself, my wife, Melissa (Palawan, Visayas), Rob Ulph (Palawan, Visayas), Kurt Pohlman (Bohol, Mindanao), Dave Ward (Mindanao), and Michael Kearns (Mindanao). I finished the 23 day trip with 268 species including ~149 endemics. Overall, the total cost (including international airfare) for my wife and I was \$4351.75

## Resources:

### Websites:

As usual, both xeno-canto, cloudbirders, and eBird were extremely valuable resources in researching and preparing for the trip. A few trip reports that we used (to varying degrees of usefulness) are included below. Also, there is a link to our website, which has blog entries written on each island as well, though overall, for someone looking for information, this report will be more helpful than the blog (but still check out the blog!). eBird is rapidly becoming an extremely useful tool on seeing recent sightings before leaving on a trip, but sadly, most people remain extremely vague in their checklists. All of my eBird checklists include GPS coordinates or detailed information for target birds and I encourage others visiting these areas to do the same. Even quick notes about where on a trail or a km mark can be extremely helpful for those not familiar with the area.

[www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org): all checklists from the trip including numerous pictures and audio recordings can be searched for on eBird

[www.xeno-canto.org](http://www.xeno-canto.org): Recordings for the trip were downloaded from here, I’ve also added [my recordings](#) from the trip

[www.cloudbirders.com](http://www.cloudbirders.com): Access to dozens of trip reports. Below are a few I took with me.

### Reports:

[Birding the Philippines](#): Sjoerd Radstaak, 2013: Fantastic report covering specifics for most areas

[Philippines](#): Tim Mitzen, 2013: Not as detailed as Radstaak, but still some good info

[Philippines Luzon, Bohol, Cebu, Palawan](#): Oscar Campbell, 2014

[Bohol](#), Philippines: Petri Hottola 2015

[www.budgetbirders.com](http://www.budgetbirders.com): blog posts from this trip along with my prior travels can be found here

Also, special thanks to Michael Kearns who happened to have started his trip a few weeks before mine and was able to provide some up-to-date details for a few species including extremely valuable information on coordinating the trip to Mt Victoria for the Palawan Striped-Babblers

### GPS:

For those who don’t own a GPS, buy one. The Garmin Etrex 30 is extremely easy to use and I feel is essential to any independently traveling birder. Using a GPS and a set of coordinates helps to eliminate the guess work in directions and really makes it easier for others to find the same location. In this report I try to use GPS coordinates as much as possible and once again, encourage others to do the same. I’m always amazed to pick up a “bird site guide” and find detailed (though usually confusing or inaccurate directions) when all someone needs to do is write a few quick notes and provide a list of GPS way points. It is also very easy to download free open source maps online for use in both car GPSs and handhelds (such as the Garmin Etrex30). I’ve used these open source maps throughout the world and have found them extremely accurate in most circumstances and they are free!

OSM Map: [http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/OSM\\_Map\\_On\\_Garmin/Download](http://wiki.openstreetmap.org/wiki/OSM_Map_On_Garmin/Download): Download maps from around the world for Garmin

I was able to download a map for both my Garmin as well as for my car GPS for the Palawan portion of the trip.

## **Logistics:**

### **Car Rental:**

We only rented a car on Palawan. We used Sabai Car Rental, [sabaicarrental@gmail.com](mailto:sabaicarrental@gmail.com), which seems to be the one most people have used. We got a Toyota Avanza and were quoted 2500 pp per day for unlimited miles. We had the car for 4 ½ days so total was 11000 pp. Prior to the trip I sent them a picture of my driver license and passport, this worked out well because since they had them on record, when we met the lady at the airport at 0600 when we landed, I was able to signed the agreement there and drive off. Quickest car rental pickup I've ever done! Make sure you have cash so that you can take care of the car at the airport instead of having to go to the office. The roads on Palawan are in fine shape and driving is simple except it can be a little chaotic in Puerto Princesa. I brought a car gps with me with a map I had downloaded online which worked fine.

### **Ferry:**

During the early stages of your planning, make sure you start looking at the ferry schedules online. Although these have been known to change, it will give you a good idea of what days/times you can get from point A to point B. Oceanjet was the company we used each time. For example, at the moment the overnight ferry from Tagbilaran (Bohol) to Cagayan de Oro (Mindanao) only leaves on Mon/Wed/Friday nights (Trans-Asia Shipping). That's awesome if that works in your schedule, but by the time I realized that, it was too late into planning so instead I had to take an evening ferry on Sunday to Cebu City and then a morning flight on Monday to get to Mindanao. Also, book your ferries in advance if possible. We arrived at the ferry terminal in Dumaguete (Negros) at 1200 planning to catch a ferry to Tagbilaran (Bohol) and surprisingly there's only 1 ferry a day and it was full. This easily could have been avoided had we gotten tickets before heading to Twin Lakes for two days. Instead we detoured to Siquijor for an afternoon/morning which actually worked out nicely in the end. When we finally did arrive in Bohol we bought our return tickets Bohol to Cebu before heading to Bilar for a few days. You don't need to book days/weeks in advance, but getting the ticket the day before is highly advisable.

### **Buses:**

Bus terminals in the Philippines are interesting. They are set up like most other terminals I've been to in the world, but for at least my experiences, you don't buy tickets. You just hang around until the bus arrives and then it's a pushing battle to get on and grab a seat. For long rides like Cebu to Dumaguete, there was a pretty large group of people trying to get on the bus and it was quite the shoving match to make sure my wife and I got on! Overall, traveling long distance on the buses wasn't too bad and for trips between large cities, you shouldn't have a problem getting a nicer bus with AC if you want.

### **Vans:**

We used vans on two occasions. Cagayan de Oro airport to Mt Kitanglad pickup point and Bislig to Davao. As usual, the tradeoff to using a van is that it's quicker, but a little more expensive. For the trip to Mt Kitanglad, the driver offered us an insanely good rate (2500 pp) so we took it. For heading back to Davao, the van was 300 pp and takes 3-4 hours while the bus is 150ish pp and takes 6-7 hours. Since I was catching a flight home and didn't want to chance missing it, the extra money was well worth it.

### **Tricycle/Motorbike:**

Tricycles are present in all towns/cities and can easily be used for short distances. For a lot of the spots in the Visayas, you'll need to ride on the back of a motorbike instead of using a tricycle, so be prepared for that in case you're someone who doesn't like riding motorbikes. Also, don't expect them to have a helmet for you either. Overall, all of our motorbike drivers drove very safe and we didn't have any problems. If you are concerned you can always tell them to drive slower than normal.

### **Cell Phone (SIM card):**

Getting a SIM card in the Philippines was 100% necessary. This is the first time I've bought a SIM card in a foreign country and it was extremely helpful. Since most of the local guides don't have email and texting them international doesn't work well (if they receive the international text it will wipe out most of their credit and they won't respond) you will need a local SIM to coordinate guiding arrangements once you arrive.

### **Currency Exchange:**

Surprisingly the best exchange rate by far was at the Manila airport (47 pp for 1 USD). Originally I was hesitant to exchange too much at the airport since usually this is a bad idea. The rest of the trip I struggled to find a rate even close to as good at the Manila airport and often ran into issues trying to exchange \$20. If you do plan to carry USD and exchange throughout the trip, bring \$50 or \$100 bills as you'll get a better rate.

**Accommodation:**

Accommodation was easy to find at every location we went to. Cost averaged around 600-800 pp, although in some of the bigger cities it was difficult to find accommodation under 1000 pp. Below is a summary of the places we stayed:

<b>Accommodations</b>				
Island	Location	Accommodation	Price Per Night	Notes
Palawan	Sabang	Dab Dab	500 pp	Basic, cold shared shower area, no Wi-Fi, fan
Palawan	Puerto Princesa	Tangay Pensionne	1000 pp	Conveniently located near the edge of town, hot shower, Wi-Fi, restaurant
Palawan	Narra	Gorayan Lodge	600 pp	Basic, cold shower, AC, no Wi-Fi
Cebu	Tanuban Forest	Okings House	200 pp per person	Cold shower, slept on floor as bed was being used by someone else
Cebu	Cebu City	Sugbutel Family Hotel	300 pp per person	Large dormitory accommodation, Wi-Fi, hot shower, AC. Very cheap, hard to find cheap accommodation in the city
Negros	Valencia	Reiven's Guesthouse	650 pp	Located just before town next to the gas station. AC, cold shower, no Wi-Fi
Negros	Twin Lakes	Camping		Restaurant closes at 1700
Siquijor	San Juan	Royal Cliff Resort	800 pp	Hot shower, Wi-Fi, fan. Very nice garden, highly recommended
Bohol	Bilar	Habitat Bohol	650 pp	Different priced rooms, we got the cheapest. Wi-Fi. Restaurant will stay open late if coordinated
Mindanao	Davao	Princess Perrine Suites	1200 pp	Hot shower, Wi-Fi, AC
Mindanao	Compostela Valley		600 pp	Hot shower
Mindanao	Bislig	Paper Country Inn	1000 pp	Hot shower, Wi-Fi, AC

# Philippines

May 8-June 2, 2016



1. Palawan
2. Cebu
3. Negros
4. Bohol
5. Mindanao

## Itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive Puerto Princesa Airport (0600), Zig Zap Road (0715-0900), Iwahig Penal Colony and St Pauls Underground River Park coordination (1000-1200), ATV trail (1400-1500), Liyang Lookout (1500-1700), ATV trail (1800-1900). Night Sabang

Day 2: St Pauls Underground River Park (0545-0915), ATV trail (0945-1100), Honda Bay (1300-1700), night Narra

Day 3: Narra (0500-0530), Mt Victoria coordination (0600-0830), Start hike to Mt Victoria base camp at 0900, arrived base camp at 1700. Night base camp, elevation 1345m

Day 4: Mt Victoria base camp (0500-0900), started hike out around 0930, arrived at car at 1600. Zig Zag Road (1900-1915). Night Puerto Princesa

Day 5: Iwahig Penal Colony (0500-0900), Flight at 1300: Puerto Princesa to Cebu City. Arrived Cebu City at 1600, arrived at Tabunan at 2000. Owling (2000-2100). Night Oking's House

Day 6: Tabunan (0500-1000), transport back to Cebu City, Bus to Dumaguete, Negros (1430-2030). Night Valencia

Day 7: Mt Tanilis (0500-1000), Valencia (1100-1500), Visayan Shama twitch (1530-1930). Night Valencia

Day 8: Depart at 0400 for Twin Lakes. Arrived Twin Lakes at 0730. Twin Lakes (0730-2100). Night Twin Lakes

Day 9: Twin Lakes (0500-1100), travel to ferry terminal, Ferry to Siquijor (1250), San Juan: Royal Cliffs Resort (1500-dark). Night San Juan

Day 10: Royal Cliffs Resort (0500-0800), Scuba (0800-1200), Ferry to Tagbilaran (1300-1700), travel to Bilar. Night Bilar

Day 11: Magsaysay "The Loop" (0330-1100), lunch at Simply Butterflies, Magsaysay "The Loop" and clearing (1500-1930). Night Bilar

Day 12: Magsaysay "The Loop" and Tarctic Trail (0400-1100), Chocolate Hills (1500-1700). Night Bilar

Day 13: Magsaysay "The Loop" and Brahminy Trail (0400-0900), travel to Tagbilaran, ferry to Cebu City (1800-2000). Night Cebu City

Day 14: Flight at 0500 Cebu City Airport to Cagayan de Oro airport. Wait at airport for others (0600-0930). Travel to Mt Kitanglad pick up spot (1000-1300). Walk to Mt Kitanglad (1400-1500). Mt Kitanglad (1500-2000). Night Del Monte Lodge

Day 15: Owling (0300-0500), birding to Eagle Platform (0500-0730), Eagle Platform (0730-1500), birding down to Del Monte (1500-1700), Lodge area (1700-2000)

Day 16: Owling/Hike to Apo Sunbird spot (0200-0500). Apo Sunbird Area (0500-0600), Platform 1 (0700-1130), hike back up to Apo Sunbird spot (1200-1330), Apo Sunbird area (1330-1500), Hike back to Del Monte Lodge (1500-1730), Lodge area (1730-1830). Night Del Monte Lodge

Day 17: Area around Lodge (0300-0600), area between Lodge and Eagle Platform (0600-1100), hike back to highway (1130-1230), bus Malaybaya to Davao (1400-2000). Night Davao

Day 18: Eden Resort area (0400-0830), Davao hotel (0900-1230 car trouble), travel to Compostela Valley (1230-1600), Compostela Valley (1600-1800). Night Compostela Valley

Day 19: Compostela Valley (0400-1000), travel to bus stop and then travel to Bislig (1200-1530), Bislig Airport (1600-1800). Night Bislig

Day 20: PICOP Road 42 (0330\*-1330), Southern Silvery Kingfisher Spot (1500-1600). Night Bislig

Day 21: PICOP Road 4-Cemetery (0330\*-1400), Road 4-Quarry (1530-1700). Night Bislig

