



# **TRIP REPORT - SABAH, MALAYSIA**

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# INTRODUCTION

Borneo has always been a dream destination for us. Between the achievable number of endemic birds of which seemingly disproportionately many are big highlights, the incredible mammalwatching and the recently discovered new locations for two fantastic pheasants there were already plenty of reasons to visit Borneo now. For me (Anton), this was a location that I felt I needed to prioritise visiting at all cost, also because unfortunately there is also quite a lot of time pressure, with many target birds, mammals and habitats being very threatened. As for me (Mehdi), I was really keen on birding anywhere in Southeast Asia as I had never done so before, and what better location to start off than Borneo which combines incredible endemics and sought-after species that are hard everywhere else, ease of logistics as well as great culture and food!

During planning, we swiftly figured out that on any Borneo trip, time-wise, the cost of any innovation comes at a high price. Both of us could only really afford three weeks of time, which is never enough to see everything on such a big island. This saw us having to choose between spending time chasing a handful of recently-discovered specialist targets down in Kalimantan, or doing the "standard" Sabah route that usually consists of something like Gunung Kinabalu - Poring Hot Springs - Sepilok - Kinabatangan - Danum Valley. Obviously this standard route is well-known for a reason, and the birds along it are very hard to pass up on, so while Black-browed Babbler and the anticipation of being some of the first people to lay eyes on the new *Meratus* splits was very enticing, we found it impossible to pass up on all of the good Sabah birds.

Luckily, some "innovation" along this standard route was still possible, with the recent discovery of two excellent sites for very excellent pheasants that most people still seem to pass up on. We decided to do something similar to the standard route, but to make time for short visits to Telupid and Trus Madi for the two newly accessible pheasant species, we skipped out on visiting Poring Hot Springs and Sepilok.

Poring Hot Springs had previously been a stronghold for Hose's Broadbill in Sabah, but despite many observers, Hose's Broadbill has not been seen there for over three years: it essentially seems to be a Sarawak-only target nowadays. Crocker Jungle Flycatcher (Rufous-tailed / Chestnut-tailed Jungle Flycatcher) is a recent split that seems very difficult overall. With only two records at Poring this year, this did not seem like a target worth considering there either, also because Trus Madi also seemed like a decent site for that. Skipping Sepilok seemed like a bigger risk, with it being well-known for being excellent for lowland birds in general, and specifically so for Bornean Bristlehead. However, Bristlehead (and essentially every other Sepilok target) were also quite realistic at Kinabatangan and Danum Valley, so we felt like it didn't make much sense to visit Sepilok, and that more days

everywhere else just made more sense. With our basic itinerary done, it was time to start organising, packing and executing!

Our itinerary was as follows:

- Day 1 (16/07)** - Flight from Kuala Lumpur to Kota Kinabalu
- Day 2 (17/07)** - Bus to Mount Kinabalu, birding the rest of the day
- Day 3 (18/07)** - Mount Kinabalu (full day)
- Day 4 (19/07)** - Mount Kinabalu (full day)
- Day 5 (20/07)** - Mount Kinabalu (full day)
- Day 6 (21/07)** - Mount Kinabalu (full day)
- Day 7 (22/07)** - Transfer to Telupid, birding Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve, transfer to Sukau
- Day 8 (23/07)** - Kinabatangan River (full day)
- Day 9 (24/07)** - Kinabatangan River (full day)
- Day 10 (25/07)** - Kinabatangan River (full day)
- Day 11 (26/07)** - Transfer to Lahad Datu
- Day 12 (27/07)** - Transfer to DVFC, birding the rest of the day
- Day 13 (28/07)** - Danum Valley Field Centre (full day)
- Day 14 (29/07)** - Danum Valley Field Centre (full day)
- Day 15 (30/07)** - Danum Valley Field Centre (full day)
- Day 16 (31/07)** - Transfer to Lahad Datu, flight to Kota Kinabalu, transfer to Keningau
- Day 17 (01/08)** - Transfer to Trus Madi Entomology Camp, birding full day
- Day 18 (02/08)** - Birding Trus Madi, transfer to Kota Kinabalu, birding Kota Kinabalu
- Day 19 (03/08)** - Birding Manukan and Kota Kinabalu
- Day 20 (04/08)** - Birding Lok Kawi and flight from Kota Kinabalu back to Kuala Lumpur

The trip was a total success, as although we were expecting/targeting to see around 250 species in Sabah, we ended up recording **328** bird species, of which **50** are Bornean endemics. Considering the unreliability of Hose's Broadbill, Crocker Jungle Flycatcher and Spectacled Flowerpecker in Sabah, we believe the only "realistic" Bornean endemics we missed in Sabah are Bornean Swiftlet (which we suspect a lot more people miss...), Mountain Serpent Eagle and Friendly Bush Warbler. All of our observations with exact coordinates can be found on [observation.org](http://observation.org), and checklists for all of the time spent at specific birding destinations are available on our [eBird trip report and profiles](#) as well.

# DAILY ACCOUNTS

## DAY 1 - KOTA KINABALU (16/07)

We landed at the Kota Kinabalu airport in the middle of the afternoon, where our first birds were a small group of **Little Terns**. Very quickly the first common urban birds were added as well, with **Chestnut Munias**, **Asian Glossy Starlings**, **Zebra Doves**, **Brown-throated Sunbirds**, **Eurasian Tree Sparrows** and **Rock Doves** being some of the most common in the city. Immediately paying attention to the birds paid off, as our very first Imperial Pigeon of the day was a **Pied Imperial Pigeon**, a bird we would not see during the rest of the trip. We quickly took a Grab to our hostel, Akinabalu Youth Hostel, as per the recommendation of an earlier trip report because of the location close to one of the long haul bus stations, where we would leave to Gunung Kinabalu the next morning. On the drive there we saw more common lowland birds: **White-breasted Woodswallows**, **Spotted Doves**, **Pacific Swallows** and **Green Imperial Pigeons**. After checking in and dropping off our bags the birding could start! A few flyover **Pied Trillers** as we were waiting for the Grab were our first.

Upon arrival at Likas Sports Complex, we were taken aback by the amount of runners there, which made us think our odds of finding the targeted Ruddy-breasted Crakes would be quite low. We started off birding the outskirts of the park, and added species like **Yellow-vented Bulbul**, **White-breasted Waterhen**, **Striated Grassbird**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Crimson and Ornate (Olive-backed) Sunbird**, **Grey-rumped Treeswift**, **Ashy Tailorbird**, **Common Iora**, **Malaysian Pied Fantail**, **Pink-necked Green Pigeon** and **Blue-throated Bee-eater** to the list. Throughout the afternoon we had a few flyover waterbirds, adding **Eastern Cattle Egret**, **Little Egret**, **Medium Egret**, **Great Egret**, **Purple Heron** and **Oriental Darter** to the list as well. The swifts consisted of a mix of the very common **Plume-toed Swiftlets**, along with many *Aerodramus* swiftlets as well, but we decided to leave those unidentified throughout the trip.

