

Trip Report: PICOP, Mindanao, Philippines, August 9-13, 2007

By Lim Kim Seng (ibisbill@yahoo.com)
(Draft completed 19 August 2007)

Introduction

Arrangements for the trip was made directly through Felizardo Goring, a security officer of PICOP, based in Bislig, in eastern Mindanao. Zardo is contactable at zardogoring@yahoo.com. He can arrange all transportation needs as well as accommodation in Bislig. Most importantly, entry into PICOP's forests would be a huge hassle without Zardo's arrangements and he knows all the key sites for PICOP's special birds. Doreen Ang accompanied me on this trip.

Itinerary

August 9

Flight MI566 arrives in Davao via Cebu 15h30, half an hour late, no thanks to successive delays in Singapore (brake problem) and Cebu (documentation). We are picked up from Davao Airport, which is filled with security personnel, by Zardo and his van driver. We reached Paper Country Inn at around 20h30. Paid driver 4,000 pesos for the trip. Dinner with Zardo at hotel restaurant.

August 10

03h30. Alarm rings and we were ready for coffee at 04h00. Left hotel at 4.30 for the hour-long drive to Road 1-4. In later part of the morning, and the early afternoon, we birded at Road 4. Lunch at hotel. From 15h00 to 18h00, we were at nearby Bislig Airport for open country species including the famed and much sought-after Philippine Duck and Grass Owl. Dinner at hotel restaurant and early night for another long day.

August 11

Alarm goes off at 03h30. Again coffee at 04h00 and left hotel at 04h30. Attempted night birds at Road 1-4 and then Road 4 for rest of day. Finished the evening at Road 1 where we waited in vain for the pigeons. Completed second full day of birding at 18h00.

August 12

Again for the third day running, we were in the forest by 05h30 but we failed to see any of the night birds we were after despite hearing at least two Philippine Frogmouths at Road 1. We spent rest of day at Road 42, an area of good forest habitat where we got both monarchs. Spent evening back at Road 1-4 waiting for pigeons and night birds. Left at 18h45 after driver warned that his front right tyre was getting flat and that he did not have a working spare tyre!

August 13

Opted to skip the morning birding due to lack of time (need 5 hours to get to Davao Airport) and perhaps tiredness. This may have cost us a few ticks in the form of night birds and new birds but we were grateful for a break after three solid days of dawn to dusk birding. Woke up at 06h00 and packed up. Breakfast of toast and coffee with Zardo at 07h30. Settled all outstanding bills (Guide: 3,000 pesos for 3 days, jeepney rental: 9,000 pesos for 3 days; hotel (2 rooms for 4 nights, and meals): 13,000 pesos (inclusive of 12% tax); van going to airport: 4,000 pesos. Total: 29,000 pesos. Left PCI at 08h15 and arrive at Davao Airport at 13h00. Flight MI566 departs for Singapore at 15h45 and arrives at Changi at 19h10.

Weather

It was generally dry and warm during our entire stay in PICOP. There was only an afternoon when it drizzled for a short moment. Travelling in the open jeepney, we must have ingested quite a lot of dust in the three full days of birding. The tracks were quite dusty. My bins also got all dusty and I used my rain caps all the time.

Birding Log

Day One (August 10, 2007)

We left the hotel at 04h30 and reached an area of degraded forest at Road 1-4 just as dawn was breaking. Both hawk-owls were calling and Zardo quickly brought out his tape and played the Philippine (Mindanao) Hawk-owl's call. A bird responded by twice flying over our head but did not give a chance of a perched view. The Chocolate Boobook (split from Brown Hawk Owl) did not come in. Also calling at dawn was a Rufous-lored Kingfisher but it too could not be located as it called from its tall perch somewhere in one of the trees. Soon, it was too bright for owls and too dark for the diurnals as a period of silence falls on the degraded forest landscape. This was the famous Road 1-4 of PICOP which all birders talk about.

