

THE PHILIPPINES 2010

SATURDAY 16TH JANUARY TO SUNDAY 7TH FEBRUARY

HIGHLIGHTS: Either for rarity value, exceptional views or simply a group favourite:

- **Philippine Eagle**
- **Mindanao Wattled Broadbill**
- **Palawan Peacock-pheasant**
- **Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove**
- **Philippine Frogmouth**
- **Indigo-banded Kingfisher**
- **Great Slaty Woodpecker**
- **Streaked Ground-babbler**
- **Steere's Pitta**
- **Philippine Falconet**
- **Bukidnon Woodcock**
- **Scale-feathered Malkoha**
- **Philippine Needletail**
- **Rufous Hornbill**
- **Rufous Paradise-flycatcher**
- **Rufous-headed Tailorbird**
- **Red-bellied Pitta**
- **Black-faced Coucal**
- **Mantanani Scops-owl**
- **Red-crested Malkoha**
- **Philippine Trogon**
- **Short-crested Monarch**
- **Stripe-headed Rhabdornis**
- **White-cheeked Bullfinch**

TOUR SUMMARY:

Our first ever official tour to the fascinating Philippine archipelago resulted in a total of 317 species recorded, of which 131 were endemic. The weather was typical of these far-flung reaches of south-east Asia with frequent showers on Mindanao, generally dry on Luzon and hot and sunny on Palawan. So we began in the eerie predawn light on Mount Makiling, minus the ill Tim Fisher, standing in a steady drizzle listening to our first endemic, **Northern Philippine Scops-owl**. But a short while later, a **Philippine Hawk-owl** gazed back at us to get the tour up and running. Once it became light we slowly began notching up a decent list of birds, despite the constant drizzle with some perched **Colasisi** and several **Luzon Tarictic Hornbills** seen before we reached the Nursery. Taking shelter in an abandoned building we could scan some flowering trees that were attracting numerous **Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers**, along with **Red-keeled Flowerpecker** and several **Grey-throated Sunbirds**. This area also proved productive with the increasingly common **Balicassiao**, **Philippine Drongo Cuckoo** and a pair of obliging **Red-crested Malkohas**. We were getting plenty of practice balancing umbrellas and binoculars with the first of several **Stripe-headed Rhabdornis** and **Scale-feathered Malkoha** heading straight onto our life lists. After our picnic lunch we carried on walking up the mountain and came across a large bare tree which held several more rhabdornis, **Sulphur-billed Nuthatch**, **Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker**, several **Ashy Minivets**, **Black-and-White Triller** and **Yellowish White-eye**. We turned back down by mid afternoon and with the improving weather picked up **Elegant Tit** and a rather showy and extraordinarily eloquent **White-browed Shama**. A fruiting tree near the coach was attracting a few **Striped Flowerpeckers**, as well as a couple of **Coletos** which flew away before everyone had a decent enough view. But it was a species we would see well later in the tour and a few minutes afterwards we were walking alongside a small stream searching for **Indigo-banded**



Grey-throated Sunbird was quite common on Mount Makiling and gave lovely views feeding on the flowers.



This White-browed Shama was seen uttering its amazing song at Mount Makiling.

Kingfisher which only Tom saw this time. Overhead several **Striated Swallows** were hunting for insects in the clearing sky, and we had our first bash at identifying swiftlets with numerous **Pygmy** and **Grey-rumped Swiftlets**. A short drive took us to the grounds of the Los Banos University where **Tawny** and **Striated Grassbirds** and a leucistic **Philippine Coucal** put in an appearance. We set up our scopes along the closely cropped lane between the fields and had up to four sightings of the endemic **Spotted Buttonquail** crossing the path, as well as a pair of **Plain Bush-hens** to finish off a decent first day's birding in the Philippines.

We returned to Mount Makiling the following morning and walked slowly back up the hill with clear skies making it much warmer than yesterday. The first bird of the day was a skulking **Grey-backed Tailorbird** and during our attempts to see it a fine **Philippine Falconet** was found at the top of a very large tree right above us and was joined by a couple of **Guiabero**. Further up the hill there was a **Yellow-wattled Bulbul** perched in a tangle of vines and a truly spectacular **Handsome Sunbird** showed well beside the track as it fed on flowers. Having reached the small settlement quite quickly some cold drinks were bought before checking out the Nursery area again and this time a pair of **Grey-backed Tailorbirds** showed really well at eye-level amidst the flowering bushes. Our first **Flaming Sunbird** appeared amongst the numerous other sunbirds present. A **Naked-faced Spiderhunter** appeared briefly overhead for a few lucky people, whilst an amazing **Scale-feathered Malkoha** also put in an appearance. Walking back downhill, we made several attempts for **Spotted Wood-kingfisher** without any luck but as we approached our coach a flock of **Purple Needletails** flew low over the treetops in front of us. We had more luck with **Indigo-banded Kingfisher** this afternoon as after a patient search Mark spotted it flying downstream, so we ran back to the bridge and enjoyed amazingly prolonged views of the male as it fished from the rocks a short distance away. So by mid-afternoon we drove back to Manila and an almost unknown early finish (by Birdseekers usual standards) at the comfortable Heritage Hotel where we had time to rest and relax before a buffet dinner.

04:00 is never a good way to start the day but needs must as we had an early flight to Cagayan de Oro on Mindanao. Well, that was the plan but our flight was delayed by four hours, however after a smooth flight we finally touched down in Mindanao and set off for the drive to Dalwangan at the base of Mount Kitinglad. Upon arrival there was a group of villagers with horses waiting to take our luggage the couple of kilometres up to camp although it would take us nearly two hours to walk there. The trail wound upwards and became increasingly muddy the closer we got to camp but once past the worst bit a **Bukidnon**



Flaming Sunbird is a very attractive endemic and showed well during our visits to Mount Makiling.



One of our favourite birds of the entire tour was Scale-feathered Malkoha.



One of eight species of kingfisher seen on this tour, this Indigo-banded Kingfisher gave absolutely amazing views near Los Banos and we were able to watch it for over an hour!

Woodcock gave a couple of fly pasts and a **Great Eared Nightjar** was also spotlighted, although in hindsight maybe we should have tried harder to see a calling **Giant Scops-owl**. Finally we strolled into the grounds of ‘Eagle Camp’ half an hour after dusk and were rewarded for our efforts with some cold beers and a **Philippine Frogmouth** spotlighted a few metres from the lodge. Our accommodation consisted of a 2-tier wooden structure with the upstairs being the dormitory comprising mattresses on the floor. A few people opted to use the large tents in the garden as well and with the excitement of our surroundings and secluded location this certainly felt like a proper adventure!



Eagle Camp was our base from where we explored Mount Kitinglad.

Breakfast was taken at 5am the next day and we enjoyed another sighting of the rare **Bukidnon Woodcock** flying past the lodge before heading off up the mountain along a very muddy trail. Chris got a brief view of a **Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove** on the way up, whilst the rest of us had to be content with a **White-eared Brown-dove**, as well as several **Olive-capped Flowerpeckers**, **Sulphur-billed Nuthatch**, several flocks of **Eye-browed Thrush** and **Fire-breasted Flowerpecker**. We reached the eagle viewpoint eventually and settled in for a lengthy wait in the sunshine, noting a few birds including **Mountain Veriditer Flycatcher**, **Philippine Serpent-eagle**, **Little Pied Flycatcher** and **Mindanao (Elegant) Tit**, whilst Brian spotted a very distant **Apo Myna**. After quite some time the ‘Holy Grail’ appeared flying down the valley towards us and an enormous **Philippine Eagle** promptly flew onto everyone’s life lists. After waiting quite some time for it to reappear it was relocated soaring distantly before disappearing behind the mountain, so we left and followed a trail that took us higher up into the forest. Several feeding flocks appeared and we found most of our key targets species such as **Mountain White-eyes**, much closer **Apo Mynas**, **Black-and-Cinnamon Fantail**, **Mountain Leaf-warbler**, **Mcgregor’s Cuckooshrike**, **Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis**, **Cinnamon Ibon**, **White-cheeked Bullfinch**, **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, and eventually **Apo Sunbird**. Unfortunately it began to rain really hard and we had to return to camp which became pretty tricky as the trail had become a stream and very slippery but we all made it in one piece eventually!



The scenery above Eagle Camp was the best of the whole tour.