Other relevant trip ticks we made sure to get were **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker** and **Common Flameback**, which were secured rather effortlessly. Both woodpeckers we did end up getting second observations of towards the end of the trip, but a pair of **Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrikes** remained the only ones we saw during our three weeks in Sabah.

The **Ruddy-breasted Crakes** initially remained enigmatic and unresponsive, but after hearing one clearly we managed to get a total of six birds to respond. None of the birds ended up showing themselves, in part through our not wanting to disturb them too much. Nonetheless, we were more than happy with this successful twitch. This species seems very rare (and/or underreported) in Sabah and Borneo as a whole, with currently only 11 eBird reports for Sabah and Borneo, of  $\pm 4$  different 'records' or locations.

We were initially happy with a **Long-tailed Shrike** that had been recently reported and that was still lingering there, as those were deemed rare in summer according to most sources,



but we ended up finding them very commonly on power lines next to roads throughout all of Sabah. Myers' Birds of Borneo lists ssp. *bentet* as a rare winterer in Sabah and Sarawak, and ssp. *nasutus* as an increasingly common resident in Southern Kalimantan. Throughout the trip, we saw a wide range of individuals, ranging from very obvious *nasutus* to very obvious *bentet* phenotypes, but also essentially everything in between, so there definitely seems to be some hybridisation. One of the small mixed flocks also had an unidentified squirrel and a **Lesser Treeshrew** with them, which was the first mammal of the trip.

As the evening approached we successfully looked for **Black-crowned** and **Nankeen Night Heron** on the lake, where we also had two surprise fly-by's of our only **Large-tailed Nightjars** of the trip. One of them even briefly landed in a tree closeby. From here, we took a grab to Tun Fuad Stephen's Park, which until recently was a bit of a stakeout for Sunda Frogmouth. Upon arrival we found the entire park fenced off, seemingly for repair works. Towards the end of the parking lot there was a gap in the fence with what looked like a slippery muddy trail down towards the park, but going inside didn't seem like a good idea so we decided to use playback from the parking lot. We waited for about half an hour at a nearby parking lot to try and hear one (or any other nightbirds) calling, but the traffic was too loud to hear any birds, so after half an hour we gave up and got to the hostel to get an early night's sleep.

## DAY 2 - MOUNT KINABALU (17/07)

After having breakfast at the hostel, we packed our bags and headed directly to the Padang Merdeka terminal to catch a minibus to Mount Kinabalu. Although we were there at around 7:30, it was one of those buses that only departed once it was full, so we ended up waiting until about 8:50 before we could depart. While waiting, we did see our first **Slender-billed Crows**. The road to Kinabalu was quite birdy, and we had more **Long-tailed Shrikes**, a few other common lowland birds like **Brahminy Kite** and **House Swit**, as well as the only **Grey Heron**, **Wandering Whistling Ducks**, **Red Collared Doves** and **Besra** of the trip. Red Collared Dove is a very recently established exotic species normally localised around the Kota Belud area, so these two birds were unexpected, and perhaps a sign of their continuing expansion.

At Mount Kinabalu, we decided to stay at the cheap Mountain Resthouse, the closest accommodation to the park that isn't inside of the park. Although this was by far the worst stay we had during our trip, it does the job if you're willing to use public bathrooms (the ones at the resthouse are impressively disgusting) and can manoeuvre through half-collapsed buildings (presumably a result of the 2015 earthquake). It is much cheaper than anything you'd find inside the park, and since we would only be here to sleep the place was fine. On the way from the entrance (where the bus had dropped us off) to the resthouse, we had our first Bornean endemics: **Chestnut-crested Yuhina**, **Black-sided Flowerpecker** and **Bornean Treepie**, along with our first **Ashy Drongo** and **Black-capped White-eye**.

After that, we tried Whitehead's Spiderhunter at a spot where it had been seen recently. This

species seems to vary in terms of how easy it is to connect with it depending on the year, and this year seemed exceptionally bad for them. The spot (6.000, 116.546) is a flowering foxglove tree by the side of the road next to a carwash, where a bird had been seen a few times in the days prior to our visit. We looked everywhere for the flowers, but could not find them. We did have our first **Oriental Magpie-robin** here, a species we surprisingly only saw a handful of times.

After lunch nearby, we spent the afternoon birding inside the park itself. We didn't have any real set plan for this first attempt at birding Mount Kinabalu, so we decided to bird along the main road and try to get a few hard species out of the way early. This netted us a handful of the commoner montane birds like **Temminck's Sunbird**, **White-throated Fantail**, **Indigo Flycatcher**, **Grey-throated** and **Temminck's Babbler**, **Yellow-breasted Warbler**, **White-browed Shrike-Babbler** and **Hair-crested Drongo**. The endemics ticked up quickly as well, with our first views of common endemics like **Golden-naped Barbet**, **Bornean Whistler**, **Penan Bulbul** and **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush**: All of these birds would make up most of the flocks encountered throughout Mount Kinabalu the upcoming few days, with the barbet classically filling the background sound throughout. With **Bornean Black-banded Squirrel** we had our first endemic mammal as well. A **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** in the very first mixed species feeding flock in the park surprisingly ended up being the only one of the trip.



Two big endemic highlights on this first afternoon of birding were a singing **Bornean Forktail** fairly close to the bridge crossing the stream along the lower Silau-Silau trail, and an exceptionally low elevation **Everett's Thrush** along the eastern half of the entrance road (6.008, 116.543) that gave prolonged views and posed for some low light pictures, eventually flying off and showing its stunning black-and-white barred underwing. Multiple **Mountain Scops Owls** were heard around dusk, and remained heard only. Interestingly they only seemed to call in the last half hour of daylight, never after sunset despite multiple of the following nights being spent spotlighting for mammals.

