



A [Tropical Birding](#) SET DEPARTURE tour

## **BORNEO: Broadbills and Bristleheads**

June 21- July 1, 2015

### **Highlands Extension**

June 1-6, 2015

**Tour leader: Scott Watson**

*Report and photos by Scott Watson*



One of the classiest looking birds in the world, the Whiskered Treeswift

## Introduction

It is safe to say that this year's Borneo tour was a complete success, with **287 birds** recorded, including a stellar **44 endemics**. Add to this a cool **27 mammal species** plus a plethora of weird and wacky reptiles, insects, and flowers, this tour really caters to those with an interest in rare, endemic lifeforms!

There were numerous highlights during this 16 day tour, in fact too many to list here. A real stunner was seeing a pair of the ultra-rare and shy endemic BULWER'S PHEASANTS in the dense forest of Danum Valley! A bird seen by relatively few birders. A morning along the Kinabatangan River heated up when we found 9 different, critically endangered, STORM'S STORK of which 6 were circling in the air above us at once! How about seeing the Whitehead's trio during the extension (Trogon, Broadbill, and Spiderhunter), or seeing all 8 possible Hornbills, including the giant HELMETED HORNBILL. We also found 9 species of Barbets including all the endemics, and we recorded 5 species of Pittas, with stunning views of the beautiful BLUE-HEADED PITTA. Birds were not the only highlights though, with our multiple encounters with BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANTS being simply ridiculous, and watching one frolicking and playing with a log in the river was just out of line! We watched as 4 million Wrinkle-lipped Bats exited a cave while BAT HAWKS picked of their numerous winged appetizers. Our encounters with the wild and wonderful ORANGUTAN were numerous and memorable, as were the comical PROBOSCIS MONKEY. All of these encounters are great, but if you also add the exceptionally friendly local guides and drivers, the world class accommodation and service, and the mouth-watering food, you can be sure that this tour will be a crowd pleaser, as it did for yet another year with Tropical Birding.



The beautiful Mount Kinabalu brimming with Bornean endemics.

**Itinerary****June 21 Arrival Kota Kinabalu****June 22 Fly to Sandakan transfer to Sepilok****June 23 Sepilok to Sukau Rainforest Lodge****June 24 Sukau Rainforest Lodge****June 25 Sukau Rainforest Lodge****June 26 Kinabatangan River to Danum Valley****June 27 Danum Valley****June 28 Danum Valley****June 29 Danum Valley****June 30 Danum Valley fly to Kota Kinabalu****July 1 Tambunan to Mount Kinabalu****July 2 Mount Kinabalu****July 3 Mount Kinabalu****July 4 Poring Hot Springs and Mount Kinabalu****July 5 Tambunan and Mount Kinabalu****July 6 Mount Kinabalu to Kota Kinabalu departure****June 21**

This tour lines up with the preceding Peninsular Malaysia set departure tour (see trip report) and on this arrival day part of the group and myself (the guide) had a late arrival into the coastal city of Kota Kinabalu. The other part of the group did a little birding however, and they did very well by visiting a nearby offshore island and finding the range restricted TABON SCRUBFOWL.

**June 22**

We made it to the airport for our very scenic mid-morning flight to Sandakan. Amazingly the seaside runway in Kota Kinabalu had the trips only LITTLE TERNS as well as a few ORIENTAL PIPITS. A quick stop to the north in Kudat gave us our only COLLARED KINGFISHER of the tour. On arrival in Sandakan (now on the east side of the state of Sabah) we were met by our nice lodge transport and whisked away to our 5 star Sepilok resort, just in time for lunch. During our delicious lunch one of the lodge staff found a nearby BORNEAN PARADISE GLIDING-SNAKE in a tree, This beautiful snake stuck around for a while for everyone to see, and was our first example of the numerous lifeforms which have evolved

with the ability to glide on this mystical island. Back to our pond side table we watched both SILVER-RUMPED NEEDLETAILS and GLOSSY SWIFTELETS circling above the water. After lunch we waited out the heat of the day then went to the beautiful rainforest canopy walkway of the Rainforest Discovery Center. This walkway, 60 feet into the trees winds through a very nice patch of tropical rainforest. One of the first birds we saw here was a small flock of THICK-BILLED PIGEONS winding through the trees. Next was a very wet CHESNUT-BREASTED MALKOHA perched atop a tree trying to dry itself off after the afternoon rain. We started off strong with one of my favorite bird families in the world, the cartoonish Broadbills, an Asian specialty. Here we enjoyed great looks at both BLACK-AND-RED, and the wild BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILLS, the latter sitting nicely for us to enjoy great scope views. Moving along the canopy walkway we hit some very quiet periods but interlaced with some minor flock activity with BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKES, GREEN IORAS, MALAYSIAN PIED-FANTAILS, and ASHY TAILORBIRD being the common members. Some grunting calls in the canopy lead us to our first BLACK HORNBILL, while high-pitched feathery blobs shooting over us were the restless BLUE-CROWNED HANGING-PARROTS, a bird which is very hard to see perched. Bulbul activity was decent up in the canopy and we saw 6 quality species; GRAY-BELLIED, YELLOW-VENTED, CREAM-VENTED, RED-EYED, SPECTACLED, and the uncommon STREAKED BULBUL. After our first GREATER GREEN LEAFBIRD it was now time to head back, but not before getting in your face views of a stunning male VAN HASSELT'S SUNBIRD feeding on flowers bordering the walkway. It was now time to head for dinner to reflect on the great we had while eating some delicious Malaysian dishes. After dinner we headed out owling where we had success in finding an eventually cooperative BROWN BOOBOOK right outside our bungalows.



The cartoonish looking Black-and-Red Broadbill is common around Sepilok.

### June 23

This morning we met up with Azwan, our local guide from our next destination, Sukau Rainforest Lodge, but first we will bird the morning shift at the rainforest discovery center. Although before we could leave our breakfast table we enjoyed awesome views of 2 GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFTS drinking on the wing as they dove down to the lodge pond. Ok, off we go, this time we started on the entrance road and again Pigeons were our first birds, both GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON and

the stunning PINK-NECKED PIGEON perched up on dead snags in the early morning light, along with a calling PLAINTIVE CUCKOO. In a nearby tree our first tiny GRAY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER came in just as a couple LONG-TAILED PARAKEETS flew over followed by a perched OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL. From the open road we moved into the forest proper, with our first encounter being a small mixed flock headed off with a few PUFF-BACKED BULBULS, a small flock of FIERY MINIVETS, our only WHITE-BELLIED ERPORNIS of the tour, a pair of BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILLS, and a pair of the hulking GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGOS. Some activity lower down turned out to be a few CHESTNUT-WINGED BABBLERS, and eventually a FLUFFY-BACKED TIT-BABBLER emerged, as did a pair of WHITE-CHESTED BABBLERS. Some nearby loud knocking put us on the chase until we found the culprit, 2 huge WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKERS, which by chance lead us to a fruiting tree which held 3 Barbet species; RED-THROATED, BLUE-EARED, and the endemic BROWN BARBET. From here we tried our luck along the canopy walkway again, seeing both RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE and WALLACE'S HAWK-EAGLE along the way. Again the walkway was a little quiet, with no response from the target Bristlehead, but we did find a very obliging RED-BILLED MALKOHA (our only one for the tour), and a pair of BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILLS.



