



**BORNEO: Broadbills & Bristleheads**

**20<sup>th</sup> July – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019**



*One of a nesting pair of **Whitehead's Broadbills** seen on 3 days at **Mount Kinabalu** (Rob Rackliffe).*

**Tour Leader:** Sam Woods

**Photos:** Thanks to participants Virginia Fairchild, Becky Johnson, Rob Rackliffe, Brian Summerfield & Simon Warry for the use of their photos in this report.

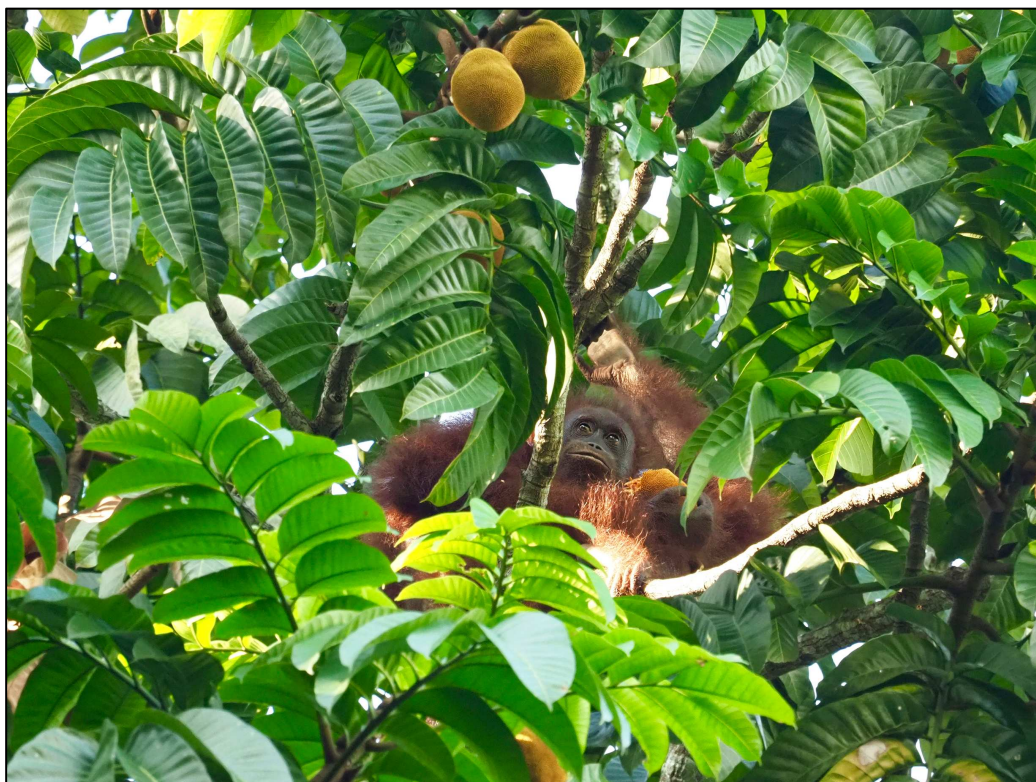


**Borneo.** This large, Southeast Asian island has a kudos all of its own. It maintains a huge, longstanding appeal for both first time visitors to the region, and experienced birding travelers too, making it one of the most popular choices of Asian birding destinations. The lure of Borneo is easy to grasp; it is home to an ever-increasing bounty of endemic birds (as taxonomy moves forward, this list creeps up year-on-year), and among these are some of the most-prized bird groups in the region, including **pittas, broadbills, hornbills, trogons, and 12 species of woodpeckers** to name a few. And then, to top it all, the island boasts a monotypic endemic bird family too, the enigmatic, and scarce, **Bornean**

**Bristlehead**, which is just scarce enough to unnerve guides on each and every tour.

To add to this avian pool of talent, is an equally engaging set of **mammals**, making the island one of the best destinations in Asia for them too. Last, but not least, is the more than decent infrastructure in **Sabah**, (the only state visited on this tour), a Malaysian state that encompasses the northern section of Borneo.

While the birding was challenging at times, the rewards we reaped from our considerable efforts in the field were colossal; the **bristleheads** were easier than they have been in a while, and steadied nerves of guide and participants alike within a few days of the tour opening. This was at the exceptional **Borneo Rainforest Lodge**, (in the lowland jungle of the **Danum Valley Conservation Area**) that was a highlight all of its own, ranking as one of the best lodges in the region, understanding birder's needs very well.

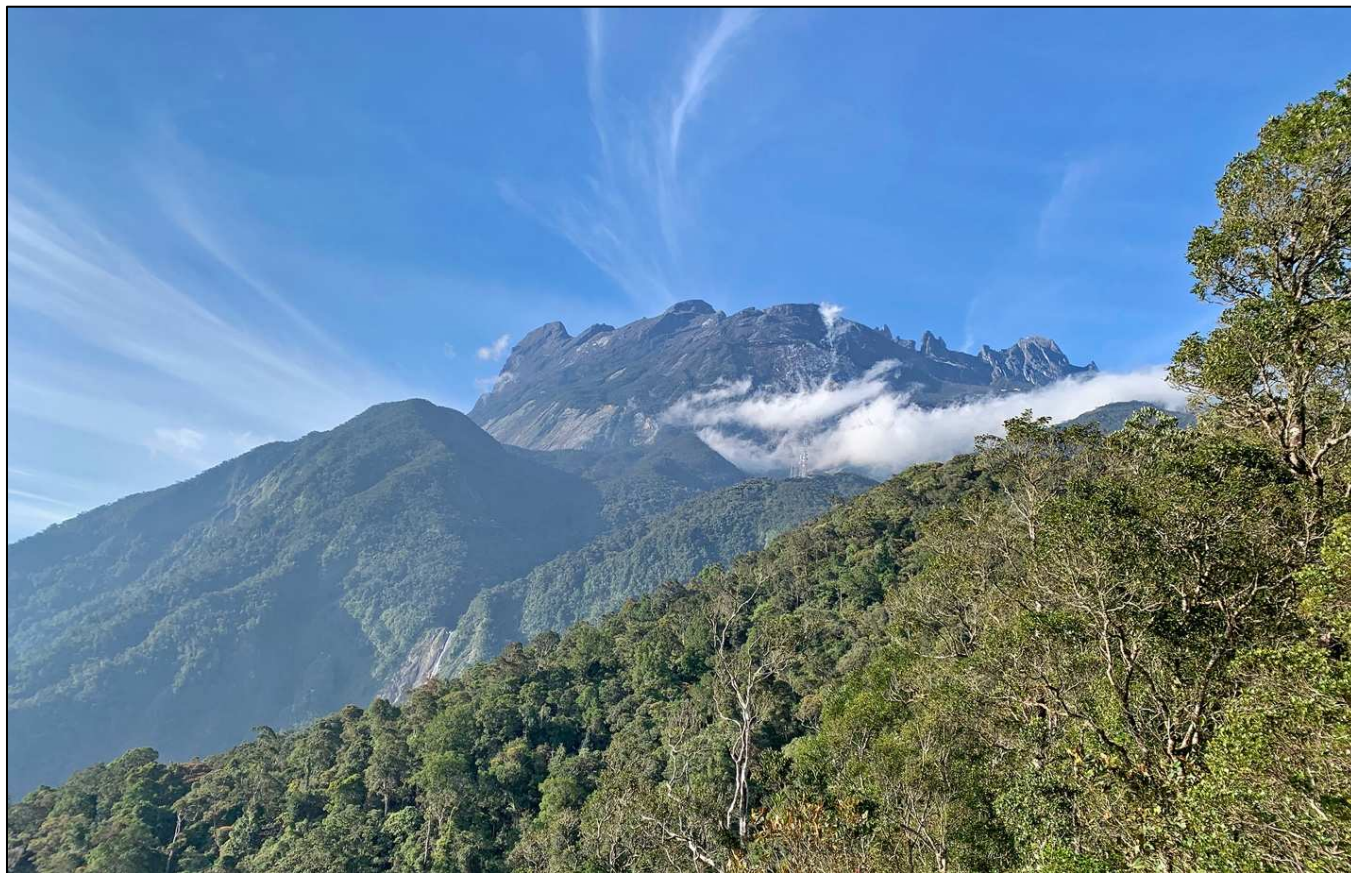


*Danum* also yielded other, beautiful endemics like **Black-crowned (-headed) and Blue-headed Pittas**, the latter of which is often touted as one of the best of this entire, dazzling family. Other highlights there, included Borneo's most famous animal, **Bornean Orangutan** (photos page before, **Rob Rackliffe**), just a short walk from the lodge, as well as y fortunate sightings of **Western Tarsier** (a living Gremlin) on two night drives.

*Danum* was our first destination, and we remained in lowland forest for the next two sites too, with first **Sepilok** and its modern, impressive canopy walkway, then **Sukau**, where river trips were taken along Borneo's longest river, the **Kinabatangan** and its neighboring tributaries. This brought us its premier avian prize, with the entire group getting prolonged views at the rare **Bornean Ground-Cuckoo** from the boat, the clear winner of the **bird-of-the-tour** votes. Explorations by boat within the forests bordering these rivers also came up with the much-wanted **White-crowned Hornbill** (which was one of the **complete set of 8 hornbills** seen during the tour), and a pair of the rare **Storm's Stork** perched in the treetops above our boat, and a **Scarlet-rumped Trogon** was extremely popular from the boardwalk just behind our riverside lodge. The primate diversity of these same forests is legendary, and among the hundreds of these seen during our stay were, plentiful **Proboscis Monkeys**, **orangutan**, along with **Sukau's** flagship mammal, and the final piece of the "Borneo Big Five"\* we were seeking, **Bornean Pygmy Elephant**, seen by torchlight from our boat along the main river. \*(Note: Borneo's Big Five = Orangutan, Bornean Pygmy Elephant, Proboscis Monkey, hornbill and crocodile; all of these were seen during our time in the lowlands of Sabah).



We were extremely fortunate with these views of **Mountain (Kinabalu) Serpent-Eagle** at **Mt. Kinabalu (Sam Woods)**.



We were lucky with weather on **Mount Kinabalu**. We had some beautiful days there, with these views of the famous summit available on several of these (**Sam Woods**).

After our time at these three lowland sites, we moved into the endemic-rich highlands, and specifically, the slopes of **Mount Kinabalu**, Borneo's highest mountain at 4095m/13,435ft. The birding there, (as usual), required time and patience to dig out a sizable list of endemic species, which were headlined by excellent views of both **Crimson-headed and Red-breasted (Hill) Partridges** (photo page 34, Rob Rackliffe) on the same morning...Other standouts within the same montane forest, was a long look at the retiring **Everett's Thrush** (photo page 28, Rob Rackliffe) shortly after dawn, a stunning pair of nesting **Whitehead's Broadbills** (photo page 1, Rob Rackliffe) seen on three consecutive days, a gaudy scarlet male **Whitehead's Trogon** (photo page 29, Rob Rackliffe), and exceptional perched views (and photographs), of a **Mountain (Kinabalu) Serpent-Eagle** (photo page 3, Sam Woods), one of the more difficult local endemics to find. We were also extremely fortunate with the weather on the mountain, which is famously unpredictable, but we were able to see the distinctively-nobbed peak of **Mount Kinabalu** bathed in sunshine and framed with cerulean skies on several occasions, that brought our smartphones into action to capture these memorable moments.

Lastly, came another montane forest site, **Tambunan**, in the **Crocker Range**. An incredible first few hours of birding there during a sunny afternoon, had us turning this way and that as an area of high activity, (encouraged by an extraordinary amount of fruiting trees present at the time), produced **Bornean and Mountain Barbets** and the striking **Bornean Leafbird**.

A final mention should go to **nightbirds**; we were lucky to see **SIX species of owl**, including an **Oriental Bay Owl** found silently perched by the road during a night drive at **Danum**, a site which also gave us **Blyth's and Large Frogmouths** (photo below, **Rob Rackliffe**); and the first of at least seven different **Buffy Fish-Owls**. **Barred Eagle-Owl** frustrated us, and just as we decided our chances had passed us by, one of these impressively-horned owls was found at **Mount Kinabalu**. The same individual, quite bizarrely, flew right into the restaurant there one night, swooping low over the heads of the group, and then, somewhat startled, settling onto one of the nearby seats, before it was rescued by restaurant staff and taken back into the forest!



We were happy with our haul of nightbirds with this persistent group getting 2 frogmouths, including this **Large Frogmouth** at **Danum Valley** (on our first full day birding), and 6 owl species, including **Oriental Bay Owl**, and a very popular **Barred Eagle-Owl** (**Rob Rackliffe**).

**Top Five BIRDS of the tour:**

1. **Bornean Ground-Cuckoo** *Sukau*
2. **Whitehead's Broadbill** *Mount Kinabalu*
- 3= **Oriental Bay Owl** *Danum Valley*
- 3= **Bornean Banded Pitta** *Danum Valley*
5. **Whitehead's Trogon** *Mount Kinabalu*



*This tour illustrated well the high standard of mammal watching available in Borneo, with 36 species recorded; among them iconic endemics, like this **Proboscis Monkey**, **Bornean Orangutan**, and **Bornean Pigmy Elephant (Sam Woods)**.*

**Top Five NON-BIRDS of the tour:**

1. **Bornean Orangutan** *Danum Valley, Sepilok & Sukau*
2. **Western Tarsier** *Danum Valley*
3. **Bornean Pigmy Elephant** *Sukau, Kinabatangan River*
4. **Borneo Rainforest Lodge** *Danum Valley (well-deserved entry of its own here!)*
- 5= **Proboscis Monkey** *Sukau, Kinabatangan River*
- 5= **Whitehead's Pigmy Squirrel** *Mount Kinabalu (below)*



Borneo is at the epicenter of squirrel diversity; 10 species were recorded on this tour, with a further 3 species of flying squirrels. The most popular was this tiny endemic *Whitehead's Pigmy Squirrel* on Mt. Kinabalu (Rob Rackliffe).

**Day 1 (of birding) 21<sup>st</sup> July: Kota Kinabalu (KK) to Danum Valley.**

After an extravagant (and extensive), buffet for the welcome dinner the night before in “KK”, we were up extremely early to catch the first flight out of the capital of *Sabah* to *Lahad Datu*, over in the eastern side of the state. On arrival there, we connected with the excellent staff at *Borneo Rainforest Lodge (BRL)*, and headed towards *Danum Valley Conservation Area*, but not before leaving the city with **Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron** in the bag; the only ones of the trip.

*Borneo Rainforest Lodge* rightly has legendary status as one of the best lodges in Asia; few places in the region could claim to cater to

birders and nature lovers in quite the same way that “BRL” does. We were therefore very excited to be our way there, a two hour direct journey from the airport. However, it took us the whole morning instead, as we made some measured stops along the way, once we had entered the tall, ancient lowland *dipterocarp*\* forests within the conservation area.

The group were excitable on the way in, as they should have been, but in truth things were largely quiet, save for a young **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, until the first of a handful of sharp **Whiskered Treeswifts** (*photo above, Simon Warry*) were found perched low over the road, and as usual proved to be a very popular bird indeed. **Crested Jay** (now considered in its own family and renamed **Crested Shrikejay**), was also a feature on the way in and a good early score, as was a **Wallace’s Hawk-Eagle** in flight, a bird we were to become all too familiar with in Borneo’s lowland jungles in the coming days. Indeed, the journey proved rewarding for *raptors* with SIX species seen, including too **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, but top prize went to the smallest of all the world’s raptors, and one of the first island endemics for the tour, the tiny **White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet**, measuring only marginally bigger than a *House Sparrow*! Other endemics on the way in were **Bornean Spiderhunter** and the odd (**Bornean**) **Brown Barbet**, which sounds nothing like a traditional Asian barbet at all.