Day 22: PICOP Road 42 (0330\*-1700). Night Bislig

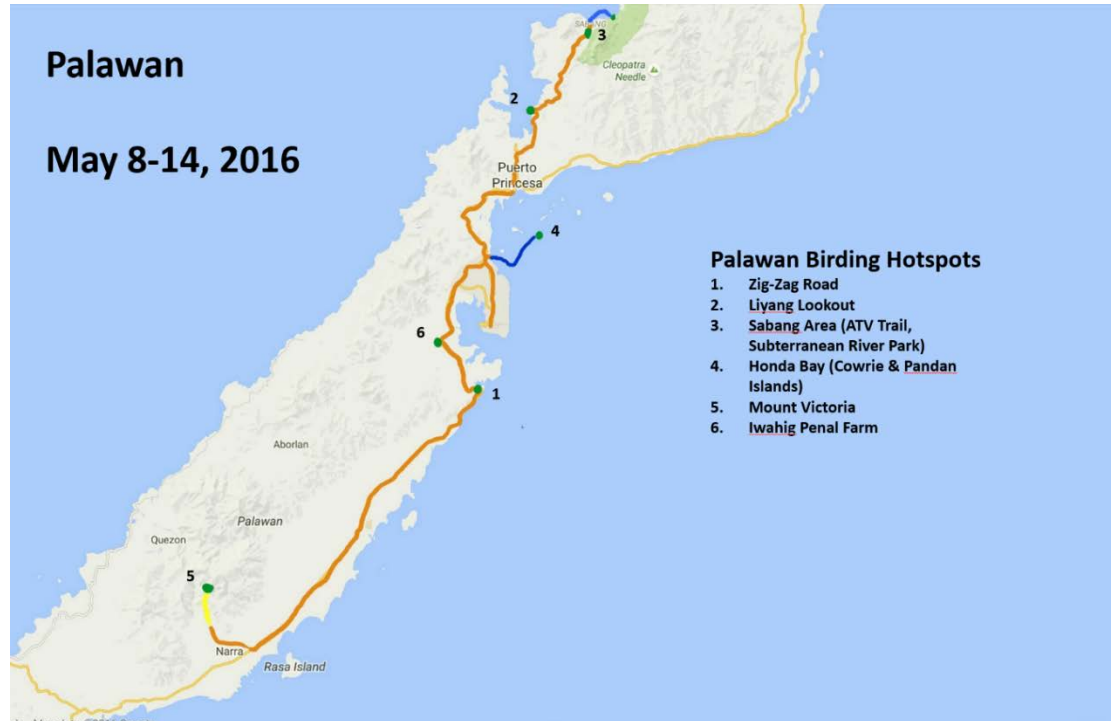
Day 23: PICOP Road 42 (0330\*-0930), take van Bislig to Davao Airport 1300-1700. Flight to Manila at 2200

\*It takes 1 ½ hours to get to Road 42, we left Bislig each morning at 0200

# Palawan May 10-14

## Summary:

Most people suggest at least 4-4 ½ days for Palawan to see all the endemics (except Palawan Stripped Babbler), although most spend a few days extra as well. We had an extremely condensed itinerary that should have allowed us to get everything (all endemics plus the Honda Bay specialties), but Palawan Hornbill thought otherwise. Overall it was still a very successful 4 ½ days on the island, although missing the hornbill was a bummer. With only having 4 ½ days, 2 of which we spent on Mt Victoria, this didn't get us enough time to "run into" some hornbills which is how it seems most people get them. The guard at the Penal



Colony said we missed one by 5 minutes when we arrived the last morning. For those on a very condensed schedule, I still think 4 ½ days (actually 4 if you get lucky) is all you need to completely finish Palawan, but giving yourself an extra day or two is advisable if you have the time. See the above itinerary to see our timeline. Overall, it was a very easy island to get around on and birding was quite easy as well.

## Iwahig Penal Colony:

**Directions/Access:** Located about 20 minutes outside of Puerto Princesa, this is a great spot to pick up a nice selection of the endemics (Palawan Flycatcher, Palawan Hornbill, and Melodious Babbler being the specialties). The entrance will be on your right coming from town (N 9.755223 E 118.678115) and is hard to miss. As with everyone else, we stopped by prior to our birdwatching day to coordinate permission and get a permit. Unlike everyone else, we ended up not getting a permit. At the front gate, tell the guard you want to go bird watching and he should let you in. From there you'll drive through some rice paddies and eventually reach the main administration area. Prior to the administration area, the only dirt road on your right (1.9 km from entrance), will take you directly to the Balsahan Pool/Trail (2.6 km from right turn at N 9.771008 E 118.662612). Not knowing where the administration building was, we went directly to the Balsahan Pool where there's another small gate. The guard, Jong, chatted with us and told us that getting a permit wasn't necessary and that on the day we wanted to return, he would be our local guide. I took his phone number so that I could remind him the night prior to our arrival and we left. The morning of our bird watching visit, we arrived at the front gate at 0500 and the guard asked for our permit. As soon as I said Jong told us to just meet him, he waved us through. I've provided Jong's contact information below. Not sure if doing it the way we did it will work again, but it might save some time. It's worth trying to text/call Jong and tell him you want to go bird watching. Although he didn't ask for money, I tipped him and two others that followed us around as they tried hard to help us find the hornbill and my car battery went dead as well so they took it to get re-charged while we were birding!

**Birding:** Although we didn't spend too much time scanning the rice fields along the entrance road, they are worth a quick look especially if you're there in the winter months when there are lots of shorebirds around, but the only interesting thing we had was an Oriental Pratincole. The Balsahan Trail starts at the back of the parking lot for the pool and follows along a stream, crossing it at least three times. Since it has been so dry, it was easy to jump from rock to rock, although it sounds like during a typical year, you might get wet crossing the streams. By the time we birded this area we only had two targets, Melodious Babbler and Palawan Hornbill. We found the babbler between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> stream crossing and another about 100m past the 3<sup>rd</sup> stream crossing. We then spent the rest of the morning wandering the main area around the pool for the hornbill which apparently frequents the area in the early mornings and late evenings. We didn't have any Palawan Flycatchers, but to be honest, I didn't spend any time looking for them.

## Additional Logistics:

**Guide:** The guard, Jong, at the Balsahan Trail was our local guide. He can be reached at 09182363625. He didn't ask for money but I ended up tipping him and the two others a total of 600 pp for the morning (mostly since they were a huge help getting our dead car battery taken care of).

## **Zig Zag Road:**

**Directions/Access:** Zig Zag road is located about 45 minutes from Puerto Princesa and is a known stakeout for Palawan Flycatcher. The start of the road is on your right at N 9.640529 E 118.714103. From here, drive about 200 meters and pull over on your right. There's a small trail that runs through some bamboo and eventually opens up into someone's clearing. Birding can also be fairly productive along the road. Since we didn't arrive here until 0715, by the time we started birding the road it was already 0800 and getting hot, so bird activity was low.

**Birding:** We easily found Palawan Flycatcher along the bamboo trail shortly after arriving at 0715. Ashy-headed Babbler and Hooded Pitta were also common in the area and on a different day, passing through after dark, we stopped here and easily taped in a Palawan Frogmouth.

## **Sabang Area:**

### **ATV Trail:**

**Directions:** Located a few km south of Sabang, the ATV trail system is a very well-known birding spot. The trails weave through the forest and hit the main road at three different points.

**Birding:** I birded this area briefly on two occasions, neither of which were at ideal times (1400 and 0930). The area is known for Falcated Wren-Babbler and although I heard it here on my second visit, never saw it. Palawan Tits, Palawan Blue Flycatcher, and Blue Paradise Flycatcher were other good birds seen here. After dark this spot is good for night birds, although my only short attempt on the first evening (and by this time I had been up for about 30 hours so didn't stay long) resulted in heard only Palawan Scops Owl, Palawan Frogmouth, and Spotted Wood-Owl. I never returned after dark as I got the two endemics in other places.

### **Liyang Lookout:**

**Directions:** Located about 7 km south of Sabang (N 10.105598 E 118.848945), the pull off will be on your right if you're heading south. There's a small box to pay a 10 pp fee and then some stairs to walk up to a viewing area.

**Birding:** This is a known location for Philippine Cockatoo and we were able to see a few birds coming in to roost at around 1630. From the lookout the birds were seen by looking towards the mountain side. They actually came in and landed in the trees that were bordering the main road so we walked back down the stairs and walked further down the hill to get better views. A lot of people see both flamebacks from this location as well, but we only had Spot-throated here.

## **St Pauls Underground River Park:**

**Directions/Access:** Philippine bureaucracy at its finest! You'll first need to stop by the main office located at the City Coliseum to get your entrance ticket. It's a pretty quick process, but it involves carving out some time in your day to make it happen. From here you'll have to drive up to Sabang and go to the park office at the pier. This is where you pay and get your permit stamped. You can then schedule a boat for the following morning. Since you'll be leaving early, you'll have to make sure you get your permit stamped the day before you plan to go. Normal operations start at 0800, but I was able to coordinate a boat to take us at 0500. Of course I had zero confidence the boatman would show on time so I stated clearly numerous times that it was important to leave at 0500 being reassured it would happen. I got the scheduler's phone number just in case there were any issues. Of course the next morning at 0500 the boatman was nowhere to be found. After numerous phone calls and lots of waiting we were finally in the boat and heading to the cave area at 0545. Although I didn't check, apparently the stairs are fixed and you can once again walk from Sabang to the Underground River area. This could be a cheaper option for people who have a little bit more time to explore.

**Price:** Cost of an early boat is 1500 pp. Entrance fee was 275 pp per person and we only paid the boatman 1300 pp since he was 45 min late

**Birding:** The boatman or one of the rangers will be able to show you where the Palawan Peacock Pheasant has been hanging out. When we went it was near the furthest building to the right. Two Tabon Scrubfowl were feeding in front of the buildings and a few very tame Hooded Pittas were feeding in the area too. From here we hiked the Jungle Trail up the steep stairs for a little while, but then turned around as it was hot and there was little activity. We did the cave tour which was alright and left by 0930 (the Palawan Peacock Pheasant was still being seen when we left although the scrubfowl and pittas had disappeared with the arrival of all the tourists).

## **Narra:**

**Directions/Birding:** Not many people visit Narra nowadays, but if you're doing the Mt Victoira trip, you'll be coming here. Also, it's only two hours south of Puerto Princesa and you'll get way better views of the cockatoos. We didn't have time to check out Rasa Island (which I think would have been pretty cool to do), but we did have 30 minutes in the morning to drive around and located some feeding cockatoos that we were able to view from very close range (50 m).



## Mt Victoria:

**Access:** You'll need to get a permit as well as take a guide to hike Mt Victoria. The hike is recommended to be done over 3 days, but it is very possible to do it in 2 days if you're in good shape (or if you leave early on day one). We had no problems doing the hike in only 2 days. Since we were unable to get our permit the afternoon before (we didn't arrive in Narra until after dark), we had to wait until the office opened at 0800 (although the guy showed up at 0730) to get our permit (N 9.267667 E 118.404499). We then drove to Juluis's house (N 9.281102 E 118.297124) and started the hike at 0900. The first 5 miles are relatively flat, but you'll cross the Buhawi River 13 times (took us 3 hours). It was extremely dry this year, so the river crossings were very easy. During a typical year, the crossings will probably be "wet" and will take much longer to navigate. In that situation you may not want to do it in only 2 days. Camp 1 (N 9.341185 E 118.295973, 425M) is located at the end of the river section and is where you'll spend the first night if doing the hike in three days. From here, the next 3 miles is very steep and ends at Camp 2 (N 9.365251 E 118.308048) which is located at 1345m (this segment took 4 hours). We started at 0900 and got to Camp 2 at 1700 (including 1 hour lunch break at Camp 1 and numerous short stops along the way). The hike down took about 6 hours. Also, if you're interested in going to whole way to the summit, it's about a 45 min hike past Camp 2 (my wife and Rob hiked to the summit in the morning while I photographed the babblers).

**Birding:** Not much birding was done on the hike up, but I did hear Palawan Tit on a few occasions. I found my first Palawan Striped Babblers at around 1250m and then another group right at Camp 2. Since the drought is so bad, the only water right now is a small spring seep at Camp 2. This has created a great opportunity as the Palawan Striped-Babblers are coming in to drink and are extremely easy to observe. Otherwise, they are still common in the area, but usually a bit trickier to get a good look at. There are plenty of other good Palawan birds to get here including Palawan Scops Owl after dark. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Yellow-breasted Warbler, Mountain Tailorbird, and White-browed Shortwing. I also was able to locate a Falcated Wren-Babbler a few hundred meters down the trail. It was off the trail and involved hiking in about 100 meters before I got into its territory and it became tape responsive. The best bird of the trip though was a group of 3 (!) Palawan Peacock Pheasants that I scared off the trail on the hike back down at about 700 meters. We had heard them the evening prior, but actually getting to see them is an extremely rare occurrence.



*The main attraction did not disappoint!*

## Additional Logistics:

The main point of contact is Jehson Cervancia. [cjehson@yahoo.com](mailto:cjehson@yahoo.com) 09398826987

Jehson was very good at getting back to emails and eager to coordinate the trip. Unfortunately, he was unavailable for my trip, but still coordinated everything and had his friend Juluis (09099140540) be our guide. Juluis was a good replacement as he knows the trail very well although he doesn't speak much English. He speaks enough for basic communication, but it would be difficult to coordinate the whole trip through him. Make sure you reach out to Jehson first. Along with having a "guide" we also had 2 porters to carry our gear. They were used to carry food/camping gear, but I still carried all of my +40lb of equipment. In hindsight (or if you're an out of shape hiker) for the price of a porter, it probably would have made sense to get a third to carry the addition equipment (pride got in the way of that one though!).

## Cost breakdown:

**Guide:** 1500 pp per day (although since we used Julius instead of Jehson, we were only charged 700 pp per day for the guide)

**Porter:** 500 pp per day per porter

**Tent:** 500 pp (two person....since there were three of us, I just slept outside)

**Stove:** 500 pp (plus 3 canisters of propane at 75 pp each)

**Sleeping Bag:** 300 pp (they only had one)

**Food:** 1200 pp total (We went to the market and Juluis bought all the food the morning before we left and this way the total to feed the 5 of us for the two days)

**Transport:** 750 pp each way from Narra to Juluis's house (this cost was a bit iffy as we had our own transport, but Juluis still had to meet us in Narra the morning prior to help get permits/food. From my understanding I thought it was 750pp for us to go and come back, but apparently it was each way. We drove out by ourselves after the trip so only paid this fee once instead of twice)

**Permit fee:** 200 pp per person

## Honda Bay:

**Directions/Access:** What was once considered an “easy trip” has been getting more and more complicated. Hopefully this information is helpful, but be prepared to run into some obstacles on doing this trip. For the last year or two, you can no longer take a boat out at dusk. The boats do not have lights on them and the coast guard won't allow them out after dark. There's two islands that birders visit. Cowrie and Pandan. Recently, another birder I met had trouble getting to the back part of Cowrie Island. When we visited, we were allowed to walk to the back part, but to be honest the access to the mangroves is extremely limited and we didn't get any response from the Scops-Owl at this location. My opinion would be to skip Cowrie and just go straight to Pandan. This will save you a bit of money as well on the cost of the boat. Pandan is private and there's mixed information about whether birders are welcomed. We had our boatman take us directly to the backside of Pandan, avoiding the tourist spot altogether. Once we landed, we were told we could only walk on the beach and couldn't enter the forest as it was private.