**Red-billed Malkoha and Red-naped Trogon were highlights this morning at Sepilok.**

A final scan for Bristlehead in the tower of the same name came up empty handed except for a surprise CINNAMON-HEADED PIGEON which would have to do for now. With the canopy now heating up late in the morning we decided to get back into the shaded forest floor, and again had some great luck down here. RED-NAPED TROGON was a highlight, as was a pair of BLACK-CAPPED BABBLERS, also BANDED, MAROON, and the tricky OLIVE-BACKED WOODPECKERS. Some mournful cries had us on the trail of a great bird buried deep in a thick stand of bamboo along a creek. It took some time off-trail before Azwan got us onto a striking RUFIOUS-COLLARED KINGFISHER, a real stunner of a bird! We even had some interesting Squirrel activity, finding one of the world's largest in COMMON GIANT SQUIRREL and a neat encounter with one of the world's smallest species, the diminutive PLAIN PYGMY SQUIRREL which we watch feeding on sap it harvested by scraping off a thin layer of bark.

By now it was very hot and time to head back to the lodge to grab some lunch, and pack up our things to get to our next destination. Within an hour we were on a nice twin-outboard boat charging up the Kinabatangan River with thick forest on either side. BRAHMINY KITES were abundant, and we saw one GREAT-CRESTED TERN. We also made stops to check out a large SALTWATER CROCODILE resting on the river bank, and our first troop of curious looking PROBOSCIS MONKEYS with their huge protruding stomachs, and the males with their curiously large noses. However the best stop was when we found a herd of the rare BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANTS feeding on the riverside grasses. We could hear the whole herd but saw about ten individuals feeding in plain view. A real rewarding experience. Finally we

made it to the award winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge, our home for the next 3 nights. With enough time to drop off our stuff we were in one of the lodges many small boats to begin our birding here. All birding is done by boats with very quiet electric motors, and are small enough to get up even the smallest of channels. This is very enjoyable, and easy birding where zero walking is needed in this very hot and humid climate. Two of the first birds we saw on the river were the huge STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER and the tiny BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER, both common and stunning species. We weaved our way into a small tributary off of the main river and we had the water all to ourselves. A MALAYSIAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER gave great views, so did a WHITE-CROWNED SHAMA. After viewing a few more Proboscis Monkeys, and a troop of LONG-TAILED MACAQUES we started to track down the many Pittas that were calling. Our expert driver wedged the boat into a small inlet and after some time we saw a brightly colored ball of feathers bounding towards us, finally perching on a small branch 2 feet off the ground, it was a stunning HOODED PITTA! With this baby in the bag we headed back for dinner. Soon after dinner we were back in the boat to try our hands at some spotlighting. There is definitely an eerie feeling about being on the river at night in a small boat with Crocodile eyes shining in the spotlight, and indeed we saw some huge Crocs. The highlight of the night was a beautiful BUFFY FISH-OWL hunting near the lodge, but we also found a roosting WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN, and more Stork-billed Kingfishers. This marked the end of a very long and successful day.



**This was just our first of many incredible encounters with Bornean Pygmy Elephants.**

**June 24**

After a great breakfast on the balcony overlooking the Kinabatangan River we hopped back into our boat and made our way back to the same tributary as yesterday afternoon, this time for the morning shift of birds, and what a shift it was! The first bird of the morning was flying high above us over the river, the strange BAT HAWK, but our attention quickly shifted when a family group of DUSKY BROADBILLS showed themselves in a dead tree on the riverbank. These comical looking birds are stunning, yet still the most drab member of the family. Constant Partridge song had us wedge the boat into the river bank and after a bit of coaxing we amazingly had views of a stellar CHESTNUT-NECKLACED PARTRIDGE singing its head off. A small bird perched high on a dead snag turned out to be the tiny, endemic WHITE-FRONTED FALCONET, one of the world's smallest Falcons. A COMMON IORA showed itself nicely and further up stream we had a great male DARK-THROATED ORIOLE. As the river got narrower the invasive Water Hyacinth got thicker, choking off the waterway, until we had to push our way through. This introduced plant is becoming a serious problem for the health of numerous river systems in Asia. After hearing lots we finally managed good looks at a pair of BOLD-STRIPED TIT-BABBLERS which was followed by a surprise RUDDY KINGFISHER, an amazing Kingfisher found by our local guide Azwan. After stunning looks at a SCARLET-RUMPED TROGON, a perched SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO-CUCKOO, a vibrant CRIMSON SUNBIRD, and a regal looking LESSER FISH-EAGLE hunting for fish we had to turn back around with the day heating up. We watched a comical group of PIG-TAILED MACAQUES crossing one of the man-made "monkey bridges" in awe as they played and wrestled with one another. But soon after this a movement high in a tree caught my attention, I put my bins up and saw the big red head, BORNEAN BRISTLEHEAD!! We followed this bird and eventually we saw 6 birds, which is a normal sized family group. This is a truly unique endemic species, and is the only member of this strange family. This was also a big relief having already missed it in Sepilok, and it being probably the most wanted species birders want in Borneo, what it being an endemic family and all! Elated we made our way back to the resort to rest during the heat of the day and enjoy a delicious lunch.



Awesome sightings this morning; Bornean Bristlehead, Proboscis Monkey, and Lesser Fish-Eagle.

Back in the boat in the afternoon and we birded the main River, making it easier for seeing fly-overs and perched birds. This tactic worked well with both BLACK EAGLE and CRESTED GOSHAWK flying over. Next we visited a GLOSSY SWIFTLET nesting colony under a limestone ledge over the river, a truly amazing sight. Soon after we came upon an oddly shaped log floating in the river, except we soon realized this wasn't a log at all, logs don't have trunks! A massive head rose up and we were face to face with a BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANT playing with a log in the river, A fun 30 minutes was had watching this huge mammal thoroughly enjoying itself. After this show some movement in the canopy across the river turned out to be our first ORANGUTANS feeding in a fig tree! How excited we were to see these famous Great Apes, and a mother and young at that! Again we spent nearly 20 minutes with these wonderful mammals, and it is easy to see how they were called "the wild man of the forest". These are the most arboreal of the Great Apes with extremely long limbs for climbing with ease. Next came the Hornbills, and we saw an incredible 6 species in a span of a couple hours. First the common ORIENTAL PIED-HORNILLS, and BLACK HORNILLS put on a show, soon followed by a couple BUSHY-CRESTED'S. The incredibly odd and prehistoric looking RHINOCEROUS HORNILLS are common here, and we had awesome views of many, easily making it one of the best birds of the trip. From here we got into the uncommon species, starting off strong with a pair of colorful WRINKLED HORNILLS perch and then flying right over us in late afternoon light, then the funky-looking WHITE-CROWNED HORNILLS came out, and they came out in numbers, seeing at least 12 of these very cool birds. The sun was now setting, the rain was rolling in, and we were all very happy, time to hit the bar!!



**You couldn't ask for a better experience with this gentle giant on the Kinabatangan River.**



**June 25**

Back in the boat this morning we headed down river with the first bird being a perched CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE glaring back at us in the early morning light. Our attention soon shifted to a large bird perched atop a distant tree. Through the fog we made out the awesome sight of the critically endangered STORM'S STORK! This rare sighting was not to be our last of this mega bird! Amazingly the activity never really picked up this morning, but we still found some good species. A pair of the endemic subspecies of BLACK MAGPIE came in, and down another channel we found the staked out GRAY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE, a pair of RUFIOUS WOODPECKERS, a single BUFF-RUMPED WOODPECKER, as well as a beautiful MANGROVE SNAKE resting in a low tree. On our way back two large soaring birds turned out to be more STORM'S STORKS, then further along a further 6 Storks were putting on an aerial display. You wouldn't think that there were less than 1000 of these birds left! Back at the lodge we birded the short loop trail before lunch and found a few nice birds including; RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD, GRAY-CHEEKED BULBUL, and best being a LITTLE BRONZE-CUCKOO.