### DAY 3 - MOUNT KINABALU (18/07)

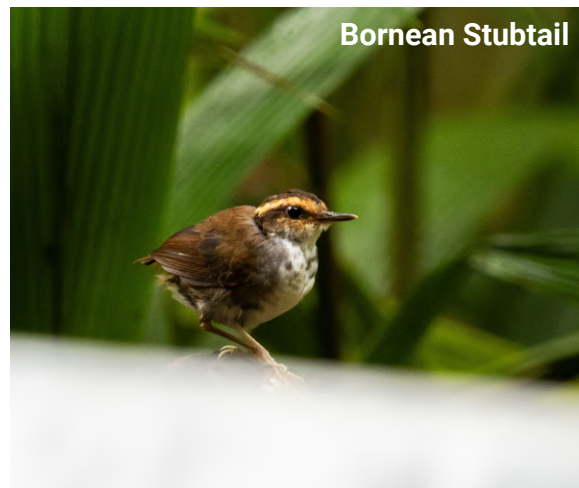
This first full day inside the park started off strong, with multiple heard only **Crimson-headed Partridges** and a distant **Dark Hawk-Cuckoo**. Both of us are more than happy with heard-only birds, though throughout the next few days we did occasionally try to tape in Crimson-headed Partridges to see if they would approach, without success. We heard from a few herpers that they had a pair walking around during the day in the Botanical Gardens, so that might be a good place to actually try for views. Another good tick early in the morning was a **Mountain Treeshrew** that shuffled across the road at dusk, the only one of the trip. **Little Pied Flycatchers** were common throughout.

The biggest highlight of this day was easily our first **Whitehead's Broadbill**, which we heard rather close to one of the open areas in the entrance area (6.010, 116.540), and then saw quite readily but distantly just around the corner. During our days at Mount Kinabalu, this ended up being the commonest of the famously sought-after Whitehead's trio, with visuals on three occasions and multiple other heard-only observations. This bird, while we were ready for it being extraordinary, absolutely blew us out of the water when it comes to its size: they are surprisingly long-winged, helping to make the massive explosion of green so impressive. One Whitehead's down, two to go...

We had decided that today would be a good time to go check out Timpohon Gate, to try securing as many of the high altitude birds as possible, because we knew those would be challenging species. There are buses that go up to Timpohon, but the entire road is birdy, so we just walked up while birding. Along the walk up, we saw our first **Grey-chinned Minivets** and **Little Cuckoo-Doves**, and heard our first **Mountain Imperial Pigeons** and **Sunda Cuckoos**. A flock that included the only pair of obliging **Pygmy Blue Flycatchers** of the trip took us some time to sort through, but proved to be very exciting. By the time we were just about done with the flock, a pair of Australian birders with their guide caught up with us, and their guide quickly found a stunning male **Fruithunter** that stayed perched, immobile, until we walked away. This corner in the road (6.016, 116.537), and bends near similar gulleys along this stretch of the road ended up being incredibly productive.



Fruithunter



Bornean Stubtail

Just around the corner from there, we were checking a small flock of passerines when we suddenly noticed a scurrying passerine on the side of the road (6.017, 116.537). This quickly turned into the only **Bornean Stubtail** of the trip, which briefly perched up on a log sticking up just above the metal road barrier. Other good montane birds like **Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher** and **Mountain Leaf Warbler** ended up being quite common, and flocks of both smaller and medium-sized passerines regularly had **Sunda Laughingthrushes** with them as well. We heard our first **Mountain Barbets** and **Red-breasted Partridges** around Kiau Gap View, which was otherwise very low in activity on this day. Throughout the hike up we had many different squirrels, often associating with bird waves. Besides a few more **Bornean Black-banded Squirrels**, these also included the endemic **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel**, **Brooke's Squirrel**, **Jentink's Squirrel** and the absolutely bizarre **Tufted Pygmy Squirrel** (also known as the Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel), almost all of which we came across on multiple occasions. Truly the squirrel capital of the world!

Past Kiau Gap View, high bird activity quickly resumed, with the best bird of this part of the hike being a **Sunda Owlet** (the only one of the trip!) calling loudly from slightly uphill. We were fine leaving it as heard only, but then as we turned around after taking some pictures of our first **Aberrant Bush Warbler**, the owlet was just sitting perched up on an exposed branch, looking away from us. No good for pictures, but definitely an unexpected sighting! The closer we approached Timpohon Gate, the birding very suddenly shifted to a rather different set of species, and all of a sudden a nice flock of endemic **Pale-faced Bulbul** (an IOC split from phenotypically very different widespread Flavescent Bulbul) were foraging and singing in the trees around us.

Timpohon Gate is well-known among birders for being a bit of a pain to work around. It is a gate with a small control post (where you would show the permit for a summiting attempt), a small store where some food and drinks are sold, and an observation platform on top of the gate. Among birders it is better-known for a few key species (Mountain Blackeye, Island Thrush, Fruithunter, Bornean Swiftlet) that are much more common above the gate, but especially for one endemic (Friendly Bush Warbler) that is essentially only doable starting from a few kilometers past the gate, where the tree cover opens up and the vegetation shifts entirely.

You used to be able to easily pop through the gate, get Friendly Bush Warbler, and get back to lower elevations, but ever since the unexpected 2015 earthquake the park management have gotten very strict with permission to enter through the gate. Unfortunately, Mount Kinabalu is a very popular destination for climbers and tourists, meaning that a few organisations have now fully monopolised the guiding industry beyond the gate. Every journey past Timpohon Gate now counts as an official summit attempt, for which you need to book a guide with a specific 2d1n or 3d2n climbing package deal, that also includes a night at an expensive hotel, and that needs to be booked two to three days in advance. Of course none of this is insurmountable, and Friendly Bush Warbler is a good bird to do it for,



but for us it was hard to predict whether or not it was worth the time; doing the climb and then missing other birds below the gate due to time constraint would be annoying as well.

With this in mind, we decided to spend most of this afternoon (about 4 hours) waiting at Timpohon Gate waiting around to try and see if we could already secure some of the more difficult high altitude species. Fruithunter was luckily already secured, but people generally seem to have issues with Mountain Blackeye and Island Thrush. Generally people do end up getting one or two Blackeyes, but especially the latter species seems dependent on the season, and is usually very hard at Timpohon Gate (and is often missed on trips that don't go beyond Timpohon Gate).

After about an hour of waiting with only a handful of **Indigo Flycatchers** and **Little Pied Flycatchers** around, we suddenly had a pair of stunning **Mountain Blackeye** pop into view. They stayed in the general area for a while, and eventually morphed into a big group of at least 13 birds! They are much bigger than other White-eyes, which we didn't expect at all. A much bigger surprise while we waited was a stunning **Island Thrush** flying right by us on two occurrences, shortly followed by a series of soft calls and subsong from barely downslope: this was easily one of the most unexpected targets on the entire trip, as most trip reports seem to mention them only being possible well above the even higher shelters. The good birding continued with our only **Yellow-bellied Warblers** and **Rufous-bellied Eagles** (a pair) of the trip, good views of **Black-and-crimson Oriole** in a big flock of **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes**, and eventually nice views of a preening **Bornean Spiderhunter**, quite a unique endemic.