**Birding:** Cowrie was a complete bust. Very little access to the mangroves and very little birds (skip it). Pandan was great. We landed at the backside of the island and first walked clockwise towards the only small patch of mangroves on the island. I stopped and played tape for the Scops-Owl every so often and got one response although the bird was far away. Along this section (and really throughout the whole time we were on the island) you could hear Grey Imperial Pigeon and we managed good views of a few. The small mangrove patch had a Barred Rail (didn't realize it at the time, but apparent very rare for Palawan?) and the mud flat off of the mangrove area (tide was coming down when we were there) had a Great-billed Heron. From here we then started walking counter clockwise and after a while I finally got a good response from two Scops-Owls. I checked with the boatman if it was alright if we walked 50 meters into the forest and he said that would be fine. We walked in and soon had a Mantanani Scops-Owl sitting above our heads (at around 1600)! We also flushed two Large-tailed Nightjars on the walk in.



### Costs:

**Boat:** 1500 pp for multiple islands, it would have only been 1200 had we just gone to Pandan

**Entrance Fee:** 75 pp per person to enter Cowrie, 800 (!) pp per person to enter Pandan. The Pandan entrance includes a buffet and water activities (kayak, ect), but since we weren't doing any of that we were able to talk our boatman into only charging 500 pp per person.

### Additional Logistics:

Our boatman's name was Joel Cabuyoc 09288027268. He spoke decent English and said it would be alright for other birders to contact him to coordinate going out to Pandan. If you can get a hold of him, it'd be worth it as there wouldn't be any additional cost (although we tipped him well since he really helped us out) and he'd know exactly where to take you. He also mentioned that it would be possible to coordinate an overnight trip to snake island (?) which he said has lots of owls. I don't know much else about it, but he said getting the permit was easy. Might be worth asking about.

# Cebu

## Summary:

Our stay on Cebu was very short. With only a few endemics to see, a single evening and morning was all that we allotted to this heavily deforested island. Arriving at the airport at 1600, we figured we'd quickly be on our way to Tabunan, but unfortunately, the traffic leaving the airport was horrendous. It took us 1 ½ hours to make it to Lahug which is the motorbike pickup point to travel to Tabunan. The lack of remaining forest is extremely depressing and it's probably only a matter of time before more birds go the way of the Cebu Flowerpecker.

## Tanuban Forest:

**Directions/Access:** Located about halfway along the Cebu Transcentral Highway, the small village of Tabunan is the launching point to hike into one of the few remaining patches of forest. The local guide, Oking, lives very close to the start of the trail and as far as I'm aware everyone coordinates their trip through him. We contacted his daughter, Lushela, a few days prior and she was able to coordinate the motorbikes from Lahug as well as arrange for us to stay at her parent's house. The motorbikes that picked us up were fairly small and it was a bit tricky getting three of us and all our gear onto one bike but we made it work. Don't plan on having a helmet, so if that's something you're set on having, make sure that is arranged prior to your arrival. It took roughly 1 hour to get from Lahug to Oking's house. Also, make sure you bring your own food or coordinate prior to about having food there for you. Otherwise, you might go hungry. The turnoff for Tabunan is at N 10.411083 E 123.806142, Oking's House is at N 10.436345 123.818418, and the trail start is just downhill from his house on your right at N 10.437063 123.819129. The road to his house is paved the whole way. If you're traveling as a group, it'd probably be most cost effective to just rent a car and drive there yourself for the day.

**Birding:** Birding here is fairly simple and you'll most likely (need to?) be using Oking as a guide. The trail into the forest is located about 75 meters down the road from his house and it's about a 45 minute hike up to the good forest area. The evening we arrived, we went out and easily found the Cebu Hawk Owls. They were located only about 10-15 minute walk up the trail. The next morning we headed up to the forest around 0500 and quickly found Black Shama and Streak-breasted Bulbul. The bulbuls can be extremely tricky to see and it took all morning for me to get only poor looks at them. The area also had some other interesting birds including White-vented Whistler and Mangrove Blue Flycatcher. It's worthwhile to spend some time looking for both as they can be pretty tricky at other locations throughout the Philippines. You shouldn't need more than a single morning here, unless you are very concerned about getting good views at Streak-breasted Bulbul.

## Additional Logistics:

Oking's Daughter, Lushela, can be reached at 092972222421

## Costs:

**Accommodation:** We paid 200 pp per person for the night, but there was also another person there so we slept on the floor.

**Guiding:** Oking charges 1500 pp per day. We went owling in the evening and then birded only until 1000 the next morning since we had a bus to catch. If you plan on staying longer, he might charge more if you went owling the night prior. I'd just agree on a price beforehand.

**Transportation:** It was 1000 pp per motorbike for round trip from Lahug to Oking's house and back to Lahug. If you have 4 or more people, I'd seriously consider just renting a car for the day. The road is paved the whole way and it shouldn't be too hard to find (see GPS coordinates).

## Getting from Cebu to Negros:

We chose to take a bus which ended up working out pretty well. We left Tabunan by 1100 and made it back to Lahug by 1200. From here it's a short taxi ride (100 pp) to the South Bus Terminal (N 10.297996 E 123.893348). There's multiple buses leaving each day to Dumaguete. We



departed at 1430 and arrived in Dumaguete at 2000. The cost was 240 pp per person. From here, we were easily able to travel via tricycle (150 pp) to Valencia for the night. There doesn't seem to be many (maybe 1?) option for accommodation in Valencia. Luckily we were able to stay at Reiven's Guesthouse which is located just next to the gas station on your right as you enter Valencia. It was only 650 pp per room.

## Negros

### Summary:

We spent 2 ½ days birding southern Negros. Once again, this was a pretty short time to spend on the island, but if you're prepared for long days and have some luck, you shouldn't have any problem picking up most of the key species. I say most because even if you had a week, some of the Visayan endemics on Negros are extremely scarce (Negros Jungle-Flycatcher, Yellow-faced Flameback, Visayan Rhabdornis) and much easier to find on Panay. Therefore, if you are planning a longer trip to the Philippines, I'd plan on visiting Panay first and then spending less time on Negros as you'll probably only need a few birds by then. Our trip included a very action packed day around Valencia with local guide Leonard (Renee's son), and then 1 ½ days at twin lakes. If you plan on looking for Negros Stripped Babbler, Flame-templed Babbler, and Visayan Shama in the same day, plan to start early and bird hard all day.

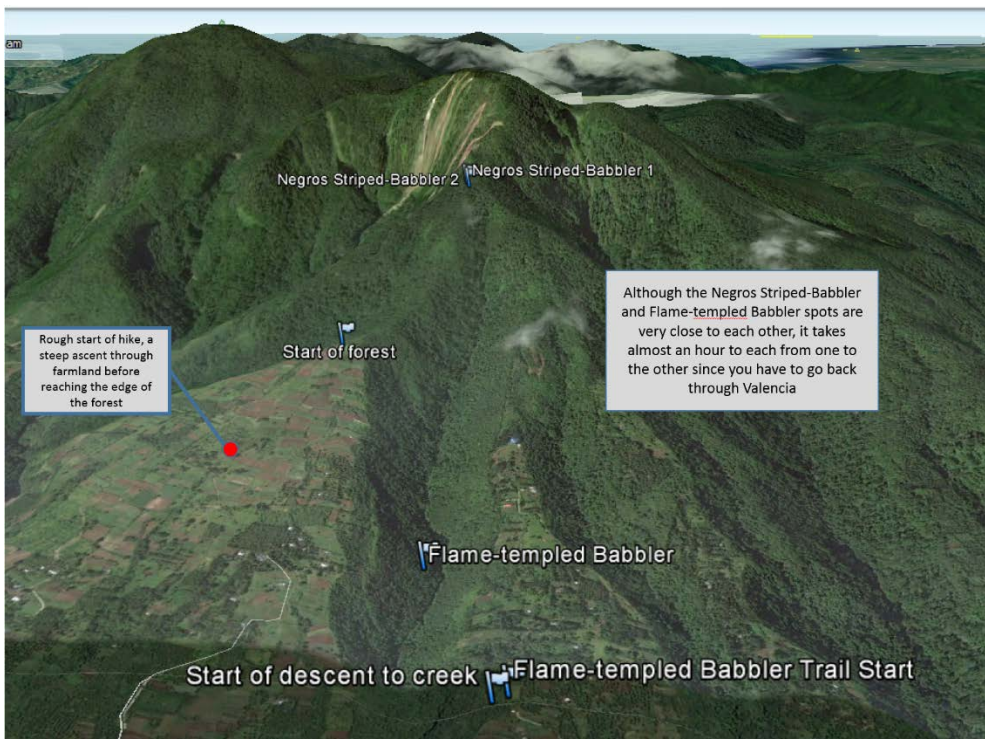


### Valencia Area (the following four spots were visited in a single day)

#### Mt Talinis:

**Directions/Access:** It's about a 45 minute motorbike ride to the drop off point to start the hike for the Negros Stripped-Babblers. From here it took 2 hours to climb to the area where the babblers are commonly found. The first section of the hike is through farmland and you eventually reach the forest edge at N 9.254663 E 123.204669 at 980m. Although you are quickly above the lower (1000m) elevational range of the babblers, the area they are typically found is a good bit higher near 1350m. We left Valencia at around 0500 (it was supposed to be 0430 but Leonard was late) so that we could get an early start on the hike. I don't have exact GPS coordinates for the start of hike (forgot to take them!)

**Birding:** As stated above, it took about 2 hours to hike to the area where the babblers are typically found. Once we arrived at the location, it didn't take long to find a small group feeding nearby the clearing along the trail. Although there isn't much to their call, they will respond to playback. After watching the babblers for about 45 minutes we started the hike back down the mountain since we had other targets to find.



## Valencia Creek:

**Directions/Access:** Although this spot is less than 1 km straight line distance from the start of the Negros Striped-Babbler hike, it takes about an hour to get to as you need to return the whole way to Valencia and take another road (only about 15 min from Valencia) to your final destination. Once you reach the drop off point (N 9.259845 E 123.21699), there's a very steep trail (N 9.259553 E 123.217087) that takes you down to the creek. From here you need to walk up the creek (wear shoes you don't mind getting wet, although I managed to keep my feet dry in regular hikers). It's a bit difficult birding along the noisy creek, but if you follow it long enough, you'll reach an area that is a lot quieter.

**Birding:** We didn't arrive here until

around 1100 so bird activity in the area was fairly slow. Surprisingly we did hear and eventually see a Spotted Wood Kingfisher along the steep trail heading down to the creek. Other than that, bird activity was low with a few Black-belted Flowerpeckers and Visayan Fantails being in the highlights. Leonard says that the Flame-templed Babblers are usually found in the same flocks with the fantails. We eventually made it to the area where Leonard usually finds the babblers, but it was very quiet (middle of the day by now). We spent a while sitting in the area and then eventually I wandered off back down the stream and found a pair of Flame-templed Babblers that briefly responded to the tape. Luckily I was able to get the others on them below they disappeared back in the forest.

## Visayan Shama spot:

**Directions/Access:** Realistically there's only one spot in southern Negros to get Visayan Shama. It's a two hour motorbike ride from Valencia to get to the spot. When we finished at the Flame-templed Babbler spot, it was 1430. I'm pretty sure Leonard thought we were done for the day since originally he had told me it'd take two days to get both babblers, but I insisted we could do it in one. I asked him about the shama and he said it would take an hour to get there. Since it was only 1430 I figured we had plenty of time and expressed my interest in going. He seemed a bit dejected about having to stay out longer, but I told him I'd pay a bit extra (even though the original fee was for all day, I realize we had already did a lot that day and I felt a bit bad making him stay out longer). We dropped off the others in Valencia (only I was dedicated enough to keep going) and started towards the shama. For some reason Leonard's "one hour" is really two solid hours. It takes 1 hour on the highway to get to Siaton and then it's another 1 hour on a bumpy dirt road to get to the location (N 9.189923 E 123.064634). Therefore we arrived at 1700, with only about 45 minutes to find the bird. Also of note, because of the road condition, you can only have two people (you and the driver) on the motor bike to get to the location. Therefore I had to pay for two motor bikes. One for me and one for Leonard. For the other locations, we were able to access them with 3 people on a motorbike.



*Visayan Shama, finally found just as it was getting dark*

**Birding:** This spot consists of a single ravine with some bamboo. That's it. There is no other habitat in the area. When we arrived Leonard walked me down to the spot he always see it at, but the bird was nowhere to be found. I spent some time waiting in that area, before starting to check the ravine in both directions. I first walked up the ravine, but didn't get a response. Eventually I started working my way down the ravine and had almost given up hope, when a male Visayan Shama finally responded to the tape and eventually flew in for great looks. By this time it was already 1745 and starting to get dark. The journey back to Valencia took almost three hours as the motorbike's headlight went out (not uncommon) and we had to navigate back to the main road slowly by the light of the moon!

## Liptong Woodlands:

**Directions/Access:** This is Rene's house. It is located about 5 minutes outside of Valencia

**Birding:** Although there are plenty of interesting birds that can be found in Rene's garden during the day, by the time Leonard and I arrived back from the shama spot, it was already 2100. We took a quick walk down to the dry creek bed and quickly located a group of fledgling Negros Scops-Owls being attended to by the adults. There's also Luzon Hawk-Owl in the area although I didn't look for them.

### Additional Logistics:

Rene: 09994287813

Leonard: 09298060549

### Costs:

**Guide:** 1000 pp per day for Leonard. Although this is for "all day" I paid Leonard 1500 since we did the shama "extension".

**Motorbike:** 500 pp per day per motorbike. We had two. 1 for my wife and I and 1 for Leonard and Rob. For the shama I had to take both as the road is in bad condition and only two people can be on a motorbike. I paid each motorbike an additional 250 pp for the shama "extension".