*\*(Note: Dipterocarp is the name given to the dominant group of trees in this rainforest that reaches its highest diversity in Southeast Asia).*

We pulled in to *BRL* just before lunch, were greeted with chilled towels bringing welcome relief from the extremely humid forest conditions, and then plowed into the first of many great buffet selections to come during our stay at this standout lodge

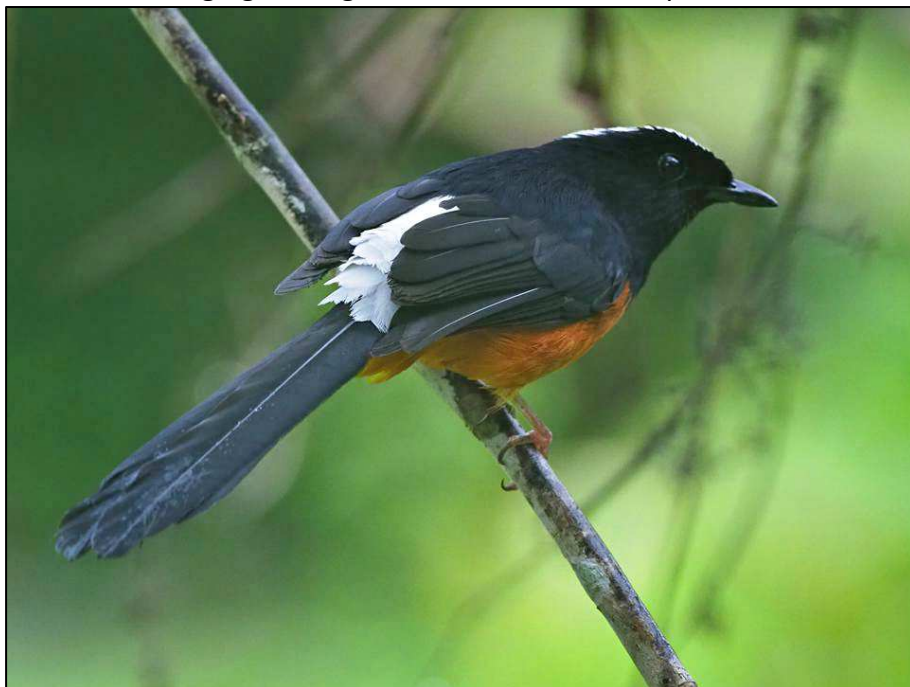




After lunch, we familiarized ourselves with the rooms and met up with our guiding team, the excellent *Saiyfiq* and his trainee assistant, *Oliver*, sure to be a star of the future in the guiding team at *Danum* if our experience was anything to show for it! At 3pm we set off on foot from the lodge doorstep, birding the entrance road to the lodge. An early highlight and much excitement was created when *Steffan* announced he had our first **Bornean Orangutan**, just a short distance out of the lodge! The endemic **White-crowned (rumped) Shama** (*below, Simon Warry*) also featured, as did a



local nesting **Oriental (Crested) Honey-Buzzard**, and *Virginia* picked out a pink-flushed **Black-and-yellow Broadbill** silently sitting in the forest just off the road. We also picked up our second endemic barbet of the day, with perched looks at a heavy-billed **Gold-faced (Golden-whiskered) Barbet**. We returned to the lodge a short time before dark, collected our torches and headed towards a local forest trail in pursuit of a key nightbird on site. However, we barely made it anywhere as our local guide was waiting at the meeting point with a **(Bornean) Crested Fireback** (*photo above, Rob Rackliffe*) feeding just below some of the guest's cabins, which were observed foraging at length. This well-decorated pheasant was an early contender for one of the top birds of

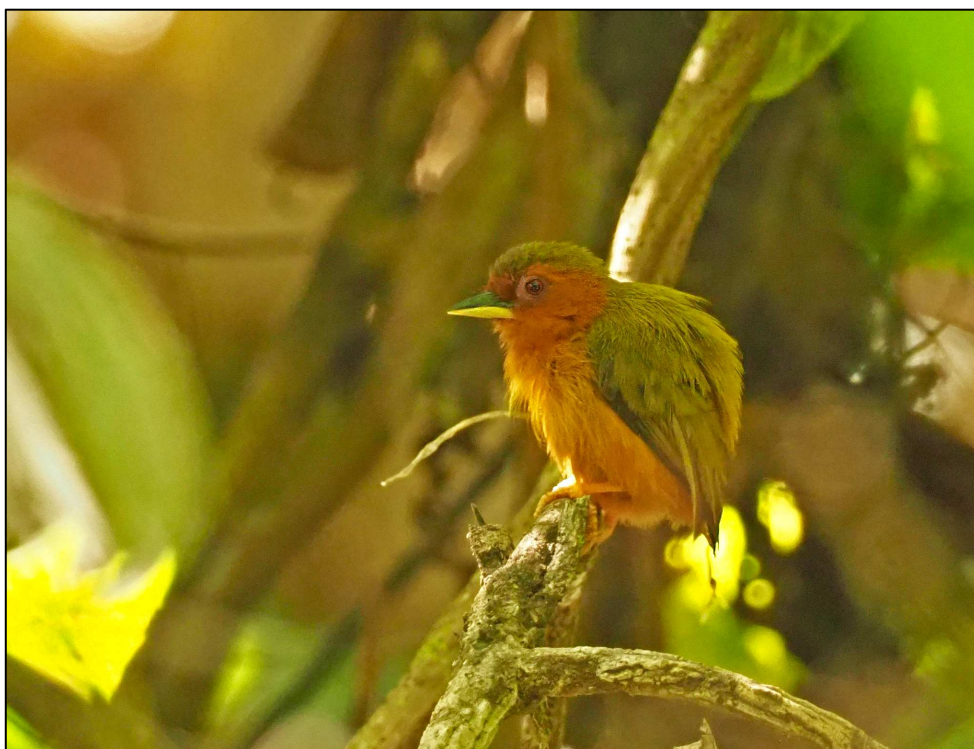


the trip, but was quickly trumped by the **Large Frogmouth** (*photo 5, Rob Rackliffe*) that was seen with little fuss just after dark, a bird that gives one of the most iconic, spine-tingling calls of the lowland jungles of Southeast Asia. After dinner, we checked the rover successfully for **Buffy Fish-Owl**, finding one perched on the rocks beside the river out the back of the lodge, the worst view of the six or more of these owls seen on the tour!

*Unsurprisingly*, the group went to bed that night happy with our early surge of birds and buzzing with anticipation of the *Borneo Rainforest Lodge* experience to come in the following days, when three full days were spent in the area...

**Day 2 (22<sup>nd</sup> July): Danum Valley.**

For our first full day within. The rich rainforests of *Danum* our focus was clear; try to find Borneo's sole endemic bird family, the *Bristlehead*. News was promising from our local guides, with sightings over the past few days along the road, and so we set off on foot from the lodge after at 6am, following a full buffet breakfast before that. The first day in *Danum* is always thick with babblers, and chalked up different species left right and center. Not far from the lodge the diminutive **White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet** was seen again, sitting prominently on a dead snag, as is their want. The morning also produced one of Southeast Asia



most recognizable birds, with some decent looks at the impressive **Rhinoceros Hornbill**. *Pittas* frustrated us during the morning, but when the radio crackled to life with news of a group of **bristleheads**, we rushed further up the road and arrived in good time, these odd bald, red-headed canopy birds were still calling and appearing at various intervals, to bring quick relief on this most wanted of Bornean birds. Walking back along the road from there, in the heady afterglow of the *bristlehead*, we ran into a **Chestnut-naped Forktail** feeding by the roadside that rather atypically remained in view for all, and then backtracked when some people at the back of the group located a tiny **Rufous Piculet** (*above Rob Rackliffe*). We rounded out the morning working a trail back to the lodge, tracking down a calling male **Green Broadbill** near the trailhead, and then getting a **Bornean Wren-Babbler** later, which was quickly followed by a **Striped Wren-babbler** too. Two more key birds then happened, with first **Diard's Trogon**, and then a male **Bornean Blue-Flycatcher** to take us through to lunchtime.

The afternoon was frustratingly cut rather short by heavy tropical downpour, although as we waited out the rain, someone in the group spotted a **Helmeted Hornbill** flying over, which made the wait a little less frustrating once we'd sighted this, the rarest of the 8 hornbill species in Borneo. A **Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker** continued to feed in the rain, beside the shelter that we'd taken on the lodge grounds. Once the rain had stopped, the dripping forest was largely quiet, as can be the case with hot rainforest afternoons in the lowlands, but that would all be forgotten, following an extended duel (and eventual long looks) at a glittering **Black-crowned (-headed) Pitta** sitting on a damp log in the dark forest understorey, where it glowed crimson on the belly, and purple on the back...



With rain having drifted away after dinner, we set off on a night drive in one of the new lodge buggies. Animals were very thin on the ground, but when we stopped at a stakeout for a local *frogmouth*, (which we did *not* see), *Steffan* noticed a small pale owl flying around us, which alighted in full view of us all, where it was quite happy to sit in the spotlight for some time and reveal itself to be none other than the often tricky **Oriental Bay Owl** (left, *Rob Rackliffe*) On the way back, we added a **Buffy Fishy-Owl** by the staff quarters at length, which was a significant upgrade from our first, shorter and more distant individual by the lodge.



*The first of several species of **Lantern Bugs** were seen at **Danum** (**Rob Rackliffe**)*

**Day 3 (23<sup>rd</sup> July): Danum Valley.**

A combination of road birding (that produced **Rufous Woodpecker**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Red-throated Barbet**, **Bushy-crested Hornbill**, and best of all, **Red-bearded Bee-eater**), and trail birding (**Rufous-chested Flycatcher**, but none of the *pittas* we were seeking unfortunately, while *Virginia* managed to photograph a **Gray-chested Jungle-Flycatcher**), were undertaken in the morning. After this rather quiet morning, we returned to the lodge for lunch, and got a **Lesser Fish-Eagle** perched behind the lodge after that. Before that, during the early afternoon rest *Rob and Virginia* got a small party of **Straw-headed Bulbuls** from their riverside room. It would take the rest of us a few days more to catch up with that increasingly rare and vociferous species. As we left at 3pm for our afternoon trail walk, again in pursuit of pittas, which had been giving us something of a run around, but graying skies threatened to ruin our plans. We continued on the trail all the same, the rain held off, and we were rewarded for our doggedness with **Banded Broadbill** and **(Bornean/Black-faced) Banded Kingfisher**. Our second night drive was planned after dinner, once again in the hope of some of Danum's many fantastic beasts, and also in the hope of a second frogmouth species. Unfortunately ever heavier rain made us have to turn around before we could give the *frogmouth* a stern try, but this somehow proved fortuitous when a **Western Tarsier** (*below, Rob Rackliffe*) was located, staring at us like a living Gremlin in the spotlight, a mighty fine find indeed, and extremely well appreciated by the group. Amazingly, another one was seen on our third and final night drive the next night too, very fortuitous indeed. Other mammals on the shortened night drive on this night included both **Black and Thomas's Flying-Squirrels** sharing the same tall *dipterocarp* tree, and a **Wallace's Flying-Frog** was also popular.



Day 4 (24<sup>th</sup> July): Danum Valley.

After yesterday's rather sluggish day by *Danum Valley's* high standards, we were pleased to get a change in fortune on this day. We decided on a change of tack, and visited an active dancing ground for one of the largest avian targets in the area, the **Great Argus**, a vocal, but famously elusive forest pheasant. We made our way into the forest by way of a winding trail, and were stopped in our tracks by a close calling **Blue-headed Pitta** (left, *Rob Rackliffe*), a bird that had frustrated us for days on end this far. This time though this cerulean capped, purple-bellied bird did not evade us, appearing next to a buttress of a giant rainforest tree, then hopping up onto a perch,

where we even managed scope views of one of Borneo's most beautiful endemic birds. As we waited in the hope he might occupy one of the few dancing grounds we had access to, we added **Sunda (Large-billed) Blue-Flycatcher** to our trip list, but were far off from some calling *Chestnut-necklaced (Bornean Necklaced) Partridges* to be able to do anything about them. With time waning to go to try and track down some other targets, we exited the *argus* area, only to backtrack when it called from another area; we crept along the trail and got some close though brief views, with some (though not all), people in the group seeing it well enough to consider it within their top five birds of the tour. *Brian* had lingered on the road with *Oliver* and showed us a male **Diard's Trogon** once we met up once again. While we'd been looking at *Blue-headed Pitta*, *Brian* had also caught up with a **Black-crowned (-headed) Pitta** that he'd been absent from a few days earlier. We then boarded the lodge's buggies and headed to the same trail near the main gate that we'd visited, rather uneventfully, the morning before. However, we had not gone far when a massive woodpecker spotted by *Rob* had us out of the vehicles and watching a pair of vocal **Great Slaty Woodpeckers**, one of the giants of the woodpecker world. The same **White-fronted Falconet** was also spotted on the same 5-km journey. On reaching the trailhead, we added our fourth barbet of the tour (*8 barbet species were notched by the trip's end*), with views, finally, of a **Yellow-crowned Barbet** due to another example of extremely sharp eyed spotting from *Saiyfiq*. Once on the trail we worked hard but got good views of a **Bornean Banded Pitta** for a few seconds before it slinked away. Those that saw it well ranked it highly and so it made the top five birds of the tour, and was our third of four pittas seen on the tour. We also managed to track down another endemic, in the form of a very loud pair of **Black-throated Wren-Babblers** at the end of the trail, while *Keith* spotted the first **Spotted Fantail** of the tour.

After lunch, a quieter time was punctuated by a long observation of a group of 6-10 **Bornean Bristleheads** along the entrance road, which provided better looks than before. And, on the way back to the lodge, post-bristlehead, we popped on to a side trail to enjoy a pair of immature **orangutans** foraging actively in the jungle, causing considerable waving of the trees they were occupying, making their presence quite conspicuous. Our and final night drive at Danum was a roaring success; *mammals* were thin on the ground on this night, save for a second (and different) **Western Tarsier**, but following prolonged views of a bewhiskered **Blyth's Frogmouth** (*photo next page, Brian Summerfield*), and point blank views of both **Buffy Fish-Owl** and **Brown (Bornean) Wood-Owl** (*photo next page, Rob Rackliffe*) very close to the lodge. A very close calling *Barred Eagle-Owl* though just would not show, in spite of a late night finish trying to do so.



*Brown (Bornean) Wood-Owl* (above, Rob Rackliffe) & *Blyth's Frogmouth* (Brian Summerfield) were seen on the same night drive at Danum.



**Day 5 (25<sup>th</sup> July): Danum Valley to Sepilok.**

We had one final morning remaining at *Danum*, and after a last magnificent flavorsome buffet at *Borneo Rainforest Lodge*, we hit the road and headed north to *Sepilok*. After breakfast at the lodge we scoped a **North Borneo Gibbon** just behind it. Due to news coming in of a *Giant Pitta* having been heard by one of the guides the day before, we set off in the hope of that wraith of the rainforest. However, none were heard at all during our various attempts.

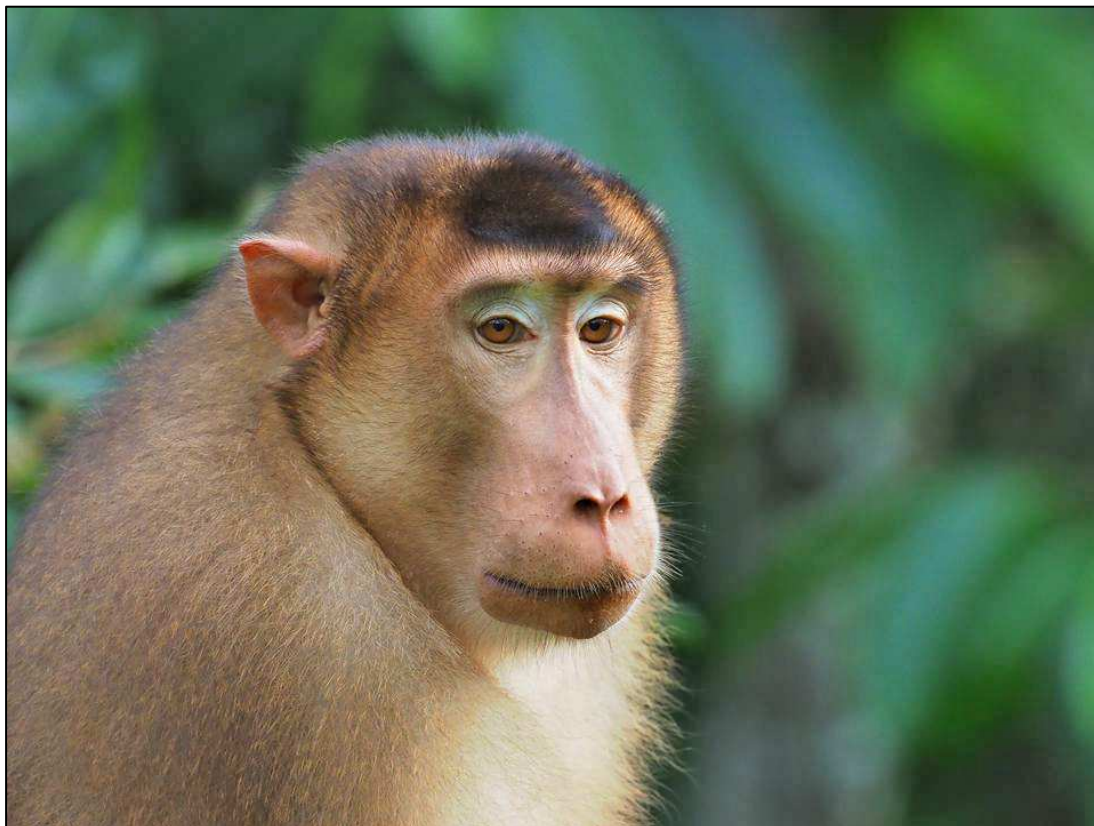


We did all finally get views of a delightful **Spotted Fantail**, and spotted our first **Maroon-breasted Philentoma** too. The smart **Black-and-red Broadbill** was also a pick up for the entire group, this bulbous-billed, blue-billed bird always being impressive. We also got a confiding pair of **Black-capped Babblers**, a smarter looking species than many of its dowdier congeners, and also got an entire group look at a **Straw-headed Bulbul** at the final hour.

The journey between *Danum and Sepilok* took all afternoon, and did not produce much, plentiful fresh elephant dung was seen but not the culprits unfortunately. Arriving at *Sepilok* in the evening, we quickly had dinner and then checked around the lodge property for *owls*; after a little while we finally heard a **Sunda Scops Owl**, and tracked it down in the nearby forest, where a constantly calling **Brown Boobook (Hawk-Owl)** frustrated us by seeming distant and out of reach. However, when we backtracked to the lodge restaurant it became clear that it was sitting closer by than we'd thought, and finally found in perched on a bare snag in full view of the lodge, where it continued to call away long after we had dismantled the 'scope and retired to bed for the night. *Bay Owl and Barred Eagle-Owl* were also heard during that four-owl night too! All the while that we searched for owl the giant forms of **Large Flying-Foxes**, the biggest bats on Earth would pass by regularly adding to great night time excursion.