On the walk back down, we heard three more good birds: multiple **Snowy-browed Flycatchers** just above Kiau Gap View, a **Bornean Whistling Thrush** at the Silau-Silau shelter and an **Orange-backed Woodpecker** close to where we had the Fruithunter in the morning. Another **Bornean Whistling Thrush** flew over the path and landed nearby the large park restaurant just around dusk.

#### **DAY 4 - MOUNT KINABALU (19/07)**

Since we had had a lot of luck on the previous day with the high altitude birds, we could focus this third day on the lower altitude species we still needed. From others, we had heard that Bornean Green Magpie would be most consistent at the last part of the entrance area, where they would frequently feed on small pink buds/fruits on the sides of the road, quite low down to the ground. Similarly, on many trip reports online, we had heard that Whitehead's Trogon was always most reliable along the Upper Silau-Silau trail and the adjacent road. We got in an early start to the day again, and decided to focus most of our energy on birding between the entrance area and the Silau-Silau shelter (which in general was a very birdy location and a place where we often found ourselves returning for a breather).

This ended up working out before we even made it out of the entrance area: just beyond the Kinabalu Hall we heard a **Bornean Shortwing** singing from nearby, coincidentally right next to a trail that had a shelter at the beginning (6.010, 116.541). We figured this would be a relatively hard bird to catch a glimpse of, but because it was so closeby, decided that it would be worth a shot to try anyways: neither of us expected it to promptly land on top of our speaker! They have a very unique song, that we heard on multiple more occasions during the rest of the time here. Our second and last **Bornean Forktail** sitting in the middle of the path was a very nice bonus: two strikingly different members of the same family seen within seconds of each other!



**Bornean Green Magpie**



**Bornean Shortwing**

Near the barrier/checkpoint just past Liwagu restaurant, we met three Malaysian birders that were photographing a pair of very nicely posing **Hair-crested Drongos**, that mentioned also having heard **Bornean Green Magpies** in this area on other days. A few seconds later, we had a pair of them, initially perched high in the trees just below the cabins of the Hill Lodge, that flew by right at eye height and gave amazing views from close range; We followed them a bit along the lower part of the Silau-Silau trail. These ended up being our only Green Magpies of the trip, besides possibly a few very distant calls on the next day.

In one of the road bends close to where we had the Fruithunter the day prior, a **Checker-throated Woodpecker** was a nice surprise and showed well. Birding along the road between the entrance area and the Silau-Silau shelter was consistently very good, and we upgraded our previous heard-only **Sunda Cuckoo** to great views of this species, sorted through a large amount of mixed species foraging flocks to look for our remaining target species (of which Whitehead's Spiderhunter and Bare-headed Laughingthrush were the most wanted at this point...). We met the pair of Australian birders again, who said they had had excellent views of a male Trogon along this road earlier that morning, so we stayed sharp and listened out for their series of simple whistles, occasionally imitating it ourselves as well. This ended up being confusing though, as we were not the only groups of birders

doing this; we had multiple instances of excitedly coming around the corner and meeting another group of birders excitedly coming around the corner doing the same thing!

After a short resting and listening session at the Silau-Silau shelter, we decided to bird the Silau-Silau trail which was apparently good for trogons, according to many other trip reports and eBird/observation.org records. After a few more times whistling back and forth between birders on the road, we reached a quieter area slightly further away from the road (somewhere around 6.017, 116.539), where suddenly a big female **Whitehead's Trogon** flew into view, and perched reasonably closeby! Not only this, but after about five minutes a stunning male flew in to join it as well, which must have been perched very close to us without us realising. It was met with loud audible gasps from both of us: that shade of deep red is absolutely incredible, especially in flight. Whitehead's two out of three, check!



With two out of the three Whitehead's birds in the pocket, we decided to put a concentrated effort into the third one. From what we could see on eBird records, they seemed to like the entrance area of the park slightly more than the actual forested areas, and we had been finding many bird waves there containing many smaller birds that feed on nectar and flower (where the larger concentrations of **Temminck's Sunbirds**, **Black-sided Flowerpeckers** and **Black-capped White-eyes** always seemed to be). We spent around 3 hours or so waiting around in open areas near flowering trees, walking around, occasionally playing playback etc. there but nothing seemed to be working; Those pink foxglove flowers that they liked didn't seem to be around, and neither were the Spiderhunters. At around 14:00 we started

birding the entrance road again and decided to walk up to Kiau Gap View and spend the rest of the afternoon there, to hopefully see some of the raptors we still needed.

On the walk up, we met up with a group of three American birders and their guide again, which we had also met briefly in the morning. We exchanged some information briefly about some of the key birds, during which they told us that the flowers for the Spiderhunter were actually still there where we had looked for them on the afternoon of our arrival. They had not had the Spiderhunter there, but this piqued our interest as we had failed to find the flowers on our first afternoon, so we made a mental note of having to check there again on the next morning. They mentioned not having seen **Whitehead's Trogon**, so when shortly after our conversation we found a stunning male about 100m up the road, one of us kept it in view while the other went to get them, and luckily the bird stayed! This male gave even better views than the pair this morning, which was fantastic. While all of us were looking at it, it even ruffled its feathers and dropped a body feather!

Once we got to Kiau Gap, it was unfortunately extremely misty, and we could hear storms rolling in from the distance, so we called it good after half an hour because we knew we would still have to walk all the way back down. On the walk back we stopped at a few more places to try for more birds we were missing (Bare-headed Laughingthrush and Mountain Wren-Babbler especially...), but an adult-juvenile pair of **Blyth's Hawk-Eagles** soaring overhead, very low over the forest, was a definite highlight.

After returning to the entrance area, we treated ourselves to dinner at the fairly expensive Liwagu Restaurant. This was a cool way of meeting new people, and during dinner we had some brief conversations with other birders, mammalwatchers, herpers and entomologists that were staying in the park. After dinner we went out for a bit to try spotlighting a bit (Kinabalu, besides its birds and squirrels, is also very famous for the amount of vipers and other poisonous snakes), and while we didn't end up getting any snakes, it did not take us very long before we found our first **Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel**: first unidentified eyeshine that was probably of this species, but then great views of both a beautiful spotted adult in a large fig tree (6.016, 116.537) and an immature sitting much lower in a dead tree closer to the entrance area (6.012, 116.539).