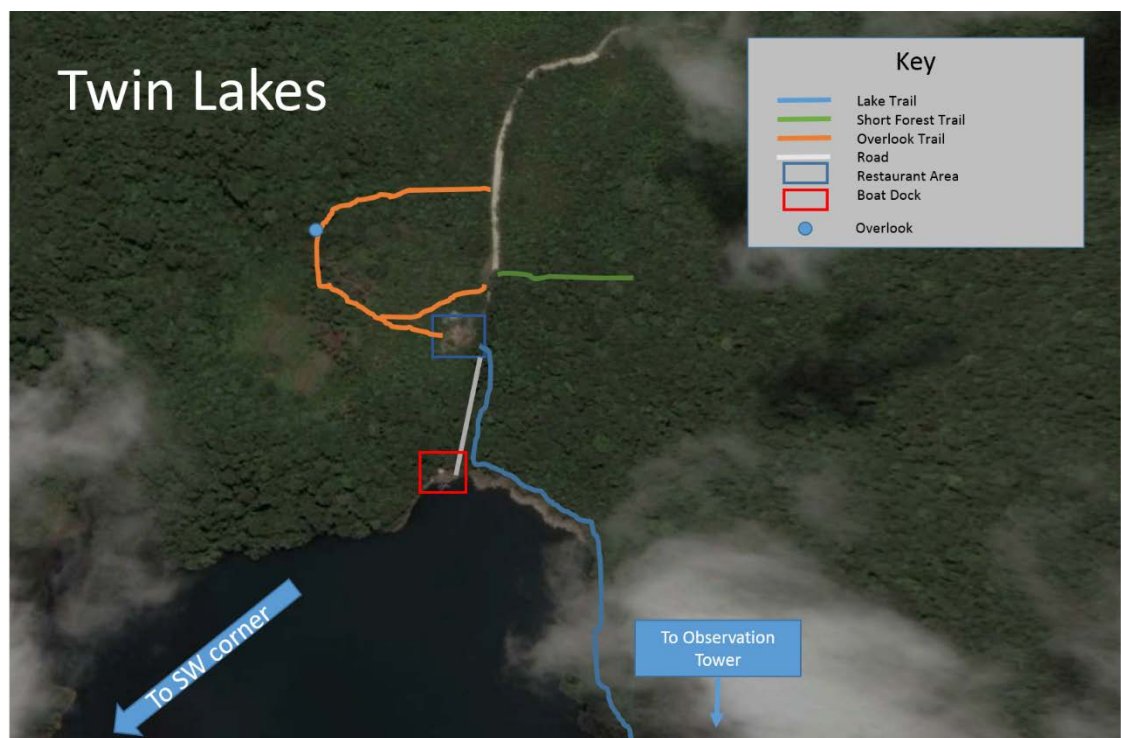
## Twin Lakes:

**Directions/Access:** Twin Lakes is located north of Dumaguete just south of the town of San Jose. Since we were staying in Valencia, we arranged for a tricycle at 0330 to start the journey. Although the fare from Valencia to Dumaguete should only be 100 pp, we paid 250 pp as I wanted to make sure the guy was there at 0430 (he was). From Dumaguete the original plan was to catch a Jeepney to San Jose, but after a little confusion, we eventually just had our tricycle take us the whole way to the pickup point for Twin Lakes (N 9.400841 E 123.251648). This cost 500 pp in total (a bit pricey, but it was getting light and birding time was more valuable than a few dollars). From here you have to take a motorbike up to the park. It's a fixed fee of 150 pp per person to get there. It's a bit comical as when you research about Twin Lakes people mention the road and how it is an "experience" getting to the lake. I'm not sure what they are talking about as the road is in great shape and 100% asphalt. Perhaps they've never ridden a motorbike before. When we arrived (0630), the park office was still closed, but luckily we were still allowed in and just paid the entrance and camping fees on the way out the next day. There's a nice restaurant (although the food is pretty bad) at the lake and you are able to rent tents and sleeping bags. When you get dropped off, you'll be able to coordinate with your motorbike driver as to when he should return to pick you up. Also once you get back to the main highway, it is easy to catch a Jeepney back to Dumaguete.

**Birding:** Overall, birding was pretty slow here. By the time we started walking around the first morning (0730) things were starting to already quiet down and there wasn't much activity the rest of the day sans the sunbirds that would feed on the flowers near the restaurant's balcony. The best area by far was the SW corner of the lake which is only reachable by boat. We should have went here the first afternoon, but didn't end up going there until the next morning. Below is a quick description of the few areas to bird at twin lakes.



Recently fledged Negros Scops-Owl



1. Overlook Trail: Located behind the restaurant, there is a trail that crosses the fern garden and then steeply climbs to an overlook before heading back down and ending along the entrance road. We didn't see too much along here although there was a pair of Blue-headed Racquet-tails nesting in a snag at the overlook area.
2. Short Forest Trail: This trail is located across the road from the restaurant near the parking lot. It starts at the drain culvert and only goes about 100-150 meters back into the forest. Although short, we saw a few interesting birds along here including Amethyst Brown Dove, Visayan Hornbill, and White-vented Whistler
3. Lake Trail: This is the main trail that leads down to the lake and then runs alongside the lake to an Observation Tower. Although we walked this trail a few times, we never did find much interesting along it
4. SW Corner (waterfall trail): The clearing at the SW corner of the lake (N 9.350854 E 123.171703) and start of the waterfall trail was the best area we visited. You need to take a boat to get here. The clearing is a known stakeout for Yellow-faced Flameback (we dipped). We were still able to see a few great birds in the area including Visayan Rhabdornis and numerous Yellow-breasted Fruit-Doves and Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeons feeding in a large fruiting tree
5. Restaurant: At the time we visited, there were a ton of flowers blooming just off the balcony of the restaurant which were frequently visited by Magnificent and Maroon-naped Sunbirds. The area around the restaurant was also great for Luzon Hawk-Owl and Philippine Nightjar after dark.

#### **Additional Logistics/Costs:**

Boat: The only way to get to the SW corner of the lake is by boat. It is 250 pp per hour for the boat/boatman. The best boatman to use is Elmer as he is familiar with the local birds and will know if there's any hornbill/racquet-tail nests around. Doing some general birding by boat is good as well as it gives you good views of the surrounding area.

Camping: Tents are available for 250 pp. There's only a small area to set up the tent next to the restaurant, but since everyone else leaves for the night, it is nice in quiet after 1700.

Fees: It is 100 pp to enter the park and an additional 50 pp for camping

#### **Getting from Negros to Bohol via ferry:**

Our original game plan was to bird Twin Lakes until 1100, catch a ride to Dumaguete, and take the afternoon ferry from Dumaguete to Tagbilaran, Bohol. The only issue is that when we arrived at the ferry terminal at 1200, the ferry to Tagbilaran was fully booked. Apparently there is only one ferry a day that goes from Dumaguete to Tagbilaran and it often gets completely booked. My recommendation would be to book your departure trip as soon as you arrive in Negros (if you do so by ferry), or at least make sure to book 1-2 days in advance of your departure (for example, we should have stopped by on our way to twin lakes the day prior and got our tickets then). So without a viable transportation option to Tagbilaran, we decided to instead take the 1250 ferry to Siquijor. This allowed us to spend an evening/morning on Siquijor before grabbing the 1300 ferry from Siquijor to Tagbilaran the next day. Note: The 1300 ferry from Siquijor to Tagbilaran is actually the same boat as the 1500 ferry from Dumaguete to Tagbilaran. Meaning we boarded the ferry on Siquijor, went back to Negros, and then on to Bohol. So the trip ended up taking about 4-4 ½ hours.

#### **Costs:**

Dumaguete to Siquijor; 210 pp per person

Siquijor to Tagbilaran; 910 pp per person (210 back to Negros and then 700 to Bohol)

## **Siquijor**

#### **Summary:**

Although not originally in the game plan, our evening/morning on Siquijor was extremely enjoyable and we were very happy that we ended up going to the island. The main reason for the visit was to see the endemic Siquijor Bulbul (currently still considered a subspecies of Streak-breasted, but a likely split), but it was also a great opportunity to relax a little midway through the trip. Along with seeing the bulbuls, we spent the next morning doing two dives before heading back to the ferry terminal and heading on to Bohol.

**Directions/Access:** We arrived via ferry from Dumaguete to the town of Siquijor although there are also ferries that run from Tagbilaran to Siquijor as well (although not every day and they arrive in the town of Larena, a bit further north). Once we arrived, we attempted to find a nice, but still cheap place to stay. Luckily we decided to head to San Juan, a town about a 30 min tricycle ride to the south. After stopping a

few times looking for accommodation, we settled on the Royal Cliff Resort (N 9.148532 E 123.503263). It was a very nice, quaint little resort, with a very well kept garden. More importantly, across the street was a nice scrubby hillside that held Siquijor Bulbuls!

**Birding:** The Siquijor Bulbul seems to be very common on the island, but you still need to find patches of habitat (dry forest/scrub). Luckily we ended up at the Royal Cliff Resort at the south end of the small town of San Juan. The only birding we did on the island was on this small property, but we were able to get great looks at a few Siquijor Bulbuls as well as a surprise Slaty-legged Crake that spent it's time sneaking through the plants in the garden.

**Costs:**

Tricycle: 250 pp from Siquijor to San Juan. This price is fixed.

Royal Cliff Resort: 800 pp per night (very nice place for the price). They have Wi-Fi and a restaurant although the food is definitely overpriced.

Diving: 2300 pp per person for 2 dives



*The main reason to visit Siquijor!*

## Bohol

### Summary:

Although part of the Visayas, the island of Bohol has a lot more in common bird wise with Mindanao than it does with Negros and Cebu. The originally itinerary had us slotted to be here for 3 ½ days, but with the ferry delay in Negros and subsequent trip to Siquijor, we only had 2 ½ days to bird on the island. This ended up being plenty of time to pick up all the endemics (there's just one!) and specialty birds (a lot more of these). Overall, I think 3-4 days is plenty to find all the birds, although a few birds (Visayan Broadbill) can be very tricky and potentially take a lot of time if you're not lucky. A lot of people recommend hiring local guide Ryan (some going as far as saying he's a must), but if you're a decent birder who has done their homework, I don't think he's necessary (more on that below). Overall, birding Bohol is easy, as everything can be seen at one spot, Rajah Sikatuna Protected Area (commonly referred to as Magsaysay).



### Habitat Bohol/Simply Butterflies

**Directions/Access:** Located 1 km south of the town of Bilar, Habitat Bohol is the main spot where most birders stay and can easily be reached via public transportation from Tagbilaran. From the ferry terminal take a tricycle to the bus station and take a bus heading towards Carmen. It is about an hour bus ride north to Bilar. Once we boarded the bus, we made sure to tell the driver to drop us off at Simply Butterflies/Habitat Bohol (the name is now Habitat Bohol, but some locals still seem to call it Simply Butterflies). By the time we arrived, it was already around 2000 and the place was closed for the night other than the guard. Luckily, I had made reservations before heading to the Philippines (something I usually never do) so they were aware of our arrival and had rooms ready for us. Do not expect to be able to get a room late at night if you don't have a prior reservation.

**Birding:** We spent very little time around the Habitat Bohol garden, but it is a known site for roosting Everett's Scops-Owl. The garden grounds are extremely busy with tourists during the day, but luckily they are all gone by evening. Although we heard Everett's Scops-Owl on the grounds, we never did see any here (although we never went looking for the roosting birds either).



### Additional Logistics:

The manager, Cristy, can be reached via email at [boholhabitat@gmail.com](mailto:boholhabitat@gmail.com). It is highly recommended to make reservations in advance as the place can sometimes fill up with birding groups and if you're going to arrive in the evening on the first night, they will not let you stay unless you already have a reservation. Although the restaurant closes early in the evening (1800?), if you let the staff know you'll be coming back later, they will make sure the cook is there later (we often ate around 2000-2100). The food is good and is reasonably priced (100 pp for the value menu). The staff should also be able to arrange motorbike rides for you in the morning up to Magsaysay. We departed at 0330-0400 every morning and had no problem scheduling a ride.

### Costs:

Lodging: There are a few different room options, but the cheapest (cold shower) is 650 pp per night

### Rajah Sikatuna (Magsaysay)

**Directions/Access:** Rajah Sikatuna is the main birding destination on the island and the only place you'll have to visit to pick up all the specialty birds. The main clearing is referred to as Magsaysay and the whole time I was there, I only referred to the spot as Magsaysay which seemed to be the name the locals used. There's two ways to get to Magsaysay; motorbike or walk. From the main turnoff in Bilar to the clearing is about 2.3 km. The staff at Habitat Bohol should be able to arrange for your morning motorbike ride to the park and then from there you can either coordinate a pickup time from the clearing, walk about 1 km to the Logarita Pool (full of locals) and catch a ride back from there, or walk back. Birding2Asia has made a great map of the access roads/trails that I'll refer to in the birding section. Also, if you head in early, you won't pay the daily entrance fee of 100 pp but will be expected to pay it on your way out. If you happen to take the road past the Logarita Pool (yellow road on map) on your way back to town, you avoid the entrance gate and do not have to pay the entrance fee.

Please refer to Birding2Asia's great map for the next section: [Click here for map](#)

**Birding:** As is typical with tropical forest birding, birding Magsaysay can be very frustrating. It gets hot early in the morning and things are very slow for the majority of the day. The area has numerous trails, but most birders seem to focus on "the loop" which is a fairly short trail that has the possibility of getting you all the targets. Although this loop can be very productive, we found that a few of the others were very good as well and at least on our visit, we would have dipped on Visayan Blue Fantail and Rufous-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher had we just stuck to "the loop." Also, although most birders routinely encounter flocks that hold a number of the target birds, we had a very difficult time finding flocks. I'm not sure if it was because of the time of year or the dry conditions, but most species were found by themselves. Below is some information on the various trails. Be sure to refer to Birding2Asia's map (link above) and information as well (colors below refer to the map).