Philippine Bulbuls were the first to stir into life followed by passing Green Imperial Pigeons and Guaiaberos. A Philippine Drongo-cuckoo called but remained unseen. Familiar Sundaic birds such as White-bellied Woodpecker and Orange-bellied Flowerpecker were soon joined by our first new Philippine endemics. A Philippine Oriole was our first endemic and was quickly joined by a male Bicolored Flowerpecker, Yellow-wattled Bulbul (which we missed in Luzon). We also had several glimpses of Rufous-fronted (Philippine) Tailorbird before getting an excellent close look at one. Its head was grayish unlike its close Philippine cousin and it has rufous only on its lores and eyestripe. The only other endemic seen at this stretch included a Naked-faced Spiderhunter high up a tall tree. Others seen here included Whiskered Treeswift, Spangled Drongo and Purple-throated Sunbird.

We moved on to Road 4 and again encountered a bit of bird activity. Musical calls betrayed the presence of Pygmy Babblers. These were tiny and had streaked throats as they moved quickly through the foliage. Joining them were their much larger cousin, Brown Tit-babbler, which had prominent streakings on their crown. We also spotted the first of several White-eared Brown-Doves here. At an open area close to some cultivation, Zardo found a calling Amethyst Brown-Dove and quickly played its song. At first, we could only get flight views as the bird flew back and forth in response to playback. Eventually, Zardo found a bird perched on a branch high up. I managed to scope the bird for everyone to see, especially its purplish eye-ring. A Barred Honey Buzzard was also seen as it flew low over the trees and a Black-faced Coucal heard but not seen.

At another small forest patch along Road 4, Zardo entered the forest and we followed him. Zardo played the song of the Little Slaty Flycatcher but it took a while to see a male as the tiny flycatcher moved in the low vegetation but remained unseen for a long time. While waiting for the smart looking flycatcher (male is black all over with a white shoulder spot), we located a male Greater Flameback and two more White-bellied Woodpeckers. Also seen here, after eluding Zardo's playback, was a Black-headed (White-browed) Tailorbird. A Mindanao Hornbill was also seen as we moved deeper into Road 4.

It was very warm as we approached a small forested hill where we spent the late morning. Here was the home of mixed flocks where the enigmatic Wattled Broadbill haunts. The forest was quite mature, looked interesting but was devoid of any birds except for the ubiquitous Philippine Bulbul. Fortunately, we found another endemic, the lovely Blue Fantail here. As it was rather quiet, we moved on to Zardo's stakeout for Silvery Kingfisher. It was a dirty pond close to cultivation. After waiting a few minutes, Doreen found the adult perched on a low branch. It was a stunner with its satin plumage, reddish feet and pearls of white on

its head. Zardo shouted that he had found the other bird (a juvenile) and we obtained prolonged views through the scope. Hands down, this was the bird of the day.

Lunch was a unanimous choice and devoured in air-conditioned comfort at the restaurant hotel followed by a short siesta till 15h00. At 15h15, we arrived at the famed disused Bislig Airfield where we spent the next three hours in open country birding. We recorded 26 species in the grasslands including Philippine Duck, Wandering Whistling-Duck, the much sought after Grass Owl, which appeared only at dusk, and Tawny Grassbird. We didn't hear Philippine Nightjar. At PICOP, we had a total of 49 species for half a day's work. All in all, I had 18 lifers after the first day, a satisfying total although the lack of success with the Big Four was a little worrying.

We were back at the hotel by 18h30. After dinner, we called it a day and retired to our rooms, eager for another endemic-filled day.

Day Two (August 11, 2007)

Again, we rose at 03h30, had breakfast by 04h00 and left the hotel at 04h30. We were at the same spot at Road 1-4 for a spot of owling. This time, the hawk owls were quiet despite a series of playbacks from Zardo. The Philippine Frogmouth called as the sky brightened rapidly. Zardo didn't have the tape for it and despite hearing at least three birds, we didn't stand a chance with the frogmouth.