**Hornbills of Sukau (clockwise from top left); Oriental-Pied, Wrinkled, White-crowned, and Rhinoceros.**

After lunch we took a boat to the nearby jetty for the short 30 minute trip over land to the famous Gomantong Caves, made famous by Sir David Attenborough in his BBC mega-series. These caves are very important economically because they are home to thousands of White-nest (or Edible-nest) Swiftlets, whose saliva-based nests are harvested to produce the very valuable Chinese edible-nest soup, a luxury item which goes for top dollar and has been harvested here for hundreds of years. The real prize for birders here is that there are 3 different species of Swiftlets here inside the

cave, which are amazingly best identified by their nest makeup, with the birds themselves being nearly identical in the field. Once in the cave itself it is a sensory overload, a huge pile of bird and bat guano (from the Swiftlets and the millions of WRINKLE-LIPPED BATS) emits a pungent odor and is also the base for all life within the cave. A blanket of cockroaches cover the ground and walls with huge CAVE CENTIPEDES mixed in. With the aid of a powerful flashlight we could start identifying Swiftlet nests. The MOSSY-NEST SWIFTLETS obviously have the easy to identify mossy nests, while the BLACK-NEST SWIFTLETS have a part saliva part feather and plant matter mix, making for a dark non-mossy appearance, while the clean white pure saliva nests of the WHITE-NEST SWIFTLET is easy to identify. These echo locating Swift species are truly incredible living in such tight quarters in the darkness. Eventually we came out of the cave, wiped off the droppings and began birding in the fresh air.



**Black-nest Swiftlets with their cockroach neighbors, and a Bat Hawk hunting Wrinkle-lipped Bats.**

The trail leading to the cave was particularly birdy and we saw some great species. Best was a nice RUFIOUS-BACKED DWARF-KINGFISHER, but also a simply stunning RUFIOUS-CHESTED FLYCATCHER quickly followed by a LONG-BILLED BLUE-FLYCATCHER. After much effort we only managed fleeting views of the endemic BLACK-HEADED PITTA. We also had our only views of SPOTTED FANTAIL on this trail, and a lot of understory activity lead to; CHESTNUT-RUMPED, MOUSTACHED, SOOTY-CAPPED, SCALY-CROWNED, and a great HORSFIELD'S BABBLER. Now with the sun setting it was time to take our position atop a small hill to view the millions of Wrinkle-lipped Bats exiting the cave for their nightly quest for food. Now this is where the action starts, for waiting just outside the cave are BAT HAWKS, WALLACE'S HAWK-EAGLES, and even a RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE looking for their evening meal. We watched as this apex aerial predators snatched up their tiny prey. This is all done in a red and orange evening sky, with a troop of gaudy MAROON LANGURS looking on. Sadly it was time to leave this magical place and make our way back to Sukau for the night.



**The Blue-eared Kingfisher and Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher give a lesson in the color blue.**

**June 26**

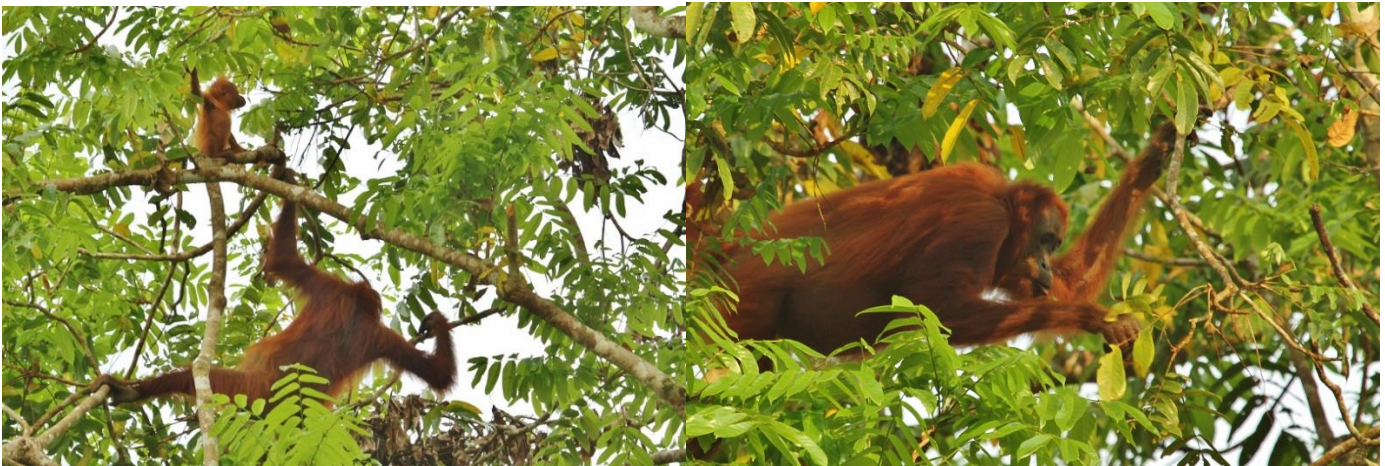
This morning we took the early boat transfer to the jetty to meet our driver for the long journey south, in a comfortable van, to the famous Danum Valley and our 5-star Borneo Rainforest Resort, which will be home for the next 4 nights. We did however make a couple stops along the way through the forest. The first stop gave us our best looks at the endemic WHITE-FRONTED FALCONET. Another stop had us eye to eye with my favorite bird in the world, the sleek, sexy, and totally awesome WHISKERED TREESWIFT, and then the endemic BORNEAN SPIDERHUNTER feeding on nearby flowers. We then arrived at the resort, had a world class lunch plus we found the endemic YELLOW-RUMPED FLOWERPECKER, and BLUE-CHEEKED BEE-EATERS from our lunch table! Then we met our local lodge guide Azwel before taking a couple hours off to wait out the stifling heat, where a GREAT-BILLED HERON made an appearance on the river surrounding the lodge.



Some great birds seen this morning; the super-sleek Whiskered Treeswift (top), the tiny endemic White-fronted Falconet, and the outlandish Black-and-yellow Broadbill.

Donning our leech socks we hit the trails in the ultra-diverse Danum Valley, starting off along the river where a STRAW-HEADED BULBUL came in to the riverside vegetation, and then heated up with another mother and young ORANGUTAN feeding in a fruiting tree not far from our rooms. There are many lodge guides here and all are in radio contact with one another, so if something gets seen everyone can know where to go, this is what got us onto these wonderful Apes. Next we tracked down the endemic subspecies of CRESTED FIREBACK which are regular along certain lodge trails, and we enjoyed prolonged views of these funky looking birds. Finally we spent quite a bit of time near a large fruiting fig tree, where after some effort we managed great scope views of the now endemic GOLD-FACED BARBET, and then a few RHINOCEROUS and BLACK HORNBILLS. Our last new bird before dinner was a pair of flyover WREATHED HORNBILLS flying high above the front balcony.

After dinner we went on a lodge run night drive along the forested entrance road. Best sightings included a nice BROWN WOOD-OWL perched in the open for prolonged views, as well as multiple sightings of RED GIANT FLYING-SQUIRREL and it was amazing to watch 2 different individuals glide with their 3 foot “wing span”.



One of 8 Orangutan sightings we had on this tour, the most arboreal of the Great Apes.