1. **Magsaysay Clearing:** The main clearing can be a great spot to scan for raptors, hornbills, and other canopy species (cuckooshrike, blueBird, ect). We didn't spend too much time in the clearing, but did have nice looks at a pair of Samar Hornbills the one morning at dawn. This area can also be good after dark with Luzon Hawk-Owl, Everett's Scops-Owl, Great-eared Nightjar, and Philippine Frogmouth all being heard from the clearing. During typical years, there are a few small ponds around the HQ building that sometimes have Northern Silvery Kingfisher, but this year with El Nino, they were completely dry.
2. **"The Loop":** This is the main circuit that most birders/birding groups follow. To follow "the loop" you start on Brahminy Trail (behind and to the right of the HQ building, green on map), taking the left onto Oriole (brown), and then keeping left to take Tarsier (purple) back to where you started. The trails aren't marked very well, but Birding2Asia's map is accurate and there was a sign (although on the ground) for the turn for Oriole Trail. As you start along this trail, there will be a ravine to your left and you'll eventually start climbing stairs before reaching the left turn for Oriole. The area near the intersection was productive for us with a few fruiting/flowering trees and the only place we saw Bohol Sunbird. After taking the left onto Oriole, you'll eventually drop back down in elevation and the trail will turn sharply left. From this point back to the beginning of the loop is where we saw the most species (see bird list for specific GPS). Once you keep left on Tarsier, the trail will have a steep small cliff on your right and a ravine on your left. This area was particularly good and produced Visayan Broadbill, Rufous-ored Kingfisher, and Black-crowned Babbler. From here you'll meet back at Brahminy at the beginning. This essentially describes taking "the loop" in a counter clock wise direction.
3. **Tarsier Trail (purple):** From Oriole Trail, instead of keeping left to continue on Tarsier for "the loop" you can take the right and take the other section of Tarsier back to the clearing. This section didn't produce many interesting things for us, but the large sink hole/cave on your right had a pair of Everett's Scops-Owls roosting in it (all the caves you see have a potential of having roosting Everett's in them) and there was also a Philippine Frogmouth nest close to the trail along this section as well. The trail eventually returns to the clearing, but you have to climb over some wires to make it back out to the clearing.
4. **Brahminy Trail (green):** If you continue past the left turn for Oriole, you'll soon reach the crest of the hill and there will be a long set of stairs going steeply down. The second time I did this section of trail, there was a Philippine Frogmouth perched on a small branch directly over the stairs. Once you get to the bottom of the stairs you can either turn right to take the Tarctic Trail or left to stay on Brahminy. Take the left and soon you'll take a right to once again stay on Brahminy (and continue to go down in elevation). It was along the first part of this section that we finally found a Rufous-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher and further along this section of trail near a small clearing with a large boulder we had good looks at a pair of Visayan Blue Fantails. The trail continues heading down in elevation, eventually hitting a dirt road (Tarctic Trail). Take a right and you'll soon be at the Logarita Pool. This trail makes for a good morning as you can start at the clearing, do the loop 1 ½ times, and then continue out Brahminy, ending up at the swimming pool and catching a motorbike back to town for lunch. I wouldn't recommend doing the hike in the opposite direction as you'd be doing a lot of uphill walking.

5. Tarictic Trail (violet): After you go down the steep portion of steps along Brahminy, you'll hit Tarictic Trail. We never hiked the large loop if you take a left, but instead took a right and birded along the trail back to the Logarita Pool. We didn't have much along this section, but it was the first place that we saw Visayan Blue Fantail.
6. Trogon Trail (light green): This trail eventually becomes overgrown and does not connect back to the clearing. Do not attempt to take this trail the whole way as you will not be able to. If you do, expect to essentially cut your own trail in order to loop through.
7. Tunnel Area: As you're driving in to Magsaysay you'll come to a T. To the right will be the Logarita Pool and to the left will be the last steep portion of road, the "tunnel", and then the clearing. This last section can be good in the morning with Rufous-lored Kingfisher, Yellow-breasted Tailorbird, and Buff-spotted Flameback all being seen. The area around the intersection had both Philippine Frogmouth and Nightjar after dark.
8. Silvery Kingfisher Spot: This spot is located outside the protected area. As you're driving along the entrance road, you'll go over a bridge (N 9.706939 E 124.109232). Just past the bridge is a dirt road on your right (this is also the "yellow road" that leads to the pool). Take this and soon you'll see a trail veering off to the right along the stream (N 9.704823 E 124.110262) slowly walk along this trail, scanning the branches near the edges of the stream as you go along. The Northern Silvery Kingfisher is commonly found in this area.

**Additional Logistics:**

**Guide:** As I stated in the summary, most birders solicit help from local guide Ryan. Although he is a help, I definitely don't think he's as essential as some other reports make him out to be (I might also be a bit biased as I hate using guides unless absolutely necessary). All of the birds can essentially be found in one small area. It's mostly just a matter of slowly walking the trails and listening for their songs/calls. I originally had scheduled to use Ryan on the second day of our trip, but after having found almost all of the targets the first day by ourselves, I was hesitant to pay for a guide that I didn't really need (I really don't like using guides). Since we had already arranged for his help, we went along with the original plan. I wanted to start at 0500, but Ryan insisted on 0530 stating that it didn't "get light" until then. Of course we started the morning by ourselves at 0400 for night birds, and from 0500-0530 during Ryan's "dark time" had Azure-breasted Pitta (for the third time) and Streak-breasted Babblers literally hopping on the trail at our feet. I'm not a fan of lazy bird guides who don't want to wake up. Anyways, we walked back to the clearing at 0530 and Ryan was nowhere to be found. He ended up not showing up until 0545. I'm also not a fan of people being late, especially when it's a bird guide and it's already light out. That being said, we ended up spending the morning with Ryan who did know his birds and with his suggestion we took the Tarictic Trail where we did find one of our remaining targets, Visayan Blue Fantail. We ended up only using him for the morning since there wasn't really any reason for him to hang around. I'd recommend using him if you aren't prepared, but otherwise, just bird on your own.

**Lodging:** There are two cabins at Magsaysay where it is possible to stay. I'm not entirely sure of the cost, but I think it was 250 pp per night and could be arranged once you arrive the first day (I doubt they will be occupied). The biggest issue with staying here is that there's no food, but you could probably buy food and cook in the ranger's kitchen (they have a fridge and stove) or just go into town once or twice a day to eat.

**Costs:**

Entrance Fee: 100 pp per person

Guide: Ryan said he charges 1800 pp for the day but since we only used him until 1100 (and he was late) we gave him 1000 pp

Motorbike: The standard rate seems to be 100 pp per motorbike from Habitat Bohol to Magsaysay each way.



*Philippine Frogmouth on nest*

# Mindanao

## Summary:

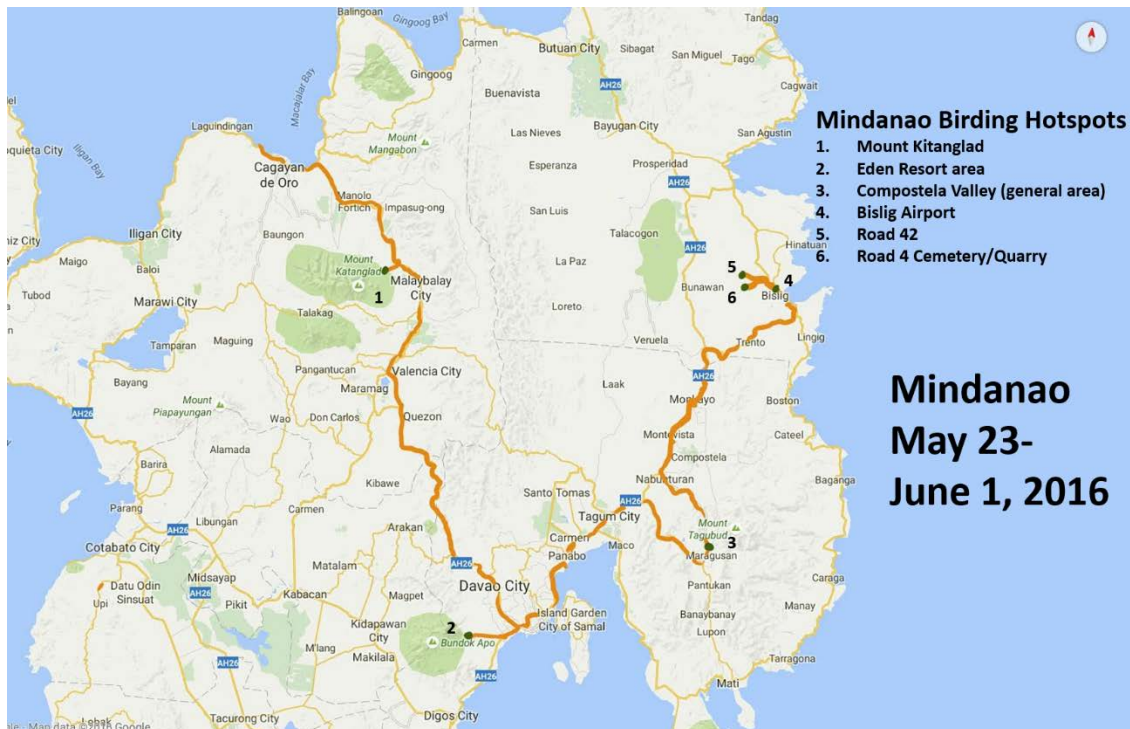
With current travel advisories from all of the major developed countries stating not to travel to Mindanao, I was a bit hesitant about adding this island into the trip. Upon looking into the matter further, I realized that although the western part of the island is extremely dangerous to travel to (it's a hot bed for Islamic extremists), the eastern part of the island is still considered relatively safe. I contacted Pete Simpson of "Birding Mindanao" to chat

with him about the current situation and eventually decided that the typical birding route would be safe enough to visit. We ended up spending 10 days on the island visiting Mount Kitanglad, Davao, the Compostela Valley, and PICOP. This is the typical route of most birding groups (sans the Compostela Valley) and allows birders to see a majority of the endemics. We still tried to do this section of the trip as cheaply as possible, but due to the nature of the birding spots, Mindanao is probably the most expensive place to visit in the Philippines for birding. Luckily, there were four of us on this portion of the trip so we were still able to keep costs very cheap by Mindanao standards (\$627 per person for 10 days!).

## Mount Kitanglad

**Directions/Access:** Although there are two different access points to this area (Mt Dulang Dulang and Del Monte Lodge), almost all birders go to Del Monte Lodge due to the convenience and reliable Philippine Eagles. The biggest issue with going to Del Monte is coordinating the trip prior to arrival. This is a hotspot for visiting bird tours, so during peak season it might be tricky to stay here. Also, the price has substantially increased in the past few years and is only offered as a "package" now. This package is for four days/three nights and includes guiding and food. The cost is 18,000 pp for one person, 25,000 for two, 30,000 for three, and 40,000 for four. There's also a 1,500 pp per group additional charge that is given to the local village leader. In addition to the hefty price, they also require a deposit so that they can buy the food in advance. I'm not sure of the logistics of paying this deposit independently. Luckily for us, through coordinating with Pete, he was able to pay the deposit for us in advance of our arrival (Thanks Pete!).

The pickup point for Del Monte is the elementary school (N 8.198755 E 125.044772) in the small town of Dalawagan which is north of Malaybalay. Getting here can be a bit tricky as well. We arrived at the Cagayan de Oro airport which is west of the actual city. There are vans at the airport that will take you into the city for 200 pp per person. From the bus terminal you will then have to catch a bus heading towards Davao and get off at Dalawagan. Total estimated time would be between 4-6 hours depending on construction and traffic. This was our original game plan, but one of the van drivers said he'd take us the whole way (airport to Dalawagan) for 2500 pp. Factoring what it would have cost us to get a van to the city and then a bus toward Davao, 2500 pp in total was a great deal and we decided to go with it. It ended up taking us exactly four hours, but we also spent some time in Cagayan de Oro exchanging money. I wouldn't plan on getting a private van for 2500 pp though. Most charge around 3500-4000 pp. Once you arrive in Dalawagan, you will mostly likely be met by Danny, who is the son-in-law of Carlito and the other guide for Del Monte. From here it's a short ride in the back of a pick-up truck to the start of the hike at N 8.178168 E 125.000619 and then it's a roughly 1- 1 ½ hour hike up to Del Monte lodge (N 8.156619 E 124.995814). Your gear will be carried by horse and overall it's a pretty easy hike.



**Mindanao**  
**May 23-**  
**June 1, 2016**

**Birding:** As long as the weather cooperates, the 4 day/3 night package should be plenty of time to see the main list of target birds for the area. If things go well with the eagle, two days should actually be plenty to see everything, but if the eagle is uncooperative, then things can get a little trickier. The area can essentially be divided into three sections that I will cover below:

**Lodge Area and hike to Platform 1:** The area around the lodge and the 2.2 mile walk up to Platform 1 can be very productive for a few of the specialty birds. The bamboo area behind the lodge sometimes is reliable for Blue-capped Kingfisher (not for us) and the overgrown clearing about 100 meters uphill from the lodge was the best location to view Bukidnon Woodcock at dusk. The 2.2 mile walk from the lodge to Platform 1 mostly goes through open agricultural areas, but also passes through a few small sections of forest as well as some overgrown areas. The overgrown area about halfway along the trail is the best spot for Red-eared Parrotfinch (walk very slowly and watch for them to flush from the side of the trail, as well as listen for their soft high-pitched calls) and is also a great location to find a few of the other endemics including Grey-hooded Sunbird and Flame-crowned Flowerpecker (this can be one of the trickier endemics to find). Long-tailed Shrikes are common along the field edges and the last section of forest before Platform 1 held a few Mindanao Racquet-tails every time we walked through it. At night, this section of trail is good for Philippine Nightjar.



**Platform 1 "Eagle Platform":** Located 2.2 miles from the Lodge at N 8.137984 E 124.97480 and 1610m, this is the spot where hundreds of birders have held vigil waiting for the legendary Philippine Eagle. The walk up to this point can be completed in as little as 1 hour (walking fast, no stopping), but more realistically it'll take between 1 ½-2 hours with stops for birds. Walking down from Platform 1 back to the lodge can be completed in as little as 50 minutes if you're moving fast. The location itself, was fairly boring for us in terms of birds, but we still managed to see some interesting birds from this location. The main highlights being Stripe-headed Rhabdornis and Apo Myna. The first day we spent from 0730-1500 without any eagle sightings and then on day two from 0700-1130. We finally had nice views of a single Philippine Eagle flyby at 1130 which eventually headed towards the far ridge that we had been scanning for hours and perched in a large tree. Getting the eagle really seems to be hit and miss (the Rockjumper tour the week prior had it by 0930 the first day), so be prepared to put in some time at this platform if necessary.