We moved on to Road 4, seeing Mindanao Hornbills again and then adding Philippine Needletail, with its white throat and underwing bands. In an area of forest we found the first of several Writhed Hornbills. Having failed to locate any flocks we retreated to the forested hill again to try for the Big Four. We were earlier (about 08h30) and soon located a small flock which was initially made up of Spangled Drongos. The dainty Blue Fantails and Black-naped Monarchs also joined in. Then, Doreen shouted that she had found a Wattled Broadbill. Both Zardo and I failed to locate it and I was dejected not to get hold of it. It later turned out that Doreen may perhaps have misidentified her broadbill. Anyway, we heard Short-crested Monarch but it was unresponsive and remained hidden. So too was a Streaked Ground-babbler which called once and then melted away. Luckily, a Rufous-ored Kingfisher responded to Zardo's coaxing and appeared above our heads. Another striking new bird here was a female Rufous Paradise Flycatcher in its brilliant bright orange dress. Also seen here were Philippine Leaf Warbler and Metallic-winged Sunbird.

By the time we emerged from the hill, it was again very warm and we proceeded to Zardo's stakeout for parrots. A boy was engaged to be guide and after a hike of some 15 minutes we reached a hilly patch of forest to find a tall tree peppered with holes. Screaming on top of us was a pair of Blue-crowned Racquet-tails. We saw them allo-preening, the male spotting a blue crown, the female plain green. Zardo also tried for Blue-backed Parrot and Steere's Pitta here but there were no responses from either target. While waiting for these two and Sooty Woodpecker, I enjoyed close views of two Black-headed Tailorbirds in the undergrowth. Their broad white eyebrows stood out against their black heads and breasts, a lovely bird. After half an hour, we returned to the road where our jeepney was and sat down to have lunch.

After lunch (13h00 to 14h00) and some rest, we continued birding Road 4 but with limited success. We turned into Road 1 and at the junction, found a Little Ringed Plover at a sand quarry. Zardo then took us along a narrow trail near this junction. We struck jackpot here. Two playbacks of Steere's and Red-bellied Pittas elicited no response although we did see a pair of displaying Blue Pitta. When spread the tail revealed stunning azure shafts running along all the tail feathers. Also seen here was another female Rufous Paradise Flycatcher. A bird was then flushed off the trail in a flash of blue and green and it perched on the edge. A quick look through the bins revealed the first of our Heavenly Four Kings, the Steere's Pitta. It was large and looking at us looking at him! It revealed a black cap and bill, white throat and a somewhat dirty azure breast which was blackish in the centre. Its back was a bamboo green and its legs, fleshy pink. We had enough time to scope the bird for great views for all.

The short trail cheered our spirit somewhat and we birded along Road 1, adding the pretty looking Black-faced Coucal at a forest patch. We then moved on to Zardo's stakeout for fruit-doves and imperial pigeons from 16h30. Despite waiting for one and a half hours no pigeons. We ended Day Two at 18h00 and

returned to the hotel. Altogether, we logged 50 species in our first full day at PICOP, including 9 lifers and the first of the Big Four.

Day Three (August 12, 2007)

On our final full day, we were back at the night bird stakeout at Road 1-4 at 05h15. Again we heard Chocolate Boobook and Philippine Frogmouth but didn't see either bird. The main reason was the late start which didn't give us much time before it gets light. Today's route was Road 42 and we penetrated deep into this road, past the innumerable squatters. The forest here was in better shape and we soon located a patch to work the monarchs. Sure enough, after some coaxing from Zardo's tape recorder, we had not one, not two but four Short-crested Monarchs (06h15) flitting in the treetops around us. I had good looks at a pair as they sang in pursuit of the unseen invader. A male Philippine Trogon was also seen and scoped in a high tree.