**Day 6 (26<sup>th</sup> July): Rainforest Discovery Centre, Sepilok.**

On this day we sandwiched lunch between two different visits to the *Rainforest Discovery Centre* at *Sepilok*, the best of the local reserves for birding. *RDC* is famed for its modern, extremely well thought-out **canopy walkway** (left, *Becky Johnson*), a solid metal structure, lacking the swaying and movement of most other walkways.

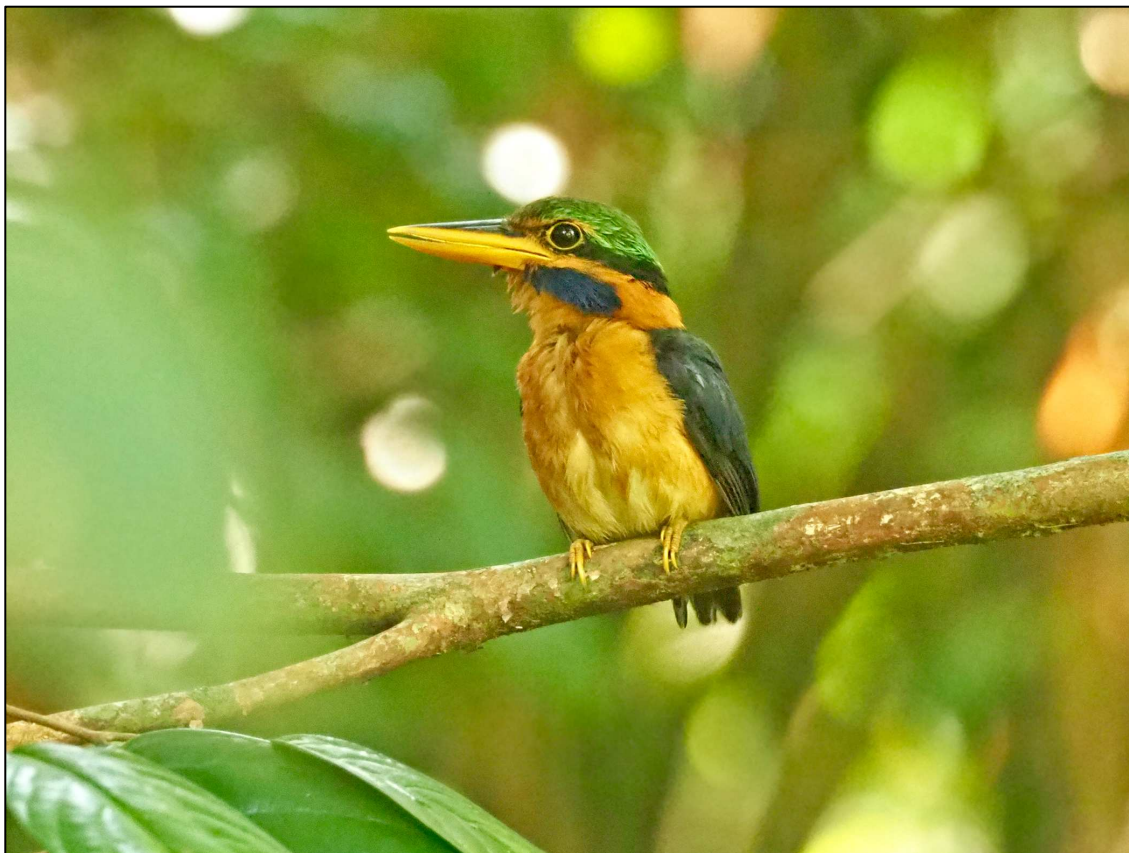


We walked from our lodge to the reserve, a distance of some 700m, seeing little along the way aside from the now familiar (but no less stunning **Blue-throated Bee-eaters**). Once on the walkway, we admired the scene, being surrounded by giant primary rainforest trees, and were wary of a local male **Pig-tailed Macaque** (left, *Simon Warry*) that appeared to be stalking us along our treetop walk! More **Blue-throated Bee-eaters** were hawking insects from high in a dead tree, and then the

sound of the hulking **White-bellied Woodpecker** was heard, and it was not long before we had one in the 'scope for some time, clasped to the side of a tall *dipterocarp*. A small group of the scarce **Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon** passed by, though unfortunately did not stop. While *Brian* had already added **Violet Cuckoo** to his birdlist in *Danum*, with an uncharacteristically low feeding bird by the road there, the rest of us had our best shot here for this usually canopy-dwelling cuckoo. We eventually heard one, and it alighted into a tree next to the *Trogon Tower* where we were located, where we able to admire its iridescent purple sheen by way of the *Swarovski* spotting scope. Regular views of a local party of **Black Hornbills** were also much appreciated, particularly when they would alight in trees in full view of our high-rise position. A pair of **Red-throated Sunbirds** were also seen from our lofty position, as were **Common Hill Mynas** and our first **Long-tailed Parakeets** darted by.

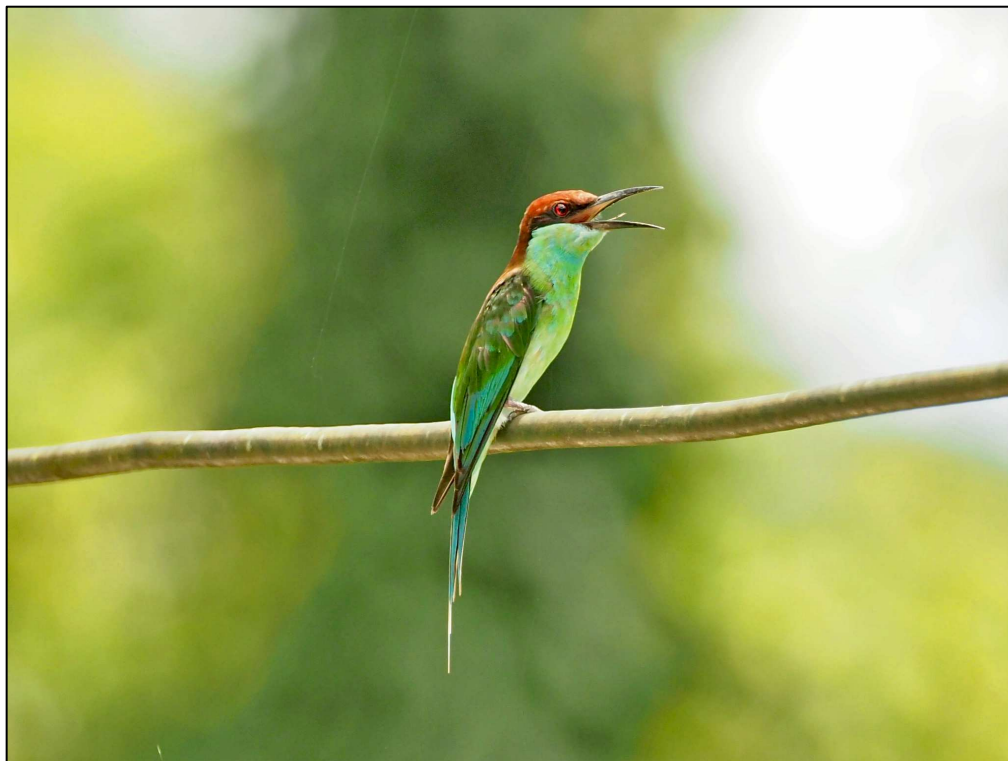
After some time on the walkway on the *Trogon Tower* and passing the bristlehead-less "*Bristlehead Tower*", we returned to ground level. One of the features of our time at Sepilok, was an unusual abundance of **Pig-tailed Macaques**, which was not always welcome, with males following us on several occasions both up on the tower and down on the ground. We gave these heftier, unpredictable members of the troop as wide a berth as we could, even though we were basically surrounded at times by a daunting number of monkeys, presumably boosted by a local fruiting event! Now walking, among the first the whistles of a **Rufous-collared Kingfisher** (photo next page *Rob Rackliffe*), were heard, our principal target for the morning, and after initial worries it was sat out of sight, *Sam* managed to find it, where it was actually in a great position to observe for well over fifteen minutes. The reserve's productiveness for woodpeckers was revealed over our two days in the area, when we added four new species of them to the birdlist. One of the tracks in the centre is even named "*Woodpecker Avenue*" and has a sign with a *Banded Woodpecker*, although we would have to wait until the next day to add that one to our personal list of sightings.





This extremely cooperative *Rufous-collared Kingfisher* was the highlight of a morning at *Sepilok* (Rob Rackliffe).

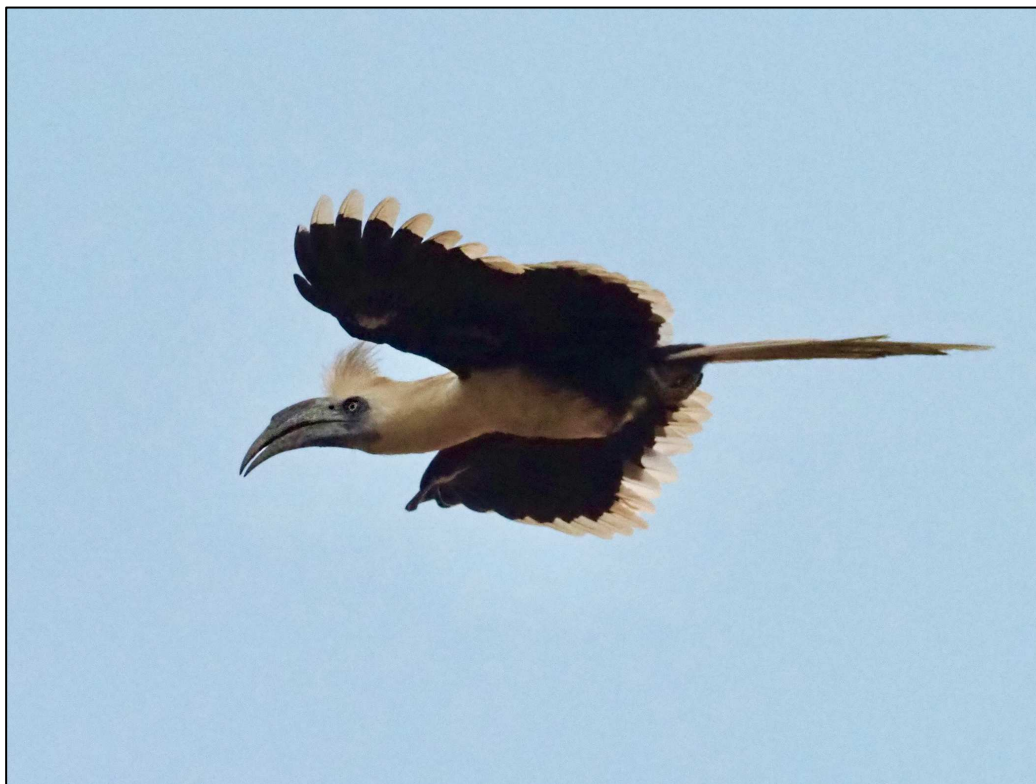
However, thanks to *Stefan's* sharp eyes we did see its congener, **Crimson-winged Woodpecker** there resting in the canopy. The same area also produced a single female **Fiery Minivet** and a small party of the similar **Scarlet Minivet**, which overlap at this site. We also upgraded our views of another woodpecker, **Buff-necked Woodpecker**, which showed well too. As the heat of the late morning engulfed us, we returned to the resort for lunch and a long break. The custom group had until then burned their candle at both ends with both full night and day activities taking their toll and so the rest was much needed. We returned to *Sepilok's Rainforest Discovery Centre* in the afternoon, where some very obliging **Bornean Orangutans** were watched at length, while bird-wise, the period was salvaged when *Virginia* spotted a **Rufous-winged Philentoma** coming to a small stream to bathe. At 6pm we had arranged a private night walk with one of the centre's guides. At first, this felt anything but private as a series of night walks started out on a crowded canopy walkway for the traditional dusk time emergence of the local **Red Giant Flying Squirrels**, which duly stuck their heads out, then fully emerged, before hitching up the tree, and taking to the air when they looked like a small ruddy-colored bedsheet! That was a good start, and was quickly followed by an impressive, and very popular **Wagler's Pit-Viper** resting off the side of a track. We were on a roll, which quickly continued with long observations of two different **Rufous-backed (Oriental) Dwarf-Kingfishers** resting for the night beside a small rainforest creek. These were especially pleasing, for we had been taunted by their high-pitched flight calls in the day, but could not get one perched. We were buzzing from this start and continued in anticipation of what more might come over this two-hour activity, and with the possibility of slow loris or another tarsier in play, or even an owl. However, nothing else was seen during a quiet walk, when a *Reddish Scops-Owl* was heard, but showed non interest in coming closer.



*Blue-throated Bee-eaters* were regularly encountered in the lowlands (**Rob Rackliffe**)

#### Day 7 (27<sup>th</sup> July): Rainforest Discovery Centre, Sepilok to Sukau (Kinabatangan River).

After a full buffet breakfast at the resort at 5:30am, we met up with our guide for the *Sukau* section of the tour on the coming days, another talent, *Nexter*. He joined us for our third and final visit to *Sepilok* and the canopy walkway at the *Rainforest Discovery Centre*, which yielded woodpeckers, with this time, a pair of **Banded Woodpeckers** seen from the “scaffolding” of the walkway; that position also aided us in seeing a treetop (and well named) **Long-billed Spiderhunter**. **Buff-rumped Woodpecker** also featured at *Sepilok* too.



Also up on the walkway was **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle**, the first of 7 raptor species seen for the day. **White-bellied Sea-Eagle**, a beautiful perched adult **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** and several **Brahminy Kites** were all seen on the boat journey along the *Kinabatangan River* to *Sukau* later that day. The final raptor addition of the day was a **Bat Hawk** resting beside its nest sited in a giant forest tree on the edge of a large oxbow lake near *Sukau*, a site that also had a **White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet** standing sentry above it too. Back at *Sepilok* in the morning, up on RDC's walkway, were some perched **Black Hornbills** for the second day in a row, which were the first of five hornbill species for the day (including **Oriental Pied Hornbill** that was new to us), a location that also produced our first bespectacled **Green Ioras**. Once back down at ground level, we added a brace of *babblers* to the long list of this diverse group of birds we had already assembled at *Danum*, with two of the more distinctive and handsome looking species, **Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler** and **Black-throated Babbler**. Perhaps the highlight of the morning was being able to observe the hard to see juvenile **Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo** being fed by an adult **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**! A battle with a local **Hooded Pitta** resulted in some long flight views as it flew past us in the open, which brought gasps all the same, but we left hoping for upgrades to this in *Sukau*. After our short period at *RDC*, we returned to our *Sepilok* resort to check out and have lunch before the boat ride to *Sukau*; we did see both the endemic **Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker** and an extremely striking **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** before we departed via a local nesting **Baya Weaver** for our boat ride.



The sun sets dramatically over the *Kinabatangan River* on our first evening in the area, following sightings of nesting **Bat Hawk**, sitting **White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet**, and **White-crowned and Wrinkled Hornbills** in our first few hours of birding-by-canoe! (Sam Woods).

On the boat ride to *Sukau*, aside from the eagles, hawks and kites, we stopped for a couple of **Lesser Adjutants** perched alongside Borneo's longest river, and our first troop (of many) **Proboscis Monkeys**. Shortly after our arrival at the lodge we added another primate that would also become familiar to us in our coming days, **Silvered Langur**. After a short lodge briefing, at the very lodge used by *David Attenborough and the BBC* to film wildlife documentaries in the area, we set out on a private canoe ride, taking in a **Bat Hawk** sitting beside its nest by a large oxbow lake, then moving to a designated spot where we hoped to find one of the rarer hornbills of the trip, **White-crowned Hornbill** (*photo page 18, Rob Rackliffe*). *Simon* and others had made it clear that this was a major target, and understandably so, with both its scarcity and striking appearance. Even though it is not endemic to Borneo, the island, and this particular site, must be the best site in the World for it. The birds often like to call in the late afternoon, but none were heard after several attempts, and it looked like we would need to return to the lodge empty-handed. Then, suddenly, *Nexter* claimed he had it, and there it was sat quietly alongside the *Kinabatangan River* in full view of us on our canoe. At this point there was considerable jubilation, and it was also seen flapping slowly across this broad river too. This marked the point when Brian at least had racked up all 8 species of Bornean hornbills, but the rest of us were still missing **Wrinkled Hornbill**, as he had been alone when he saw a couple of them flyover at *Danum*. This record was set straight on the short canoe ride back to the lodge when *Nexter* pulled a pair of these birds out of the bag "at the death", and we were then all able to claim *all 8 hornbills for Borneo*, a great close to our daytime activities. Daytime ended with an extraordinary sunset seen and photographed from the boat...After some (*Becky and Stefan*) donned a local *sarong* for dinner, we returned to the canoe at night and took a cruise along the main river, where a **Buffy Fish-Owl** (*photo below, Virginia Fairchild*) glared at us with bright yellow eyes, and we took in the sight of several roosting diurnal birds; **Stork-billed and Blue-eared Kingfishers, Malaysian Pied Fantail, Oriental Magpie Robin, and Yellow-bellied Prinia**.