Overview from Del Monte, up to the Eagle Platform, and on to the Apo Sunbird Spot (APSB)

**Platform 2 "Apo Sunbird Platform"** N 8.129706 E 124.957572 1900m. Although I've heard this area referred to as Platform 2, there isn't any platform once you reach the location. It's an additional 1.5 miles uphill from Platform 1 to get to the Apo Sunbird spot. This took Michael and I the first morning in the dark/rain ~2 hours to complete although we stopped a few times along the way to try for owls. The hike back down to platform 1 took 1 hour and 20 minutes. The trail itself was surprisingly a bit overgrown (I get a bit annoyed when people charge ridiculous amounts of money to bird an area and don't maintain their trails. I personally removed a lot of the vegetation along the trail on my two trips up and down). Despite the annoyance of the overgrown trail, the area around 1900m in elevation was fantastic. Apo Sunbird was easy once you reach "the spot" and we had quite a few from here and further up the trail as well. We also had multiple groups of Apo Mynas as well as White-cheeked Bullfinch. Mountain Shrike has been seen in the area, but is very scarce, so don't expect to find it without a lot of effort. Although Danny originally said the trail past the Apo Sunbird spot only went about

50 meters, Michael and I were able to follow it for at least another 500 meters before running into a sign that said "Tribal Lands Do Not enter" It would be interesting to spend some more time exploring the higher elevation area and especially continuing along the trail through the tribal lands if you can get permission (our time was limited since it took so long to get the eagle).

#### **Additional Logistics:**

**Guides:** Carlito and Danny are the two guides. Both will typically accompany you to Platform 1, but only Danny will take you up to the Apo Sunbird spot. Carlito of course, has been guiding at Del Monte for close to 30 years, but Danny only started a few years ago. He's still pretty

sharp though. They gave us a bit of push back when Michael and I said we wanted to start at 0200 to hike up to the Apo Sunbird spot so that we could look for owls/see the sunbirds at dawn, but eventually they gave in and agreed. Overall I was very pleased with both of them.

**Costs:** As stated above, it's gotten a bit pricey to visit the area, especially if you were doing it on your own. The costs again are 18,000 pp for one person, 25,000 for two, 30,000 for three, and 40,000 for four and then 1500 pp per group. The actual sleeping quarters is a mattress on the ground, but it's more than adequate and the food is very good.

**Itinerary:** Below is the typical itinerary for birders visiting Mt Kitanglad with a few suggestions afterwards.

Day 1: Arrive midday at pickup point, walk to lodge, bird evening around lodge grounds

Day 2: Morning birding along walk up to Platform 1 (2-3 hours) and then wait for eagle at Platform 1. After seeing the eagle, bird back down to lodge and spend evening around lodge

Day 3: Early morning hike up to Apo Sunbird spot, bird the higher elevation, then hike back down to lodge for afternoon

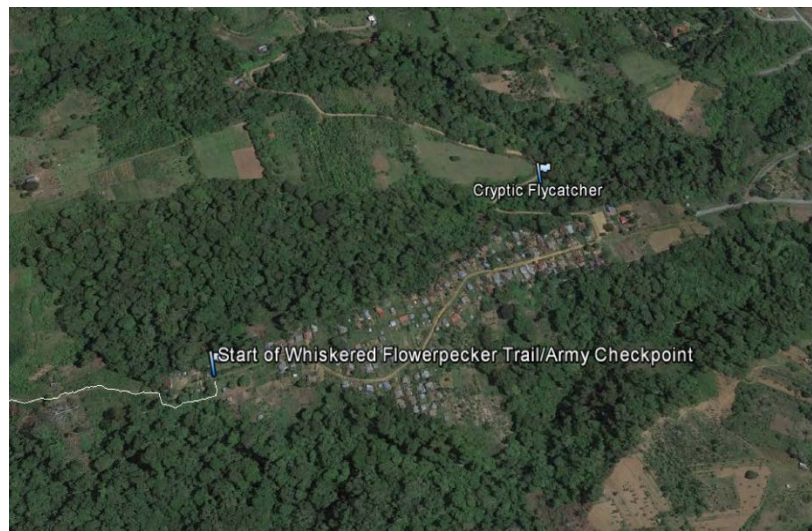
Day 4: Morning birding around lodge, walk back down to main road to continue south to Davao

Notes: Overall this schedule works, unless you miss the eagle the first day. I've read reports of birders dipping (i.e. not even trying) on the Apo Sunbird because they didn't get the eagle the first day. Personally, I find that a bit silly. If you're very motivated, even if you miss the eagle the first day, it is very possible to start at 0230, hike the 3 hours to the sunbird spot, see the sunbird at dawn, and still be back to the eagle platform by 0700-0730. Of course, you need to be in decent shape to do this, but it's not the hardest hike either. At least during our visit, the Apo Sunbirds were very easy and shouldn't take long to find after dawn. Another alternative is to go in the afternoon of the second day for the sunbirds assuming you finally see the eagle. We did this as well since the other two members of our group didn't do the morning hike with us. Once again, the Apo Sunbirds were still very easy to find in the afternoon. Also, Carlito and Danny seemed to be a bit flexible with the departure time on day four as well. If for some reason you are still looking for the eagle or need to push the sunbird search until day four, a departure as late as 1300-1400 shouldn't be unreasonable.

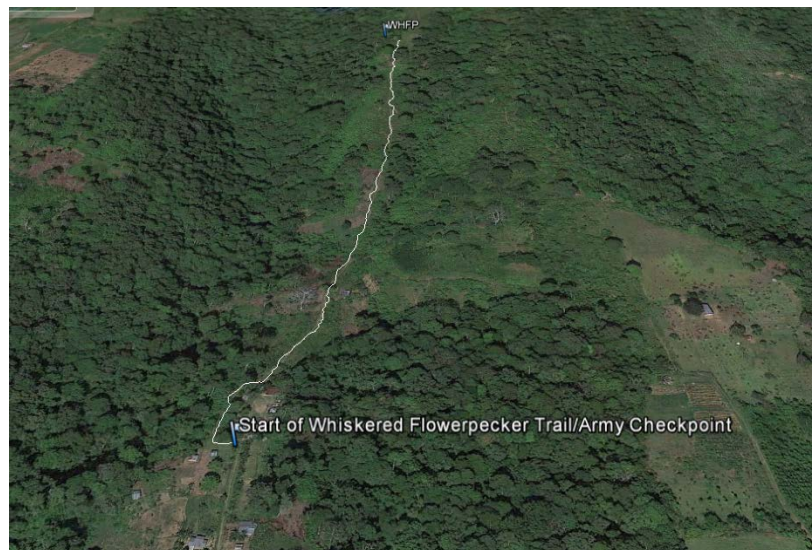
## Davao (Eden Resort area):

**Directions/Access:** Assuming you're heading to Davao, from Mt Kitanglad, the journey will begin from Dalawagan. From here, you'll need to take a jeepney for about 15 minutes to the bus station in Malaybalay. There are both air-conditioned and non-air-conditioned buses regularly heading to Davao. It's highly recommended to take an air-con one as it's a pretty long journey and not that much more expensive. It took us about 7-8 hours to finally reach Davao where Pete Simpson met us and took us to our hotel for the night. The next few days we spent with Pete, although the Davao section could easily be done on your own as well. From our hotel in Davao, it was about a 35 minute drive to the Eden Resort area. The area up to the Cryptic Flycatcher spot can be completed in any rental vehicle, but the last section of road up for the Whiskered Flowerpecker "hike" needs a four-wheel drive vehicle. Although the distance from the Cryptic Flycatcher spot to the start of the trail for the Whiskered Flowerpecker isn't too far and could easily be walked as well.

**Birding:** The main reason for visiting this area is for two targets. Cryptic Flycatcher and Whiskered Flowerpecker. Both birds have been extremely reliable since their discovery a few years ago and in most cases shouldn't take more than a morning to find both. The main spot for Cryptic Flycatcher is located within the Eden Resort, although during our visit, a pre-dawn short owling excursion for Giant Scops Owl (sadly still a heard only), turned up a pair of Cryptic Flycatchers at a new location just outside of the resort (although along the same stream that runs through the resort) when Pete picked up on their high pitched dawn song. This location also has the undescribed lower elevation subspecies of White-browed Shortwing. Definitely worth trying to get a look at one while you're here as it'll probably be split



Eden Resort area



Hike for Whiskered Flowerpecker

eventually. This location also sometimes has Whiskered Flowerpecker, but the next spot is much more reliable. From this pull off (N 7.026863 E 125.388874), it is highly recommended that you walk, unless you have a good 4wd vehicle. Continue along the main dirt road, through the village, and eventually you'll make it to an Army Station at N 7.025571 E 125.384958. From here, it's a short, but steep hike up to the Whiskered Flowerpecker spot at N 7.025839 E 125.380144. The hike from the Army barracks to the spot should only take about 20-30 minutes, although after getting to the spot, I realized I left my recorder in the vehicle, so after running back down to the car, made the trip from the Army Station to the spot in 7 minutes (that involved running the whole way back up though!). The Whiskered Flowerpeckers seem to be very reliable at this location and shouldn't take too long to find. If you do go by yourself, make sure you check in with the Army Station to make sure that the area is safe.

#### **Additional Logistics:**

**Guide:** For the morning around Davao and the next section of the trip, the Compostela Valley, we used local guide Pete Simpson. Pete has been living in Davao for the last few years and has been doing great things for the Mindanao birding community. Along with discovering a few new birding locations, he's been instrumental in getting locals interested in conservation and the birds around them. I'd highly recommend using Pete for the morning around Davao as well as a trip to see Lina's Sunbird. Pete can easily be reached through Facebook at [Birding Mindanao](#)

#### **Costs:**

Transportation: Bus from Malaybalay, 390 pp per person for a nice air-con bus

Lodging: Princess Perrine Suites. 1200 pp per double room per night

Guiding: Morning in Davao, afternoon Compostela Valley, morning Compostela Valley, drop off for bus to Bislig. Total 18,000 pp (split among four of us)

### **Compostela Valley:**

**Directions/Access:** Located between Davao and Bislig, this recently discovered area has made Lina's Sunbird a "gettable" bird. Currently the area is still off-limits to independent birders, but the area can still be visited with the help of Pete Simpson. Getting to the site can be a bit tricky as current construction has made the roads a muddy mess so a 4wd vehicle with good tires is a must (something Pete can readily provide). Also, the area sometimes has safety concerns, so it is very necessary to go through the proper procedures getting access to the site. After birding this location, it'll take about 3 more hours from the highway by bus to make it to Bislig. We birded here in the morning until about 1000 (it was foggy and slow) and then had enough time to make it back to the main highway and get to Bislig in time to be at the airport by 1600 for an evening of birding.



*Lina's Sunbird*

**Birding:** Overall, this was an extremely depressing area to visit.

The current construction coupled with illegal logging has really taken a toll on the area. Pete discovered this spot about 2 years ago and since then a large amount of the habitat that used to be present is now gone. Megas like Mindanao Scops-Owl, Mindanao Brown-Dove, and Bagobo Babbler, are still present, but most likely will only remain "heard onlys" as a lot of the habitat no longer reaches the side of the road. Even with the habitat destruction, the area still remains a reliable spot for Lina's Sunbird as well as a few other interesting species such as the local subspecies of Long-tailed Bush Warbler and McGregor's Cuckooshrike. I'd highly recommend try to get here before the place disappears!

### **Bislig Area (PICOP and Bislig Airport):**

#### **Bislig Airport:**

**Directions/Access:** Located just north of Bislig, the small Bislig Airport is a great spot to spend an evening and add a few interesting species to the Philippine list. From our lodging at the Paper Country Inn, it took about 20 minutes to get to the access road located on your left at N 8.198892 E 126.327647. From here, it's a short walk to the terminal and the gate leading out onto the runway. Just tell the guard you're going birdwatching and you should have no problem getting access to the airstrip.

**Birding:** We arrived around 1600 and stayed until dusk. I wouldn't recommend getting here much earlier as it'll be hot and bird activity will be low. We walked along the runway stopping and scanning little patches of open water when we could. Most birders spend a good bit of time at the end of the runway looking for warblers, but given the time of the year, most of these species had already migrated north. Although the guard told us to not walk off the runway, we still managed to flush a few King Quails along the edges of the tarmac. We also

found the majority of our targets including Watercock, Philippine Duck, Clamorous Reed Warbler, and Black-backed Swamphen. Per a previous conversation with Pete, the status of the swamphens at this location is quite peculiar. Although for years many birders ticked Philippine Swamphen at this location, it seems that all, if not most, of the swamphens at this location are now Black-backed Swamphens (a species that was new for the Philippines just a few years prior). We also successfully saw Eastern Grass Owl at dusk as it flew directly over the airfield and headed out into the marsh.

#### Costs:

Transportation: We paid 100 pp each way to get from the Paper Country Inn to the airport.

#### PICOP:

**Directions/Access:** Located north and west of Bislig, the logging concession of PICOP has long been on the birder's map. For many years the area has been under intense pressure from illegal logging and available access to intact tracts of lowland forests has become scarcer and scarcer. Although birders have been saying for years that "you better go now before it's gone" I can't help but utter the same words myself. Although the majority of the species continue to hang on, it is only a matter of time before things get too bad. We were almost constantly within earshot of chainsaws and often saw planks of wood piled up along the side of the trail, ready to be hauled into town. Most (if not all?), birders visiting the area use local guide Zardo and rent a Jeepney for the day.