#### **DAY 5 - MOUNT KINABALU (20/07)**

Equipped with our new information regarding the patch of foxglove flowers, we started our day off outside the park along the busy road at the carwash from earlier. We were now able to find the flowers very quickly, just upslope to the left of the carwash building (6.000, 116.546), though most of the flowers seemed to have disappeared. These flowers were the only ones of their species we ended up coming across anywhere around Kinabalu, perhaps explaining why Whitehead's Spiderhunter seemed so rare this year. We spent about 40 minutes waiting here, and sure enough, suddenly we had a **Whitehead's Spiderhunter**



making typical flight calls fly right overhead! That's the Whitehead's set complete! Though not fantastic views, we were very content with our morning. The morning got better still, when suddenly a larger swift cut through a group of Plume-toed Swiftlets: following it around for a few minutes revealed its identity as a **Giant Swiftlet** (Waterfall Swift)! This was a bird that we were not necessarily expecting to see during the trip, as though not endemic they do seem to be very scarce everywhere.

After having breakfast at Restoran Panataran barely outside of the park (good food for much cheaper than at Liwagu Restaurant, but not always open in the evening) we quickly got back to birding. Over the past days we had been playing the odd hooting calls of **Bare-headed Laughingthrush** at pretty much every mixed flock we came across, because it was one of our most wanted endemics here. Our surprise was high when, at one of the bends about halfway along the road between the entrance area and the Silau-Silau Shelter, directly after playing calls we heard at least two birds respond for a prolonged amount of time! They ended up calling from high in the trees on-and-off for about ten minutes. We did see two silhouetted laughingthrush-y birds in flight where the sounds came from, but unfortunately the birds did not come any closer and eventually disappeared. This flock also had our first **Maroon Woodpeckers** of the trip, very high numbers of both commoner laughingthrushes, and our only **Kinabalu Squirrel** of the trip.

We didn't have to wait long for our next endemic: the flock just around the corner had two new birds! Three or four **Bornean Leafbirds** and three or four **Sunda Cuckooshrikes** were foraging together downslope, occasionally giving good views. After this we spent the rest of the day walking back up to Kiau Gap to both try for Mountain Wren-Babbler, which we saw was easiest at higher elevations, and to scan for raptors again in pursuit of that Mountain Serpent Eagle... Near Kiau Gap we found some of our only **White-bellied Erpornis** and **Mountain Tailorbirds** of the trip, and we finally got our first views of two **Snowy-browed Flycatchers**, a male and a female. Kiau Gap was unbelievably misty yet again, so we focused on the babblers instead. A lot of checking of flocks and listening later, we had a small group of what must have been at least four **Mountain Wren-Babblers** singing loudly, just beyond Kiau Gap (6.024, 116.543).

On the walk back down (storm rolling in again...) we met a very friendly Japanese birder that had just found a group of langurs closeby, we saw them moving around in the distance but they were fully silhouetted and we mainly only saw movement, so despite them seeming greyish (implying Hose's Surili...) we decided not to count them.

Our best views of **Whitehead's Broadbill** were obtained at dusk close to the hut at the end of the upper Silau-Silau trail (6.019, 116.537), where at least one male and one female bird seemed to be hanging around, with the male being exceptionally vocal and easy to find just before dark. On this night it came down really close towards us, allowing for some nicer pictures despite the low light.



**Whitehead's Broadbill**

After dinner at Liwagu Restaurant again, we got ready for our last night of spotlighting here. It was a very misty night which really hindered visibility, but we did find another **Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel** and our only **Greater Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse** of the trip, racing along the power lines. A few herpers we met along the way tipped us about the entrance area being good for two species of Horned Frog, so on our way out we had a look and were tipped by another pair of photographers about a stunning Kobayashi's Horned Frog: probably our biggest herping highlight of the trip! On the walk out of the park, we saw a very unfortunate recent roadkill Long-tailed Giant Rat (*Leopoldamys sabanus*) on the busy road between the park and our accommodation.

#### **DAY 6 - MOUNT KINABALU (21/07)**

We started the day off by revisiting the Whitehead's Spiderhunter spot, to try for pictures or recordings. After no activity there for the first hour, we had one calling on the way back, at the edge of a cleared part of the forest (6.004, 116.544)! This **Whitehead's Spiderhunter** flew directly overhead towards the Mountain Resthouse, slightly better than the day before. No pictures of this mega for us, but we can hardly complain!

At the visitor centre, we inquired whether or not going beyond Timpohon Gate for one day was an option: the response at the office was that if we paid for two days, turning back earlier would be possible, but arranging the permits and finding a guide for an official



summit attempt would have to be done 2-3 days in advance, so doing it on this last day would be impossible. Unfortunately, no Friendly Bush Warbler for us on this trip! To cut our losses, we took one of the minibuses up to Timpohon Gate and scanned for raptors.