On one night cruise out of *Sukau*, we managed to find four different **Buffy Fish-Owls** (*photo Virginia Fairchild*).

**Day 8 (28<sup>th</sup> July): Sukau (Kinabatangan River) & Gomantong Caves.**

The day took a stark change of pace from recent days in *Sepilok* and especially *Danum*, where the lowland birding had involved plenty of trail walking. However, this morning we birded the local jungles *by canoe* as we visited the *Kinabatangan River* and several, smaller side rivers too. Our main hope, was to find the area's rarest bird, *Bornean Ground-Cuckoo*, but we did not hear its evocative deep hoots at all sites checked. Indeed, the rivers were quite quiet as a whole, but the morning was made worthwhile, once a pair of **Storm's Storks** (*below, Sam Woods*), flew low over the boat and then landed just behind us, allowing us to sidle up to them by using our second, quiet electric motor. The other highlight along the *Menanggul River* was a sparkling **Hooded Pitta** (*photo next page, Virginia Fairchild*), which we all admired from the canoe, and an early observation of a miniscule **Lesser Mousedeer** feeding alongside the river bank.



**Storm's Stork Sukau.** This is perhaps the most reliable site for this endangered species on Earth (*Sam Woods*).

Late in the morning we returned to our lodge, and walked the boardwalk behind it just before lunch, when we found another trip highlight, a neon red male **Scarlet-rumped Trogon** (*photo page 23, Rob Rackliffe*). A pair of **Paradise Flying Snakes** was also found sunning themselves on the lodge roof. We also heard how close a herd of elephants were, when hearing them from there too, although we had still not managed to set eyes on them. In the afternoon we made our trip to *Gomantong Caves* (via a newly established breeding pair of **Little Grebes** and a **Long-tailed Shrike** along the way).



There, we got to see **Mossy-nest, Black-nest, and Edible-nest Swiftlets** sitting on their nests, which aided identification. Visiting the caves was a fascinating, if grim, experience, with a large pile of guano being evident both to eyes and noses too. *Cockroaches* swarmed on the walls, and holes were occupied by giant **Long-legged (Cave) Centipedes**, while overhead hung lots of **Wrinkle-lipped Bats!**

As dusk approached, the bats started emerging in clusters, and drew the attention of a number of local raptors; five or so **Bat Hawks** were watched swooping into the bats (successfully on a handful of times), while a **Wallace's Hawk-**

**Eagle** sat close by, and a **Peregrine Falcon** took to the air in pursuit too. More entertaining still, were a small group of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** in the distance, which sallied out regularly to try and snatch emerging bats in the air! It was a good day overall for hornbills, with *six species seen* (**Wrinkled, Wreathed, Rhinoceros, and Bushy-crested Hornbills** too).

As we boarded the boat back to the lodge we thought the day's sightings were all done, but during this canoe ride, part of the local herd of **Bornean Pygmy Elephants** (*right, Rob Rackliffe*), were found foraging along the bank, to close out a fantastic day for wildlife in general, which also included 5 primate species, and hundreds of individuals of them too.





An estimated quarter-of-a-million *Wrinkle-lipped (Free-tailed) Bats* live in *Gomantong Caves*; *Scarlet-rumped Trogon* was a nice treat behind our lodge in *Sukau* (both *Rob Rackliffe*).



**Day 9 (29<sup>th</sup> July): Sukau (Kinabatangan River).**

This proved to be the less strenuous day of the tour in terms of physical exertion, with both the morning and afternoon involving taking boat rides and birding directly from the canoes. In the morning and afternoon we cruised the main *Kinabatangan River*, but also made our way into the *Menanggul and Tenengang Rivers* too. The morning appeared something of a blowout, with regularly falling rain causing us to raise our umbrellas and came with it a struggle to see much. Some distant resting *Storm's Storks* were picked out by *Stefan*, as the rain fell. A large flock of pigeons was revealed to have mainly **Pink-necked Green Pigeons**, with a few notably smaller **Little Green Pigeons** among them too. **Long-tailed Parakeets** were also drawn to this same popular roosting area. A nice male **Malaysian Blue Flycatcher** was also seen from the boat during a pause in the rain. Some brief **Jerdon's Bazas** in the morning only frustrated, as they took off before many could see what they were. A **Crested Fireback** briefly appeared to forage on a riverbank, but it was soon invisible once it retreated into the forest further from the bank.

A major focus for the morning had been to try and find a calling **Bornean Ground-Cuckoo** (*below Rob Rackliffe*), which had failed in visits to two different tributaries by the time the clock had struck 11.30. However, just before noon, the gruff notes and hoots of a pair of *ground-cuckoos* finally reached our ears. At first, some struggled to believe it was the real thing, thinking it could be another boat playing its call further along the channel. However, on approaching the source it was clear that the *cuckoo* itself was the culprit. Some brief snatches of views were had at first, as it flicked its tail up and down in time to its call, making the tail at least readily findable amongst dense rainforest tangles. However, as we attempted to reposition, the bird moved, and a long pursuit continued. An early surprise was an audacious other boat, which at noting we had a calling *cuckoo* alongside us, had sneaked in and taken a prime position with their boat and could see the bird by evidence of their raised cameras, but we were blocked from seeing it by the fact they had put their boat right where we had intended to move into! Thankfully, their boat soon moved on, so we could work our positions without hindrance from others. The group worked hard, and frequently picked up a piece of the bird, before it would quickly change position and render our movements to see it futile. Evidence piled up that the bird was simply never going to remain in one spot long enough for all to be able to see it, and those that did might be confined to seeing only a small margin of it. However, finally, the group spotted the bird sitting higher up, where its boldly-barred breast, black-hooded head, and blue facial skin and bill could be seen as it continued to hold its position and call enthusiastically. Thankfully, the bird stayed put and with some subtle moving of the boat, and shuffling of people's positions within the boat, we could finally all say that we had all seen one of Borneo's rarest birds. There was little doubt, from the reactions of the participants, that they were watching what would become the BIRD-OF-THE-TOUR. The enthusiasm and excitement of this sighting continued through lunchtime, which immediately followed this noon observation.





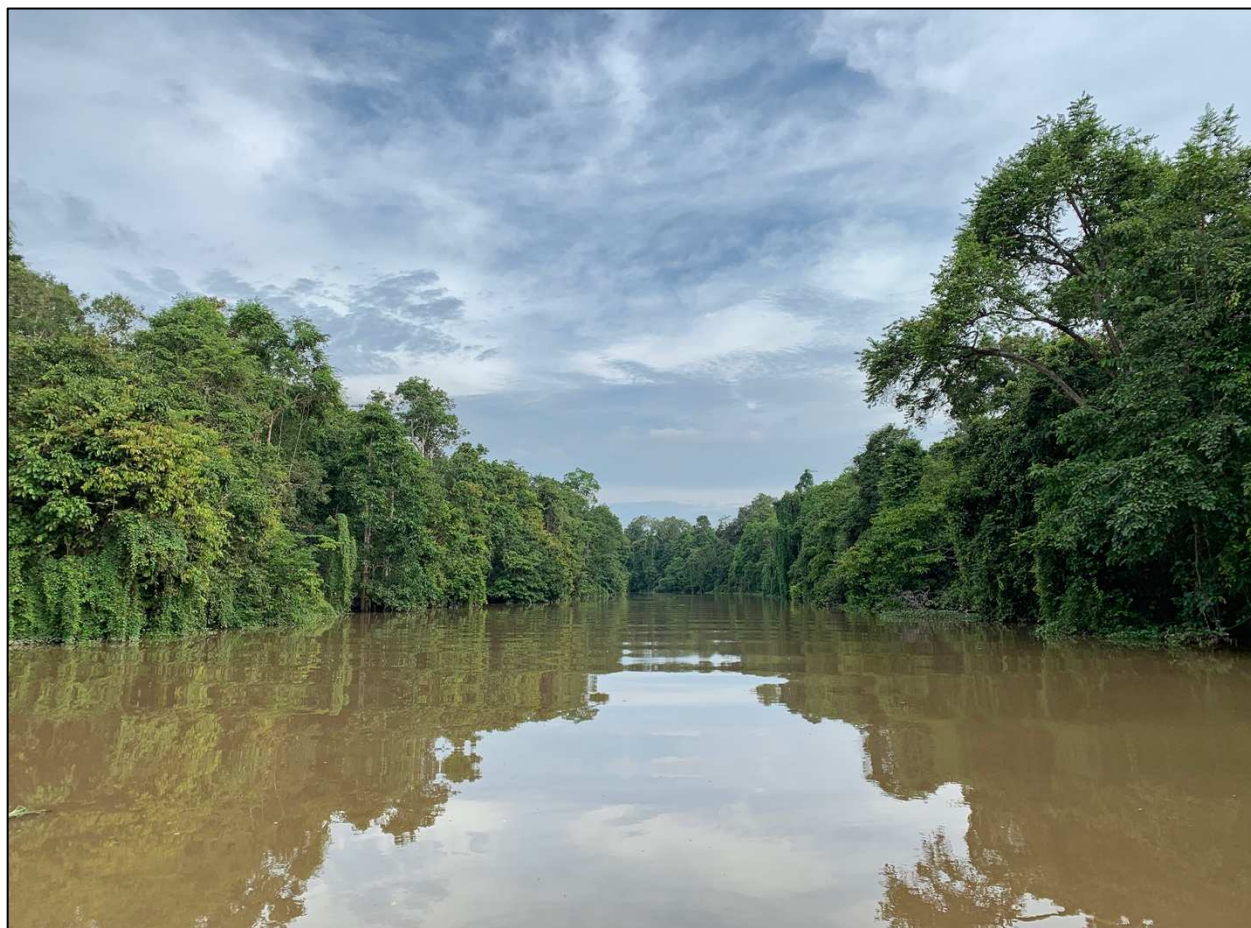


After a rest back at *Sukau*, where a hanging, furry shape beside the lodge bar turned out to be a sleeping **Bornean Colugo**. We then took off by canoe and visited a side river called the *Sungei Tenengang*, where we found a few new species or upgrades for the tour. This started with a male **Gray-and-buff Woodpecker**, with a bright scarlet top, spotted by Rob. A *fish-eagle* crossed the river, and eventually reappeared further up, proving to be a **Gray-headed Fish-Eagle**. A second pair of **Jerdon's Bazas** for the day was also located, although it took until this third sighting

before we could all be satisfied with our looks at this "Wallace's Hawk-Eagle" mimic, this time remaining in view over our canoe for some time.

Other highlights for the day were all the Bornean hornbills, 7 species, except the rare *Helmeted Hornbill*, proving once again that the *Sukau* area of eastern Sabah is the single best site in the state for hornbills. (**Oriental Pied and Black Hornbills** above and right, both *Rob Rackliffe*). After dinner, a final night cruise was punctuated with repeated close ups with four different **Buffy Fish-Owl** resting alongside the river; the only real highlight.





The beautiful **Kinabatangan River**, the longest river in the Malaysian state of **Sabah**, a known haven for primates; we saw hundreds of them, including **Proboscis Monkey**, **Silvered Langur**, **Long-tailed and Pig-tailed Macaques** and **Bornean Orangutan**, as well as **Bornean Pygmy Elephant**. Birds seen there included **Bornean Ground-Cuckoo**, **Storm's Stork**, **Hooded Pitta**, and **7 species of hornbills**, with **White-crowned Hornbill** being a favorite (**Sam Woods**).

#### **Day 10 (30<sup>th</sup> July): Sukau (Kinabatangan River) to Gomantong Caves; to Mount Kinabalu.**

We were, once again, up before the lark as it were; having breakfast at *Sukau* before taking a short boat ride to connect with our van transport to *Gomantong*, where we chose to spend a further few hours before we drove west and up into the highlands of Borneo. We had been trying to track down an **Orange-backed Woodpecker** since day one of the tour, and finally we got our break today, with one of these large, striking birds on the side of a large trunk on the entrance road into the caves. Partridges were also noted calling, though we realized seeing it from the road was unlikely, close as it was. Therefore, we took a short walk into the rainforest, which improved our viewing and the result; all who came in got a good view of this potential future endemic, **Chestnut-necklaced (Borneo Necklaced) Partridge**, a bird were in serious danger of missing! Also in this same rainforest were a perched **Crested Serpent-Eagle**, **(Bornean) Brown Barbet**, another **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**, some flyover **Wreathed, Bushy-crested and Oriental Pied Hornbills**, **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**, yet another **Rufous Piculet**, more **Green Ioras**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **Black-headed and Charlotte's Bulbuls**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Spectacled Spiderhunter**, and a high foraging couple of **Everett's (Hume's) White-eyes**.

Our second best sighting of the morning, behind the aforementioned partridge, had to be a **Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo**, we heard it, saw it dart across the road at high speed being chased by a smaller bothersome bird several times, then finally, once the songbird had left it alone we all got to see it remain on a perch for some time.

At around 10:30am we set off west towards western Sabah and *Mount Kinabalu*, where our next destination was to be. We arrived in the middle of the afternoon, checked into our new highland resort, connected with our next driver and vehicle, and quickly headed into the park itself. Unfortunately, the park was largely quiet during this late afternoon visit, but we did add a few common species, like the endemic **Bornean Whistler**, **Yellow-breasted Warbler**, **Ochraceous Bulbul**, **Black-capped White-eye**, and the gorgeous **Temminck's Sunbird**. However, our best work came when we tracked down a long calling pair of **Mountain Wren-Babbler**, the third endemic wren babbler of the tour to complete that exclusive set. We retired to our resort, in full view of the distinctive silhouette of *Mount Kinabalu*, full of excitement at the endemic possibilities in the coming days up there...



*Indigo Flycatcher* was seen daily in the mountains, particularly on *Mount Kinabalu*, where this shot was taken (*Rob Rackliffe*).

**Day 11 (31<sup>st</sup> July): Mount Kinabalu.**

On our first full day on this endemic-loaded mountain, we set out before dawn. Our intention was to drive slowly up the road and then check an area where *Everett's Thrush* can sometimes feed as dawn breaks. However, we were stopped in our tracks when a large bird pounced on something on the road, and then was tracked back to a nearby perch, and then revealed to be a surprise **Barred Eagle-Owl** (right, **Rob Rackliffe**), a species we had thought we'd missed! It gave great views in the spotlight, with its heavy horns and steely stare. Sadly, our thrush attempts seem to have failed, and so we began walking back to the vehicle once it was full light; when



**Steffan** indicated a thrush feeding on the grassy verge to the road, which was the very **Everett's Thrush** (below, **Rob Rackliffe**) we had been seeking. It showed no signs of obvious fear, and so continued feeding away, where it could be 'scoped at length, and we took in this extraordinary stroke of luck. Moving to the end of the summit road (all of 4km/2.5miles long from the entrance to *Timpohon Gate*). The gate marked the highest we were able to go on this tour, and so the upper reaches of this road offered up some of the higher elevation species that



are at the pit of their elevational ranges on the mountain here. One of these was the endemic **Mountain Blackeye**, which we found with little fuss on this first morning, actively foraging near the gate, where **Ashy Drongo**, **Bornean Treepie**, **Indigo Flycatcher**, **Gray-chinned Minivet**, **Blyth's Shrike-Babbler**, and **Bornean Whistling-Thrush** were all also seen. Several fruiting trees that morning also led to views of the striking, green-gold-and-blue **Golden-naped Barbet**, our third endemic species from this family of the tour. We took a buffet breakfast around 8am at the *Balsam Café* near the park entrance, with its prominent background of the mountain looming behind.

The final chapter of the morning saw us walk a section of the *Silau-Sulau* trail, which culminated in the spotting of a bright male **Whitehead's Trogon** (*below Rob Rackliffe*), which remained for some time while we looked on and reeled off plentiful photos of one of the mountain's very best birds. A young, creamy-white, immature **Brown (Bornean) Wood-Owl** was also located in the same area. In the late morning, we made a specific stop outside the park, and located a local party of **Pygmy White-eyes (Bornean Ibon)** - *photo next page, Sam Woods* - almost immediately, and so were ready to have lunch back at our resort, 7km (4.5miles) from the park.



*This spectacular male Whitehead's Trogon was the highlight of our first morning on Mt. Kinabalu (Rob Rackliffe).*

In the afternoon, we tried again for a reported pair of *Whitehead's Broadbills*, but came back with nothing; we did get a confiding **Sunda Bush-Warbler**, and much of the same common montane birds we had seen that morning too. We also saw a **Mountain Tailorbird** from the park's café around lunch. However, we have Ian to thank for the best bird of the afternoon, when he spotted a **White-browed (Bornean) Shortwing** high up on the mountain, before it even began vocalizing. Following a bit of playback, everyone else got to see it too, as both sooty male and ruddy female hopped on and off a mossy log. Some more **Mountain Wren-Babblers** were also watched later in the afternoon.