After a night of heavy rain we awoke to clearing skies and the promise of a fine day which began with a 5am breakfast and our daily dose of roding **Bukidnon Woodcock**. Some of the group hiked up the mountain which proved a very good move as a spectacular adult **Philippine Eagle** was found perched across the valley and was in constant view for over an hour. The rest of the day produced several mixed flocks that contained many of the same species as the previous day, as well as **Short-tailed**



Although a widespread bird across south-east Asia Whiskered Treeswift is a stunning bird when seen well.

Glossy Starling, Philippine Honey-buzzard, another brief **Yellow-breasted Fruit Dove** by David, **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo**, very good views of **Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis**, as well as **Arctic Warbler, Rufous-headed Tailorbird, Grey-hooded Sunbird, Buzzing Flowerpecker** and **Black-masked White-eye**. The rest of the group remained at the lodge and had a full, action-packed day with a pretty relentless stream of good birds and many mixed feeding flocks that always seemed to contain **Sulphur-billed Nuthatches, Black-and-Cinnamon Fantails** and the relentlessly common **Mountain White-eyes**. A few **Mindanao Tarictic Hornbills** put in several appearances, and there was also **Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker, Mindanao Drongo, Mindanao (Elegant) Tit**, a flock of **Brown Tit-babblers, Mountain Leaf-warbler**, a pair of stunning **Rufous-headed Tailorbirds**, a skulking **Long-tailed Ground-warbler, Mugimaki Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Whistler, Grey-hooded Sunbird**, and a fine trio of **Fire-breasted, Buzzing** and **Bicoloured Flowerpeckers**.

We left early the following morning for the walk back down the mountain to meet our minibuses, but the rain returned with a vengeance as we were about to set off on the hour or so walk. Needless to say we got soaked once again and conditions were quite tricky and slippery in places but when the rain eased we saw a few birds, with a mixed flock of **Asian Glossy** and **Chestnut-cheeked Starlings** feeding in a flowering tree, as well as a small group of **Short-tailed Glossy Starlings** and a couple of **White-bellied Munias** nearby. The stream near the village had risen a few inches and made it a difficult crossing on the slippery, partly submerged stones for some, whilst others just waded across as their boots were waterlogged anyway! After a quick change beside the vans we set off at 8.30am on the 10 hour drive across Mindanao to Bislig, where we were staying for the next 4 nights. It rained constantly throughout the day and into the night, but today was a travelling day anyway so we didn't lose any birding time and probably the highlight of the day was having lunch at Pizza Hut!

Another early start, as is the norm on this tour, and we were soon heading along road 1/4 through the PICOP logging concession in our two jeepneys the next morning, arriving at our first stop just after daybreak. The pattern of the day was to birdwatch between heavy showers and in doing so we had our best day of the tour so far. The open forest made viewing easy and we soon found **Black-naped Oriole**, a pair of **Naked-faced Spiderhunters, Black-bibbed Cuckooshrike, Philippine Green-pigeon, Whiskered Treeswift, Philippine Drongo-cuckoo, Steere's Honey-buzzard, Pygmy Babbler** and **Everett's White-eye**. Moving to another area produced a **Black-faced Coucal** and **Rufous-lore Kingfisher**, as well as **Philippine Falconet, Rusty-crowned Babbler, Short-crested**



PICOP provides the easiest chance to see Rufous-lore Kingfisher. This bird posed nicely in a tree beside the track right over our heads.



Jeepney's are an excellent way to safely negotiate the bumpy logging tracks In PICOP.



Philippine Falconet was surprisingly common at PICOP and Subic Bay. This pair posed very nicely beside the track.

Monarch, Metallic-winged Sunbird, Mindanao Tarictic Hornbill, Violet Cuckoo, and both Rufous-fronted and a very sexy Black-headed Tailorbird. We took shelter below the eaves of a wooden house during a few showers which enabled us to scan the area and enjoy good views of some **Writhed Hornbills**, but as we were walking away after lunch Zardo found a stunning **Rufous Hornbill** which didn't hang around too long. In the afternoon we continued our good run of sightings with **Blue Fantail, Philippine Oriole** for John and I, **Guiabero, White-bellied Woodpecker, Philippine Leafbird** and a brief **Philippine Trogon**.



Silvery Kingfisher is another totally stunning endemic we saw well at PICOP this year.

The next day found us walking along Road 4 just before daybreak but sadly we only heard **Mindanao Hawk-owl** but had great views of a **Great Eared Nightjar** and **Colugo**. Next up was a side trail that took us into some good remnant forest patches and where an amazing **Steere's Pitta** eventually gave everyone a decent view, as did another **Black-faced Coucal**. Continuing along the trail we came across a flock with **Rufous Paradise-flycatcher, Short-crested Monarch** and **Yellow-bellied Whistler**. Leaving here we drove back to the house where we had lunch yesterday and took shelter from the increasingly prolonged and heavy rain showers. An early lunch was taken here again and when the skies had cleared we walked up the hill and found another flock with **Blue Fantail** and **Philippine Leaf-warbler**. A **Naked-faced Spiderhunter** gave really good views and was also joined by a **Little Spiderhunter**, with both **Handsome and Metallic-winged Sunbirds** nearby and an **Olive-backed Flowerpecker** also present. A **Steere's Honey Buzzard** flew over a little later and we had it perched up a short while later and on reaching the jeepneys a **Philippine Hawk-eagle** flew over. We ended the day at Bislig Airfield where a couple of **Black Bitterns** flew into the reeds beside us, before a pair of **Australasian Grass Owls** began to hunt at dusk and a **Philippine Nightjar** was spotlighted.



Candaba Marsh provides a total contrast to all the forest birding. With masses of birds as well!

Our last full day here began at a new area at PICOP which required special permission from the local tribe that lays claim to the forest here. As it turned out they denied us entry to begin with so we birded along the road, first of all trying to call in a **Red-bellied Pitta** that was quite vociferous from the forest below the road but didn't appear. A **Mindanao Tarictic Hornbill** put in a brief appearance, a **Little Slaty Flycatcher** called from deep within the forest, a few **Black-naped Orioles** were seen and a male **Philippine Trogon** posed nicely. We followed a side trail where a **Streaked Ground-babbler** was called in and we watched it singing from a fallen log on the slope below us. A nearby flock held both **Rufous-fronted and Black-headed Tailorbirds** and **Brown Tit-babbler** and after a while we found out that we could enter the forest at last. But by now it was mid-morning and the best birding time of the day was in effect over but we soldiered on for very little reward. Finally after lunch Brian P made the outstanding find of the tour when he found a **Mindanao Wattled Broadbill**



Stunning views of Cinnamon Bittern were had at Candaba Marsh.

perched at head height some 15 metres away from us. It didn't stay too long but most of us had fine scope views and a few of us walked into the forest and relocated the bird to ensure the entire group could celebrate this wonderful bird. After this we walked back to the entrance gate getting good views of **Philippine Needletails** flying over, complete with the 'butterknife' wing shape, and finished the day with a nice scopefull of **Silvery Kingfisher**.

With a couple of hours spare we made a final fling at finding some new birds early this morning that resulted in a lucky few getting cracking views of **Red-bellied Pitta**, whilst the rest of the group were following a flock with all the usual suspects. Then we returned to the hotel and loaded the luggage onto the minibuses and drove to Davao where our flight left on time and we arrived in Manila around 6pm.

In true birding style we spent the least number of hours at the best hotel on the tour and hit Candaba Marsh at daybreak for a veritable birdfest compared to all the other sites visited on tour. The pools and surrounding areas was literally dripping with birds and as usual, put British birders in a marsh with scopes and the time flies by! With the first couple of hours being quite cool and big open horizons for us Brits to scan to our hearts content we couldn't have been happier. Great comparisons of **Oriental** and **Clamorous Reed-warblers** got the ball rolling, followed by **Great** and **Yellow Bitterns**, masses of **Purple** and **Grey Herons** and even more **Black-crowned Night-herons** was a very good way to start the day. A pair of **Plain Bush-hens** was very welcome for some of the group who had missed it earlier in the tour. David walked along the track and found our first of several **White-browed Crakes** and a group of **Greater Painted Snipes**. After a picnic breakfast we walked a circuit around the marsh and found our first **Barred Rail** and had a real close-up of an adult **Cinnamon Bittern** before reaching the other side where a large flock of several hundred wildfowl contained mainly common species, plus some **Philippine Ducks**. We then drove for a couple of hours to a wonderful lodge situated near Subic Bay where we had lunch and even a siesta and a swim before making our first attempt at some of the area's special and very scarce birds. We walked along the Nabasan Trail seeing **Philippine Falconet**, both **Island** and **Grey-rumped Swiftlets**, several fine looking **Whiskered Treeswifts**, **Dollarbird**, **Blue-throated Bee-eater**, **Bar-bellied** and **Blackish Cuckooshrikes**, **Stripe-headed Rhabdornis**, **White-breasted Woodswallow** and the bizarre-looking **Coletto**. Just before dusk a **Spotted Wood-kingfisher** began calling and although it was quite responsive, never settled on a perch in view and we only had flight views. A couple of **Philippine Hawk-owls** were spotlighted a little later, but **Northern Philippine Scops-owl** was only heard this evening.