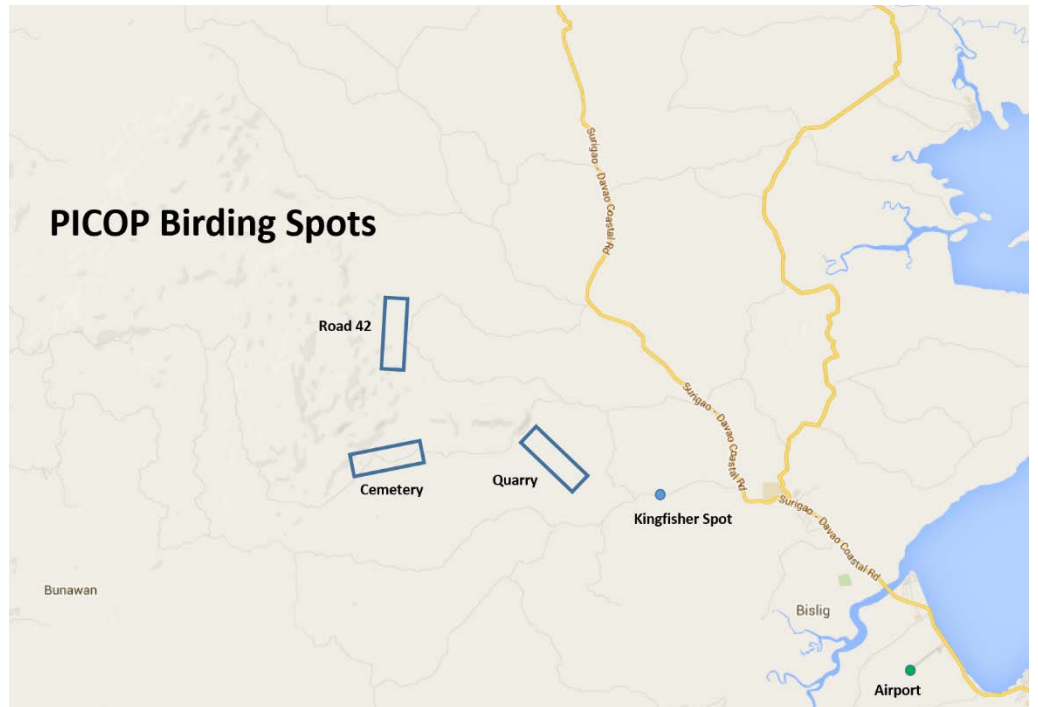
Although this is a very viable option, it does get a bit pricey unless you have a

few people to share costs with. Each location visited (Quarry, Cemetery, Road 42) all took almost exactly 1 ½ hours to get to. Although it used to take a bit longer to get to Road 42, recent road improvements makes the drive a bit quicker. If you are visiting the area by yourself or don't want to pay the extra money, I do think it would be very possible to bird PICOP completely independently (I'd suggest renting a motorbike from a local to get there). The biggest challenge is probably just coming to grips with that fact that the tricky birds do actually still live in these terrible degraded patches of forest. You just have to put in the time and effort to find them.

#### Birding:

**Road 42:** By far this was our most productive spot and we spent the majority of the time at this location. Birding starts at N 8.306625 E 126.150811 where a dirt road on your left heads briefly uphill before leveling out again. A typical birding day consists of walking back and forth along a 2-3 km section of this road looking for flocks. The road passes through a few "decent" sections of forests, but also passes through a number of clearings including a recent large clearing. It was within 200-300 meters of both sides of this clearing that we had the most bird activity.

**Road 4 (Cemetery):** The start of birding this area is located at N 8.257977 E 126.151310 where there is a small pull off and some old graves (hence the name). Birding here consists of walking the road for about 2 km. There is a large clearing across the road from the pull off and then the road runs through a small section of forest before reaching another large clearing with a small house in it (the turnaround point). It gets pretty redundant birding up and down this small section of road, but sadly it is the only decent forest in the area. Along with birding the main road, there are a few small logging trails that venture off into the forest and it is very worthwhile to check these out as well. If you walk across the large clearing, there is a trail at N 8.256942 E 126.150811 that goes steeply downhill before leveling out and ending in a banana plantation. It is a short trail, but a reliable spot for Little Slaty Flycatcher. Another interesting trail is on the left side of the road at N 8.257656 E 126.147315. This trail only went about 200 meters before it ended at a large tree that was currently being cut into planks, but provided good access to the interior of the forest. This is the location where we saw an adult and juvenile Philippine Dwarf Kingfisher as well as a pair of Little Slaty Flycatchers.



Cemetery Area

**Road 4 (Quarry):** Birding starts at N 8.262378 E 126.198915, but to be honest, it isn't worth visiting any more. We only spent one afternoon here and saw very little. There is heavy logging going on at this location (more than the other ones) and Zardo says he rarely goes there anymore because of it. I'd concentrate your time on Road 42 and maybe a day at the Cemetery.

**Southern Silvery Kingfisher Spot:** This spot is located on the way back to the main road and can easily be visited from either Road 42 or the Cemetery. It's recommended to leave PICOP early on one of the afternoons in order to see this species. From what I've gathered, it's best to get to the spot by 1500 as the kingfisher can sometimes get tricky to see after that. The pond that it frequents is at N 8.246467 E 126.237536.

**Additional Logistics:**

**Guiding:** Zardo Goring has been guiding at PICOP for a very long time (over 20 years?) He knows the area very well and all the tour companies and most (if not all?) of the independent groups use him as well. It is probably easiest to contact him via Facebook, but you can also reach him at 09109352436. He worked hard trying to find us birds and didn't complain about the daily 0200 starts to get to the spots in time for owling. The only issue I have with Zardo is that his guiding price doesn't include food for himself or the jeepney driver. They order their breakfast and lunch daily at the PCI to take with them for the day. These meals are very overpriced and essentially added an additional \$10 USD per day for the total price.

**Costs:**

Guiding: 2500 pp per day (meals not included)

Transportation: Jeepney, 3500 pp per day (does not include meals for the driver)

Food: ~400 pp per day to feed Zardo/Driver. We bought our food at the grocery store at the beginning of the trip and packed our lunches each day. There isn't anywhere to stop and eat while birding for the day at PICOP



*Southern Sooty Woodpecker!*

## Budget Breakdown:

- For Palawan, Cebu, Negros, and Bohol, costs are for two people with shared costs split among three people
- For Mindanao, cost is for one person, with shared costs split between 4 people

**Palawan, Cebu, Negros, Bohol:**

Internal Flights: \$308.74  
Transportation: \$258.17  
Local Guides: \$219.54  
Food: \$181.65  
Car Rental: \$159.41  
Gas: \$46.35  
Other: \$168.54 (includes Scuba Diving)  
Total: \$1,519.58

**Mindanao:**

Guides: \$453.80  
Internal Flights: \$148.45  
Lodging: \$70.30  
Food: \$57.02  
Other: \$6.09  
Total: \$775.65

International Airfare: PIT to MNL: \$1041.76 round trip per person

Total Trip Cost: \$4351.75



# Bird Highlights by Island

Species in **bold** are either endemic to that specific island or in my opinion represents the best island to find that Philippine Endemic on

## Palawan

Species	Location	Notes
Tabon Scrubfowl	Subterranean River Park	2 birds seen around headquarter buildings shortly after dawn, disappeared once tourists began to arrive
<b>Palawan Peacock Pheasant</b>	Subterranean River Park, Mount Victoria	Habituated male seen to the right of the right most building at N 10.20046 E 118.924348. Still easily seen at 0930 when we left. 1 male and 2 female flushed from side of trail when descending Mt Victoria at 700m, a VERY rare sighting.
Barred Rail	Pandan Island	Seen well feeding near only Mangrove patch on island along south end of island
Thick-billed Green Pigeon	Subterranean River Park	Seen along steps on Jungle Trail
Black-chinned Fruit-Dove	ATV trail	
Green Imperial Pigeon	Liang Lookout	Best seen from Liang Lookout in the late afternoon flying back and forth
Gray Imperial Pigeon	Pandan Island	Easily heard and a few seen while walking the shoreline along the backside of the island
Violet Cuckoo	Subterranean River Park	
Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	Zig-Zag Road	
<b>Palawan Scops-Owl</b>	ATV Trail, Mt Victoria	Heard along ATV trail, seen well at upper campsite on Mount Victoria
Mantanani Scops-Owl	Pandan Island	3 birds heard along back side of Pandan Island, 1 seen well at N 9.873853 E 118.8171 after walking about 50 meters into forest
Spotted Wood-Owl	ATV Trail	two birds heard
<b>Palawan Frogmouth</b>	ATV Trail, Zig-Zag Road	Heard along ATV trail, seen well in bamboo patch along Zig Zag road near S 9.63849 E 118.714
Large-tailed Nightjar	Pandan Island	Flushed while walking into forest for Mantanani Scops-Owl
White-bellied Woodpecker	Subterranean River Park	Pair seen along jungle trail at N 10.196431 E 118.9202
<b>Spot-throated Flameback</b>		Fairly common throughout
<b>Red-headed Flameback</b>	Liang Lookout, Penal Colony	Pair responded to playback north of Liang Lookout at N 10.10976 E 118.8532, 3 more seen at Penal Colony
<b>Blue-headed Racquet-tail</b>	Liang Lookout, Penal Colony	Flybys at lookout, numerous birds eating mangos at Penal Colony
Blue-headed Parrot	Penal Colony	Common
Philippine Cockatoo	Liang Lookout	Appeared at around 1630, from lookout seen in trees looking towards the mountain side
Hooded Pitta	Subterranean River Park, Zig-Zag Road	Common
Mangrove Whistler	Mt Victoria	Single bird seen in mixed flock just below upper camp
Dark-throated Oriole	ATV Trail	
<b>Blue Paradise Flycatcher</b>	Zig-Zag Road, ATV Trail, Penal Colony	Fairly common, best found by distinct song
<b>Palawan Tit</b>	Subterranean River Park, ATV Trail, Mt Victoria	Along Jungle trail at the river park, numerous near entrance of ATV trail, along river during hike on Mt Victoria
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	Mt Victoria	fairly common above 1000m
<b>Ashy-fronted Bulbul</b>		Fairly common
<b>Grey-throated Bulbul</b>		Fairly common
<b>Sulphur-bellied Bulbul</b>		Fairly common
Mountain Warbler	Mt Victoria	near upper camp
Yellow-breasted Warbler	Mt Victoria	near upper camp
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	Zig-Zag Road, Penal Colony	Fairly common
<b>Palawan Stripped Babbler</b>	Mt Victoria	First birds seen around 1250m, numerous at upper camp at 1345m
Mountain White-eye	Mt Victoria	near upper camp
<b>Palawan Babbler</b>	Penal Colony	Seen between 2nd and 3rd creek crossings and past 3rd crossing
<b>Ashy-headed Babbler</b>	Zig-Zag Road, ATV Trail, Penal Colony	Common

<b>Falcatad Wren-Babbler</b>	ATV Trail, Mt Victoria, Penal Colony	Heard along ATV trail and near 2nd stream crossing at Penal Colony. Seen well below upper camp on Mt Victoria about 100m off trail at S 9.362608 E 118.3096
<b>White-vented Shama</b>		Common
<b>Palawan Blue-Flycatcher</b>	ATV Trail, Mt Victoria	Fairly common
White-browed Shortwing	Mt Victoria	near upper camp
Little Pied Flycatcher	Mt Victoria	near upper camp
<b>Palawan Flycatcher</b>	Zig-Zag Road	Seen in bamboo patch along trail on right side of road at N 9.63849 E 118.714
Common Hill Myna	Liang Lookout, Penal Colony	
<b>Yellow-throated Leafbird</b>	Liang Lookout	Surprisingly only seen once
<b>Palawan Flowerpecker</b>	Zig-Zag Road, ATV Trail	Fairly common
Pygmy Flowerpecker	Zig-Zag Road	Only seen once
Plain-throated Sunbird		Common
Purple-throated Sunbird		Fairly common
<b>Lovely Sunbird</b>	ATV Trail	
<b>Pale Spiderhunter</b>	Zig-Zag Road	

## Cebu

Species	Location	Notes
White-eared Brown-Dove	Tabunan	Common, ssp nigrorum a possible split
<b>Cebu Boobook</b>	Tabunan	Numerous birds seen after dark. N 10.437274 E 123.821094 and N 10.437324 E 123.8203
Coppersmith Barbet	Tabunan	Fairly common
<b>White-vented Whistler</b>	Tabunan	Probably the easiest spot for this bird. Regularly seen at N 10.438443 E 123.825957
Balicassiao	Tabunan	Common
<b>Streak-breasted Bulbul</b>	Tabunan	Heard more often than seen. Finally got some quick views near the base of the large rock
<b>Black Shama</b>	Tabunan	Fairly common, multiple birds seen/heard along trail
Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher	Tabunan	Single bird seen

## Negros

Species	Location	Notes
Barred Buttonquail	Mt Talinis	flushed on hike back down through open field
Amethyst Brown-Dove	Twin Lakes	ssp maculipectus (likely split), seen along "short forest trail". Most often heard, it can be a bit tricky to final get a look at one. Apparently they can sometimes be seen from the balcony at the restaurant
Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove	Twin Lakes	Commonly heard at Twin Lakes, a few seen in fruiting trees at SW corner
Pink-bellied Imperial Pigeon	Twin Lakes	Commonly heard, a few seen distantly in fruiting trees at SW corner
<b>Negros Scops-Owl</b>	Liptong Woodlands (Valencia)	This is Renee's garden. 3 fledglings and 1 adult seen
Luzon Boobook	Twin Lakes	Commonly heard at night, but difficult to track down. Didn't respond to tape at all. Eventually able to see two well near parking lot
Philippine Nightjar	Twin Lakes	Easy to see from parking lot at dusk/after dark
Philippine Needletail	Twin Lakes	A few flyovers
<b>Visayan Hornbill</b>	Twin Lakes	Seen on "short forest trail" as well as at a nest located on the lake. Ask the boatmen about current locations
Spotted Kingfisher	Valencia, Twin Lakes	seen along steep portion of trail heading down to creek in Valencia, also heard near steps right before boat dock at Twin Lakes
<b>Blue-crowned Racquet-tail</b>	Twin Lakes	Nest in snag at overlook above restaurant, also heard while on the lake
<b>White-winged Cuckooshrike</b>	Twin Lakes	Heard along the Lake Trail, seen from boat enroute to SW corner
<b>White-vented Whistler</b>	Twin Lakes	"short forest trail" The whistlers here are pretty rufous, don't confuse it for Negros Jungle-Flycatcher!
Balicassiao	Twin Lakes	Fairly common

<b>Visayan Fantail</b>	Valencia, Twin Lakes	Fairly common
<b>Visayan Bulbul</b>	Valencia, Twin Lakes	Common
<b>Lemon-throated Warbler</b>	Twin Lakes	A few seen in mixed flocks
Mountain Warbler	Mt Talinis	Common
Philippine Tailorbird	Mt Talinis	Common
<b>Negros Striped-Babbler</b>	Mt Talinis	Fairly easy once at the right habitat. Listen for its fairly inconspicuous calls. Responds well to recordings. N 9.257462 E 123.1971. Directions in main report
<b>Flame-templed Babbler</b>	Valencia	Often associates with Visayan Fantail, although the pair I found were by themselves. Seen midday at N 9.257775 E 123.212289, although the birds are typically encountered along the stream within about 100 meters each way of this point
Yellowish White-eye	Twin Lakes	Surprisingly difficult, only saw 1, usually fairly common in mixed flocks
Mountain White-eye	Mt Talinis	Common
<b>Visayan Shama</b>	Siaton	Difficult on Negros. A single bird has reliably been seen at N 9.189923 E 123.064634 in a single ravine. It takes 2 hours via motorbike to get here from Valencia
Island Flycatcher	Mt Talinis	Fairly common
<b>Visayan Rhabdornis</b>	Twin Lakes	Single bird seen at SW corner of lake
<b>Black-belted Flowerpecker</b>	Valencia	seen along creek, fairly common
<b>Magnificent Sunbird</b>	Twin Lakes	Commonly seen feeding on flowers at restaurant
<b>Maroon-naped Sunbird</b>	Twin Lakes	Commonly seen feeding on flowers at restaurant