### June 27

Armed with lots of water, leech socks, and excitement we took off along the road to our trail head destination, seeing a nice WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL along the way. At the trail head we saw a PURPLE-NAPED SPIDERHUNTER and a YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER. Moving into the trail now, and within the first 100m we saw probably the bird of the trip. A flash of white feathers first caught our eyes, and it took a second to realize that we were seeing the ultra-rare BULWER'S PHEASANT male and female standing on the trail!! They started to quickly move away and stayed with them until they melded into the undergrowth. What a start! This rare sub-montane endemic is seldom seen by birders and is a first lodge record for Borneo Rainforest Lodge!! Now shaking in excitement we continued on to a known area for BLUE-BANDED PITTA and before long we could hear one down the slope. After some time it came closer, and after even more time we put the chase on, but sadly we just couldn't catch up with this individual, it was acting too much like a rare Pitta! Luckily there were more birds in the area and here we caught up to the very shy DIARD'S TROGON, and then a small party of BROWN FULVETTAS. In the canopy a fruiting tree attracted some great Bulbuls including the tricky FINSCH'S BULBUL and a few HAIRY-BACKED, GRAY-CHEEKED, and BUFF-VENTED BULBULS. Moving our way back now we walked along a nice ridgeling where the stunning RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER called and then flew in to check us out. Soon after a MAROON-BREASTED PHILENTOMA (now in the Vanga family) responded nicely. A loud whistle down the slope alerted us of a nearby BLACK-HEADED PITTA and eventually we enjoyed watching this individual perched up on a low

branch, what a stunner! Next we decided to make the 4km walk back along the road, and although it was fairly quiet we still picked up a few nice things along the way. Our first ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD flew over and we even saw a BLACK EAGLE doing an incredible diving display flight, and in the undergrowth a GRAY-CHESTED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER made an appearance. Our final bird of the morning began whistling far off of the road so we quickly rushed to the nearest trail and made our way into the forest. Within no time our target bird responded to within a few feet of us in the undergrowth, the shy endemic BORNEAN WREN-BABBLER! Now it was incredibly hot out and we covered a lot of ground and saw some great birds, making our afternoon lunch and rest well earned.

In the afternoon we tried a trail running parallel with the river, which was fairly productive. We enjoyed much better views of a stunning male DIARD'S TROGON and picked up nice new species like; RUFIOUS-FRONTED BABBLER, FERRUGINOUS BABBLER, and the endemic BORNEAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER. With a threatening thunderstorm it was time to head back for a nice dinner and cold drinks.



A very cooperative Bornean Wren-Babbler (top), the difficult to view Black-headed Pitta, and the shy Bornean Blue-Flycatcher all seen today.

**June 28**

Back into the leech socks we are off again across one of the suspension bridges, lazily guarded by a troop of MAROON LANGURS where on the other side there are more trails to explore. Before we could cross though a CHESTNUT-BACKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER came in, as did a GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER. On the other side we birded along a rocky stream for a while in hopes of Forktail action where we eventually found a pair of striking CHESTNUT-NAPED FORKTAIL feeding and preening with little care of our presence. Next we made our way up a small slope following the calls of a RUFOUS-TAILED SHAMA which we found in the canopy, but this then brought us onto an assortment of very cool birds. First was a pair of emerald GREEN BROADBILLS giving their grunting calls, then a not so cooperative pair of SHORT-TAILED BABBLERS in the undergrowth. The best however was a very responsive female BANDED KINGFISHER allowing great scope views. On the way back to the lodge we found a total of 3 more ORANGUTANS, which we have now determined are a common and easy species!



**A unique Maroon Langur guards our suspension bridge while a Plain-throated Sunbird looks on.**

The afternoon birding session today was very quiet and very hot, with only a frustratingly heard BLUE-HEADED PITTA, GIANT PITTA, and GREAT ARGUS which happened to stay just out of sight on these thick and steep slopes. We took the road back to the lodge with a flyover BROWN-BACKED NEEDLETAIL and a nice YELLOW-EARED SPIDERHUNTER.

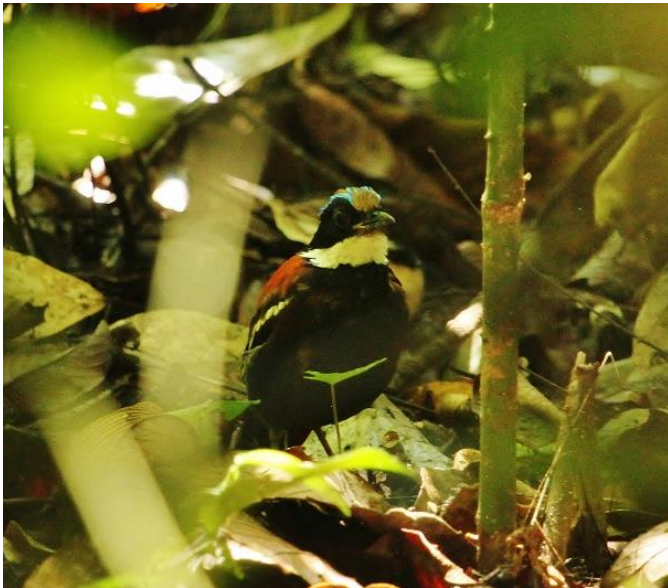
Our night foray had some success with great views of the eerie looking BARRED EAGLE-OWL and only a heard SUNDA FROGMOUTH, but great views of a huge BEARDED PIG and a LESSER MOUSE-DEER scampering through the undergrowth.

**June 29**

At it again this morning we tried for the BLUE-BANDED PITTA but sadly only a distant bird was heard again, although consolation was had with a responsive pair of the striking STRIPED WREN-BABBLER, a curious and gaudy CRESTED JAY, and another FLUFFY-BACKED TIT-BABBLER. Next we tried a different area in search of another Pitta species, the Blue-headed, and again it started off slow, but with some effort we picked up some odds and ends like a male BAR-BELLIED CUCKOO-SHRIKE, and a skulking pair of GRAY-HEADED BABBLERS made circles around us. We continued on, hearing 2

different distant Pittas, but neither would prove cooperative, until one called very close. Creeping along quietly we finally locked on to a young male, endemic, BLUE-HEADED PITTA! After hearing them for three days now this was a real relief to get one in our bins and cameras.

After another great lunch we decided to leave the forest floor and bird the beautiful canopy walkway consisting of three towers and up to 80 feet off the ground. These towers are great for surveying the area in the afternoon and we did just that. Our main target here was the massive Helmeted Hornbill and we were on full alert, and in constant nervous twitter every time a RHINOCEROUS HORNBILL would fly over. We did have some good birds up here including; a surprisingly cooperative YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET, a vibrant PALE BLUE FLYCATCHER, COMMON HILL MYNA, both GREATER and LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRDS, a trip highlight type pair of ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHERS, ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD, RED-THROATED SUNBIRD, and our first LONG-BILLED SPIDERHUNTER. Eventually it was time to go, and we had to peel ourselves away from our Hornbill watchtower, but with one more chance at the large fruiting tree near the lodge we still had a hope. Amazingly, just before dark, a huge Hornbill flew into the backside of the tree, we raced around to try for a better look and there it was, the odd, prehistoric, enormous HELMETED HORNBILL. This huge bird is in serious decline, feeding exclusively on figs it needs a massive home range, which in this day and age can be hard to come by, mainly due here to oil palm. So this was a real treat, and a great final bird of the day.



**Our much anticipated view of Blue-headed Pitta, and our afternoon view from the canopy tower.**

Another night drive produced another great view of BROWN WOOD-OWL, but the mammals here were the real highlights. We started off with great views of COMMON PALM CIVET quickly followed by the larger MALAY CIVET. More squirrel action gave us both RED GIANT and THOMAS'S FLYING SQUIRREL, and on the way back a brief view of the small and secretive LEOPARD CAT finished things off.



Nightlife abounds in Danum Valley with (clockwise from top left); Common Palm Civet, Brown Wood-Owl, the massive Bearded Pig, and Thomas's Flying Squirrel.