Until relatively recently, the unobtrusive *Pygmy White-eye (Bornean Ibon)* felt like a rare and difficult endemic. However, the discovery of some sites just outside the park at **Kinabalu** changed that, we found them easily this time. (Sam Woods)

### Day 12 (1<sup>st</sup> August): Mount Kinabalu.

This turned out to be one of the most successful days in the mountains, although little indicated this early on. Perhaps this day, more than any other, was a classic example of *Kinabalu* birding. The day is never usually filled with birds, but merely punctuated with widely-spaced sightings, but when you reach the end of it, some of the marquee birds of the site and tour as a whole have been accomplished. We started our birding beside the park's hill lodges, seeing a pair of **Hair-crested (Bornean Spangled) Drongo** flycatching from one of the park's railings, which were quickly overshadowed by the appearance of the first of the tour's **Bornean Green Magpies** (*next page Rob Rackliffe*), a gaudy endemic if ever there was one. During this spell of early morning activity several **Temminck's Babblers** also hopped around in the open, something they ceased to do for the rest of the day shortly after! For the third time since our arrival, we then checked a specific flowering tree near the park's hill lodges, where repeated recent reports of *Whitehead's Spiderhunter* encouraged us to return. It was not present as we first arrived, but then a chunky bird flew in and called, and the **Whitehead's Spiderhunter** was finally revealed to all. We now had two of the famous "*Whitehead's Trio*", with just the laser-pointer green *Whitehead's broadbill* remaining. Moving up to the summit gate (as far as we are permitted to go), we found more **Mountain Blackeyes** foraging by the path, and the ever-present, and hyper-active **Chestnut-crested Yuhina**, but not the *Fruithunter* we would most have liked. Moving just a little lower down, we tried another recent *Fruithunter* spot, which at least rewarded us with another potential endemic, **Flavescent Bulbul**, which is sometimes split off as **Pale-faced Bulbul**, and is confined to higher areas.



There were so many cracking birds on this trip that the *Bornean Green Magpie* did not make anyone's top five birds of the tour! **Mount Kinabalu (Rob Rackliffe)**

The remainder of the morning was rather disappointing following this early promise, and so we retired to the park's *Liwagu Restaurant* for an extended lunch break and reenergize our *broadbill* search that afternoon. With rain largely staying away during our visit to the mountain, we were very fortunate to be able to bird largely when we chose to. Driving slowly up the mountain road, we spotted a couple of *photographers* standing in the location of the recent **Whitehead's Broadbill** (*photo next page Sam Woods*) pair, and after talking with them realized the bird had been present just *minutes* earlier! Our driver, *Marian*, quickly parked the vehicle and we readied ourselves for a long vigil. While *Sam* searched further along the road, *Virginia* made light work of finding this well-blended *broadbill* sitting far off the road, quite a feat! *Sam* got back to find nervous excitement occurring as people were getting their first looks at this audacious endemic. We soon all had long scope looks, first at a male, and then a very close female that *Brian* had noticed sitting just overhead. **Checker-throated Woodpecker** was also added to the list this afternoon, making for a marquee day in the mountains. A night session was typically frustrating, with *Mountain Scops-owl* heard at some distance away and a *Bornean Frogmouth* very occasionally calling too.



If we had not been for a certain Bornean Ground-Cuckoo in Sukau, this *Whitehead's Broadbill* would likely have won the top bird of the tour vote; having been beaten comprehensively by that species.

We were very lucky to see this broadbill on three consecutive days on **Mount Kinabalu (Sam Woods)**

### Day 13 (2<sup>nd</sup> August): Mount Kinabalu.

This was arguably the quietest day for birds on the mountain for us, but we clawed some results all the same. Our slow drive up the road as dawn unfolded produced a second **Bornean (White-crowned) Forktail**, this time for everyone, that fed along the road gutter, but not much else. Around *Timpohon Gate*, there was little significant going on, aside from the odd **Blyth's Shrike-Babbler**, **Sunda Laughingthrush**, and **Indigo Flycatcher**, and so some of us decided to try our luck on the *Bukit Ular* trail, a known hangout for *partridges* in particular, and *Bornean Stubtail*, both of which we were lacking. *Brian* opted to bird the road instead, and had much better fortune, when some passing birders teamed up with him and came up with a **Fruithunter** that had been reported in the area; a species the rest of us were never to find, in spite of considerable effort in this and other known recent areas!!! On the trail, we negotiated the steep start, and then put in some effort for both *partridge* and *stubtail*, finally getting the **Bornean Stubtail** near the top end of the trail. We also put to bed two of the flycatchers that had been vexing us until now, with decent looks at first the odd, shade-dwelling **Eye-browed Jungle-Flycatcher**, and then the tiny **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**.



On the way back down the trail, a covey of **Red-breasted Partridges** were heard close, but would never emerge on to the trail. As we walked down, *Sam* caught sight of one, and so we rounded the corner hoping to cut off the rest of the covey, only to see a bright red-headed male **Crimson-headed Partridge** drop onto the trail instead! Those at the front of the eye got an eyeful, although those a little further back likely had a subpar view of this striking gamebird.

We walked the road down in pursuit of the *Fruithunter* again, with no success on that, but a stir was caused when the flight calls of a **Mountain Serpent-Eagle** were heard overhead. Those lower down the road raced up to the opening nearby, and we were all quickly watching a pair of these scarce endemics pass low over the road, a very fortunate sighting. Lower down still, a party of **Sunda Cuckooshrikes** hung around long enough for our scattered group to reassemble and all get on to them, thankfully. Late in the morning, we also sighted one of the rarer birds on the



mountain, **Pygmy (Blue) Flycatcher**. Although not an endemic, this tiny fidgety, warbler-like species is difficult across much of its range. Other of the day's highlights included more views of **Golden-naped Barbet** (*above Rob Rackliffe*), repeat looks at the same pair of **Whitehead's Broadbill**, **Bornean Green Magpie**, **Mountain Tailorbird**, **Sunda Laughingthrush**, and a late party of **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches**. Late in the afternoon, while we enjoyed a late afternoon view of the mountain from a viewpoint, a perched **Crested (Oriental) Honey-Buzzard** and **Crested Goshawk** were found by *Rob* and *Sam* respectively.

#### Day 14 (3<sup>rd</sup> August): Mount Kinabalu to Crocker Range-Tambunan.

Our final morning on the mountain was arguably one of the most successful. We started out at the top of *Jalan Power Station* (the Power Station Road that leads to *Timpohon Gate*, the highest permitted point on the mountain). While our main motivation for this location was another futile *fruithunter* check, this was quickly forgotten when some close-calling **Red-breasted Partridge** diverted our attentions. We found some positions where we could watch the slopes below, played the call and waited. Our limited viewing and *Rob's* cunning position led to largely only *Rob* getting sight of one of the *partridges* before they fell silent for some time, and it appeared that our chance had gone.

We prepared to leave, only for the **Red-breasted Partridges** (*below, Rob Rackliffe*) to suddenly start calling again extremely close, so quickly reassembled together behind the public toilet, which yielded not only better views of the surrounding slopes, but also excellent views of the *partridges* that were found to number four different birds, some of which settled in and began feeding in the open, where a series of photos were taken...



*It was not until our final morning that we we all got good looks at both of the endemic partridges on **Mount Kinabalu**. This **Red-breasted Partridge** in particular gave exceptional early morning views! (**Rob Rackliffe**).*

Not far from there a large dark shape beside the road led to exceptional views of a **Mountain Serpent-Eagle** (*photo page 3, Sam Woods*) resting in full view of the road, at length. Some further **Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatchers** were also seen, as was **Bornean Whistling-Thrush**. However, arguably our best sighting in this area was another mammal, which brought our total list to **36 mammal species**, the undeniably cute and absorbing **Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel** (*photo page 7, Rob Rackliffe*); small and with prominent frosted ear tufts, this squirrel is hard to beat!

After lunch, we bid *Kinabalu* farewell and drove into the hill forests of the *Crocker Range* near *Tambunan*. This was to be the last major site of the tour, with a late afternoon and a morning to try and find the various specialties. Our first session was nothing short of spectacular, with non-stop action, plentiful birds, and many of our avian targets involved! A resplendent sunny afternoon, plus a rare abundance of fruiting trees concentrated in one area no doubt contributed to this. The first bird to open the experience was a **Mountain Barbet** spotted by *Ian*, swiftly followed by an unusual number of **Bornean Bulbuls** actively foraging in the fruit-laden trees. Soon after, **Cinereous (Ashy) Bulbul** was also noted there. An incessantly calling *Bornean Barbet* caught our attentions, holding the position of most important bird on site, but our first tries did not find the hidden culprit. Quickly after this, our first **Black-and-crimson Oriole** was found, as was a **Blyth's Hawk-Eagle** that drifted low, and very visibly, just over the trees above us. The activity around us was frenetic, **Gray-chinned Minivets** foraged with a mixed flock that also held **Little Pied Flycatcher**, **Yellow-bellied Warbler**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone** and **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike**. The first sighting of a party of **Bornean Leafbirds** (*below, Rob Rackliffe*) produced sudden vocal appreciation for yet another spectacular green bird of the Bornean mountains (to go along with the previously seen *Whitehead's Broadbill*, *Golden-naped* and *Bornean Barbets* and *Bornean Green Magpie*). Then, finally, *Becky* put us out of our misery by spotting a **Bornean Barbet** feeding in a tree dripping with both aforementioned *bulbul* species and prominent clusters of red fruits. High up on the mountain we also took in some **Bornean Swiftlets** too, and heard the distant calls of a *Dark Hawk-Cuckoo* as darkness fell.



A frenetic opening afternoon in the *Crocker Range* saw us racking up a series of new birds quickly; *Bornean Leafbird* featured with *Bornean and Mountain Barbets*, lots of *Bornean Bulbuls* and *Blyth's Hawk-Eagle* (*Rob Rackliffe*).



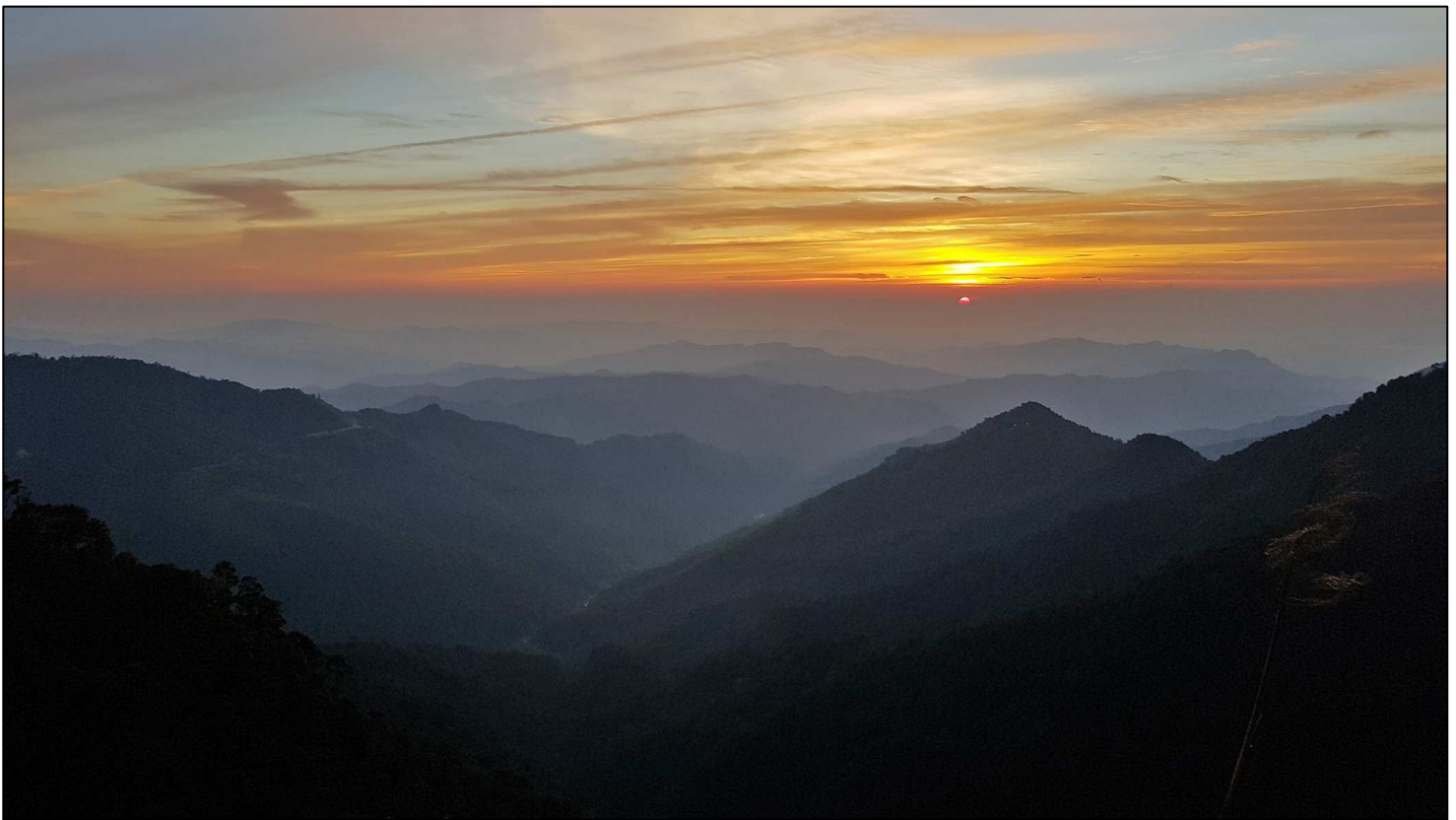
We were very fortunate with the weather on *Mount Kinabalu*, which has a weather all its own (i.e. unpredictable from one day to the next). We became very familiar with this 4-km stretch of road during our time there! (**Rob Rackliffe**)

#### Day 15 (4<sup>th</sup> August): Crocker Range-Tambunan to Lok Kawi and Kota Kinabalu.

The final day had come around, and we had felt (quietly) that the weather had been extremely kind to us. Borneo is an island under constant threat of *monsoon* weather, with all but two months of the year being affected by one monsoon or another. However, after our good run, this morning the rain came in earnest, and we appreciated more than ever our great run of birds the afternoon before in gorgeous sunshine. The weather suppressed bird activity from the day before, although we did manage another couple of **Mountain Barbets**, and a **Maroon Woodpecker**, before the situation worsened. With the weather becoming intolerable, we retreated to a nearby café on *Gunung Alab* for a coffee boost, and decided, (in light of the rain), to reverse the order we did things, instead returning to check out then, and return for more birding after that. On the way back to check out the rain eased and we found half a dozen **Gray-rumped Treeswifts** resting in a roadside dead tree, which then gave us their best views by far. After checking out of our resort in *Tambunan*, we still had a short time available to bird the slopes of the *Crocker Range* before heading back to *Kota Kinabalu* for international flights out in the evening. Following the afternoon's success the day before it was tough work to add birds, but we did manage to finally add a **Dark Hawk-Cuckoo** to the list, once *Rob* had spotted its hiding place.

Aside from that we got plenty of repeats of some of the *Tambunan* targets from the day before, like another soaring **Blyth's Hawk-Eagle**, further **Bornean Bulbuls** plundering the local fruiting trees, more gleaming green **Bornean Leafbirds**, one of the most popular local species with the group, a couple of **Gray-headed Canary-Flycatchers**, a brief **Bornean Spiderhunter**, several further **Black-and-crimson Orioles** that had been oddly absent during our time at *Kinabalu*, our one and only **White-bellied Erpornis**, and our last **Velvet-fronted Nuthatches**. However, arguably our best sighting was a cooperative **Crested Shrikejay**, a pair of which gave unusually good views as they foraged and called from a forest vine tangle. *Steffan* also got another look at a **Chestnut-backed (Sunda) Scimitar-Babbler**. Making our way back to *Kota Kinabalu*, we sorted through the group's choices for highlights of the tour, and then we found we had some extra time on our hands and so stopped in some rice paddies in *Penampang*, noting a **Black-winged (-shouldered) Kite** hunting from a roadside wire, and a bevy of **Brahminy Kites** in the air overhead, and a handful of **Wood Sandpipers** taking flight. We then finished off the tour with **Malaysian Plover** at *Lok Kawi* very near the airport.