The bizarre-looking Coletto was easy to see At Subic Bay.



After several attempts we finally had the scope views we wanted of the superb Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove.



Mountain Tailorbird was very obliging on Mount Polis. This bird gave prolonged views beside the road.

We began the day at Hill 394 with nice views of **Whiskered Treeswift**, **Coletto** and **Great Eared Nightjar**. Just inside the forest a fruiting tree held a superb **Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove** which gave walk-away views, and there was also a **White-fronted Tit** calling from somewhere high in the canopy overhead. Apart from a few other previously seen species there was nothing new for us here so we drove down to the Nabasan Trail where we found **Blue-headed Fantail**, **Luzon Hawk-eagle**, 3 **Grey-headed Fish-eagles**, **Philippine Serpent-eagle** and an obliging **Sooty Woodpecker**. So later in the morning we returned to the hotel after lunch at a waterside restaurant for a siesta in the heat of the day. In the afternoon we again walked the Nabasan Trail which was yet again very quiet, but had **Rufous Coucal**, a few **Blue-naped Parrots** perched beside the road, and another **Spotted Wood-kingfisher**. The following morning we found it tough going to get the briefest glimpse of Philippine Tailorbird but a Chinese Goshawk flew low overhead before we spent most of the day driving north to Banaue.

Mount Polis is a superb site with several species not found elsewhere on the tour and we kick-started a good day with a confiding **Mountain Tailorbird** singing continuously from a small tree beside the road and giving excellent views, despite our hands shaking with the cold! A **Luzon Bush-warbler** was next up as it came straight in to the tape and skulked at the edge of the vegetation above us and a **Long-tailed Ground-warbler** also skulked in the same spot but only showed briefly. The rest of the morning was spent in a kind of heady euphoria as flock after flock passed through the moss encrusted forest on either side of the road. Our first big flock contained several species we'd already seen earlier in the tour such as **Sulphur-billed Nuthatch**, **Elegant Tit**, **Blue-headed Fantail** and **Mountain White-eye**, but also seen were **Green-backed Whistler** and several **Chestnut-faced Babblers**. Next up was an obliging **Island Thrush** feeding in a bush above the road. Walking down the road we found another flock beside the road which gave us even closer views of the babblers, and also **Mountain Leaf-warbler** and **Flame-crowned Flowerpecker**. We spent the rest of the rather chilly morning chasing the flocks but finding nothing new. By 10.30 the sun was out and it suddenly became very hot as we searched an area for **Mountain Shrike**, which gave only the briefest of views to a few of us. As we ate our picnic lunch lower down the road a **Himalayan Buzzard** flew over before we walked down to Bay-yo and quickly found **Luzon Water-redstart** in the fast flowing river. Several **Benguet Bush-warblers** were heard, before we drove back up the hill a few kilometres searching for any flocks without luck. So we drove back over the now mist enshrouded pass and returned to the hotel early. An Asian Brown Flycatcher was perched up in the gardens and some Yellowish White-eyes were also observed



The view from Mount Polis was absolutely stunning. As were the birds!



This Rufous-tailed Tailorbird was seen easily on Palawan.



One of the great things about birding in the Philippines is all the night birding you get to do. This Palawan Frogmouth showed very well on our first evening on this wonderful island.

before we retired for an early dinner.

With a couple of hours on Mt Polis available before our departure, we managed to find a pair of **Mountain Shrikes** perched in a tree at the edge of the forest which caused a certain amount of elation after yesterdays frustratingly brief encounter. Other new species were **White's Thrush**, **Blue Rock Thrush** and **Olive-backed Pipit**. The rest of the day was spent travelling back to Manila where we spent the night before flying to Puerto Princessa the following morning where we were met by our ground crew and set off to Garceliano Beach. An **Olive-backed Sunbird** perched in a nearby tree was a different race to the ones we'd seen before and a **Rufous-tailed Tailorbird** was very obliging here. After following a trail through the mangroves we reached the shore where our main target, **Chinese Egret** was feeding right in front of us. There was also a **Grey-tailed Tattler**, **Greater Sandplover** and a mystery peep to keep us occupied for a while.

After lunch in town we drove to an area of mangroves known to Tim as being good for sunbirds and sure enough our first **Copper-throated Sunbird** was duly logged, along with **Purple-throated Sunbird**, **Palawan** and **Pygmy Flowerpeckers** and a pair of **Little Spiderhunters**. We left here and drove along the road to Sabang seeing a very obliging **White-vented Shama** and **Asian Drongo Cuckoo** at the same site, with a **Hooded Pitta** called close by and despite making a concerted effort to see it failed, although we'd have really good views a little later. Birding from the road was very productive this afternoon and we logged a good number of our targets including **Sulphur-bellied** and **Olive-winged Bulbuls**, **Black-chinned Fruit-dove**, **Common Flameback**, **Palawan Drongo**, **Dark-throated Oriole**, **Yellow-throated Leafbird**, and a very obliging **Hooded Pitta** before finishing off with a pair of **Oriental Hobbies**. We ended the day with great views of a **Palawan Frogmouth** perched out in the open before heading to our lodge for some well earned cold beers.

A visit to St Paul's National Park is one of the major highlights of any Philippine tour and today proved no exception. In fact just getting to this prized location necessitates you board a small boat and sail across a picturesque bay where the scenery is dominated by rolling, forest-cloaked hills that meet the shoreline. After wading ashore we scored almost immediately when a **Tabon Scrubfowl** was spotted roosting in a tall tree and we were also entertained by both white and dark-phase **Eastern Reed Egrets** flying across the bay with their heads held up in a strange posture. Overhead, **Palawan Swiftlets** were constantly flying over the treetops, whilst a **Palawan Hornbill** was scoped in a dead tree high above the Underground River. But this was just a little foretaste to the main event, as we were after the bird



We took a boat to visit St Paul's National Park on Palawan. The scenery was truly spectacular and looks just like the tropical paradise islands you see in holiday brochures!



The star bird of St Paul's is the amazing Palawan Peacock-pheasant, one of the most stunning birds imaginable.



This Palawan Hornbill flew over our lodge and perched up nicely.

everyone comes here to see and after a few tense minutes (really!) when the shout went up we were watching an awesome male **Palawan Peacock-pheasant** feeding in a clearing with 3 **Tabon Scrubfowls** for company. It truly is a stunningly beautiful bird and when you get to within a couple of metres of it and can see every feather detail, with the metallic greens and blues it kind of leaves you stunned. After paying our respects to this most prized of residents, we sailed around to the next bay and Tim led us along a narrow trail into an excellent forest where a pair of awesome **Great Slaty Woodpeckers** showed well and there was also **Blue Paradise-flycatcher**, **Palawan Tit**, **Palawan Blue Flycatcher**, **Yellow-throated Leafbirds**, **Lovely Sunbird**, **Blue-naped Parrot** and a group of **Pin-striped Babblers**. With soaring temperatures making bird activity rather slow we returned to lodge for lunch and actually had 3 hours for a siesta, but for some it was too much to resist and birded the surrounding area finding a number of good birds. A **White-bellied Sea-eagle** soared over the hills behind the lodge and a **Black-chinned Fruit-dove** was perched up nicely in the scope as we made our way to a small marsh beside the road. Scanning from the shade of a large tree proved to be quite profitable with **Yellow Bittern**, **Lesser Coucal**, **Palawan Hornbill**, **Pacific Swallow** and **White-bellied Munia** present. In the afternoon we birded the road seeing at least 3 **Hooded Pittas**, some cooperative **Ashy-headed Babblers** and finished with a **Luzon Scops-owl** in the spotlight.