### June 30

This morning was our final morning in Danum Valley, and in the lowlands and we decided to check out the canopy walkway for the hour or so we had. We saw many of the same great birds with great looks at RAFFLES'S MALKOHA, and FIERY MINIVET, but we did get our first looks at CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER, RUFOUS-CROWNED BABBLER, and the tiny GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE.

It was now time for the drive to the city of Lahad Datu to fly back to Kota Kinabalu. On the way however we had another incredible encounter with a BORNEAN ELEPHANT standing on the road! Add to this our first good look at GREATER COUCAL and we finished off our time in the lowlands in style.

We had a couple hours in the afternoon to do some birding, so we visited the mangrove forest around Likas Bay, and although it was quiet here we still added PIED TRILLER, and weirdly ZEBRA DOVE to the list and saw STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER, WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN, and COMMON IORA. This marked the end of the main tour, now off to the mountains to start the extension very early in the morning!





More highlights from our time in the lowlands; a couple of critically endangered Storm's Storks, and the hulking Buff-breasted Fish-Owl.

### July 1

A very early start this morning had us up and into the Crocker Range for sunrise and a new birding environment where the endemics are numerous. We started our birding along the road near the Rafflesia Information Center. The shift to cooler temperatures and drier air was a very welcome shift from the lowlands, and we were all eager to get on to some new birds. Thankfully new birds came quickly with the endemic subspecies of ASHY DRONGO and a HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO right as we exited the van. The birds kept rolling in with endemic BORNEAN TREEPIES, abundant CHESTNUT-HOODED LAUGHINGTHRUSHES, and numerous LITTLE CUCKOO-DOVES. Next we walked to a colony of now endemic BORNEAN SWIFTLETS and from here continued on down the road, finding more great stuff during the loud morning chorus. A distant SUNDA CUCKOO-SHRIKE was a nice find preening at the top of a dead tree. We eventually found a cluster of fruiting trees with visiting Bulbuls, including the beautiful endemic BORNEAN BULBUL, ASHY (CINEREOUS) BULBUL, and a few OCHRACEOUS BULBULS. The hyper active CHESTNUT-CRESTED YUHINA became a quick favorite, they look good, they fly from tree to tree in tight noisy flocks, and they are an endemic. Another beautiful Zosteropidae here in the common BLACK-CAPPED WHITE-EYE, but we were very happy to find the often tricky to find PYGMY WHITE-EYE, a very bland endemic. Further down the road we went, more bird ensued, YELLOW-BREASTED WARBLER, a flyover MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON, GRAY-THROATED BABBLER, the colorful BORNEAN LEAFBIRD, and a sparkling male BLACK-SIDED FLOWERPECKER, a bright SCARLET MINIVET, and the even brighter TEMMINCK'S SUNBIRD gleaming red in the morning light. Some flock activity also added BORNEAN WHISTLER, WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL, a stellar BLACK-AND-CRIMSON ORIOLE, and BLYTH'S SHRIKE-BABBLER to the now bulging list. Near our turnaround point a distinctive call came shooting down from above us, a WHITEHEAD'S SPIDERHUNTER shot across the road, only giving brief views. We were in pursuit but after some time we never saw it again. Eventually we started heading back, but on our minds was the complete lack of Barbet activity until we finally heard our first one at 10:30am but were only sticking to the far bottom of the valley. Next we visited a private forest patch lower down to check out the amazing *Rafflesia pricei*, a member of one of the largest flowers in the world in bloom, and endemic to Borneo. We were lucky to see 2 different flowers here given their very short 5-day blooming period and only 3 of those days they are in peak before they turn black and mouldy. After taking in the wonderful flora a familiar call rattled back up the trail and were we off to find a the endemic BORNEAN BARBET which after some time we found perched high in the canopy. It can be incredibly hard to spot these small green birds in the high green canopy, and they are often motionless when they call. But this was only 1 of 2 of the hard Barbets here, we still needed the tougher MOUNTAIN BARBET. Back at the Information Center parking

lot we could hear a Mountain Barbet very high up the slope, now it was the battle to find it. After a good 45 minutes of scanning something finally moved and we got the scope locked on to another endemic Barbet, good thing as it was now getting late in the day and heating up fast.

After a late lunch in Ranau we made it to our hotel to check in and rest with just enough time to do a little birding around the garden filled grounds. TEMMINCK'S and OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRDS were the highlights before heading off to dinner after a very long day.



**A Bornean endemic plant, the stunning *Rafflesia pricei*.**

## July 2

Our objective today is to bird Kinabalu National Park, home of the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, and the highest mountain between the Himalayas and the island of New Guinea. Luckily our hotel is only a 3 minute drive away from the park entrance, and the view of Mt. Kinabalu from our room balconies is indeed better than in the park itself!

Into the park we went, and as expected we were the only people there. Usually this is the main hub of tourism in the area with thousands of eager climbers trying to make their way up. Sadly 2 weeks ago a massive earthquake struck the mountain and took the lives of 18 climbers. This also closed many higher trails due to landslides and rock-falls, a truly sad situation, and it was eerie to see virtually no people during our week here. Birding wise this means that we had the main lower trails all to ourselves, and could bird the nice paved mountain road without worrying about cars. The downside is that the trail beyond Timpohon Gate was closed (as well as at the other side of the mountain) so the chances of finding the endemic FRIENDLY BUSH-WARBLER is now zero, but onwards we go! We left very early in the

morning in order to pick up the early rising birds which come down to the road to forage. Amazingly one of the first birds we saw was the endemic WHITE-CROWNED (BORNEAN) FORKTAIL walking along the side of the road, soon followed by the endemic BORNEAN WHISTLING-THRUSH, and then the striking ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH of which we saw 5 different individuals. Now up at the Timpohon Gate, at the end of the road, the power generation station here has floodlights running through the night which attracts lots of insects and in the morning the birds come in to feed, and did they ever this morning. This is also the main staging area for hundreds of hikers when the trail is open, and with no hikers the birds have taken over! BORNEAN TREEPIES were everywhere, and a noisy flock of birds turned out to be the dapper SUNDA LAUGHINGTHRUSH with a few CHESTNUT-HOODED'S mixed in. The star of the show however was a stunning endemic BORNEAN GREEN-MAGPIE glistening in the early morning light. On the perimeter fence were a couple INDIGO FLYCATCHERS as well as a nearby BORNEAN WHISTLER. From here we began walking back down the road, and soon we were into even more endemics. First was a flock of at least 12 strange MOUNTAIN BLACK-EYE a very range restricted endemic found only in the highest reaches of Borneo. Next the Barbets started to heat up, and unlike yesterday the endemic species here is easy to find, and within minutes we had our first 4 GOLDEN-NAPED BARBETS feeding in a tree above our heads. Singing from a nearby bush lead us to great views of the skulking SUNDA BUSH-WARBLER while above us were a few MOUNTAIN WARBLERS and eventually 3 endemic PALE-FACED (FLAVESCENT) BULBULS came in. From here we decided to venture into a short trail where we found an endemic bird and mammal in the form of a MOUNTAIN TREESHREW and the diminutive BORNEAN STUBTAIL with its impossibly high pitched song.