We walked and birded without adding many species. Rufous Hornbill was heard but too far to call in. Eventually, Zardo decided to try a hilly trail where he had success with Celestial Monarch months earlier. We started walking at 08h00 and returned to the jeepney at 12h00. It proved on hindsight to be a good choice as we notched up first the rare Black-bibbed Cuckoo-shrike, and then the long-awaited Celestial Monarch between 09h18 and 09h30. Zardo had detected a bird calling below us and played his tape. Soon enough, we had a male and then a female showing within three metres of us. The long wispy crest was not erect as in the field guide but combed backwards. The blue hue was startling! Its breast was pale bluish and the belly and vent white. We also saw Yellowish Bulbul, a flock of Rusty-crowned Babblers and I had a glimpse of a Blue-capped Wood-Kingfisher as it flew in response to Zardo's tape. But no luck, the kingfisher could not be located.

Lunch over at 14h00, we moved to another open patch near a cultivated area where Zardo said we could see Rufous Hornbill and pigeons on the relic tall trees. True enough, a party of one male, one female and a juvenile was seen flying into a tall tree at 15h00. We managed to scope the birds for good looks. The casque was massive and yellow and red. There were no pigeons however and we moved on.

Back at Road 1, we tried for Red-bellied Pitta at two sites but there was no response. We stopped near the owl site and waited for dusk. A flock of Pompadour Green Pigeons was new for both Doreen and I. I thought I saw a fruit-dove but it was obscured by foliage and then lost. Soon, two Great Eared Nightjars appeared as the first Philippine Frogmouths started to call. However, Zardo's tape chose this time to malfunction and we could not get a look of the frogmouth. At length, the driver passed down the message to us to return as his tyre was getting flat and there was no working spare tyre. We piled back to the jeepney reluctantly and headed back to the hotel.

We ended our final day at PICOP with 50 species, including 7 lifers and both monarchs. An option to have a few hours of early morning birding on August 13 was dropped in preference of a longer rest.

Birding Highlights

I planned this trip to PICOP after reviewing the misses of the Luzon trip undertaken in June. Many birders had also advised that PICOP was at risk of total destruction and that it was better to go there sooner rather than later. Its many fantastic birds especially the Big Four of Short-crested and Celestial Monarchs, Steere's Pitta and Mindanao Wattled Broadbill meant that it just had to be done. Moreover, there was a resident guide and the trip was thus planned for the National Day holidays. Nigel Wheatley's *Where to Watch Birds in Asia* also promised 30-40 endemics despite this being my second trip to the Philippines, so how could one go wrong?

In total, we recorded 107 species during this trip, including 54 Philippine endemics and 2 near-endemics. We saw three of the Big Four and also saw most of the birds very well. Of the 107 species, 94 were seen and 13 were heard only. Of the 107, 85 were recorded at PICOP and 26 at Bislig Airfield, with just 4

species shared by both sites. See below for full checklist. In addition, Zardo also saw A Plain Bush-hen on Day Two which we missed. For me, I saw 34 birds which were new, same haul as Luzon in June 2007.

Overall, it was a highly successful trip considering the short duration and the time of the year. A lot of birds were not calling or did not respond to tape. Our guide Zardo was very well informed and he worked very hard to get us the endemics and almost got us all the Big Four. As far as I know, we are the first Singapore birders to have a good look at Celestial Monarch.

Thoughts on Hindsight

Although it was a good birding trip by all accounts, it would have been even better if we had considered some additional factors. Owling just minutes before dawn was a bad idea. You're not going to have any chance at the three target night birds with this approach. We should have left an hour later as this would have given us an hour to work the birds. Second we did not have a back-up tape of the night birds and a good torch. Zardo's recorder failed on Day Three and we were left floundering. Third, if the pre-dawn owling failed, we should have gone on to Plan B, which was to continue owling after dusk.

Other Wildlife

There were lots of butterflies including wood nymph, Common Birdwing and Great Mormon. I also saw at least two greenish Flying Lizards and a small brown squirrel. There were no leeches or ticks but biting ants was a nuisance, especially at the broadbill hill. Mossies weren't a bother either.