## Bohol

Species	Location	Notes
Philippine Green-Pigeon	"The loop", Brahminy Trail	Fairly common, heard only
Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove		Common, heard only
Black-chinned Fruit-Dove	"The Loop"	Heard only
Green Imperial-Pigeon	Magsaysay Clearing	Perch on snags late afternoon
Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo	"The loop"	fairly common
Black-faced Coucal		Heard more often than seen, but encountered on all trails
<b>Everett's Scops-Owl</b>	"The loop", Tarsier Trail, Habitat Bohol	Roosts in caves along "The loop" and large cave on Tarsier. Also heard at Habitat Bohol
Luzon Boobook	Magsaysay Clearing, Entrance road before tunnel	Heard from clearing, finally saw only along entrance road below tunnel
Philippine Frogmouth	near "information center", Tarsier Trail, Brahminy steps	Vocal bird after dark near the old "information center", nesting bird along Tarsier trail, roosting bird on very obvious limb overhanging the steep steps on Brahminy
Great Eared-Nightjar	Magsaysay Clearing	Seen at dusk
Philippine Nightjar	near "information center"	Heard only
Philippine Trogon		Common
<b>Samar Hornbill</b>	Magsaysay Clearing, Tarictic Trail	Seen early morning at clearing, also taped in along Tarictic. Responsive to tape
<b>Northern Silvery-Kingfisher</b>	River near Army Camp	From bridge, walk briefly along dirt road to the beginning of a trail at N 9.704823 E 124.1103 and quietly follow the trail along the stream, stopping and scanning from small open areas
Rufous-lored Kingfisher	"The loop", Entrance road before tunnel	Numerous heard just before tunnel, good views along the Tarsier portion of "The loop" at N 9.70359 E 124.125
White-bellied Woodpecker		Fairly common, heard only
Buff-spotted Flameback	"The loop", Entrance road before tunnel	Heard and briefly seen along Oriole Trl section of "The loop". Seen just before tunnel
Philippine Hanging-Parrot		Fairly common
<b>Visayan Broadbill</b>	"The loop"	Group of four seen in a mixed flock of larger birds at 1130 along the Tarsier section of "The loop" N 9.704116 E 124.1244
Azure-breasted Pitta	"The loop", Tarsier Trail	Commonly heard. Seen at N 9.702892 E 124.127 and N 9.704581 E 124.1264
Yellow-bellied Whistler		Heard fairly often, only seen once

<b>Visayan Blue-Fantail</b>	Tarictic Trail, Brahminy Trail	Surprisingly difficult for us to find. Never encountered on "The loop". Listen for its song. Seen about halfway along the Tarictic Trail as well as near the small clearing along the Brahminy Trail
Philippine Leaf Warbler		Only seen once in mixed flock
<b>Yellow-breasted Tailorbird</b>		Song commonly heard, and very responsive to playback. Almost any small clearing/dense vegetation had one
Rufous-fronted Tailorbird		Commonly heard. I've never seen a species respond so negatively to playback. Every time I played the tape, it would stop singing. Difficult to see, best bet is to find one in a mixed flock
<b>Black-crowned Babbler</b>	"The loop"	2 birds only seen once in mixed large bird flock that contained the Broadbills along the Tarsier Trail
Everett's White-eye	"The loop"	Small flock on seen once
Brown Tit-Babbler	"The loop"	Surprisingly, only seen once. We had very, very few mixed flocks during our time on Bohol
<b>Striated Wren-Babbler</b>	"The loop"	Commonly heard early in the morning. 2 encountered hopping along the trail along Tarsier section of "The loop" as it was barely starting to get light
Philippine Fairy-blueBird	Magsaysay Clearing	Seen in afternoon
<b>Chestnut-tailed Jungle-Flycatcher</b>	Brahminy Trail	Backside of Brahminy Trail. We spent a lot of time looking for this bird/trawling with tapes. Tape responsive bird seen at N 09.69964 E 124.12383
Stripe-sided Rhabdornis	"The loop"	Seen only once
Bicolored Flowerpecker	Tarictic Trail	Pair seen in snag at opening along trail
<b>Bohol Sunbird</b>	"The loop"	A few heard and one seen well near intersection of Brahminy and Oriole on "The loop"

## Mount Kitanglad

Species	Location	Notes
<b>Great Philippine Eagle</b>	Platform 1	Finally seen on second day at 1130
Plain Bush-hen	Trail to Platform 1	Heard a few times during hikes up and back
<b>Bukidnon Woodcock</b>	Del Monte Lodge	Seen roding dawn/dusk at overgrown clearing just up the trail from the lodge. The birds hadn't been seen in a while due to the drought, but luckily it rained most of the time during our visit and they became active again
Amethyst Brown-Dove	Del Monte Lodge	Seen at edge of lodge clearing
Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove	Del Monte Lodge	Seen near lodge
Philippine Hawk-Cuckoo	Del Monte Lodge	Seen/commonly heard near lodge area
<b>Giant Scops-Owl</b>	Del Monte Lodge, hike to Apo Sunbird area	Frustratingly only heard despite hours of effort (not tape responsive at all)
Everett's Scops-Owl	Del Monte Lodge	Heard only (didn't try to find it)
Philippine Frogmouth	Del Monte Lodge	Heard only (didn't try to find it)
Great Eared Nightjar	Del Monte Lodge	Flying over clearing at dusk
Philippine Nightjar	Trail to Platform 1	Seen well along trail heading to Platform 1 before light
Philippine Trogon	Apo Sunbird area	encountered once near Apo Sunbird area
<b>Mindanao Hornbill</b>		Fairly common
Blue-capped Kingfisher	Apo Sunbird area	Heard once at dawn near Apo Sunbird area
Philippine Woodpecker		Common
Buff-spotted Flameback	Platform 1, Del Monte Lodge	Seen in forest patch just before Platform 1 and near Lodge clearing
<b>Mindanao Racquet-tail</b>	Platform 1	Seen n forest patch just before Platform 1 every time we talked through it. A few other flyovers as well
Philippine Hanging Parrot		Fairly common
<b>McGregor's Cuckooshrike</b>	Platform 1, Apo Sunbird area	Seen from Platform 1 once, a few encountered on hike to Apo Sunbird area
Yellow-bellied Whistler		Fairly common in mixed flocks
Long-tailed Shrike	Trail to Platform 1	A few seen in field areas (you won't find Mountain Shrike in these areas!)
<b>Black-and-Cinnamon Fantail</b>		Common in mixed flocks
<b>Rufous-headed Tailorbird</b>		Common

Mountain Warbler		Fairly common
Philippine Leaf Warbler		Fairly common
<b>Long-tailed Bush Warbler</b>	Trail to Platform 1	Commonly heard, seen a few times along Trail to Platform 1
<b>Mindanao White-eye</b>	Apo Sunbird area	Only a few seen at higher elevation
Brown Tit-Babbler		Common
Island Flycatcher		Common
White-browed Shortwing		Commonly heard especially at higher elevations
Little Pied Flycatcher		Fairly Common
<b>Bundok Flycatcher</b>	Trail to Platform 1	Only encountered once in along edge of fields before Platform 1
Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis	Platform 1	2 birds present for most of the day from Platform 1
Short-tailed Starling		Fairly common throughout
<b>Apo Myna</b>	Platform 1, Apo Sunbird area	Seen distantly twice at Platform 1, seen multiple times along trail at higher elevations
<b>Olive-capped Flowerpecker</b>		Common, especially along trail to Platform 1
White-bellied Flowerpecker		Common
Pygmy Flowerpecker		Only seen a few times
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker		Only seen a few times
<b>Gray-hooded Sunbird</b>	Trail to Platform 1	Fairly common, especially along trail to Platform 1
<b>Apo Sunbird</b>	Apo Sunbird area	Common once you get high enough. Easily seen at first light and in afternoon
<b>White-cheeked Bullfinch</b>	Apo Sunbird area	A bit tricky, but eventually saw a few at higher elevation
<b>Cinnamon Ibon</b>		Fairly common in mixed flocks
<b>Red-eared Parrotfinch</b>	Trail to Platform 1	Tricky to see, walk slowly and listen for their soft high pitched calls or possible flush them from the sides of the trail. Encountered regularly about halfway along trail to Platform 1 when the trail goes through a scrubby area. Feeds on the sunflowers.
White-bellied Munia	Trail to Platform 1	Fairly common

## PICOP

Species	Location	Notes
<b>Barred Honey-buzzard</b>	Road 4-Cemetery	2-3 birds seen throughout day
<b>Pinsker's Hawk-Eagle</b>	Road 42	Quite vocal, listen for distant call
Plain Bush-Hen	Road 4 Cemetery	Heard only near banana plantation at edge of forest
Philippine Green Pigeon	Road 4-Cemetery	A few fly-bys
Yellow-breasted Fruit-Dove	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Commonly heard
Black-chinned Fruit-Dove	Road 42	Heard only
Pink-bellied Imperial-Pigeon	Road 42	Heard only
Violet Cuckoo	Road 4-Cemetery	Single bird seen well
Philippine Drongo-Cuckoo	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Fairly common
<b>Black-faced Coucal</b>	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Heard often, seen once along Road 42
<b>Giant Scops-Owl</b>	Road 42	Heard each morning at beginning of road 42, not seen despite seriously effort each morning
Everett's Scops-Owl	Road 42	Heard only, didn't try to see
Chocolate Boobook	Road 42	Seen well at beginning of road
<b>Mindanao Boobook</b>	Road 42, Road 4-Quarry	Seen both locations
Philippine Frogmouth	Road 42	Heard only, didn't try to see
Great Eared-Nightjar	Road 42	Heard only
Philippine Needletail	Road 42	A few high fly-bys
Philippine Trogon	Road 42	Common
Rufous Hornbill	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Seen well along road 42, heard at Cemetery

<b>Writhed Hornbill</b>	Road 4-Cemetery	Numerous individuals seen feeding in large fruit trees
<b>Mindanao Hornbill</b>	Road 42	Sporadically seen
<b>Philippine Dwarf-Kingfisher</b>	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Road 42: Single bird landed about 5 feet from me at dawn near N 8.302524 E 126.1402, another seen briefly by Zardo at beginning on Road 42. Road 4-Cemetery: Adult seen feeding juvenile along beginning of trail that starts at N 8.257657 E 126.1473
<b>Rufous-lored Kingfisher</b>	Road 42	Taped in at edge of large clearing along Road 42
<b>Blue-capped Kingfisher</b>	Road 42	3 Seen well. (1) at beginning of road at dawn, (1) at N 8.299797 E 126.1386 at dawn, (1) at N 8.293369 E 126.1413 mid morning
Buff-spotted Flameback	Road 42	
<b>Southern Sooty Woodpecker</b>	Road 42	Pair seen extremely well just past the large clearing at N 8.298165 E 126.1395
Philippine Falconet	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	A few seen at each location
Guaiabero	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Road 42: Seen at large clearing, Road 4-Cemetery: Seen in large clearing near parking area
Philippine Hanging-Parrot	Road 42, Road 4-Cemetery	Common
<b>Wattled Broadbill</b>	Road 42	Only seen briefly (two birds chasing each other) just before large clearing
Blue-breasted Pitta	Road 42	Single bird along road at dawn
<b>Azure-breasted Pitta</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Commonly heard, surprisingly 4 flushed from edge of road along Road 42 at various times of day
Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike	Road 42	Seen at large clearing
<b>Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike</b>	Road 42	Seen at large clearing
Yellow-bellied Whistler	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Fairly common in mixed flocks
Philippine Oriole	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Fairly commonly heard, seen well just before clearing along Road 42
<b>Mindanao Blue-Fantail</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Common and vocal. Best indicator that you've found a flock
<b>Short-crested Monarch</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Quarry & Cemetery	Uncommon in flocks at all locations More often heard than seen
Black-naped Monarch	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Fairly common in mixed flocks
<b>Celestial Monarch</b>	Road 42	Male finally seen well in a mixed flock on our last morning along Road 42. Seen at 0750 at N 8.2964 E 126.1395
<b>Rufous Paradise-Flycatcher</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Common
Yellow-wattled Bulbul	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Common
<b>Yellowish Bulbul</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Common
Philippine Leaf Warbler	Road 42	Uncommon in mixed flocks
Rufous-fronted Tailorbird	Road 42	Commonly heard, seen a few times in mixed flocks
<b>White-browed Tailorbird</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Commonly heard, seen a few times
<b>Rusty-crowned Babbler</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Uncommon in mixed flocks
<b>Mindanao Pygmy-Babbler</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Fairly common in mixed flocks
Brown Tit-Babbler	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Common
Striated Wren-Babbler	Road 42	Heard only
Philippine Fairy-bluebird	Road 42	Seen at large clearing
<b>Little Slaty Flycatcher</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Road 42: Heard only at N 8.302524 E 126.1402. Road 4 Cemetery: Seen at beginning of trail that is located on the road side of the large clearing at N 8.256942 E 126.150811 and pair seen along same trail at Philippine Dwarf Kingfishers at N 8.25731 E 126.147152. Responds extremely well to playback of "aggressive song"
<b>Philippine Leafbird</b>	Road 42	Seen well just before large clearing
<b>Olive-backed Flowerpecker</b>	Road 42, Road 4 Cemetery	Fairly common
Handsome Sunbird	Road 42	Only a few seen
Metallic-winged Sunbird	Road 42	Only a few seen
<b>Orange-tufted Sunbird</b>	Road 4-Cemetery	Only seen once, though individual found was very vocal
<b>Naked-faced Spiderhunter</b>	Road 4 Cemetery	Seen well near parking area