*Some more tour participant images from Borneo ...*



*The sun sets in the endemic-rich mountains of Borneo; the endemics, and the weather, largely behaved on this tour!*  
(Becky Johnson)

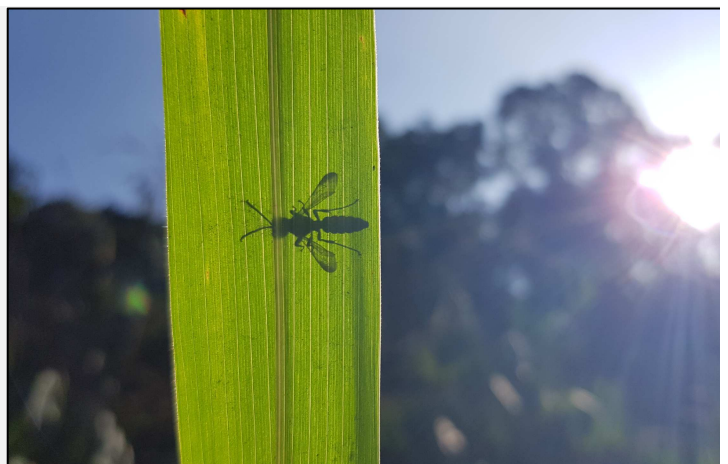
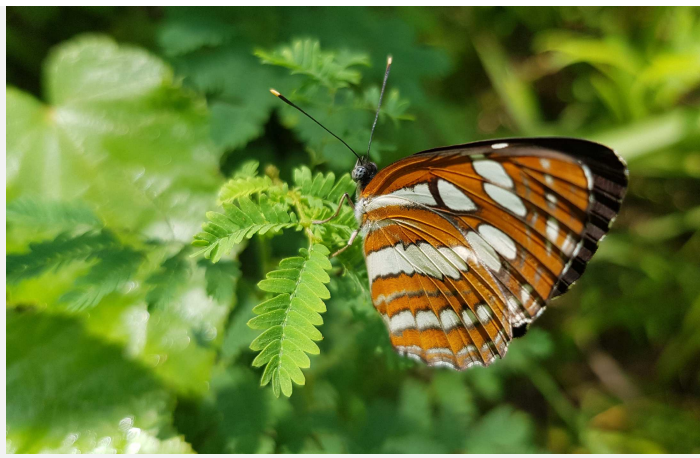


Birding the lowland forests of **Danum Valley** in eastern Sabah. Our stay at the exceptional **Borneo Rainforest Lodge** was a highlight in itself. Along with the lodge, the site gave us an extraordinary list of birds and mammals, like **Black-crowned, Blue-headed and Bornean Banded Pittas, Bornean Bristlehead, Green, Black-and-yellow, Black-and-red and Banded Broadbills, Large and Blyth's Frogmouths, Oriental Bay Owl, Banded Kingfisher, 7 species of hornbill, Western Tarsier and Bornean Orangutan!** (Becky Johnson)





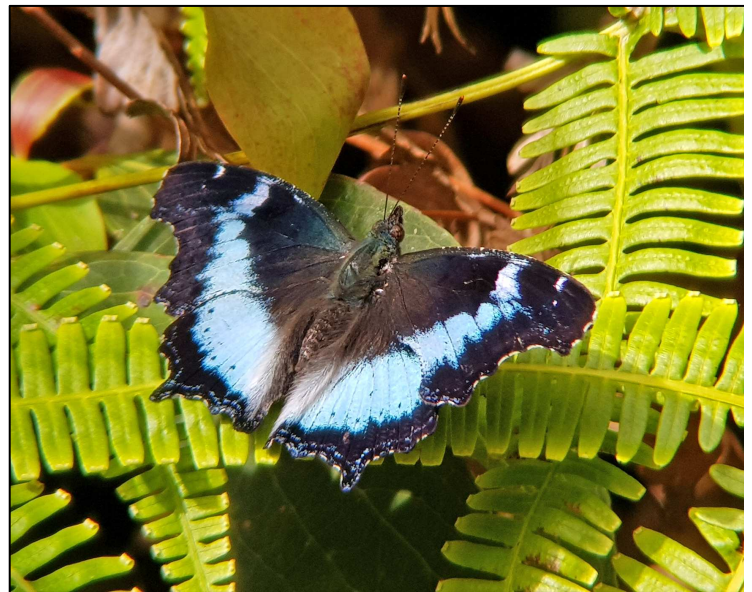
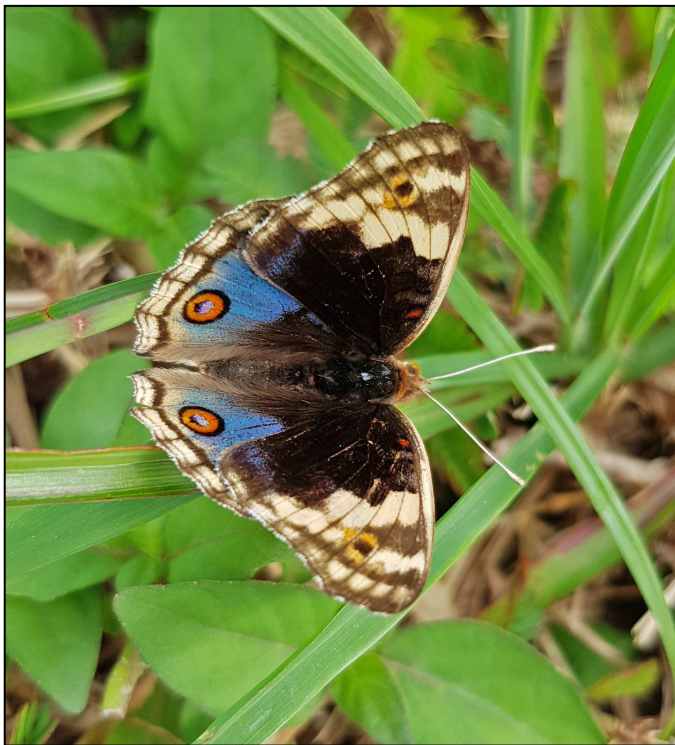
More images of the beautiful *Bornean lowland forests* in eastern Sabah from *Becky Johnson* (this and the next page).



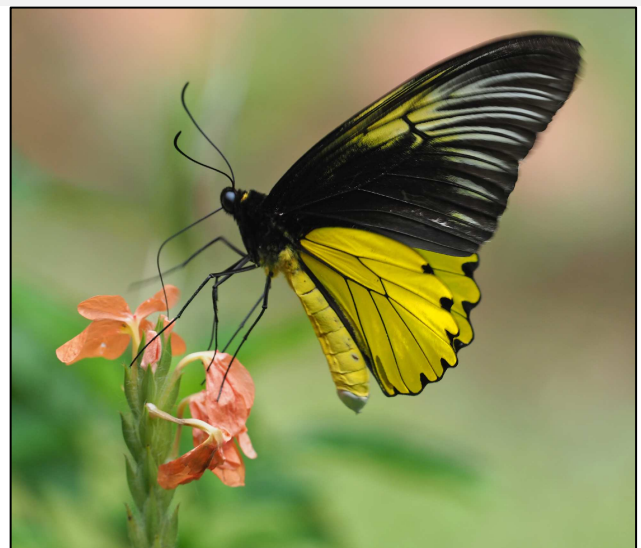
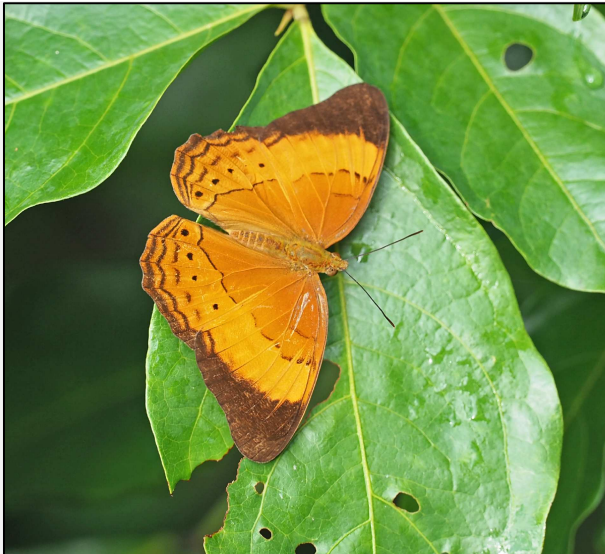




Clockwise: The full team behind *Borneo Rainforest Lodge*; and *Blue Admiral* & *Blue Pansy* butterflies (all *Becky Johnson*).



A further selection of the many beautiful *butterflies* photographed on this tour (all *Virginian Fairchild*).  
*Common Red Harlequin* (top right), *Tawny Bushbrown* (middle right), *Borneo Birdwing* (bottom right); *Malay Yeoman*  
(middle left), *Black-and-white Helen* (bottom left)



## BIRD LIST

The taxonomy of the bird list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007.

*This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2019.*

- Bornean endemic species/subspecies are indicated in **RED** and by the code **BE**.
- **(H)** Indicates a species that was HEARD only.
- **(GO)** Indicates a species that was seen by the GUIDE ONLY

TAX NOTE: As there are now multiple field guides, and multiple world lists, leading to much confusion over the taxonomy of Bornean birds, we have made notes following species where that species has been treated differently by some authors. The principal sources for this have been the IOC list, the Phillipps' Field Guide to The Birds of Borneo (Third Edition), Birds of Borneo (Second Edition) by Susan Myers, and Birds of the Indonesian Archipelago. Greater Sundas and Wallacea, by Eaton et al.

### Up to 51 endemic bird species recorded (taxonomy dependent).

#### PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

**Red-breasted (Hill) Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra* BE:** Excellent views near Timponon Gate, Mount Kinabalu. Seen well by the entire group. EATON et al. name this species **Bornean Partridge**.

**Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni* BE:** One came in close at Gomantong.

TAX NOTE: Phillipps and HBW split this as an endemic species, **Bornean Necklaced (Graydon's) Partridge *A. graydoni***.

**Great Argus *Argusianus argus*:** One male was seen at Danum, after a chase!

**Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* BE:** Seen well twice at Mount Kinabalu.

EATON et al. name this species **Bloodhead**.

**Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis* BE:** A pair were watched at length at Borneo Rainforest Lodge; seen again at Sukau.

TAX NOTE: This is frequently (e.g. HBW, Phillipps, Eaton), split as an endemic species, **Bornean Crested Fireback, *L. ignita***.

#### GREBES: Podicipedidae

**Little Grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*:** A recently established pair was seen in oil palms between Sukau and Gomantong; this was formerly only a vagrant to Borneo.

#### PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

**Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*:** Recorded sporadically on the tour in urban areas.

**Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*:** Common around Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu.

**Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana*:** Just a couple were seen at Tambunan. **Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps*:** Seen regularly at Mt. Kinabalu and Tambunan.

**Asian (Common) Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*:** Seen repeatedly at Danum, always in brief flights!

TAX NOTE: In IOC treated the same, but named **Common Emerald Dove**.

**Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*:** Seen around Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu.

**Little Green-Pigeon *Treron olax*:** A few were seen in Sukau.

**Pink-necked Pigeon *Treron vernans*:** Good numbers were seen on one day in Sukau.

**Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon *Treron fulvicollis*:** A small group flew past the Trogon Tower at Sepilok.

**Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*:** A few small groups were noted at Danum.

**Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*:** Recorded regularly at the lowland sites throughout.

**Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*:** Seen regularly on Kinabalu, where a nest was found.

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**

**Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans***: 1 showed at Gomantong.

**Dark Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx bocki***: One was seen on our final day in the Crocker Range at Tambunan.

**Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax***: A juvenile was observed being fed by a **Black-and-yellow Broadbill** at Sepilok.

**Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii***: Seen by some at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus***: Seen beside lodge at Danum.

**Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus***: Brian had unusual low-down views of a foraging bird at Danum; we also saw one from the Trogon Tower at Sepilok.

**Raffle's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus***: 7 sightings in the lowlands.

**Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris***: Seen twice at Danum Valley.

**Bornean Ground-Cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiceus* BE**: The **\*BIRD-OF-THE-TOUR\***, seen well and for a prolonged period, from our boat along the Menanggal River, near Sukau.

**Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis***: A few were seen briefly at Sepilok.

**FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae**

**Large Frogmouth *Batrachostomus auritus***: This massive frogmouth was seen well in Danum.

**Short-tailed (Bornean) Frogmouth *Batrachostomus poliophilus mixtus* BE (H)**: Heard on Mt. Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: This form is regularly (Phillipps, IOC, HBW), split off as **Bornean Frogmouth *B. mixtus***.

**Blyth's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus affinis***: A calling bird was seen well on a Danum night drive.

**SWIFTS: Apodidae**

**Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis***: Regularly present at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus***: 2 sightings, en route to Danum and Gomantong.

**Plume-toed Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta***: Regularly recorded throughout.

TAX NOTE: This is a recent, widely accepted split from Glossy Swiftlet.

**Bornean Swiftlet *Collocalia dodgei* BE**: Seen high up in the Crocker Range, and probably also on the higher reaches on Mt. Kinabalu.

**Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus salangana***: Identified on their nests at Gomantong Caves.

**Black-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus maximus***: Identified on their nests at Gomantong Caves.

**White-nest (Edible-nest) Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus***: Identified on their nests at Gomantong Caves.

**Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani***: Seen only at Penampang, near Kota Kinabalu.

**House Swift *Apus nipalensis***: Seen near Kota Kinabalu.

**Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasensis***: A few were seen near Lahad Datu.

**TREESWIFTS: Hemiprocnidae**

**Gray-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis***: Seen poorly enroute to Danum, again at Sepilok, and then best of all in Tambunan, with 5 in one tree close to the road.

**Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata***: Seen well along the road near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae**

**Eurasian (Common) Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus***: One was seen at Penampang, near Kota Kinabalu.

**Black-backed Swampen *Porphyrio indicus***: One was seen briefly in paddies near Tambunan.

**White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus***: A few scattered sightings; 1 roosting at Sukau.

**PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: Charadriidae**

**Greater Sand-Plover *Charadrius leschenaultia***: At least two birds were seen sharing a beach with Malaysian Plover at Lok Kawi.

**Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii***: A pair was seen at Lok Kawi near the airport in Kota Kinabalu, which was the last new addition of the tour.

**SANDPIPER AND ALLIES: Scolopacidae**

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***: A scattering of sightings along the Kinabatangan River in east Sabah.

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***: A handful of these waders were seen in rice paddies near Penampang.

**GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae**

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*: 1 was seen at Lok Kawi.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*: A handful from our boat en-route to Sukau.

**STORKS: Ciconiidae**

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*: This endangered species numbers under 300 adult birds worldwide. Two were seen close and photographed along the Menanggul River, near Sukau.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: 2 perched birds were seen on the journey into Sukau.

**ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: A few sightings at both Danum and Sukau.

**HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae**

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Recorded on six days of the tour, including in Sukau.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Seen regularly, particularly around Sukau.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*: Found on five days of the tour, mainly in Sukau.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: The least regularly seen of the egrets, with just a few sightings.

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra*: A dark morph bird was seen at Lok Kawi.

(Eastern) Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*: Scattered sightings throughout.

TAX NOTE: This is split by IOC as Eastern Cattle Egret *B. coromandus*.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: 1 at Sandakan and another at Lok Kawi were the only seen.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: One flew over Lahad Datu.

Rufous (Nankeen) Night-Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: A small colony was found in Lahad Datu.

TAX NOTE: Named Nankeen Night-Heron by IOC and some other authors.

**HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae**

Black-winged (shouldered) Kite *Elanus caeruleus*: 1 was seen at Penampang.

Oriental (Crested) Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: Seen 3 times in Danum Valley, and twice at Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: Named Crested Honey-buzzard by some authors (e.g. IOC).

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*: 5 birds were seen along the Kinabatangan River, near Sukau.

Mountain Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis* BE: Good flights views and an exceptional perched individual were both seen high on Mount Kinabalu.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*: Seen on 5 days, at Danum and Sukau.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*: A single nesting bird was seen standing beside its nest by an oxbow lake near Sukau. More dramatically at least 5 birds were seen successfully hunting bats as they emerged from Goamtong Caves in the late afternoon.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus limnaetus*: Recorded 4 times around Danum and Sukau.

Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus alboniger*: An adult was seen in low flight twice at Tambunan.

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nanus*: 7 sightings, at Danum and Sepilok.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*: A young bird was in flight at Danum, then a perched adult was seen along the Kinabatangan River.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*: A pair were seen in flight above Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: Recorded at Danum, Sukau and Kinabalu.

Besra *Accipiter virgatus*: Brian sighted this species a few times.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: Seen repeatedly in the Sukau area.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: Recorded 3 times in Sukau and also Danum.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*: Seen from Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Gray-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*: 1 was seen along the Tenegang River.

**BARN OWLS: Tytonidae**

Oriental Bay-Owl *Phodilus badius*: Steffan made light work of this often difficult species, by finding one during one of our three night drives at Borneo Rainforest Lodge!

**OWLS: Strigidae**

**Reddish Scops-Owl *Otus rufescens* (H):** One was heard distantly during a night walk at Sepilok.

**Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* (H):** Heard only distantly at Mount Kinabalu.

**Sunda Scops-Owl *Otus lempiji*:** 1 was seen at night at MY Nature Resort, Sepilok.

**Barred Eagle-Owl *Bubo sumatranus*:** One was found hunting insects near the Liwagu Restaurant in Mount Kinabalu. One of the most bizarre incidents on a Borneo tour ever then happened that night. While we were doing our checklist in the same restaurant, a massive shape darted into the restaurant, flying very low over the heads of the group and then, startled, came to rest on a restaurant chair, what was presumably the same *Barred Eagle-Owl*! It was later picked up and released back into the wild by one of the restaurant staff.

**Buffy Fishy-Owl *Ketupa ketupu*:** Up to 4 were seen in a night cruise at Sukau; others were seen at Danum.

**Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica* BE:** An extremely confiding bird was seen at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

TAX NOTE: Some authors (Eaton et al), suggest this be split and treated as an endemic species, **Bornean Wood-Owl**, *S.leptogrammica*.

**Brown Boobook (Hawk-Owl) *Ninox scutulata*:** A pair was heard at MY Nature Resort in Sepilok, and was eventually tracked down to a dead snag right beside the restaurant!

**TROGONS: Trogonidae**

**Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba*:** 1 was seen near the lodge at Danum.

**Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*:** 2 males were seen in Danum Valley.

**Whitehead's Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi* BE:** A pair was seen on the Silau-Silau Trail on Mt. Kinabalu. \*ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR\*

**Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*:** A glowing male was seen behind our lodge in Sukau.

**HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae**

**White-crowned Hornbill *Berenicornis comatus*:** A male was seen on our first afternoon in Sukau.

**Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*:** One passed by Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*:** This striking species was seen on 7 days, in Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

**Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*:** Recorded 5 times (Danum & Sukau).

**Black Hornbill *Anthraceros malayanus*:** Recorded on 7 days, in Danum, Sepilok, Sukau.

**Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthraceros albirostris*:** Recorded regularly around Sukau and Gomantong. At the latter site a small group were seen sallying after bats as they emerged from the cave at dusk!

**Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulates*:** Seen at all lowland sites (Danum, Sepilok, Sukau).

**Wrinkled Hornbill *Rhabdotorhinus corrugatus*:** Brian got two in Danum, and we all later caught up with this for our eight and final hornbill, in Sukau

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

**Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*:** 1 seen in Sepilok, and then seen again several times around Sukau, including a roosting bird on a night cruise.

**Rufous-backed (Oriental) Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*:** 2 different birds were seen roosting in Sepilok during our night walk there.

TAX NOTE: The various forms of **Oriental Dwarf-Kingfisher** have NOT been split under IOC, where the name remains as **Oriental Dwarf-Kingfisher**, *Ceyx erithaca*. Eaton et al. suggest the plumage of the Sabah birds (between Dark-backed and Rufous-backed) may indicate a cryptic new species, **Sabah Dwarf-Kingfisher**, *Ceyx motley*, while others suggest this is evidence of hybrids between the two forms.

**Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella melanops* BE:** 1 female was seen along a Trail at Danum.

TAX NOTE: This form has been split as **Bornean Banded Kingfisher *L. melanops*** by Phillipps, or as **Black-faced Kingfisher *L. melanops*** by HBW.

**Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*:** Seen around Danum and Sukau.

**Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*:** Good numbers seen on journey to Danum.

**Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus*:** A female showed well in Sepilok.

**BEE-EATERS: Meropidae**

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctornis amictus*: Seen once in Danum.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*: Seen at Danum, Sepilok and Sukau.

**ROLLERS: Coraciidae**

(Oriental/Common) Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: Seen repeatedly in the Sukau area.

**ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae**

**Brown Barbet** *Calorhamphus fuliginosus* BE: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, (Danum, Sepilok, Sukau).

Blue-eared (Duvaucel's ) Barbet *Psilopogon duvaucelii duvaucelii*: Seen in Danum and widely heard at all lowland sites.

**Bornean Barbet** *Psilopogon eximius* BE: 1 was seen at Tambunan.

**Red-throated Barbet** *Psilopogon mystacophanos*: Regularly heard, and seen once, at Danum.

**Golden-naped Barbet** *Psilopogon pulcherrimus* BE: Multiple good sightings on Mt. Kinabalu.

**Yellow-crowned Barbet** *Psilopogon henricii*: 1 was seen at Danum after quite some effort.

**Mountain Barbet** *Psilopogon monticola* BE: 6 birds were seen at Tambunan.

**Gold-faced Barbet (Golden-whiskered)** *Psilopogon chrysopsis* BE: 2 singles were seen at Danum.

TAX NOTE: This species is not split by others (e.g. IOC), and remains lumped as **Golden-whiskered Barbet**.

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*: 6 sightings (Danum, Sepilok, Sukau, Gomantong).

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*: A pair was seen well from the canopy walkway at Sepilok; others were seen at Sukau.

Banded Woodpecker *Picus miniaceus*: A pair was seen at the Rainforest Discovery Centre.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*: 1 along the Woodpecker Avenue at Sepilok.

Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*: Several sightings on Mt. Kinabalu.

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*: Singles at Danum and Sepilok.

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*: Observed at Danum and Sepilok.

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*: Brian got this at Kinabalu, and others at Tambunan.

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus*: One was encountered at Gomantong; another was seen in flight in the Crocker Range.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus*: A party of three birds was seen at Danum.

Gray-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus*: A male from the boat at Sukau.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*: Rob spotted a pair of them at Danum.

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

**White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet** *Microhierax latifrons* BE: The world's smallest raptor. We enjoyed 4 different sightings, 3 at Danum and another at Sukau.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: One was seen hunting bats in the late afternoon at Gomantong Caves.

**OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae**

Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*): Two pairs flew over the road at Danum.

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*: Recorded at both Sepilok and Sukau.

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*: We got great looks at Danum.

**AFRICAN & GREEN BROADBILLS: Calyptomenidae**

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*: A male was found sitting in the understory in Danum.

**Whitehead's Broadbill** *Calyptomena whiteheadi* BE: A pair was observed at length over 3 days at Mount Kinabalu. **\*ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR\***.

**ASIAN AND GRAUER'S BROADBILLS: Eurylaimidae**

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*: Seen in Sepilok, and then in Sukau.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*: A pair was seen in Danum Valley.

**Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*:** First seen around Borneo Rainforest Lodge, with further sightings on the boat trips in Sukau.

#### PITTAS: Pittidae

**Black-crowned (-headed)Pitta *Erythropitta ussheri* BE:** Seen twice at Danum Valley.

**Bornean Banded Pitta *Hydrornis schwaneri* BE:** One male came across an opening in the forests at Danum; \*ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR\*

**Blue-headed Pitta *Hydrornis baudii* BE:** It took some time to finally get good looks, but in the end we all got amazing views of a male near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*:** 1 was seen in flight at Sepilok, but our views were much better from the boat along the Menanggul River, near Sukau.

#### THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae

**Golden-bellied (Sunda) Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*:** A few were seen in Tambunan.

#### VANGAS, HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Vangidae

**Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*:** Two groups appeared along the road at Danum.

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*:** A small group was seen in the Crocker Range.

**Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*:** 3 were seen near Gomantong Caves.

**Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhoptera*:** Victoria spotted one bathing at Sepilok.

**Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velata*:** A few males gave great showings at Danum.

#### WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae

**White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*:** Recorded regularly in open areas.

#### BRISTLEHEAD: Pityriaseidae

**Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* BE:** Two parties were located at Danum Valley.

#### IORAS: Aegithinidae

**Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*:** One was seen near Sukau..

**Green Iora *Aegithina viridissima*:** Small groups were seen on two days at Sepilok.

#### CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae

**Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*:** A single female was seen in Sepilok.

**Gray-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*:** Regularly noted on Mount Kinabalu; also Tambunan.

**Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*:** A small party were seen at Sepilok.

**Sunda Cuckooshrike *Coracina larvata*:** Just the one group, on Mount Kinabalu.

**Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*:** A few were seen in the city of Lahad Datu.

**Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata*:** Found at Danum and another group at Tambunan.

#### WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae

**Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala hypoxantha* BE:** Recorded regularly at Kinabalu and Tambunan.

#### CRESTED SHRIKEJAY: Platylophidae

**Crested ShrikeJay *Platylophus galericulatus*:** A pair was seen enroute to Borneo Rainforest Lodge in Danum; seen much better on our final day near Tambunan in the Crocker Range.

TAX NOTE: This species that has long been a taxonomic mystery, has now been assigned to its own, monotypic bird family under the eBird/Clements list, **Crested Shrikejay**. This has NOT yet been adopted under the IOC list.

#### SHRIKES: Laniidae

**Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*:** One was seen between Sukau and Gomantong.



**VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS, AND ERPORNIS: Vireonidae**

**Blyth's Shrike-Babbler** *Pteruthius aeralatus*: Seen at Tambunan and also on Mt. Kinabalu.

**White-bellied Erpornis** *Erpornis zantholeuca*: A single appeared at Tambunan.

**OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae**

**Dark-throated Oriole** *Oriolus xanthonotus*: A scattering of sightings at Danum.

**Black-and-crimson Oriole** *Oriolus cruentus*: 3 were seen in the Crocker Range.

**DRONGOS: Dicruridae**

**Ashy Drongo** *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: A regularly encountered bird in the highlands.

**Bronzed Drongo** *Dicrurus aeneus*: A few were seen in Danum and later Sepilok.

**Hair-crested Drongo** *Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*: A handful were seen on Mt. Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: This endemic form has been made a full species by Eaton et al, **Bornean Spangled Drongo**.

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** *Dicrurus paradiseus*: A few were seen in Danum and Sepilok.

**FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae**

**Spotted Fantail** *Rhipidura perlata*: Seen twice at Danum.

**Malaysian Pied-Fantail** *Rhipidura javanica*: Recorded regularly in Danum and also seen sleeping on the night cruise out of Sukau.

**White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis*: Regularly encountered in Kinabalu and Tambunan.

**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae**

**Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea*: A male in the spotlight at night at Sepilok was our best view.

**Blyth's (Asian) Paradise-Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone affinis*: A recent split from *Asian Paradise-Flycatcher*. A couple of females were seen at Danum.

**CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae**

**Bornean (Short-tailed) Green-Magpie** *Cissa jefferyi* BE: A dazzling highland species, seen 3-4 times on Mount Kinabalu.

**Bornean Treepie** *Dendrocitta cinerascens* BE: Seen daily in the highlands.

**Slender-billed (Sunda) Crow** *Corvus enca compiler*: Recorded regularly in the lowlands.

**SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**

**Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica*: Several small groups were seen at Sukau.

**Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica*: One of the most regularly seen birds; recorded daily.

**FAIRY-FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae**

**Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: A few sightings at Danum, and others at Tambunan.

**NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

**Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** *Sitta frontalis*: Seen once at Danum, then again at Kinabalu and Tambunan.

**BULBULS: Pycnonotidae**

**Black-and-white Bulbul** *Brachypodius melanoleucos*: Steffan had one of the finds of the trip, a male of this rare and nomadic bulbul on the entrance road into Danum. However, unfortunately it did not reappear for all of us.

**Black-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus atriceps*: A few were seen around Danum and then at Gomantong.

**Spectacled Bulbul** *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*: Encountered regularly in the lowlands (Danum, Sepilok, Sukau).

**Bornean Bulbul** *Pycnonotus montis* BE: During a massive fruiting event, these were both abundant and regular during our time at Tambunan (double digits).

**Straw-headed Bulbul** *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*: Seen twice only, near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**Flavescent Bulbul** *Pycnonotus flavescent leucops* BE: A pair was located a little downhill from Timpohon Gate on Mount Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: Widely touted as a separate, endemic species, **Pale-faced Bulbul** *P. leucops* by many other authors (e.g. Eaton et al, Myers, Phillipps).

**(Sunda) Yellow-vented Bulbul** *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini*: Scattered sightings in open lowland areas.

**(Bornean) Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus hutzi*:** Recorded regularly at Sepilok.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al suggest that the Bornean subspecies *insularis* may deserve species status in the future.

**Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*:** Seen in Danum and Sukau.

**(Asian) Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*:** The most regularly recorded lowland bulbul.

**(Sabah) Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger viridis*:** 6 sightings in the lowlands.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al suggest that further research may yield a cryptic endemic species in North Borneo, **Sabah Hairy-backed Bulbul**.

**Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*:** Recorded daily in the highlands.

**Gray-cheeked (Guttural) Bulbul *Alophoixus bres gutturalis*:** Found in Danum, Sepilok and Gomantong.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al suggest a future species may be recognized, with the Bornean birds being split off as **Guttural Bulbul**, based on plumage and DNA differences.

**(Sabah) Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens*:** 3 sightings, Danum, Sepilok & Gomantong.

**Charlotte's (Buff-vented) Bulbul *Iole charlottae* BE:** 1 at Danum, 1 for Keith at our Sepilok resort, and another at Gomantong.

TAX NOTE: This endemic was recently widely split off (e.g. Clements and IOC) from **Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole crypta*** of mainland Southeast Asia.

**Ashy (Cinereous) Bulbul *Hemixos flavala connectens*:** Double digits were seen at Tambunan in the Crocker Range.

TAX NOTE: Many authors (e.g. IOC) split this form (shared with Malay Peninsula and Sumatra) as **Cinereous Bulbul, *H. connectans***.

There is also a proposal to split this further, as an endemic species.

#### **BUSH-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Cettiidae**

**Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi* BE:** This tiny, hard-to-hear bird, was seen on the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu.

**Yellow-bellied (Sabah Bamboo Bush) Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris schwaneri*:** 2 birds were seen well in the Crocker Range.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al suggest the distinct vocals of the Sabah birds may lead to future species status ("**Sabah Bamboo Warbler**") of this currently undescribed form. Note that this now known to be a bush warbler and not related to leaf warblers as formerly thought.

**Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*:** Run into twice at Mount Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: As not now known to be related to true tailorbirds, Eaton et al have consequently renamed it as "**Mountain Leaftoiler**".

**Sunda Bush-Warbler *Horornis vulcanius*:** Easily seen several times on Mt. Kinabalu.

#### **LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae**

**Mountain Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis*:** A common bird on Mt. Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: Some (e.g. Philllips) have suggested the distinctive plumage (much duller than other races) may suggest the *kinabaluensis* race might be a future species.

**Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*:** A daily bird for us in the highlands.

#### **CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae**

**Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*:** Seen a few times in Danum, then at Gomantong.

**Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*:** Recorded at Danum, Sepilok, Sukau and Gomantong.

**Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*:** Seen at Danum and around the lodge at Sukau.

**Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*:** Seen at Danum by day and on night drives.

#### **WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS, & ALLIES: Zosteropidae**

**Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti* BE:** A common highland species, recorded daily.

**Pygmy White-eye (Bornean Ibon/Pygmy Heleia) *Oculocincta squamifrons* BE:** A small party was seen just outside the park in Kinabalu; others were seen within our resort there.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al have reclassified this within the white-eyes under the genus *heleia*, and therefore renamed it as **Pygmy Heleia**.

**Mountain Black-eye *Chlorocharis emiliae* BE:** Two groups were seen by Timpohon Gate.

**Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapilla*:** Recorded at Mt. Kinabalu and Tambunan.

**Everett's (Hume's) White-eye *Zosterops everetti auriventer*:** A few were seen high in the trees at Gomantong.

TAX NOTE: Some authors (IOC) have split this as **Hume's White-eye, *Z. atricapilla***.

**TREE-BABLERS, SCIMITAR-BABLERS & ALLIES: Timaliidae**

**Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis bornensis*:** A few were seen in Danum.

**Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronus ptilosus*:** One was finally seen at Sepilok.

**Chestnut-winged (Bicolored) Babbler *Cyanoderma erythropterum bicolor*:** A handsome babbler seen in Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau.  
TAX NOTE: Eaton et al suggest different coloration and mtDNA results may lead to treatment of north Bornean bicolor as a separate species in the future, "Bicolored Babbler".

**Rufous-fronted Babbler *Cyanoderma rufifrons*:** One showed close up at Danum.

**Chestnut-backed (Sunda) Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus bornensis*:** 1 was seen by all at Danum, then Steffan added another sighting at Tambunan.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al have split up Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler into 2 species based on plumage, calls and habits, with the Javan population split from the rest and the latter then being named **Sunda Scimitar-Babbler, *P. bornensis***.

**Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*:** 1 showed well at Sepilok.

**Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*:** A couple were seen at Danum.

**Gray-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*:** A handful were encountered in the highlands.

**GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES: Pellorneidae**

**(Bornean) Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre cinereocapilla*:** Three were seen close up in Danum.

**Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*:** A couple of sightings were had at Danum.

**Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*:** A few were noted in Danum.

**Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*:** Recorded on at least three days in Danum.

**(Sabah) Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli*:** One was seen near Sukau.

**Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrogenys*:** At least two were seen, early on Mt. Kinabalu.

**Short-tailed Babbler *Pellorneum malaccense*:** Seen twice at Danum.

**White-chested Babbler *Pellorneum rostratum*:** This noisy babbler was seen at Danum and Sukau.

**Ferruginous Babbler *Pellorneum bicolor*:** Just one was seen, at Danum.

**Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*:** 1 performed very well at Danum, showing to all.

**Bornean (Ground) Wren-Babbler *Ptilocichla leucogrammica* BE:** Danum was again the place we got this shy babbler. Sometimes referred to as Bornean Ground Babbler.

**Horsfield's (Salvadori's Wren-) Babbler *Turdinus sepiarius*:** 1 was seen on our first morning in Danum.

**Black-throated Wren-Babbler *Turdinus atrigularis* BE:** A pair came in from far, along a trail at Danum.

**Mountain Wren-Babbler *Turdinus crassus* BE:** Two noisy groups of these endemic babblers were seen up on Mount Kinabalu.

**LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES: Leiothrichidae**

**Brown (Sunda/Bornean) Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda eriphaea*:** Recorded a handful of times in Danum.

**Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus*:** Seen daily on Mount Kinabalu.

**Bare-headed (Bornean Bald) Laughingthrush *Garrulax calvus* BE (H):** Despite much effort, and hearing them twice at distance, we never got close to finding this one.

**Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Lanthocincla treacheri* BE:** Recorded daily at both of the main highland sites visited.

**FAIRY-BLUEBIRDS: Irenidae**

**Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*:** A few brief sightings around Danum only.

**OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae**

**Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*:** 4 sightings, including sleeping birds on a night boat cruise at Sukau.

**Rufous-tailed Shama *Copsychus pyropygus* (H):** A single bird was heard at Danum.

**White-rumped (-crowned) Shama *Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii* BE:** Recorded regularly at Danum

TAX NOTE: This endemic form is often (IOC, Phillipps, Myers) split as an endemic species, **White-crowned Shama *C. stricklandii***.

**Sunda Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis caerulatus*:** Two males were seen at Danum.

Also known as *Large-billed/Long-billed Blue-Flycatcher*.

**Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*:** A few were seen around the lodge at Danum; another one was seen close to the boat at Sukau.

**Bornean Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus* BE:** A male was seen on the Hornbill Trail, Danum.

**Gray-chested Jungle-Flycatcher *Cyornis umbratilis*:** After Virginia photographed it along a trail at Danum, we all got to see the same bird on a return visit there the following day.

**Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*:** Seen in small numbers daily on Mount Kinabalu.

**Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*:** One was seen by Gomantong Caves.

**Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher *Vauriella gularis* BE:** A handful of birds on Mt. Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: As this is not a true “jungle flycatcher”, Eaton et al renamed this species as “**Bornean Shade-dweller**”.

**White-browed (Bornean) Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana* BE:** A pair was found by Ian on Mount Kinabalu.

TAX NOTE: The White-browed Shortwing complex has long been due to be split into multiple species, with varying songs and in female plumages in particular. With this future split, the Bornean form is likely to be split as an endemic species, already designated as **Bornean Shortwing *B. erthrogyna*** in Eaton et al.

**Bornean Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus borneensis* BE:** Seen each day on Mount Kinabalu.

**White-crowned (Malayan) Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultia*:** Only seen in flight by Virginia in Danum.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al refer to this form as “**Malayan Forktail**” and suggest the unnamed taxon in Sabah may be distinct.

**White-crowned (Bornean) Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis* BE:** Twice seen on Mount Kinabalu, once along the road.

TAX NOTE: Widely (IOC, Phillipps, Myers) split as an endemic, **Bornean Forktail, *E. borneensis***.

**Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus*:** Seen well once at Danum.

**Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*:** Several birds were found on Mount Kinabalu.

**Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*:** A small group was seen on Tambunan.

**Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria*:** 1 male showed along a forest trail at Danum.

#### THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae

**Fruit-hunter *Chlamydochaera jefferyi* BE:** Brian got to see a bird alongside the road, while the rest of us were walking a forest trail. In spite of much effort at multiple spots for the species we were unable to find another. The biggest frustration of the tour.

**Everett's Thrush *Zoothera everetti* BE:** One of the top sightings in the mountains was a single bird feeding beside the road in Mount Kinabalu, when we were able to watch it for ten minutes or so as it fed on the grassy verge at around 6:45am.

**Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina* (GO):** Sam saw 1 flew off the road at Mt. Kinabalu.

#### STARLINGS: Sturnidae

**Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*:** Commonly seen in lowland urban areas.

**Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*:** Multiple sightings around Sepilok; also Danum, Sukau.

**Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*:** Seen around Sepilok.

**Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*:** Numerous birds seen on various road journeys.

#### LEAFBIRDS: Chloropseidae

**Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*:** Singles featured in Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

**Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*:** More frequent than *Greater*; in Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

**Bornean Leafbird *Chloropsis kinabaluensis* BE:** This smashing bird was seen on both visits to Tambunan.

#### FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

**Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus*:** Two singles, at Danum and Sukau Rainforest Lodge.

**Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius* BE:** A handful of views in Danum were followed by others in Sepilok.

**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*:** A couple were seen in Sepilok.

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*:** Recorded several times in Danum.

**Black-sided (Bornean) Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticulum* BE:** Several good views on Mount Kinabalu; also seen at Tambunan.

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*:** A male was seen within a Sepilok resort.

#### SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae

**Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*:** This striking sunbird was seen at Danum, Sepilok, and Gomantong.

**Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*:** A single bird was seen inside the forest at Danum.

**Plain-throated (Brown-throated) Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*:** Just seen once or twice in Sepilok.

**Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaemus*:** A pair was seen on the walkway at Sepilok.

**Van Hasselt's (Purple-throated) Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana*:** Brian had one in the garden of our Sepilok resort.

**Olive-backed (Ornate) Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*:** A few were seen around Sepilok, and again in Kundasang.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al split up the populations of **Olive-backed Sunbird**, with the birds in Borneo, Peninsula Malaysia and the Greater and Lesser Sundas being renamed **Ornate Sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus***, and separated from the east Indonesian and Australasian forms.

**Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*:** Seen in small numbers daily in the highlands.

**(Eastern/Lesser) Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*:** 1 was seen en-route to Danum, and another in Sepilok.

TAX NOTE: Eaton et al state that a future split into three species may be merited with Crimson Sunbird, with birds in Borneo being classified with mainland Southeast Asian birds as "**Lesser Crimson Sunbird**".

**Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*:** *Virginia and Sam* saw one in the garden at our Sepilok resort; *Keith* had also seen one earlier at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

**Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera robusta*:** 1 was seen from the walkway at Sepilok.

**Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*:** Seen regularly around the lodges at Danum and Sepilok.

**Purple-naped Spiderhunter (Sunbird) *Arachnothera hypogrammicum*:** Seen 5 times, at Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau.

TAX NOTE: This has been renamed as a *spiderhunter* on the Clements list, but remains named *sunbird* on IOC and other lists.

**Whitehead's Spiderhunter *Arachnothera juliae* BE:** Recent news had us visiting the Hill Lodges at Mount Kinabalu, where a specific tree had been occupied by this species regularly of late. As usual though, the species is quite nomadic around the canopy, and so repeated visits were needed. On the third attempt at around 9am, this large, boldly-patterned spiderhunter flew in and remained for just a minute or so, before darting off again. Two others were heard on the mountain.

**Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*:** 1 was seen on the way into Danum; another was seen at Gomantong.

**Bornean Spiderhunter *Arachnothera everetti* BE:** Our best views came on the journey into Borneo Rainforest Lodge (Danum); others were seen around the lodge there, and at Tambunan.

#### WAGTAILS and PIPITS: Motacillidae

**Paddyfield (Oriental) Pipit *Anthus rufulus*:** Two birds were seen on the airfield at Lahad Datu.

#### OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*:** Commonly recorded in urban areas.

#### WEAVERS AND ALLIES: Ploceidae

**Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*:** This recent colonizer was seen at a nest near Sandakan.

#### WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae

**Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans* BE:** The most widespread endemic, recorded on 10 days of the tour.

**Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*:** A few were seen enroute to Danum.

**Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*:** Noted at a couple of places, with most seen on the outskirts of Kota Kinabalu.

## MAMMAL LIST

The taxonomy of the mammal list follows: Philipps, Quentin, and Philipps Karen. *Philipps Field Guide to Mammals of Borneo and their Ecology. Second Edition*. Princeton University Press, 2016.

36 species seen.

### MEGABATS: Pteropodidae

**Large Flying Fox** *Pteropus vampyrus*: The world's largest bat; this enormous fruit bat was seen circling above our resort in Sepilok.

### HORSESHOE BATS: Rhinolophidae

**Trefoil Horseshoe Bat** *Rhinolophus trifoliatus*: A bat photographed at Danum at night was thought to be this species.

**Acuminate Horseshoe Bat** *Rhinolophus acuminatus*: A few clusters of these bats were seen inside Gomantong Cave.

### FREE-TAILED BATS: Molossidae

**Wrinkle-lipped (Free-tailed) Bat** *Tadarida plicata*: Thousands were huddled inside Gomantong Caves, and later emerged as prey items for the local, awaiting raptors. **Bat Hawks, Peregrine Falcon, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle**, and even a party of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** were all observed actively hunting them as they emerged at around 5:30pm.

### TREESHREWS: Tupaiidae

**Mountain Treeshrew** *Tupaia Montana* BE: Scattered sightings up on Mount Kinabalu.

### COLUGOS: Cynocephalae

**Bornean Colugo** *Galeopterus borneanus* BE: A tourist pointed out this sac resting during the daytime at our Sukau lodge.

### TARSIERS: Tarsidae

**Western Tarsier** *Cephalopachus bancanus*: One of the mammalian highlights; seen on two consecutive night drives near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

### OLD WORLD MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae

**Red Langur** *Presbytis rubicunda* BE: Also known as *Red Leaf-monkey*. Seen at Danum and again at Gomantong Caves.

**Silvered Langur** *Trachypithecus cristatus*: Scattered sightings during our stay at Sukau.

**Proboscis Monkey** *Nasalis larvatus* BE: Hundreds were seen of these abundant primates at Sukau, with a number of pot-bellied, erect-penis males in the mix!

**Long-tailed Macaque** *Macaca fascicularis*: Also known as *Crab-eating Macaque*. The most abundant Sabah primate, seen many times in the lowlands.

**Pig-tailed Macaque** *Macaca nemestrina*: Particularly conspicuous at Sepilok, where the local fruiting trees had presumably brought up the numbers there. Hundreds were seen, including several aggressive males, which we gave a wide berth.

### GIBBONS: Hylobatidae

**North Borneo Gibbon** *Hylobates funereus* BE: Seen twice at Danum, including from the lodge.

### GREAT APES: Hominidae

**Bornean Orangutan** *Pongo pygmaeus* BE: Recorded on at least five days of the tour, in Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau. Voted as the **\*BEST NON-BIRD OF THE TOUR.\***

### SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae

**Prevost's Squirrel** *Callosciurus prevostii*: Encountered regularly in the lowlands.

**Horse-tailed Squirrel** *Sundasciurus hippurus*: One was seen from the boat at Sukau.

**Brooke's Squirrel** *Sundasciurus brookei* BE: A few were seen on Mount Kinabalu.

**Jentink's Squirrel** *Sundasciurus jentinki* BE: Regularly on Mount Kinabalu and in Tambunan.

**Plantain Squirrel** *Callosciurus notanus*: One on the way to Danum, another at Sukau and Gomantong.

**Bornean Black-banded Squirrel** *Callosciurus orestes* BE: A few were seen at Mount Kinabalu.

**Bornean Pigmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis* BE:** Also known as *Plain Pigmy Squirrel*. This ridiculously small squirrel was seen at Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau.

**Whitehead's Pigmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi* BE:** This smashing tufted squirrel was seen high up on Mount Kinabalu, and was our final new mammal of the tour.

**Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis*:** Seen at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Sepilok, and also in Mt. Kinabalu.

**Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti* BE:** Daily on Mount Kinabalu.

#### FLYING SQUIRRELS: Petauristinae

**Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi* BE:** A single was on a night drive at Danum.

**Black Flying Squirrel *Aeromys tephromelas*:** One shared a tree with the species above, on a night drive at Danum.

**Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista*:** A few glided impressively from their nest boxes beside the canopy walkway at Sepilok's Rainforest Discovery Centre.

#### RATS: Muridae

**Müller's Rat *Sundamys muelleri*:** 1 was seen inside the bat cave at Gomantong.

**Polynesian Rat *Rattus exulans*:** A rat photographed by *Virginia* on Mount Kinabalu was most likely this species.

#### MARTENS, WEASELS, OTTERS, and BADGERS: Mustelidae

**Bornean Striped Palm Civet *Arctogalidia stigmatica* BE:** A pair of these endemic civets were seen on our night cruise out of Sukau.

**Island Palm Civet *Paradoxurus philippinensis*:** A popular pair was seen in MY Nature Resort, Sepilok, on a night that also produced Sunda Scops-Owl and Brown Boobook.

**Small-clawed Otter *Aonyx cinereus*:** Ian saw one from the lodge in Danum, a fortunate sight!

#### ELEPHANTS: Elephantidae

**Bornean Pigmy Elephant *Elephas maximus borneensis*:** The edge of the herd was encountered as we were in our canoe riding back to the lodge in Sukau. The final piece of the "Borneo Big Five" on the tour (along with hornbills, Proboscis Monkey, orangutan, crocodile).

#### WILD PIGS: Suidae

**Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*:** Seen a few times near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

#### MOUSEDEER: Tragulidae

**Lesser Mousedeer *Tragulus kanchil*:** Two were seen foraging along the banks of the Menanggul River one morning near Sukau.

#### DEER: Cervidae

**Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor*:** Seen several times around the lodge at Danum.

**OTHER WILDLIFE LIST**

Thanks to *Virginia Fairchild* for considerable help in identifying many of these below, after the tour from photos taken while in Borneo!

**Butterflies and Moths:**

Asian Magpie Moth *Nyctemera baulus*  
*Nyctemera kinibalina*  
*Psilogamma discistriga*  
 Giant Uraniid Moth *Lyssa Menoetius*  
*Dysphania transductal*  
*Asota kinabaluensis*  
 Brown-striped Semilooper *Mocis undata*  
 Rajah Brooke's Birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana*  
 Kinabalu (Borneo) Birdwing *Troides andromache*  
 Common Birdwing *Troides Helena*  
 Common Mormon *Menelaides polytes*  
 Common Tiger *Danaus genutia*  
 Graceful Faun *Faunis gracilis*  
 Bright Red Velvet Bob *Koruthaialos sindu*  
 Common Red Harlequin *Paralaxita telesia*  
 Common Dartlet *Oriens gola*  
 Glorious Begum *Agatasa calydonia*  
 Plains Cupid *Chilades pandava*  
 Dark Cornelian *Deudorix epijarbas*  
 Lesser Grass Blue *Zizina Otis*  
 Tiny Grass Blue *Zizula hylax*  
 Lance Sergeant *Athyma pravara*  
 Rustic *Cupha erymanthis*  
 Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber*  
 Great Eggfly *Hypolimnas bolina*  
 Smaller Woodnymph *Ideopsis gaura*  
 Tawny Bushbrown *Mycalesis anapita*  
 Short Banded Sailer *Neptis leucoporus*  
 Clipper *Parthenos Sylvia*  
 Royal Assyrian *Terinos terpander*  
 Common Five-ring *Ypthima baldus*  
 Common Three Ringed *Ypthima pandocus*  
 Yellow Helen *Papilio nephelus*  
 Black-and-White Helen *Papilio nephelus sunatus*  
 Striped Albatross *Appias libythea*  
 Large Grass-yellow *Eurema hecabe*  
 Vagrant *Vagrans egista*  
 Tree Nymph *Idea stollii*  
 Blue Admiral *Kaniska canace*  
 Blue Pansy *Junonia orithya*  
 Grey Pansy *Junonia atlites*  
 Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita*  
 Yellow Archduke *Lexias canescens*  
 Malayan Sunbeam *Curetis santana ssp. Malayica*  
 Small Leopard *Phalanta alcippe*



Malay Yeoman *Cirrochroa emalea*  
Silver Forget-Me-Not *Catochrysops panormus*  
Dusky Partwing *Psolos fuligo*  
*Hasora mavis*  
Spotted Judy *Abisara geza*

Dragonflies:

Chalky Percher *Diplacodes trivialis*  
Straight-edged Red Parasol Dragonfly *Neurothemis terminata*  
Blue Marsh Hawk *Orthetrum glaucum*  
*Orthetrum testaceum*

Other Insects:

Tiger Leech *Haemadipsa picta*  
Brown Leech *Haemadipsa zeylanica*  
Cave (Long-legged) Centipede *Thereuopoda longicornis*  
Cockroach sp.  
Giant Pill Millipede  
Giant Forest Ant *Camponotus gigas*  
*Gasteracantha mengei*  
Giant Woodspider *Camponotus gigas*  
Cricket sp. *Nisitrus vittatus*  
Cricket sp. *Nisitrus musicus*  
Lantern Bug 1 *Pyrops sultana*  
Lantern Bug 2 *Pyrops whiteheadi*

Reptiles:

Wagler's Keeled Green Pit Viper *Tropidolaemus wagleri*  
Garden (Paradise) Flying Snake *Chrysopelea paradise*  
Oriental (Green) Vine Snake *Ahaetulla prasina*  
Crested Green Lizard *Bronchocela cristatella*  
Common Flying Lizard *Draco sumatranus*  
Rough Mabuya *Eutropis rudis*  
Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*  
Flat-tailed House Gecko *Hemidactylus platyurus*  
Filly Forest Gecko *Hemidactylus craspedotus*  
Tockay Gecko *Gekko gekko*  
Borneo Dasia *Dasia vittata*  
Blue-throated Forest Skink *Sphenomorphus cyanolaemus*  
Southern Water Monitor *Varanus salvator macromaculatus*  
Southeast Asian Box Turtle *Cuora amboinensis*  
Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*

Amphibians:

Wallace's Flying Frog *Rhacophorus nigropalmatus*  
Common Green Frog *Hylarana erythraea*  
File-eared Tree Frog *Polypedates otitophus*  
Rough-Armed Tree Frog *Kurixalus appendiculatus*

Fungi:

*Amauroderma sp.*

*Microporus affinis*

*Calocera cornea*

*Pycnoporus sanguineus*

Fan-shaped Jelly-Fungus *Dacryopinax spathularia*

Assorted plants and trees:

Chinese Hibiscus *Hibiscus rosa-sinensis*

Beach Spider Lily *Hymenocallis littoralis*

*Heliconia psittacorum*

Butterfly Ginger *Hedychium cylindricum*

White Leadtree *Leucaena leucocephala*

Giant Sensitive Tree *Mimosa pigra*

Malabar Melastome *Melastoma malabathricum*

Koster's Curse *Clidemia hirta*

Indonesian Gum (Rainbow eucalyptus) *Eucalyptus deglupta*

Old World Forked Fern *Dicranopteris linearis*

Birdsnest Fern *Asplenium nidus*

Orchid species *Nephelaphyllum pulchrum*

*Rubus fraxinifolius*

Mangosteen *Garcinia mangostana*

*Medinilla speciosa*

*Medinilla crassifolia*

*Plectranthus monostachyus*

*Nymphoides sp.*

Screwpine sp. *Pandanus sp.*