Costs

Flight and airport tax are S\$499. Accommodation at Paper Country Inn was 900 pesos per room per day. Meals were an additional 1200 pesos per day. Zardo's daily rate is 1,000 pesos per day. Airport tax is 500 pesos per person, payable at the customs. Therefore the total land costs for this trip were 33,000 pesos, or \$990. Split equally, this was about S\$500 each. In total, the trip, inclusive of Silkair's return ticket of S\$499, costs about S\$1,000, an affordable expense considering the number of smashing endemics on offer.

Complete Species List

(Nomenclature and systematics follow Kennedy *et al* 2000 with some exceptions. Endemics are referred to in capitals.)

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

6 seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August. We also saw egrets here, probably Great and Cattle Egrets but there were too far for a positive ID.

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

1 immature seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Black Bittern *Dupetor flavicollis*

2 at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*

At least 6 at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE DUCK *Anas luzonica*

At least 4 at Bislig Airfield on 10 August. 1 seen in a pond beside the airfield was scoped for great views.

Barred Honeybuzard *Pernis celebensis*

An adult over Road 1 on 10 August and an adult and an immature over Road 4 on 11 August.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

One at Road 1-4 on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE SERPENT-EAGLE *Spilornis holospilus*

One low over Road 4 on 11 August.

PHILIPPINE FALCONET *Microhierax erythrogenys*

Seen daily at PICOP.

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*

A female at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*

2 seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio*

One pale-headed race seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

One breeding adult seen beside a sand quarry at PICOP Roads 1 and 4 junction on 11 August.

Pompadour Green Pigeon *Treron pompadora*

A flock of over 10 birds in a fruiting fig at Road 1-4 on 12 August. One heard at Road 4 on 10 August.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

A pair at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

WHITE-EARED BROWN-DOVE *Phapiteron leucotis*

Seen daily at PICOP, the commonest dove here.

AMETHYST BROWN-DOVE *Phapitreron amethystina*

One seen at Road 4 after tape playback on 10 August. Great scope views.

YELLOW-BREASTED FRUIT-DOVE *Ptilinopus occipitalis*

Heard daily at PICOP but frustratingly no sightings.

PINK-BELLIED IMPERIAL-PIGEON *Ducula poliocephala*

Heard daily at PICOP.

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Seen and heard daily at PICOP. Occurs in small flocks.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*

Several at Bislig Airfield on 10 August. Seen at Road 1 on 10 August.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

A few at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Common Emerald-Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

One seen at PICOP on 10 August.

GUAIABERO *Bolbopsittacus lunulatus*

Seen daily at PICOP.

BLUE-CROWNED RACQUET-TAIL *Prioniturus discurus*
A pair seen at a stakeout at Road 4 on 11 August.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
A male seen at Road 4 on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE DRONGO-CUCKOO *Surniculus lugubris*
One heard at PICOP on 10 August.

Common Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea*
Heard dailt at PICOP.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*
One seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE COUCAL *Centropus viridis*
At least one at Bislig Airfield on 10 August. Also 1 at Road 1 on 12 August.

BLACK-FACED COUCAL *Centropus melanops*
Heard daily at PICOP with sightings of two at Road 1 on 11 and one at Road 42 on 12 August.

GRASS OWL *Tyto capensis*
One seen at dusk at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

CHOCOLATE BOOBOOK *Ninox randi*
One glimpsed in darkness at Road 1-4 on 10 August and heard again here on 12 August.

PHILIPPINE HAWK OWL *Ninox philippensis*
One heard at Road 1-4 on 10 August and also heard at Road 42 (during day) on 12 August.

PHILIPPINE FROGMOUTH *Batrachostomus septimus*
Heard at Road 1-4 on 11-12 August. With at least three birds present on the earlier date.

Great Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus macrotis*
Seen at PICOP on 10 and 12 August.