With clear blue skies we drove a few kilometres along the road to an area where some cockatoos had apparently been present a few days earlier. But nothing much was happening so we contented ourselves with decent looks at both **Grey-cheeked** and **Sulhur-bellied Bulbuls** and a **Dollarbird**. We spent the rest of the morning in our obsessive quest to see a racquet -tail and visited several different areas before Tim's persistence paid off and a group of 4 **Blue-crowned Racket-tails** flew over us. During the course of our search we also saw a **Crested Serpent-eagle**, **Thick-billed Green-pigeon**, **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha** and **Common Hill-myna**. More time at the marsh by the lodge resulted in both **Yellow** and **Cinnamon Bitterns** and a **Watercock** before we drove back towards Puerto Princessa and took a late afternoon boatride over to Pandan Island. On arrival we quickly scored with **Grey** and **Pied Imperial-Pigeons**, **Pied Triller** and **Brown-throated Sunbird** before taking a walk along the sandy beach in the setting sun. Just before the sun eventually set, a **Mantanani Scops-owl** began calling and we positioned ourselves in front of a thickly vegetated area and quietly played the call. The bird shot out over our heads and flew into a nearby tree where we enjoyed excellent views as it looked down on us from its perch. What a way to end the



Mantanani Scops-owl gave great views on Pandan Island.



The group sorting out the finer points of Swiftlet identification on Palawan!



And so the sun sets on yet another wonderful Birdseekers tour.

day!

Shortly after first light the following day we found ourselves at the start of the Balsahan Trail in the grounds of the Iwahig Penal Colony. The path took us deep into the excellent woodland, although necessitated the crossing of 4 small streams either by removing footwear or tiptoeing across on the rocks. But it was worth the effort as we had decent views of the often tricky **Melodious Babbler** after a few attempts, followed by a very obliging and normally hard to find **Palawan Flycatcher**. A **Palawan Tit** gave decent views in the canopy and a **Pechora Pipit** was a surprising find, but a calling **Falcated Ground-babbler** could not be enticed into view. By late morning we had returned to the vehicles as bird activity had died down and we checked out the rice fields on the way out which made a pleasant change from all the forest birding. Chris was very pleased with the close views of several **Long-toed Stints**, and there were also a few **Marsh** and **Wood Sandpipers** present. An hour or so later we arrived at our next hotel at Narra where after a lunch of chicken and chips we boarded a boat after an introductory talk from the Cockatoo Foundation and headed out across the channel towards Rasa Island. Along the way numerous **Chinese Egrets** were noted on the fishing poles but we were focussed on the tree tops as we sailed close alongside the island. In no time at all we could see our first **Philippine Cockatoo** perched on top of a dead tree and over the course of the next hour were rewarded with pretty decent scope views of several small groups of this extremely rare bird.

With a couple of hours spare before our morning flight back to Manilla we checked out the Zigzag Road but found it to be rather quiet with a female **Blue Paradise-flycatcher** being the highlight. So we left and drove back to Puerto Princessa where our flight left on time and once in Manila we went for a pizza before dropping us off at the airport hotel where we had a few hours to rest before catching the international flight back to London and the conclusion of our tour.

Nick Bray



Philippine Frogmouth is one of the very special birds that makes a visit to Mount Kitinglad so rewarding.



Mountain Verditer Flycatcher is easy to see on Mount Kitinglad.



Apo Myna is one of the stars of any visit to the mountains of Mindanao.

BIRDLIST FOR PHILIPPINES 2010

Endemic species are highlighted in blue

	SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMENTS
1.	Little Grebe	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	A few present at Candaba Marsh.
2.	Lesser Frigatebird	<i>Fregata ariel</i>	One flew over Pandan Island.
3.	Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea jouyi</i>	Hundreds at Candaba Marsh made for quite a spectacle with the other herons and egrets.
4.	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Several hundred present at Candaba Marsh.
5.	Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	A common sight in the lowlands, especially during the second half of the tour.
6.	Eastern (Pacific) Reef Egret	<i>Egretta s. sacra</i>	A few seen along the coast from St Pauls on Palawan.
7.	Intermediate Egret	<i>Egretta intermedia</i>	Seen in small numbers at various sites.
8.	Chinese Egret	<i>Egretta eulophotes</i>	A close bird at Garciano Beach on Palawan was followed by 12 roosting on fishing poles near Rasa Island.
9.	Little Egret	<i>Egretta g. garzetta</i>	Seen on 9 dates at various sites.
10.	Javan Pond-heron	<i>Ardeola speciosa</i>	Seen in small numbers.
11.	Eastern Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus coromandus</i>	Seen on 12 dates.
12.	Black-crowned Night-heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	Hundreds at Candaba Marsh was quite a sight indeed.
13.	Great Bittern		Whilst parking the bus at Candaba Marsh this Philippine rarity flew across the marsh.
14.	Cinnamon Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus cinnamomeus</i>	Nice views at Candaba Marsh of at least 3 individuals and another present in the marsh near our lodge at Sabang.
15.	Yellow Bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Nice views at Candaba Marsh and we estimated 30+ were seen. A few more seen on Palawan.
16.	Black Bittern	<i>Dupetor f. flavicollis</i>	At least 3 at Bislig Airfield
17.	Wandering Whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna a. arcuata</i>	A few at Bislig Airfield were the only ones.
18.	Common Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>	Seen at Candaba Marsh
19.	Philippine Duck	<i>Anas luzonica</i>	A few at Bislig Airfield and Candaba Marsh
20.	Eurasian Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>	A few at Candaba Marsh
21.	Garganey	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	Several hundred in a big flock at Candaba Marsh
22.	Northern Shoveler	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Present at Candaba Marsh
23.	Common Pochard	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	Female at Candaba Marsh
24.	Tufted Duck	<i>Aythya fuligula</i>	Candaba Marsh
25.	Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Single observed near Iwahig (<i>melvillensis</i>).
26.	Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus philippensis</i>	A potential split with the name Philippine Honey-buzzard. Seen on Mt Kitinglad & Mt Polis a few times.
27.	Steere's Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis steerei</i>	2 seen on our first day at PICOP and a daily sighting there.
28.	Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Common in some areas (<i>intermedius</i>).
29.	White-bellied Sea-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Seen a couple of times around Sabang.
30.	Grey-headed Fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	Excellent views of 3 birds wheeling across the sky from the Nabasan Trail at Subic. Quite a scarce bird in the Philippines.

31.	Chinese Goshawk	<i>Accipiter soloensis</i>	Single over Hill 394 was the only one seen.
32.	Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	A couple seen on Mt Kitinglad, and quite common at PICOP (<i>extimus</i>) & on Palawan (<i>palawanus</i>).
33.	Grey-faced Buzzard	<i>Butastur indicus</i>	One flew over Los Banos University.
34.	Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	A few seen on Palawan (<i>palawanensis</i>).
35.	Philippine Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis holospilus</i>	A few seen on Mt Kitinglad & Subic Bay.
36.	Himalayan Buzzard	<i>Buteo burmanicus</i>	Just the one over Mt Polis on Luzon. Some authorities call this Japanese Buzzard <i>Buteo b. Japonicus</i> .
37.	Philippine Eagle	<i>Pithecophaga jefferyi</i>	Good flight views of an adult on Mt Kitanglad and seen perched by the brave few who returned up the mountain the following day.
38.	Philippine Hawk-Eagle	<i>Spizaetus philippensis</i>	Adult seen at PICOP (<i>pinskeri</i>) and it is suggested that this may well be spit off as Pinsker's Hawk-eagle <i>S.pinskeri</i> ? The bird seen at Hill 394 may well be split in the future as Luzon Hawk-eagle <i>Spizaetus philippensis</i> .
39.	Philippine Falconet	<i>Microhierax e. erythrogyne</i>	First seen on Mt Makiling, followed by a run of regular sightings at PICOP (<i>meridionalis</i>) with a highest day count of 6 and also seen daily at Subic Bay.
40.	Oriental Hobby	<i>Falco s. severus</i>	Pair seen well on Palawan.
41.	Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Single perched above the Underground River on Palawan (<i>calidus</i>).
42.	Tabon Scrubfowl	<i>Megapodius c. cumingii</i>	Superb views of at least 3 birds feeding beside the trail at St Pauls National Park.
43.	Red Junglefowl	<i>Gallus gallus</i>	They really were wild birds on Hill 394 at Subic – honest (<i>philippensis</i>)!
44.	Palawan Peacock-Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron napoleonis</i>	Such a stunningly beautiful bird. It's a wild bird but just doesn't see humans as a threat!
45.	Spotted Buttonquail	<i>Turnix ocellatus</i>	At least 4 sightings of birds crossing the path at Los Banos University (<i>benguetensis</i>).
46.	Barred Rail	<i>Gallirallus t. torquatus</i>	A couple seen at Candaba Marsh.
47.	White-browed Crake	<i>Porzana cinerea</i>	At least 6 seen at Candaba Marsh (<i>ocularis</i>).
48.	Plain Bush-hen	<i>Amaurornis olivacea</i>	A sprinkling of sightings including a pair at Los Banos University, Jo saw one on Mt Kitinglad, with another pair showing well at Candaba Marsh.
49.	White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Small numbers seen at Candaba Marsh and on Palawan (<i>javanica</i>).
50.	Watercock	<i>Gallicrex cinerea</i>	Single showed briefly on the marsh below our lodge at Sabang.
51.	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	A few seen here and there.
52.	Philippine Swampfen	<i>Porphyrio pulverulentus</i>	Split from Purple Gallinule. Present at Bislig Airfield & Candaba Marsh
53.	Pheasant-tailed Jacana	<i>Hydrophasianus chirurgus</i>	A few at Candaba Marsh were the only ones.
54.	Greater Painted-snipe	<i>Rostratula benghalensis</i>	Nice views of a small group at Candaba Marsh thanks to David.
55.	Grey Plover	<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>	A few seen on Palawan and Pandan Island.
56.	Pacific Golden Plover	<i>Pluvialis fulva</i>	Seen distantly at Candaba Marsh.
57.	Little Ringed Plover	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	Seen at Candaba Marsh & Pandan Island.
58.	Greater Sand Plover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	3 present on Garceliano Beach, Palawan.
59.	Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Only seen on Palawan in small numbers.