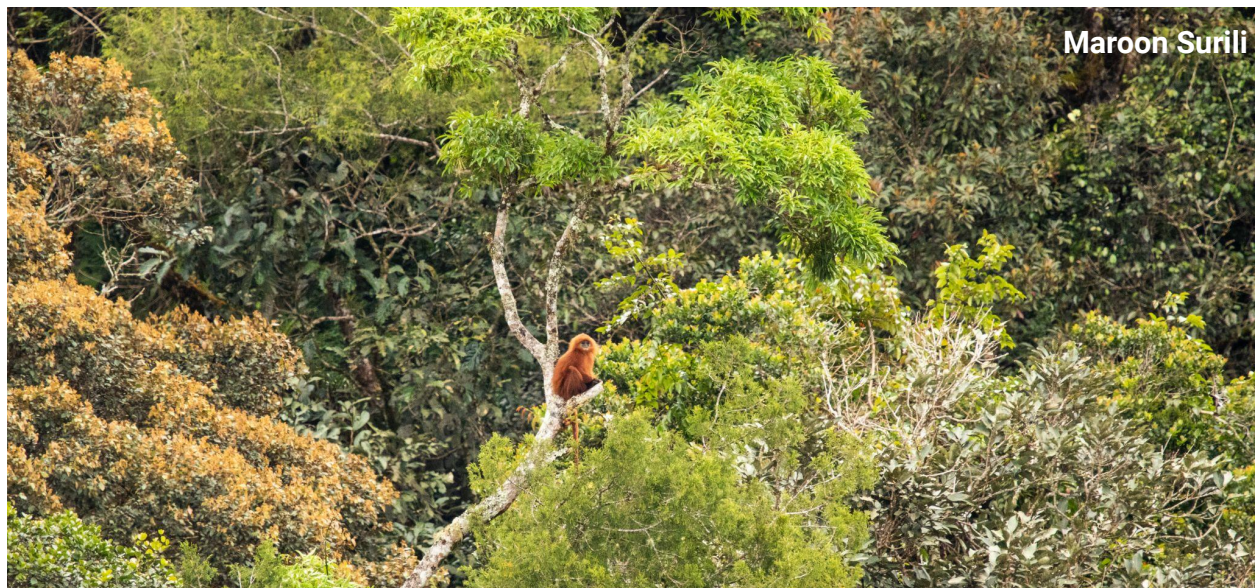


**Mountain Blackeye**



**Fruithunter**

Most of the morning at Timpohon was fairly quiet (especially lacking in the raptor department), but appearances of **Bornean Black-banded Squirrels**, **Pale-faced Bulbuls**, **Mountain Blackeyes**, **Black-and-Crimson Orioles** and mixed laughingthrush flocks were fun to sort through. Real highlights were point blank views of **Bornean Whistling Thrush** and a pair of **Fruithunters** that perched nicely out in the open! Over the course of the morning, a group of swiftlets was pushed down by the mist. We first had good views of three **Giant Swiftlets** flying close to the platform, followed by a group of *Collocalia* swiftlets that putatively seemed green-glossed, white-bellied and long-winged, so potentially good enough for **Bornean Swiftlet**: however, this is, though difficult to confirm without seeing them at the nest. We thought we saw a confirmed colony of Bornean Swiftlets later, at Gunung Alab Substation (day 17), but apparently those have since been confirmed as being Plume-toed. A big surprise was a pair of **Maroon Surilis** sitting up in an exposed tree, seen from the platform at Timpohon Gate.



**Maroon Surili**

For about four hours around midday, it started raining heavily, so we stayed sheltered at the Timpohon Gate and waited out the weather. After the rain eventually cleared up we walked back down, stopping at Kiau Gap and spending what was left of the afternoon there; This got us another observation of the pair of **Blyth's Hawk-Eagles**, but not the Mountain Serpent Eagle we had hoped for. In the last light, just below Kiap Gap, we had an adult **Everett's Thrush** foraging among the fallen leaves on the roadside; A more typical location, much higher up the mountain than the bird we had on the first day, but this bird was much shier and did not allow as good views. As we would be picked up very early in the morning on the following day, we had a quick dinner and an early night. Outside of the putative Bornean Swiftlets seen today, this was our only day without any (Avian) trip ticks.

Overall, we did fairly well at Kinabalu, which arguably we could have left one day earlier than we actually did to gain more time elsewhere: however, I feel like we got uncharacteristically lucky with the very high altitude species, with Mountain Blackeye, Fruithunter, Everett's Thrush and especially Island Thrush all being much lower on the mountain than they are usually, from the information we can gather online - Missing any one of these birds would have been painful, so in a more traditional year perhaps we allotted exactly the right amount of time. Missing Mountain Serpent Eagle and not really being able to go for Friendly Bush Warbler stings a bit, but with many of the more difficult endemics in the pocket it's hard to complain. We'll have to be back...

#### **DAY 7 - ULU TELUPID (22/07)**

This day was the first of two times where we hired a guide/driver to save time on the more difficult logistics, and increase our chances of seeing specific very rare birds. Our guide and driver to Telupid to try for the Bornean Peacock Pheasants was Andy (+60 19-863 3810), and all of our contact regarding the organisation of this day trip happened via Endemic Guides ([info@endemicguides.com](mailto:info@endemicguides.com)). We had arranged transport at 4AM from our accommodation to the pheasant hide near Telupid, a full day at the hide, and then transportation towards our accommodation in Sukau, where we would be staying for the Kinabatangan leg of the trip.

The drive, mostly at night, was fairly uneventful. A quick pit stop at sunrise got us our first poor views at **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots**, a species that would be common throughout all lowland locations along the trip. Andy first took us to a restaurant along the main road, where we bought breakfast and a packed lunch. On the slower drive towards the village from where you access the hide, a few common lowland species were added, like **Scaly-breasted** and **Dusky Munias**; Dusky Munia ended up being the most commonly seen endemic of the trip. As we arrived and signed the logbook, we saw a perched **Crested Goshawk**, heard **Greater Coucals** in the distance, and saw our first **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker**. From the village, there was an optional extra charge for a drive that cut down the walking towards the hide in half. The hike is not very bad, but is very slippery and muddy.



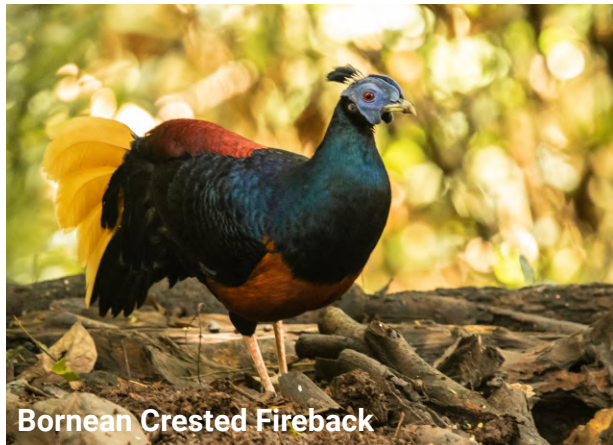
We paid the extra charge for the car to reach the hide as early as possible, as by the time we got there it was already quite long after sunrise.

The hide itself was a fairly simple but large setup, created with mesh, camouflage material on the outside, and plastic on top of the hide to serve as a roof in case of rain. At least two **Bornean Peacock-Pheasants** were heard calling almost immediately upon arrival, and continued calling all day long (between 8:00 and 14:00). One of the two birds made four total foraging appearances in front of the hide, all between 9:30 and 11:30, and gave excellent opportunities for pictures on all occasions. Between two foraging sessions, it was also visible preening right besides the hide through a small hole in the mesh. Bornean Peacock Pheasant is an extraordinarily rare and shy species, only mainly known from a handful of hard-to-reach areas in Kalimantan and this spot in Telupid: truly one of the rarest, but also one of the most bizarre-looking pheasants in the world.