PYGMY SWIFTLET *Collocalia troglodytes*
Present in small numbers at PICOP daily. The only small swiftlet observed.

PHILIPPINE NEEDLETAIL *Mearnsia picina*
A singleton seen over Road 1 on 11 August and good views of one on 12 August over Road 42.

Purple Needletail *Hirundapus celebensis*
Singles seen daily at PICOP.

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*
1 at Road 1-4 on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE TROGON *Harpactes ardens*
One male seen at Road 42 on 12 August. Others also heard at the hilly trail here.

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
One at Road 4 on 11 August.

SILVERY KINGFISHER *Alcedo argentata*

Two birds seen at a roadside pool at Road 1 on 10 August. Stunning!

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
Present daily at PICOP.

RUFIOUS-LORED KINGFISHER *Halcyon winchelli*
Heard daily at PICOP with sightings at Road 4 and later at Road 1, both on 11 August.

BLUE-CAPPED WOOD-KINGFISHER *Actenoides hombroni*
At least two birds heard at the hilly trail at Road 42. A second bird was glimpsed when it flew but view was unsatisfactory.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*
A few in open area at Road 1 on the eve of 10 August.

MINDANAO (TARICTIC) HORNBILL *Penelopides affinis*
Present and seen singly or in pairs daily at PICOP.

WRITHED HORNBILL *Aceros leucocephalus*
Over 10 seen at Road 4 on 11 August, a pair at Road 42 on 12 August and 1 female perched close up at Road 1 on 12 August.

RUFIOUS HORNBILL *Buceros hydrocorax*
Heard daily but only seen at Road 4 on 11 August when a party of two adults and a juvenile was seen. These birds stayed long enough to enable scope views.

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
Present daily at PICOP. This species is one of the familiar background sounds of PICOP.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*
Common with one bird at Road 1 and 2 at Road 4 on 10 August, a pair at Road 1 on 11 August and one at Road 1 on 12 August.

Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
A male seen inside a forest patch at Road 4 on 10 August.

Red-bellied Pitta *Pitta erythrogaster*
One heard at Road 1-4 in response to tape on 10 August.

STEERE'S PITTA *Pitta steerii*
BIRD OF THE TRIP. We saw this bird at a narrow trail at Road 1 on August 11 at around 15h35. No calls heard anywhere despite playback.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Several over Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina striata*
2-4 birds at Road 1 on 12 August.

BLACK-BIBBED CUCKOO-SHRIKE *Coracina mindanensis*
One seen at Road 42 on 12 August.

BLACK-AND-WHITE TRILLER *Lalage melanoleuca*
1 at Road 1 on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE LEAFBIRD *Chloropsis flavipennis*

One at Road 1 on 10 August. Another at Road 42 on 12 August.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Common in more open areas at PICOP. Also several seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

YELLOW-WATTLED BULBUL *Pycnonotus urostictus*

Heard and seen daily at PICOP. Shows a crest and the eye-ring is really prominent.

PHILIPPINE BULBUL *Hypsipetes philippensis*

Common at PICOP.

YELLOWISH BULBUL *Hypsipetes everetti*

Heard daily with good looks obtained of a party at Road 42's hilly trail on 12 August.

SPANGLED DRONGO *Dicrurus hottentottus*

Common at PICOP. A sentinel of bird waves.

PHILIPPINE ORIOLE *Oriolus steerii*

One seen at Road 1-4 on 10 August. Heard daily.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Common in open patches at PICOP.

PHILIPPINE FAIRY-BLUEBIRD *Irena cyanogaster*

One heard at Road 4 on 11 August.

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*

6 at Road 4 on 11 August and 2 at Road 1 on 12 August.

STRIPE-HEADED RHABDORNIS *Rhabdornis mystacalis*

2 (1 at Road 4 and 1 at Road 1) seen on 11 August and 2 at Road 42 on 12 August.

STREAKED GROUND-BABBLER *Ptilocichla mindanensis*

One heard at Road 4 hill on 11 August.