60.	Common Greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Just a few seen.
61.	Wood Sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Several in the rice fields beside Candaba Marsh & at iwahig.
62.	Marsh Sandpiper	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>	A few present in rice fields at Iwahig.
63.	Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Seen at Candaba Marsh and on Palawan.
64.	Grey-tailed Tattler	<i>Heteroscelus brevipes</i>	Seen at Garceliano beach on Palawan.
65.	Common Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	A few present at Candaba Marsh on Luzon.
66.	Bukidnon Woodcock	<i>Scolopax bukidnonensis</i>	A roding bird showed every dawn and dusk on Mt Kitinglad.
67.	Sanderling	<i>Calidris alba</i>	Single observed on Pandan island.
68.	Long-toed Stint	<i>Calidris subminuta</i>	Distant views at Candaba Marsh were followed by decent views at Iwahig.
69.	Ruff	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>	Single at Candaba Marsh.
70.	Black-winged Stilt	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	Seen at Candaba Marsh and Iwahig.
71.	Black-headed Gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	A small flock roosting on a sandbar as we returned from Rasa Island.
72.	Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybridus</i>	Relatively common around ricefields and other lowland areas.
73.	Thick-billed Green-pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>	A few seen on Palawan (<i>erimacra</i>).
74.	Philippine Green-pigeon	<i>Treron axillaris</i>	A recent split from Pompadour Green-pigeon. Seen well at PICOP & Subic Bay on several occasions.
75.	White-eared Brown-dove	<i>Phapitreron leucotis</i>	Seen a few times at PICOP (<i>brevirostris</i>) and Subic Bay (<i>leucotis</i>).
76.	Amethyst Brown-dove	<i>Phapitreron amethysinus</i>	Heard on 2 dates at Hill 394 at Subic.
77.	Yellow-breasted Fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus occipitalis</i>	A few heard and David scoped one on Mt Kitinglad (<i>incognitus</i>) but good scope views at Hill 394 (<i>occipitalis</i>)
78.	Black-chinned Fruit-dove	<i>Ptilinopus leclancheri</i>	This near-endemic was seen twice on Palawan (<i>gironieri</i>)
79.	Green Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	Seen several times at PICOP & Subic (<i>aenea</i>), and on Palawan (<i>palawanensis</i>).
80.	Grey Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula pickeringii</i>	A few present on Pandan Island.
81.	Pied Imperial-pigeon	<i>Ducula b. bicolor</i>	Several flocks seen well on Pandan Island.
82.	Philippine Cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia tenuirostris</i>	Split from Reddish Cuckoo-dove. Brian & Jo saw this on the way to Mt Kitinglad. Also heard a few times.
83.	Island Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia bitorquata</i>	David found a pair at Candaba Marsh (<i>dusumieri</i>)
84.	Red Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia tranquebarica</i>	Common around Candaba Marsh (<i>humilis</i>).
85.	Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	Seen on 9 dates at various sites (<i>tigrina</i>).
86.	Zebra (Peaceful) Dove	<i>Geopelia s. striata</i>	Common and seen on 12 dates.
87.	Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps i. indica</i>	Seen at Mt Makiling, Nabasan Trail (Subic), and along Sabang Road on Palawan.
88.	Rock Dove	<i>Columbia livia</i>	Seen on 11 dates.
89.	Guaiabero	<i>Bolbopsittacus lunulatus</i>	A few were perched and scoped on our second visit to Mt Makiling. Even better views at PICOP (<i>mindanensis</i>) and Subic Bay later in the trip (<i>lunulatus</i>).
90.	Philippine Cockatoo	<i>Cacatua haematuropygia</i>	At least 25 counted on Rasa Island. Interesting trying to scope them from the boat!
91.	Blue-naped Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus lucionensis</i>	Best views along the Nabasan Trail at Subic Bay of the nominate form and also seen on

			Palawan (<i>salvadorii</i>).
92.	Green Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus luconensis</i>	Brief views along Hill 394 at Subic Bay.
93.	Blue-crowned Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus discurus</i>	Heard at PICOP.
94.	Luzon Montane Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus montanus</i>	2 birds flying low across the hillside at Mt Polis were seen by a few of us.
95.	Mindanao Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus waterstradti</i>	A split from Montane Racquet-tail. A flock flew below us on Mt Kitinglad
96.	Blue-headed Racquet-tail	<i>Prioniturus platanae</i>	After much searching a group of 3 flew over the Sabang Road.
97.	Colasisi	<i>Loriculus philippensis</i>	Common. First seen at Mt Makiling where we had fine views of a couple birds perched over the track.
98.	Philippine Hawk-cuckoo	<i>Cuculus pectoralis</i>	Split from Hodgson's Hawk-cuckoo. Heard on Mt Kitinglad
99.	Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	Heard at PICOP & Sabang.
100.	Rusty-breasted Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sepulcralis</i>	A recent split from Brush Cuckoo. Heard on Mt Makiling & seen on Mt Kitinglad.
101.	Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>	Great views of one in the scope at PICOP of the amethystinus race.
102.	Asian Drongo-Cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	Several close views on Palawan of the minimus race.
103.	Philippine Drongo-cuckoo	<i>Surniculus velutinus</i>	Split from Asian Drongo-cuckoo. Single observed on Mt Makiling and a few at PICOP.
104.	Asian Koel	<i>Eudynamis scolopacea</i>	Heard on Rasa Island.
105.	Scale-feathered Malkoha	<i>Lepidogrammus cumingi</i>	Superb views on Mt Makiling of several birds.
106.	Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Zanclostomus curvirostris</i>	Fine views on Palawan over 2 days of the harringtoni race.
107.	Red-crested Malkoha	<i>Dasylophus s. superciliosus</i>	Several very nice views on Mt Makiling were overshadowed by prolonged views of a flock along the Nabasan Trail one evening.
108.	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Heard every day on Palawan.
109.	Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Heard at Los Banos University and we had crippling views on Palawan (javanensis).
110.	Philippine Coucal	<i>Centropus v. viridis</i>	Common. First seen at Los Banos University, including a leucistic form. Also seen at PICOP and Subic Bay.
111.	Black-faced Coucal	<i>Centropus m. melanops</i>	Showed well at PICOP on several occasions.
112.	Rufous Coucal	<i>Centropus unirufus</i>	It took several attempts to get decent views at Subic Bay but worth it in the end.
113.	Eastern Grass Owl	<i>Tyto longimembris</i>	Nice views of at least 2 birds at Bislig Airfield.
114.	Luzon Scops-owl	<i>Otus longicornis</i>	Heard at Mt Polis.
115.	Mantanani Scops-owl	<i>Otus m. mantananensis</i>	Prolonged views on Pandan Island.
116.	Palawan Scops-owl	<i>Otus fuliginosus</i>	On the second night of searching we had eye-level views of a bird along the Sabang Road.
117.	Northern Philippine Scops-owl	<i>Otus m. megalotis</i>	Heard at Mt Makiling.
118.	Southern Philippine Scops-owl	<i>Otus m. everetti</i>	Heard at Mt Kitinglad and PICOP.
119.	Giant Scops-owl	<i>Mimizuku gurneyi</i>	Heard as we arrived at Eagle Camp on Mt Kitinglad but not subsequently.
120.	Philippine Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox p. philippensis</i>	Eventually found one perched in a large tree on Mt Makiling.
121.	Mindanao Hawk-owl	<i>Ninox spilocephala</i>	Split from Philippine Hawk-owl. Heard at PICOP.
122.	Philippine Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus s. septimus</i>	Stunning views of a bird close to Eagle Camp on Mt Kitinglad.