**An adult and young Ashy Drongo and the hyper active Chestnut-crested Yuhina.**

After a delicious lunch at the restaurant in the park we visited the Botanical Garden which is home to a few endemic species of the carnivorous Pitchers Plants. From here we tried the lower Mempening Trail which was very quiet (usual in the afternoon here) but we did pick up a nice family party of the endemic MOUNTAIN WREN-BABBLER. Leaving the trail we walked the empty road instead (much more easy going) and had great success. This started with the endemic EYEBROWED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER perched in the open on the guardrail! Next we got into a great flock containing many of the same species but while scanning through the many CHESTNUT-HOODED LAUGHINGTHRUSHES 2 larger and darker ones turned out to be the scarce BARE-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH with their bright red bill and bare yellow face, a fantastic species! Now with darkness looming and serious weather coming in it was about time to go, until a family group of CHECKER-THROATED WOODPECKERS made a brief appearance, but this was only to keep us in place to hear the much anticipated grunting call of a large Broadbill. Within minutes a huge chucky bird flew over us and perched on a limb in the last patch of light available, the glistening green, rare endemic, WHITEHEAD'S BROADBILL. What a great

find to find this bird during our first day in the park!! Now the weather was getting windy and rainy, and was too be like that throughout the night.



Two endemics from today, the Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher and a Mountain Wren-Babbler.

### July 3

With the wind howling and a significant drop in temperature we headed back into the park to try our best. We decided to drive back up the road in the early light, this time trying to avoid the many fallen trees from the severe wind last night. We did see more ORANGE-HEADED THRUSH'S and a BORNEAN WHISTLING-THRUSH this morning on the road, but the fog soon rolled in and we had to retire to the lower slopes. The Mempening Trail was most out of the wind so we made our way down to complete the entire trail loop. It was slow as expected given the weather but we did find GRAY-CHINNED MINIVETS and a skulking WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING. Mid way down we finally saw a CRIMSON-HEADED PARTRIDGE after having heard many. They are quite common in the park, but seeing one is a different story. Further down still we found a beautiful pair of the large ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKERS feeding low in the trees. Soon the rain and wind kicked in even more and we retired to the lodge restaurant balcony. Amazingly from the table we saw a flock of MOUNTAIN BLACK-EYE at the base of the mountain, much lower in altitude than usual, probably because of the very poor weather.



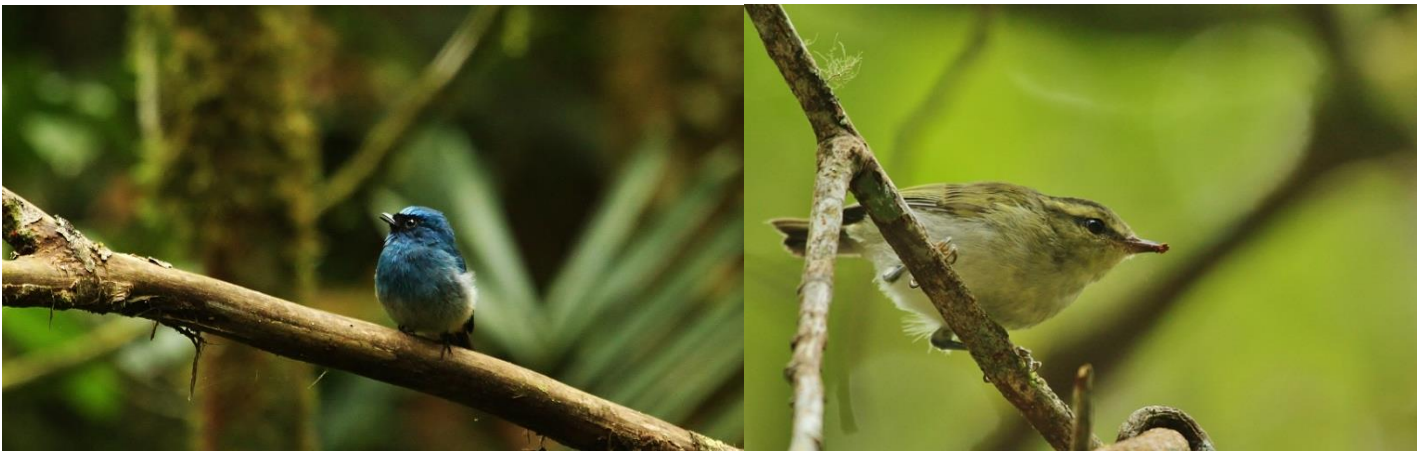
Two more endemics; the Bornean Whistling-Thrush, and a Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush.

Once the weather cleared a little we returned to the park after a rest at the hotel and birded along the lower road. We managed to find a couple productive feeding flocks and lead to our best looks at the beautiful VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH, BORNEAN LEAFBIRD, our first LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER, and first SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER feeding by a small waterfall. With light fading and the weather moving in again it was time to call it quits for the day.

#### July 4

Another strange cold and windy night lead into a cold, rainy, and windy morning. We again headed back into the park to try our luck with hopes of the still needed endemic Trogon. It was hard going again this morning but we stuck to the main road and continued on, and when you put in the time more often than not great birds will appear. After hearing many of the endemic RED-BREASTED PARTRIDGES we eventually came across a covey fairly close to the road and then finally managed to coax 2 out of hiding. We have now seen both of the endemic partridges on the mountain! Onward we went in search of the Trogon, and the hours passed, until a flash of red at eyelevel through the green foliage caught our eyes. Alas an incredible bright male WHITEHEAD'S TROGON!!! The much wanted bird was now in sight and we spent 30 minutes soaking in some great scope views of this uncommon endemic and easily overlook species! This also completes the "Whiteheads Trio" of Broadbill, Trogon, and Spiderhunter. Now the weather turned on us again so we again retreated to the restaurant.

In the afternoon we decided to get out of the cold and back into the lower elevations at Poring Hot Springs, driving through the rain most of the way. On arrival we birded the parking lot and saw our first CHESTNUT-BELLIED MALKOHA of the trip, a good start! But this good start was about all we had here as it was very slow going here best sightings being; GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT, HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL, RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD, ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER, and a few DUSKY MUNIA.



The stunning Indigo Flycatcher and the less stunning Mountain Warbler.

#### July 5

This morning we headed out of the wind of the mountain and went back to Tambunan on the Crocker Range to try and clean up a few targets on our last full day. We left early again to get there for the morning chorus, but just before the town of Tambunan we had our best looks at a couple RUDDY CUCKOO-DOVES feeding on the side of the road. On arrival we found many of the same great birds as our first day here in Crocker Range, but added our much need targets. First came the dynamic duo of YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER and then a pair of the melodic MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD. Next came

a surprise song of the LONG-TAILED BROADBILL but after some effort it was not to be found. Our target TEMMINCK'S BABLERS also began calling, and it wasn't long until we saw these mid-elevation specialists. We improved our views of both the endemic PYGMY WHITE-EYE and MOUNTAIN BARBET, now with our remaining target to improve our views of the tricky WHITEHEAD'S SPIDERHUNTER from our brief view a few days ago. We covered lots of ground until we saw one of these large Spiderhunters fly over, eventually we determined this was a regular route it flew and saw the bird fly over us multiple times. Unfortunately it never perched, as its favorite flowering plants were nowhere to be seen. Now time to make our way back to our Mt. Kinabalu lodge where the wind was still howling and the rain still pouring. So we decided to relax and watch birds from our balcony in the later afternoon.

### July 6

We made our way back to city Kota Kinabalu this morning and enjoyed lunch at, of all places, the Hard Rock Café overlooking the harbour. Here we reminisced over what a great trip this was, and all of the great birds we saw not to mention the amazing amount of endemics. As an added bonus we even added a new bird to the list before driving to the airport, a PACIFIC REEF-HERON flew over the harbor, sending us off for our international flights home.



A final view from the Kinabatangan River, a favorite habitat form this diverse tour.