Shortly after the **Bornean Peacock-Pheasant's** fourth appearance, a pair of **Bornean Crested Firebacks** arrived at the hide to forage for a few minutes, after which the Peacock-Pheasant avoided the hide for the rest of the day. As this was our first lowland location, besides those pheasants a lot of other birds were also added in a short amount of time: we saw our first **White-crowned Shamas**, **Charlotte's Bulbuls**, **Rufous Piculets**, of the trip here, alongside no less than six different babbler species: **Ferruginous**, **Short-tailed**, **Grey-hooded**, **Sooty-capped**, **Rufous-crowned** and **Black-throated Babbler**, the last of which is a locally rare species we were expecting to miss altogether, which we did not see anywhere else on the trip. From the hide we also heard our first **Black-and-Yellow Broadbills**, **Golden-whiskered Barbets** and **Rhinoceros Hornbills** here, all of which we ended

up seeing well later: a first glimpse of a large hornbill flying through the trees was an exciting moment. An especially nice bird was a small flock of **Pygmy White-eyes** (or Pygmy Ibons), which is a very scarce species in all of the main hotspots in Sabah. The hide was also commonly visited by **Low's Squirrels**, **Least Pygmy Squirrels** (truly tiny, smaller than a house mouse!) and a **Long-footed Treeshrew**, which was really impressive to see running around between the squirrels and pheasants. We asked about a Giant Pitta that had been regular here earlier in 2023, but apparently that bird had not called nor come to the hide for at least 4 or 5 months prior to our visit.



Bornean Crested Fireback



Bornean Peacock-Pheasant

Along the walk outside of the forest, we saw our first Rufous-tailed Tailorbirds and heard our first Plaintive Cuckoos of the trip, on the border of the primary forest and the rubber & palm oil plantations. It seems like the Peacock-Pheasants might partially be the reason why not more of the forest has been chopped to make way for agriculture, and so despite the slightly steeper price we were hopeful that our money was hopefully going towards preserving the forest.

On the drive to Sukau, we made sure to properly bird the road for any other additions. The first half of the drive remained fairly uneventful, but after the turnoff towards Sukau there were suddenly mynas everywhere, mostly **Javan Mynas** with a handful of **Crested Myna** among them as well. Four *Acridotheres* myna species (Javan, Crested, Common and Pale-bellied) are introduced on Borneo, but Javan far outnumbers all of the others. From the car we also saw our first **Collared Kingfishers**, **Crested Serpent Eagles**, **Little Green Pigeons** and both **Southern Pig-tailed** and **Long-tailed Macaques**. As we arrived at Sukau, we heard our first **Black-eared Barbet** (a recent IOC split from Blue-eared), potentially the most common barbet species in the Bornean lowlands throughout. For our stay at Kinabatangan, we stayed at the hostel in Sukau Green View, which was very comfortable and affordable. Our stay here was very comfortable, with a clean air-conditioned dorm room and very good food for all meals.



## DAY 8 - KINABATANGAN (23/07)

We woke up a bit earlier than our scheduled boat trip (which would leave every day at 6:00) to pick up our very nice packed breakfast and quickly heard **Red-throated Barbets**, saw our first flock of endemic **Brown Barbets** and a duo of **Large Treeshrews**, which are honestly more impressively dark red than it is big. For our three full days on the river, we had arranged everything with Romzi Awang (+60 11-3152 1176). As many other trip reports have mentioned, he is truly the best chance you have for most birds, and definitely for Bornean Ground Cuckoo.

Our first stop was at a big fig just across the river from Sukau Green View, where a female **Bornean Orangutan** had been feeding for the past few days! This Orangutan was high up in a distant tree, so not very much of it was visible. This was our only Orangutan from Kinabatangan, but the location made it possible for us to see it multiple times from the balcony of the lodge. We ended up having much better views of Orangutans at Danum Valley. Very far in the distance we heard a pair of **East Bornean Grey Gibbons**, which we did not end up seeing at Kinabatangan but had fantastic views of at Danum later in the trip.

After this, we went downstream to try for one of the rarer hornbills immediately, namely White-crowned. Some playback from the main river did not get any response, but a distant **Wreathed Hornbill** was our only one in the Kinabatangan area (they ended up being much commoner at Danum Valley). **Oriental Pied Hornbills** and **Rhinoceros Hornbills** were common throughout, and a male **Black Hornbill** making its prehistoric calls from the riverside was very impressive, though we would also bump into a good number of these along the river. Downstream, we added our first **Stork-billed Kingfishers**, **Long-tailed Parakeets**, **Common Emerald Dove**, **Bold-striped Tit-Babblers** and **Oriental Dollarbirds**. A pair of **Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeons** was probably the biggest rarity here, but our attention quickly shifted to a large male **Asian Elephant** in musth, standing at the other side of the river! I say large, but of course being Bornean Pygmy Elephants (*borneensis*), these are the smallest extant elephants in the world.

**Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon**



After this, we headed into Silau Resang, one of the tributaries off of the main river, to try for specialties like the ground birds and rarer kingfishers. It didn't take very long for this to be successful: as we were boating in, a **Western Hooded Pitta** crossed the tributary! We spent some time with this bird, as it was incredibly showy and gave fantastic views for a few minutes. The next highlight was just around the corner, and after a few calls a stunning **Sabah Partridge** crossed over the tributary as well, also giving excellent views from a very short range after doing so. Resang also got us our first **Plantain Squirrels**, **Prevost's Squirrels**, **Black-and-red Broadbills**, **Raffles's Malkohas**, a single **Hairy-backed Bulbul** and a handful **Blue-eared Kingfishers**. Our breakfast was had on the boat in the middle of this stunning habitat next to our first beautiful family of **Proboscis Monkeys** (which ended up being almost comically common all along the Kinabatangan), that were later joined by a pair of **Wrinkled Hornbills** feeding on the same figs. We had been on the river for two hours, and have not spent a single minute without looking at a major highlight species!