123.	Palawan Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus chaseni</i>	Now split from Javan Frogmouth. We worked hard to get crippling views along the Sabang Road.
124.	Great Eared Nightjar	<i>Eurostopodus m. macrotis</i>	Seen on 9 dates at Mt Kitinglad, PICOP & Subic Bay.
125.	Large-tailed Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus macrurus</i>	Seen on Palawan of the race <i>johnsoni</i> .
126.	Philippine Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus m. manillensis</i>	Heard on Mt Kitinglad and seen well at Bislig Airfield.
127.	Island (Uniform) Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus vanikorensis</i>	Seen at PICOP & Subic Bay (<i>amelis</i>).
128.	Palawan Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia palawanensis</i>	Split from Island Swiftlet. Common on Palawan.
129.	Philippine Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus mearnsi</i>	Seen in small numbers on Mt Kitinglad & Mt Polis.
	German's Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus germani</i>	Split from Edible-nest Swiftlet. A couple possible sightings on Palawan?
130.	Glossy (White-bellied) Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	Common on Mt Kitinglad (<i>bagobo</i>), Mt Polis (<i>isonota</i>) and on Palawan.
131.	Grey-rumped Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia marginata</i>	Split from Glossy Swiftlet. Common on Mt Makiling & Subic Bay.
132.	Pygmy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia troglodytes</i>	A few present on Mt Makiling. PICOP & along the sabang Road.
133.	Philippine Needletail	<i>Mearnsia picina</i>	Finally saw a few at PICOP at the 11 th hour!
134.	Purple Needletail	<i>Hirundapus celebensis</i>	A flock was seen flying low over the treetops on our second visit to Mt Makiling & also seen at PICOP.
135.	House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	Seen over Los Banos University (<i>subfurcatus</i>).
136.	Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	A small group seen at PICOP (<i>pallidior</i>).
137.	Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>	Nice views at PICOP & Subic Bay – all of the <i>major</i> race.
138.	Philippine Trogon	<i>Harpactes a. ardens</i>	Heard on Mt Makiling (<i>luzoniensis</i>) and seen very well at PICOP on a couple of occasions.
139.	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Seen at PICOP, Subic Bay & on Palawan in small numbers – all of the <i>cyanocollis</i> race.
140.	Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthisbengalensis</i>	Present on Candaba Marsh and Palawan.
141.	Indigo-banded Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo c. cyanopectus</i>	Frustratingly, only seen by Tom near Mt Makiling on our first visit. But the next day we were treated to walk away views as it sat on rocks in the middle of the stream.
142.	Silvery Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo a. argentata</i>	Good scope views at PICOP.
143.	Rufous-backed Kingfisher		
144.	Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Seen briefly at St Paul's but much better at Iwahig on Palawan (<i>gouldi</i>).
145.	White-throated Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon smyrnensis gularis</i>	Common and seen on 11 dates.
146.	Rufous-lored Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus winchelli</i>	Great views of a peched bird at PICOP of the <i>mindanensis</i> race.
147.	White-collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus chloris</i>	Common and seen on 10 dates. – all of the <i>collaris</i> race.
148.	Spotted Wood-Kingfisher	<i>Actenoides lindsayi</i>	Heard on our first day at Mt Makiling and subsequently a couple flybys at Subic Bay. All very frustrating really!
149.	Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis americanus</i>	Seen frequently around Subic Bay including a breeding colony beside the road.
150.	Blue-tailed Bee-eater	<i>Merops p. philippinus</i>	Several at Candaba Marsh.
151.	Luzon (Tarctic) Hornbill	<i>Penelopides manillae</i>	One of the splits from Tarctic Hornbill. Up to 5 birds seen on Mt Makiling and several on

			Hill 394.
152.	Mindanao (Tarictic) Hornbill	<i>Penelopides affinis</i>	One of the splits from Tarictic Hornbill. Present around Eagle Camp on Mt Kitinglad and several sightings at PICOP.
153.	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros leucocephalus</i>	Prolonged scope views of 3 birds at PICOP.
154.	Palawan Hornbill	<i>Anthracosceros marchei</i>	Single at St Paul's NP and another near our lodge at Sabang.
155.	Rufous Hornbill	<i>Buceros hydrocorax</i>	Single bird observed at PICOP of the mindanensis race.
156.	Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	Frequently seen at a number of sites.
157.	Philippine Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopos maculatus</i>	Seen on Mt Kitinglad & PICOP (fulvifasciatus), Mt Makiling, Subic Bay and Mt Polis (validirostris).
158.	Sooty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus f. funebris</i>	After a near miss we eventually found a confiding bird beside the Nabasan Trail.
159.	Great Slaty Woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus p. pulverulentus</i>	One of the highlights of the tour when a pair was called in to some nearby trees at St Paul's National Park on Palawan.
160.	White-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>	Several good views at PICOP (multilunatus) & Subic Bay (confusus).
161.	Greater Flameback	<i>Chrysocolaptes lucidus montanus</i>	Montanus race seen well at PICOP may well be deemed a full species in the future? The birds seen at Hill 394 are a possible split to Luzon Flameback C. Haemitribon .
162.	Common Flameback	<i>Dinopium javanense</i>	A couple seen on Palawan of the everetti race and a possible split to Spot-throated Flameback D. Everetti .
163.	Mindanao Wattled Broadbill	<i>Sarcophanops steerii</i>	A brilliant find by Mr Pink at PICOP and what a stunner in the scope. We even relocated the little sucker a little later so everyone could celebrate seeing this major bird.
164.	Red-bellied Pitta	<i>Pitta erythrogaster</i>	Jo saw this on Mt Makiling and a few of us had excellent views on our last morning at PICOP of the nominate race. Also seen poorly at the Balsahan Trail on Palawan (propinqua).
165.	Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	Common on Palawan and we racked up a number of sightings (palawanensis)
166.	Steere's Pitta	<i>Pitta s. steerii</i>	Good views at PICOP and heard there frequently – of the nominate race.
167.	Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common.
168.	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	A frequent sighting on Palawan (javanica).
169.	Striated Swallow	<i>Cecropis striolata</i>	Seen over Los Banos and a few other sites.
170.	Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina striata</i>	Difficilis race seen on Palawan, kochii race seen at PICOP and striata race at Subic Bay.
171.	Blackish Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina c. coerulescens</i>	Seen everyday at Subic Bay.
172.	Black-bibbed Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina m. mindanensis</i>	Nice views on our first morning at PICOP.
173.	McGregor's Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina mcgregori</i>	Present in the mixed feeding flocks above the eagle viewpoint on Mt Kitinglad.
174.	Black-and-white Triller	<i>Lalage melanoleuca</i>	Melanoleuca race present in a large mixed flock on Mt Makiling, and minor race seen at PICOP.
175.	Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>	Seen at Subic Bay and on Palawan – all of the chilensis race.
176.	Ashy Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus divaricatus</i>	A few seen on Mt Makiling and Hill 394.
177.	Philippine Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus leytensis</i>	Split from Scarlet Minivet. Seen frequently at