**Bird Checklist – Using Clements 6.9 (H = Heard only) BE = Bornean Endemic****PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae**

Red-breasted (Hill) Partridge (BE)	<i>Arborophila hyperythra</i>	
Chestnut-necklaced (Hill) Partridge	<i>Arborophila charltonii</i>	
Crimson-headed Partridge (BE)	<i>Haematortyx sanguiniceps</i>	
Bulwer's Pheasant (BE)	<i>Lophura bulweri</i>	
Crested Fireback	<i>Lophura ignita nobilis</i>	
Great Argus	<i>Argusianus argus</i>	H

**STORKS: Ciconiidae**

Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>	
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**ANHINGAS: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	
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**HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae**

Great-billed Heron	<i>Ardea sumatrana</i>	
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba modesta</i>	
Intermediate Egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	
Pacific Reef-Heron	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	
Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis coromandus</i>	
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	

**OSPREY: Pandionidae**

Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus haliaetus</i>	
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**HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae**

Oriental Honey-buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	
Crested Serpent-Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	
Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>	
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus limnaeetus</i>	
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nanus</i>	
Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>	
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	
White-bellied Sea-Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	
Lesser Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	
Gray-headed Fish-Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>	

**RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae**

White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	
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**GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae**

Little Tern	<i>Sternula albifrons</i>	
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Great Crested Tern	<i>Thalasseus bergii</i>	
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**PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae**

Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	
Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	
Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia emiliana</i>	
Little Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>	
Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	
Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	
Cinnamon-headed Pigeon	<i>Treron fulvicollis</i>	
Little Green-Pigeon	<i>Treron olax</i>	
Pink-necked (Green) Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>	
Thick-billed (Green) Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>	
Green Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	
Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	

**CUCKOOS: Cuculidae**

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo	<i>Hierococcyx vagans</i>	
Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	H
Sunda Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus lepidus</i>	H
Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>	H
Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	
Little (Malay) Bronze-Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>	
Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>	
Square-tailed Drongo-cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	
Black-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus diardi</i>	
Raffles's Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus</i>	
Red-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus javanicus</i>	
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	
Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	

**OWLS: Strigidae**

Mountain Scops-Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	H
Barred Eagle-Owl	<i>Bubo sumatranus</i>	
Buffy Fish-Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>	
Brown Wood-Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	
Brown (Boobook) Hawk-Owl	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	

**FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae**

Sunda Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus comutus</i>	H
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**SWIFTS: Apodidae**

Silver-rumped Needletail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>	
Brown-backed (Brown) Needletail	<i>Hirundapus giganteus</i>	
Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	
Cave (Bornean) Swiftlet (BE)	<i>Collocalia linchi</i>	



Mossy-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus salangana</i>	
Black-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>	
White (Edible)-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>	
House Swift	<i>Apus nipalensis</i>	
Asian Palm-Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	

**TREESWIFTS: Hemiprocnidae**

Gray-rumped Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	
Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>	

**TROGONS: Trogonidae**

Red-naped Trogon	<i>Harpactes kasumba</i>	
Diard's Trogon	<i>Harpactes diardii</i>	
Whitehead's Trogon (BE)	<i>Harpactes whiteheadi</i>	
Scarlet-rumped Trogon	<i>Harpactes duvaucelii</i>	

**KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae**

Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	
Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>	
Banded Kingfisher	<i>Lacedo pulchella</i>	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	
Ruddy Kingfisher	<i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	
Rufous (Chestnut) -collared Kingfisher	<i>Actenoides concretus</i>	

**BEE-EATERS: Meropidae**

Red-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis amictus</i>	
Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>	

**ROLLERS: Coraciidae**

Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	
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**HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae**

Oriental Pied-Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	
(Asian) Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>	
Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>	
Helmeted Hornbill	<i>Buceros vigil</i>	
Bushy-crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>	
White-crowned Hornbill	<i>Aceros comatus</i>	
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>	
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	

**ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae**

Brown Barbet (BE)	<i>Calorhamphus fuliginosus</i>	
Gold-faced Barbet (BE)	<i>Psilopogon chrysopsis</i>	
Red-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima mystacophanos</i>	
Mountain Barbet (BE)	<i>Megalaima monticola</i>	
Yellow-crowned Barbet	<i>Megalaima henricii</i>	
Golden-naped Barbet (BE)	<i>Megalaima pulcherrima</i>	

Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Megalaima australis</i>	
Bornean Barbet (BE)	<i>Megalaima eximia</i>	

**WOODPECKERS: Picidae**

Rufous Piculet	<i>Sasia abnormis</i>	
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	
White-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>	
Banded Woodpecker	<i>Picus miniaceus</i>	
Crimson-winged Woodpecker	<i>Picus puniceus</i>	
Checker-throated Woodpecker	<i>Picus mentalis</i>	
Olive-backed Woodpecker	<i>Dinopium rafflesii</i>	
Maroon Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus rubiginosus</i>	
Orange-backed Woodpecker	<i>Reinwardtipicus validus</i>	
Buff-rumped Woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tristis</i>	
Buff-necked Woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tukki</i>	
Gray-and-buff Woodpecker	<i>Hemicircus concretus</i>	

**FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae**

White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet (BE)	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>	
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**PARROTS: Psittacidae**

Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>	
Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	

**AFRICAN AND GREEN BROADBILLS: Calyptomenidae**

Green Broadbill	<i>Calyptomena viridis</i>	
Whitehead's Broadbill (BE)	<i>Calyptomena whiteheadi</i>	

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

Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus</i>	
Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>	
Banded Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus javanicus</i>	
Black-and-yellow Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>	
Dusky Broadbill	<i>Corydon sumatranus</i>	

**PITTAS: Pittidae**

Black-headed (Black-&-crimson) Pitta (BE)	<i>Erythropitta ussheri</i>	
Blue-banded Pitta (BE)	<i>Erythropitta arquata</i>	H
Giant Pitta	<i>Pitta caerulea</i>	H
Bornean Banded Pitta (BE)	<i>Pitta guajana schwaneri</i>	H
Blue-headed Pitta (BE)	<i>Pitta baudii</i>	
Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	

**THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae**

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater)	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>	
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**HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Vangidae**

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	
Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus hirundinaceus</i>	
Rufous-winged Philentoma	<i>Philentoma pyrhoptera</i>	

Maroon-breasted Philentoma	<i>Philentoma velata</i>	
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**WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae**

White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	
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**BRISTLEHEAD: Pityriaseidae**

Bornean Bristlehead (BE)	<i>Pityriasis gymnocephala</i>	
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**IORAS: Aegithinidae**

Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	
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Green Iora	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>	
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**CUCKOO-SHRIKES: Campephagidae**

Fiery Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus igneus</i>	
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Gray-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	
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Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>	
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Bar-bellied Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina striata</i>	
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Sunda Cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina larvata</i>	
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Pied Triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>	
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**WHISTLERS: Pachycephalidae**

Bornean Whistler (BE)	<i>Pachycephala hypoxantha</i>	
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**VIREOS: Vireonidae**

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler	<i>Pteruthius aeralatus</i>	
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White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	
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**OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae**

Dark-throated Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>	
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Black-and-crimson Oriole	<i>Oriolus cruentus</i>	
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**DRONGOS: Dicruridae**

Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	
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Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	
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Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	
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Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	
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**FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae**

Spotted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura perlata</i>	
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Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	
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White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	
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**MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae**

Black-naped Monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	
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Asian Paradise-Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	
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**CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae**

Crested Jay	<i>Platylophus galericulatus</i>	
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(Bornean) Black Magpie	<i>Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus</i>	
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Bornean Green-Magpie (BE)	<i>Cissa jefferyi</i>	
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Bornean Treepie (BE)	<i>Dendrocitta cinerascens</i>	
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House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	
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Slender-billed Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>	
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**SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae**

Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	
Pacific (House) Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	

**FAIRY-FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae**

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	
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**NUTHATCHES: Sittidae**