PYGMY BABBLER *Stachyris plateni*

A flock seen at Road 1-4 on 10 August. Subsequently seen daily.

RUSTY-CROWNED BABBLER *Stachyris capitalis*

A small flock seen at Road 42 on 12 August. One was seen in full sunlight revealing its orange crown and throat.

BROWN TIT-BABBLER *Macronous striaticeps*

A small flock seen at Road 1-4 on 10 August. Another seen at Road 42 on 12 August.

Pied Bushchat *Saxicola caprata*

One pair seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

PHILIPPINE LEAF-WARBLER *Phylloscopus olivaceus*

One with drongos at Road 4 hill on 11 August.

Tawny Grassbird *Megalurus timoriensis*

One seen well at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*

One heard at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

RUFIOUS-FRONTED (PHILIPPINE) TAILORBIRD *Orthotomus frontalis*

A few seen (with one seen well) at Road 1-4 on 10 August. Heard daily at PICOP.

BLACK-HEADED (WHITE-BROWED) TAILORBIRD *Orthotomus nigriceps*

One seen at Road 4 on 10 August and 2 seen well at Road 4 (parrot stakeout) on 11 August.

Bright-capped Cisticola *Cisticola exilis*

A number in courtship flights at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis*

A number in courtship flights at Bislig Airfield on 10 August. The courtship song here differs from Singapore with a rapid tailorbird like series of chips before the metallic ticking. The song is described in Kennedy et al 2000.

LITTLE SLATY FLYCATCHER *Ficedula basilanica*

One male seen in a forest patch at Road 4 after playback. Shy and active.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

One seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August was attacking its own reflection at an aluminium water tower!

BLUE FANTAIL *Rhipidura superciliaris*

First seen at Road 4 on 10 August, apparently mainly a wave bird. Saw a pair displaying at the trail at the Road 1 and 4 junction on 11 August.

RUFIOUS PARADISE-FLYCATCHER *Terpsiphone cinnamomea*

A female at the hill at Road 4 and also at the trail at the junctions of Road 1 and 4, both on 11 August.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Seen and heard daily at PICOP.

CELESTIAL MONARCH *Hypothymis coelestis*

A pair seen well at the hilly trail at Road 42 on 12 August. Birds were lured once their song was heard and the result was close up views for more than 15 minutes.

SHORT-CRESTED MONARCH *Hypothymis helenae*

Four birds seen at canopy level at Road 42 on 12 August after responding to tape playback.

YELLOW-BELLIED WHISTLER *Pachycephala philippinensis*

One seen at Road 1 on 10 August.

White-breasted Wood-swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Two at Road 1 on 10 August.

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

Several over Road 1 on 10 August.

COLETO *Sarcops calvus*

Seen daily at PICOP.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*

One at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Purple-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia sperata*

Present daily at PICOP.

METALLIC-WINGED SUNBIRD *Aethopyga pulcherrima*
A pair seen at Road 4 on 11 August and a few at Road 42 on 12 August.

LOVELY SUNBIRD *Aethopyga shelleyi*
A male at Road 4 on 11 August.

NAKED-FACED SPIDERHUNTER *Arachnothera clarae*
One seen at Road 1-4 on 10 August.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*
One heard at Road 1-4 on 10 August.

OLIVE-BACKED FLOWERPECKER *Prionochilus olivaceus*
One seen at Road 1-4 on 10 August and one at Road 1 on 12 August.

BICOLORED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum bicolor*
One at Road 1-4 on 10 August and 1 at Road 4 on 11 August.

RED-KEELED FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum australe*
One at Road 4 on 11 August.

BUZZING FLOWERPECKER *Dicaeum hypoleucum*
One at Road 4 on 11 August and one at Road 42 on 12 August.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
Seen daily at PICOP.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*
Seen daily at PICOP.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
A number seen at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura Malacca*
100+ seen flying to roost at Bislig Airfield on 10 August.