			PICOP.
178.	Philippine Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis flavipennis</i>	A few seen at PICOP.
179.	Yellow-throated Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis palawanensis</i>	Quite common on Palawan.
180.	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	Seen a couple of times on Palawan of the aequanimis race.
181.	Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>	Small numbers seen on Palawan.
182.	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	Common.
183.	Yellow-wattled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus urostictus</i>	Urostickus race showed briefly on Mt Makiling but philippensis race was a daily sighting at PICOP.
184.	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>	Some nice views on Palawan (cinereifrons).
185.	Grey-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Criniger bres</i>	Just a couple seen along the Sabang Road of the frater race.
186.	Sulphur-bellied Bulbul	<i>Iole palawanensis</i>	Seen daily on Palawan.
187.	Philippine Bulbul	<i>Ixos philippinus</i>	Common. Philippinus race on Luzon, saturation on Mindanao.
188.	Yellowish Bulbul	<i>Ixos e. everetti</i>	Seen well at PICOP.
189.	Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus l. leucophaeus</i>	Seen on Palawan.
190.	Balicassiao	<i>Dicrurus b. balicassius</i>	Common on Mt Makiling & Subic Bay.
191.	Palawan Drongo	<i>Dicrurus palawanensis</i>	Split from Spangled Drongo. Several seen on Palawan.
192.	Mindanao Drongo	<i>Dicrurus striatus</i>	Potential split from Spangled Drongo. Seen by our camp on Mt Kitinglad & PICOP. Drongo taxonomy is a murky area and there may well be many more splits on the horizon.
193.	Dark-throated Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>	Present in a mixed flock along the Sabang Road on Palawan (persuasus).
194.	Philippine Oriole	<i>Oriolus steerii</i>	A pair seen at PICOP (samarensis).
195.	White-lored Oriole	<i>Oriolus albiloris</i>	Split from Philippine Oriole. Pretty brief views at Hill 394.
196.	Black-naped Oriole	<i>Oriolus chinensis</i>	Best views at PICOP (yamamurae). Also seen at Subic Bay and on Palawan (chinensis).
197.	Philippine Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena cyanogastra</i>	Seen by a few of the group on Mt Makiling and heard at Hill 394.
198.	Asian Fairy-Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Nice views of a real bluebird on Palawan (tweeddalei)!
199.	Palawan Crow	<i>Corvus pusillus</i>	Split from Slender-billed Crow. Common on Palawan.
200.	Large-billed Crow	<i>Corvus macrorhynchos</i>	Commonly seen at PICOP and Subic Bay.
201.	Palawan Tit	<i>Parus amabilis</i>	A couple nice views at St Paul's and along the Balsahan Trail.
202.	Elegant Tit	<i>Parus e. elegans</i>	Seen by a few of the group on Mt Makiling, but great views at Subic Bay and Mt Polis (montigenus).
203.	Mindanao Tit	<i>Parus mindanensis</i>	A potential future split from Elegant Tit, seen on Mt Kitinglad.
204.	White-fronted Tit	<i>Parus semilarvatus</i>	Heard way up in the canopy of Hill 394 but despite an intensive search we just couldn't locate it in the windy conditions.
205.	Sulphur-billed Nuthatch	<i>Sitta oenochlamys</i>	Split from Velvet-fronted Nuthatch. Present in one of the mixed flocks on our first visit to Mt Makiling (isarog) but a regular sight in flocks on Mt Kitinglad (apo).
206.	Stripe-headed Rhabdornis	<i>Rhabdornis mystacalis</i>	Seen very well on Mt Makiling & at Los Banos

			University of the race <i>mystacalis</i> and PICOP of the race <i>minor</i> .
207.	Stripe-breasted Rhabdornis	<i>Rhabdornis inornatus</i>	Great views on Mt Kitinglad (<i>alaris</i>).
208.	Ashy-headed Babbler	<i>Malacocincla cinereiceps</i>	Very nice views of a very smart group on Palawan.
209.	Melodious Babbler	<i>Malacopteron palawanense</i>	A tricky one this, but our patience was rewarded along the Balsahan Trail.
210.	Falcatied Ground-babbler	<i>Ptilichla falcata</i>	Heard along the Sabang Road and Balsahan Trail on Palawan.
211.	Streaked Ground-Babbler	<i>Ptilichla m. mindanensis</i>	Superb views of a calling bird perched on a fallen log below the trail at PICOP.
212.	Mindanao Pygmy Babbler	<i>Stachyris p. plateni</i>	A pair seen well at PICOP on a couple of occasions.
213.	Rusty-crowned Babbler	<i>Stachyris capitalis</i>	A couple small flocks seen well at PICOP of the <i>euroaustralis</i> race.
214.	Chestnut-faced Babbler	<i>Stachyris w. whiteheadi</i>	Cracking views of a few flocks on Mt Polis.
215.	Pin-striped Babbler	<i>Macronous gularis woodi</i>	Quite common on Palawan. A recent split from Striped Tit-babbler.
216.	Brown Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous striaticeps</i>	Seen well on Mt Kitinglad and PICOP of the <i>mindanensis</i> race.
217.	White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>	Heard on Mt Kitinglad (<i>mindanensis</i>).
218.	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Seen at PICOP (<i>mindanensis</i>).
219.	White-browed Shama	<i>Copsychus l. luzoniensis</i>	Showed very well on Mt Makiling.
220.	White-vented Shama	<i>Copsychus niger</i>	Several views on Palawan including an amazingly obliging bird along the Sabang Road.
221.	Luzon Water-Redstart	<i>Rhyacornis bicolor</i>	Took a little effort but we were rewarded with decent scope views at Bay-yo.
222.	Pied Bushchat	<i>Saxicola caprata</i>	Seen on Luzon (<i>caprata</i>) and Mindanao (<i>andeseni</i>).
223.	Blue Rock-Thrush	<i>Monticola solitaries</i>	A fine male seen well on Mt Polis of the <i>philippensis</i> race.
224.	White's Thrush	<i>Zoothera aurea</i>	A very shy bird was present in a field at Mt Polis.
225.	Island Thrush	<i>Turdus poliocephalus</i>	Showed well on Mt Polis, of the <i>Thomassoni</i> race
	Brown-headed Thrush	<i>Turdus chrysolaus</i>	A possible sighting on Mt Polis.
226.	Eye-browed Thrush	<i>Turdus obscurus</i>	Many flocks present on Mt Kitinglad
227.	Golden-bellied Flyeater	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>	Heard at Candaba Marsh.
228.	Arctic Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	Seen on Mt Makiling, Mt Kitinglad, Subic Bay and Mt Polis.
229.	Philippine Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus olivaceus</i>	Seen at PICOP.
230.	Lemon-throated Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus cebuensis</i>	One probable seen on Mt Polis (<i>luzonensis</i>).
231.	Mountain Leaf-warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>	<i>Flavostratus</i> race seen on Mt Kitinglad & <i>benguetensis</i> on Mt Polis.
232.	Clamorous Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus stentoreus</i>	Quite a few seen at Candaba Marsh of the race <i>harterti</i> .
233.	Oriental Reed-warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	Good views enabled an excellent comparison with the previous species.
234.	Tawny Grassbird	<i>Megalurus timoriensis</i>	Seen well near Los Banos University & on Mt Polis (<i>tweeddalei</i>).
235.	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Seen near Los Banos University, Candaba Marsh and a few other sites as well (<i>forbesi</i>).
236.	Philippine Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus castaneiceps</i>	A couple brief sightings at Subic Bay.