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	
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**BULBULS: Pycnonotidae**

Puff-backed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus eutilotus</i>	
Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>	
Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>	
Borean Bulbul (BE)	<i>Pycnonotus montis</i>	
Gray-bellied Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus cyaniventris</i>	
Flavescent (Pale-faced) Bulbul (BE)	<i>Pycnonotus flavescens leucops</i>	
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	
Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>	
Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>	
Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>	
Spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos</i>	
Hairy-backed Bulbul	<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>	
Finsch's Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus finschii</i>	
Ochraceous Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus ochraceus</i>	
Gray-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus bres</i>	
Yellow-bellied Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus phaeocephalus</i>	
Buff-vented Bulbul	<i>Iole olivacea</i>	
Ashy (Cinereous) Bulbul (BE)	<i>Hemixos flava connectens</i>	
Streaked Bulbul	<i>Ixos malaccensis</i>	

**BUSH-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Cettiidae**

Bornean Stubtail (BE)	<i>Urosphena whiteheadi</i>	
Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>	
Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Phyllergates cucullatus</i>	
Sunda Bush-Warbler	<i>Horomis vulcania</i>	

**LEAF-WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae**

Mountain (Leaf) Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>	
Yellow-breasted Warbler	<i>Seicercus montis</i>	

**CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae**

Dark-necked Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>	
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>	
Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	

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

Chestnut-crested Yuhina (BE)	<i>Yuhina everetti</i>	
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Pygmy White-eye (Bornean Ibon) (BE)	<i>Oculocincta squamifrons</i>	
Mountain Black-eye (BE)	<i>Chlorocharis emiliae</i>	
Black-capped White-eye	<i>Zosterops atricapilla</i>	

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

Bold-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Mixornis bornensis</i>	
Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronous ptilosus</i>	
Chestnut-winged Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma erythroptera</i>	
Rufous-fronted Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma rufifrons</i>	
Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus montanus</i>	
Chestnut-rumped Babbler	<i>Stachyris maculata</i>	
Gray-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	
Gray-headed Babbler	<i>Stachyris poliocephala</i>	

**GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES: Pellomeidae**

Moustached Babbler	<i>Malacopteron magnirostre</i>	
Sooty-capped Babbler	<i>Malacopteron affine</i>	
Scaly-crowned Babbler	<i>Malacopteron cinereum</i>	
Rufous-crowned Babbler	<i>Malacopteron magnum</i>	
Black-capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum capistratum</i>	
Temminck's Babbler	<i>Pellorneum pyrrogenys</i>	
Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Pellorneum malaccensis</i>	
White-chested Babbler	<i>Pellorneum rostratum</i>	
Ferruginous Babbler	<i>Pellorneum bicolor</i>	
Striped Wren-Babbler	<i>Kenopia striata</i>	
Bornean (Ground-) Wren-Babbler (BE)	<i>Ptilocichla leucogrammica</i>	
Horsfield's Babbler	<i>Turdinus sepiaria</i>	
Black-throated Wren-Babbler (BE)	<i>Turdinus atrigularis</i>	H
Mountain Wren-Babbler (BE)	<i>Turdinus crassa</i>	

**LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES: Leiothrichidae**

Brown Fulvetta	<i>Alcippe brunneicauda</i>	
Sunda Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax palliatus</i>	
Bare-headed (Bornean) Laughingthrush (BE)	<i>Garrulax calvus</i>	
Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush (BE)	<i>Lanthocincla treacheri</i>	

**FAIRY-BLUEBIRDS: Irenidae**

Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	
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**OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae**

Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	
Rufous-tailed Shama	<i>Copsychus pyropygus</i>	
White-rumped (Crowned) Shama (BE)	<i>Copsychus malabaricus</i>	
Pale Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis unicolor</i>	
Long-billed (Large-) Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis caerulatus</i>	
Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis turcosus</i>	
Bornean Blue-Flycatcher (BE)	<i>Cyornis superbus</i>	

Gray-chested Jungle-Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis umbratilis</i>	
Indigo Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias indigo</i>	
Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher (BE)	<i>Vauriella gularis</i>	
White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>	
Bornean Whistling-Thrush (BE)	<i>Myophonus borneensis</i>	
White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	
White-crowned (Bornean) Forktail (BE)	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	
Chestnut-naped Forktail	<i>Enicurus ruficapillus</i>	
Rufous-chested Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula dumetoria</i>	
Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	

**THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae**

Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>	
Fruit-hunter (BE)	<i>Chlamydochaera jefferyi</i>	H

**STARLINGS: Sturnidae**

Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	
Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	
Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	

**LEAFBIRDS: Chloropseidae**

Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>	
Lesser Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>	
Bornean Leafbird (BE)	<i>Chloropsis kinabaluensis</i>	

**FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae**

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus maculatus</i>	
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker (BE)	<i>Prionochilus xanthopygius</i>	
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum chrysorrheum</i>	
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	
Black-sided (Bornean) Flowerpecker (BE)	<i>Dicaeum monticulum</i>	
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	

**SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae**

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>	
Plain Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes simplex</i>	
Plain-throated (Brown-throated) Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	
Red-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rhodolaemus</i>	
Van Hasselt's Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma brasiliانا</i>	
Olive-backed Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>	
Temminck's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga temminckii</i>	
(Eastern) Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	
Long-billed Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera robusta</i>	
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	
Purple-naped Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera hypogrammicum</i>	
Whitehead's Spiderhunter (BE)	<i>Arachnothera juliae</i>	

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera chrysogenys</i>	
Bornean Spiderhunter (BE)	<i>Arachnothera everetti</i>	
<b>WAGTAILS AND PIPITS: Motacillidae</b>		
Oriental (Paddyfield) Pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	
<b>OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae</b>		
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	
<b>WEAVERS AND ALLIES: Ploceidae</b>		
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>	
<b>WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae</b>		
Dusky Munia (BE)	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>	
Nutmeg Mannikin (Scaly-breasted Munia)	<i>Lonchura punctulata</i>	
Chestnut (Black-headed) Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>	



Two great mammals from this tour at opposite spectrums; the incredibly tiny Plain Pygmy Squirrel and the iconic Orangutan.

### Mammal List

#### **TREESHREWS: Tupaiidae**

Mountain Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia montana</i>
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#### **FREE-TAILED BATS: Molossidae**

Wrinkle-lipped Bat	<i>Tadarida plicata</i>
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**MONKEYS: Cercopithecidae**

Maroon Langur/Red Leaf-Monkey	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>
Silvered Langur/Leaf-Monkey	<i>Presbytis cristata</i>
Proboscis Monkey	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>
Long-tailed or Crab-eating Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>
Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>

**GIBBONS: Hylobatidae**

Bornean (Mueller's) Gibbon	<i>Hylobates muelleri</i>
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**GREAT APES: Pongidae**

(Bornean) Orang-Utan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>
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**SQUIRRELS: Sciuridae**

Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa affinis</i>
Prevost's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>
Kinabalu Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus baluensis</i>
Bornean Black-banded Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus orestes</i>
Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>
Horse-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus hippurus</i>
Jentink's Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus jentinki</i>
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel	<i>Dremomys everetti</i>
Plain Pigmy Squirrel	<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>

**FLYING SQUIRRELS: Petauristinae**

Red Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>
Thomas's Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>

**CIVETS AND MONGOOSES: Viverridae**

Malay Civet or Tangalung	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>
Common Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>

**Cats: Felidae**

Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*

**ELEPHANTS: Elephantidae**

Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
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**PIGS: Suidae**

Bearded Pig	<i>Sus barbatus</i>
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**MOUSE-DEER: Tragulidae**

Greater Mouse-Deer	<i>Tragulus napu</i>
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**DEER: Cervidae**

Sambar Deer	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
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