237.	Rufous-fronted Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus frontalis</i>	Split from Philippine Tailorbird. Seen well on several occasions at PICOP
238.	Grey-backed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus derbianus</i>	A pair seen very well on Mt Makiling after an earlier bird didn't play ball.
239.	Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cuculatus</i>	Prolonged and close views on Mt Polis (philippinus).
240.	Rufous-headed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus heterolaemus</i>	Split from Mountain Tailorbird. This very attractive species showed well on Mt Kitinglad.
241.	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus s. sericeus</i>	Seen a number of times on Palawan.
242.	Black-headed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus nigriceps</i>	A few seen well at PICOP.
243.	Zitting Cisticola	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	Seen at Los Banos & Candaba Marsh. (tinnabulans).
244.	Luzon Bush-warbler	<i>Cettia seebohmi</i>	A couple confiding individuals on Mt Polis.
245.	Benguet Bush-warbler	<i>Bradypterus seebohmi</i>	Heard on Mt Polis and we left it a little late to finally see one.
246.	Mindanao Long-tailed Ground-warbler	<i>Bradypterus caudatus</i>	Seen briefly a couple of times on Mt Kitinglad
247.	Luzon Long-tailed Ground-warbler	<i>Bradypterus unicolor</i>	A potential split from the previous species and seen briefly a couple of times on Mt Polis.
248.	Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>	A couple sightings at Banaue & on Palawan.
249.	Grey-streaked Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa griseisticta</i>	A common sighting throughout the tour.
250.	Mountain Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias panayensis</i>	Common on Mt Kitinglad (nigriloris).
251.	Mugimaki Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	A couple first-winter males seen on Mt Kitinglad.
252.	Little Slaty Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula basilanica</i>	An unresponsive bird heard at Picop (basilanica).
253.	Palawan Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula platenae</i>	A close bird along the Balsahan Trail.
254.	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	A few seen on Mt Kitinglad (westermanni) & Mt Polis (rabori).
255.	Palawan Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis lemprieri</i>	Nice views at St Paul's National Park.
256.	Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	Seen at Candaba Marsh & Pandan Island (nigritorquis).
257.	Blue Fantail	<i>Rhipidura superciliaris</i>	Several seen in mixed flocks at PICOP (apo).
258.	Blue-headed Fantail	<i>Rhipidura cyaniceps</i>	Seen at Nabasan Trail and Mt Polis (cyaniceps).
259.	Black-and-cinnamon Fantail	<i>Rhipidura nigrocinnamomea</i>	A regular sighting in mixed feeding parties on Mt Kitinglad (hutchinsoni).
260.	Rufous Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone cinnamomea</i>	Near endemic. This stunning bird was seen well several times at PICOP.
261.	Blue Paradise-flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone cyanescens</i>	A couple sightings on Palawan.
262.	Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Several sightings at PICOP and Subic Bay (azurea).
263.	Short-crested Monarch	<i>Hypothymis helena</i>	Nice views at PICOP (agusanae).
264.	Mangrove Whistler	<i>Pachycephala grisola</i>	Surprisingly heard along the Balsahan Trail.
265.	Green-backed Whistler	<i>Pachycephala albiventris</i>	Several present in mixed flocks on Mt Polis.
266.	Yellow-bellied Whistler	<i>Pachycephala philippinensis</i>	Heard on Mt Makiling. Seen on Mt Kitinglad & PICOP (apoensis).
267.	Grey Wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	A sprinkling of sightings during the tour (robusta).
268.	Yellow (Kamchatka) Wagtail	<i>Motacilla flava simillima</i>	Seen on 7 dates.
269.	Paddyfield Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Seen at Los Banos & Mt Kitinglad.
270.	Olive-backed Pipit	<i>Anthus hodgsoni</i>	A few present on Mt Polis (yunnanensis).

271.	Pechora Pipit	<i>Anthus gustavi</i>	A real surprise along the Balsahan Trail of a single bird beside the path.
272.	White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamusl. leucorynchus</i>	A few seen at Cagayan de Oro airport, Subic Bay, Puerto Princessa and Iwahig.
273.	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach nasutus</i>	Seen at Mt Kitinglad, Subic Bay & Mt Polis (<i>nasutus</i>).
274.	Mountain Shrike	<i>Lanius validirostris</i>	Eventually had nice views of a pair at Mt Polis, but took some searching!
275.	Brown Shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Common and seen on 16 dates.
276.	Short-tailed Glossy-starling	<i>Aplonis minor</i>	Only seen on Mt Kitinglad (<i>todayensis</i>).
277.	Asian Glossy-starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	Seen on Mindanao and Palawan.
278.	Chestnut-cheeked Starling	<i>Sturnus philippensis</i>	A few seen as we walked down to rejoin our vehicles from Eagle Camp on Mt Kitinglad.
279.	Coletto	<i>Sarcops calvus</i>	Seen on Mt Makiling, PICOP & Subic Bay.
280.	Crested Myna	<i>Acridotheres cristatellus</i>	Drove past a few at Subic Bay.
281.	Apo Myna	<i>Basilornis miranda</i>	Good views of this striking bird at Mt Kitinglad on a few occasions.
282.	Common Hill-myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Quite a few sightings on Palawan (<i>palawanensis</i>).
283.	Plain-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	Seen on Pandan Island (<i>paraguae</i>).
284.	Grey-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes griseigularis</i>	Split from Plain-throated Sunbird. Common on Mt Makiling & present at Road 83 in PICOP.
285.	Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>	Nice views in the Mangroves on Palawan of this stunner.
286.	Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis jugularis</i>	Seen well on Mt Kitinglad (<i>jugularis</i>) & Palawan (<i>aurora</i>).
287.	Purple-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma sperata</i>	A few seen in flowering trees at Los Banos University (<i>sperata</i>), PICOP (<i>trochilus</i>) & Palawan (<i>trochilus</i>).
288.	Flaming Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga f. flagrans</i>	A few seen well on Mt Makiling.
289.	Grey-hooded Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga p. primigenia</i>	A few seen on Mt Kitinglad.
290.	Metallic-winged Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga pulcherrima</i>	Seen at PICOP (<i>pulcherrima</i>) & Mt Polis (<i>jefferyi</i>).
291.	Apo Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga boltoni</i>	Finally found one on Mt Kitinglad after a lengthy walk (<i>malindangensis</i>).
292.	Lovely (Shelley's) Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga s. shelleyi</i>	A few seen at St Paul's National Park. They certainly live up to there name!
293.	Handsome Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga bella</i>	A recent split from Lovely Sunbird. Several present on Mt Makiling (<i>Minuta</i>) & PICOP (n nominate form).
294.	Naked-faced Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera clarae</i>	Seen by a lucky few on Mt Makiling (<i>luzonensis</i>) and by everyone at PICOP several times (<i>malindangensis</i>).
295.	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	Quite a few sightings at Picop (<i>flammifera</i>) and on Palawan where the race <i>dilutior</i> may well be split in the future
296.	Olive-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus o.olivaceus</i>	Several fine views at PICOP (<i>diuatae</i>).
297.	Palawan Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus p. plateni</i>	Seen a few times on....Palawan!
298.	Striped Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum aeruginosum</i>	Split from Thick-billed Flowerpecker. Several attending a fruiting tree on Mt Makiling (<i>striatissimum</i>) and also seen on our first day on Palawan (<i>affine</i>).
299.	Olive-capped Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum n. nigrilore</i>	Quite common on Mt Kitinglad.

300.	Flame-crowned Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum anthonyi</i>	A few seen on Mt Polis (anthonyi).
301.	Bicolored Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum b. bicolor</i>	Only seen on Mt Kitinglad.
302.	Red-keeled Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum a. australe</i>	Seen on Mt Makiling & at PICOP.
303.	Buzzing Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum hypoleucum</i>	Seen on Mt Kitinglad & at PICOP (pontifex).
304.	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	Common around the Nursery area of Mt Makiling (xanthopygium) & at PICOP (cinereigularis).
305.	Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus apo</i>	A few present on Mt Kitinglad and looked very different to birds elsewhere in Asia.
306.	Pygmy Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum pygmaeum</i>	Common on Palawan (palawanorum).
307.	Lowland White-eye	<i>Zosterops m. meyeri</i>	A small flock flew in to the flowering tree we were watching at Los Banos University & also seen at Subic Bay.
308.	Everett's White-eye	<i>Zosterops everetti</i>	A daily sighting at PICOP (basilanicus).
309.	Yellowish White-eye	<i>Zosterops nigrorum</i>	A couple seen in a mixed flock on Mt Makiling (luzonicus) but better views at Mt Polis (innominatus) on both visits.
310.	Mountain White-eye	<i>Zosterops montanus</i>	Very common on Mt Kitinglad (vulcani) & also seen on Mt Polis (whiteheadi).
311.	Black-masked White-eye	<i>Lophozosterops g. goodfellowi</i>	Seen on Mt Kitinglad.
312.	Cinnamon Ibon	<i>Hypocryptadius cinnamomeus</i>	Present in mixed flocks on Mt Kitinglad.
313.	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Common and seen on 16 dates.
	Red-eared Parrotfinch	<i>Erythrura coloria</i>	A leader only sighting at Mt Kitinglad.
314.	White-bellied Munia	<i>Lonchura leucogastra</i>	Seen on Mt Kitinglad (manueli) & in the marsh below the Last Frontier Resort on Palawan (palawana).
315.	Scaly-breasted Munia	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	Seen on Palawan (cabanisi).
316.	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura Malacca jagori</i>	Seen at Candaba Marsh (formosana), Mt Kitinglad, PICOP and on Palawan (jagori).
317.	White-cheeked Bullfinch	<i>Pyrrhula leucogenis</i>	A small flock showed very well to us on Mt Kitinglad (steerei).

	OTHER SPECIES	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMENTS
1	Mindanao Pygmy Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus mindanensis</i>	A couple seen at PICOP.
2	Northern Palawan Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus juvencus</i>	A few seen on Palawan.
3	Palawan Fruit Bat	<i>Acerodon leucotis</i>	A small colony seen on Palawan.
4	Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>	A few seen over the road on Palawan.
5	Colugo	<i>Cynocephalus variegatus</i>	One flew over the trail at PICOP.
6	Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Seen at Subic and Palawan.
7	Monitor Lizard	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	Seen on Palawan.

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