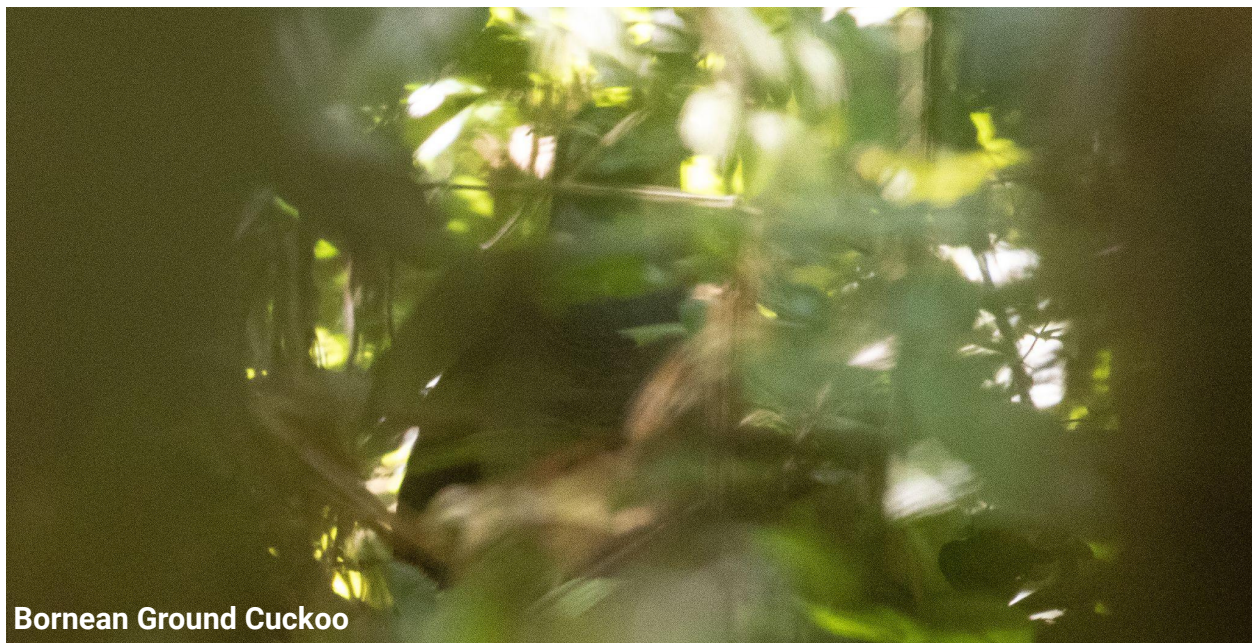


After exiting Resang and heading back upstream, more birding from the boat between Silau Resang and Silau Sukau saw us getting our first **Common Sandpiper**, the tall trees had three perched raptor species in **Crested Honey Buzzard**, **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle** and **Lesser Fish Eagle**, and hornbill species #6 of the day: **Bushy-crested Hornbill!**. Both Wrinkled and Bushy-crested Hornbills were also seen fairly regularly throughout our three days on the water. Along the main river, we stopped a handful more times to try playbacking (or to try calling!) for a Ground Cuckoo, but with no response.

We arrived at a smaller tributary (seemingly unnamed, but sometimes referred to as Silau Sukau) just before 10:00, and bar a single **Purple-naped Sunbird** (or Purple-naped Spiderhunter), the bird activity here was already mostly dead. Upon entering this tributary, Romzi mentioned this was usually one of the best tributaries for rarer birds, which raised our tension a little bit. We paddled further along the tributary at a crawling pace, Romzi alternated between whistling the drawn out whistle of Black-crowned Pitta and playing the calls of Bornean Ground Cuckoo, which is surely every visiting birder's main target on the Kinabatangan River. It didn't take long until we realised - A real **Bornean Ground Cuckoo** is responding in the distance! It sounded extremely far, so we didn't fully think we would have



a chance to see it, except perhaps if we bushwhacked in... But Romzi signalled to stay quiet, not to move at all, and moved the boat into the vegetation on the opposing bank, while he kept playing the call. A few minutes later, seemingly way too soon for the distance that the bird must have covered, all three of us gradually got views of views of the bird: a real **Bornean Ground Cuckoo**, perched on a low branch a few meters behind the water's edge, sitting still and occasionally pumping its tail and calling. Quietly we got closer and closer with the boat, and one after the other all of us got good views of the cuckoo through tiny gaps in the foliage. Eventually, as we quietly stood up to get a better angle, it ran away. A few minutes later we were looking at a **Bornean Ground Cuckoo** yet again, perched on a branch slightly further away this time, where it was continuously flicking its tail up and down while still calling. This moment continued for what seemed like forever, but ended when we tried taking a few pictures through the dense foliage: a bit of imagination is necessary, but we believe any views of a ground cuckoo are a major victory!



Romzi said we had gotten very lucky - Ever since the African swine fever virus reached Borneo in 2021 and made a big dent in the Bearded Pig population, Bornean Ground Cuckoos around Kinabatangan have been much rarer and much shier than before. He mentioned that he had streaks of bad luck occasionally, mentioning that he had been unlucky with both of the previous groups that booked him in July, and had not personally seen any Ground Cuckoos in a few months. He got the impression that when individual birds respond to playback or imitation once, they probably ignore the sound for quite a while after that, which starts being an issue when there are large amounts of birders visiting the river all the time. All that aside, Romzi is definitely the best person out there to contact when trying to see this bird, without him we might not have heard any at all and we definitely would not have seen any. While he was sharing details about the birds, we were drinking the tea that came with our packed lunch, and listened to two Ground Cuckoos calling in the distance. Magical.

On all three of our days at the Kinabatangan, we had booked Romzi for three cruises per day. Between two cruises, around lunch, we had quite a lot of time to regroup, recharge and enjoy casual birding from the balcony, although it was usually very quiet there at noon. **Common Myna, Little Spiderhunter** and **White-bellied Sea Eagle** were added between our first and second cruises of the day: there's definitely some irony in having Bornean Ground Cuckoo and (introduced) Common Myna as consecutive trip ticks... We had lunch at the buffet in Sukau Green View each day between tours, which was always excellent for a decent price.

On the afternoon cruise, Romzi took us further upstream, initially towards Oxbow Lake, because as we learned later there had been a sighting of Helmeted Hornbill there that morning. After this, we headed towards Silau Tenegang for a few more good highlight birds including a long-staying vagrant. Along the main river we saw our first soaring **Lesser Adjutant**, a species that we would only end up seeing three times, once each on our three days here, always soaring high above the river.

The tributary leading up to the Oxbow lake was always very good for birding, and Romzi tried whistling a few more times for some Pittas, without response. Fun birds here were our first visuals of **Black-and-yellow Broadbills, Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfishers** and **White-chested Babblers**, all of which ended up being very common but only occasionally seen well. Other than that the Oxbow lake was low in activity, besides a distant roosting raptor that was likely a Bat Hawk, very large numbers of **Proboscis Monkey** and a small family group of **Silvery Lutung**, complete with orange baby.



On the way towards Sulau Tenegang, we completed the trio of *Ichthyophaga* eagles possible at the Kinabatangan with a perched **Grey-headed Fish Eagle**. After arrival at Tenegang, the abundance of **Proboscis Monkey** truly started to become evident, with big groups (harems and bachelor groups) being almost omnipresent.



The first target we were looking for here was a **Rainbow Bee-eater**, a trans-Wallacean vagrant: a small flock on the Maratuas in 2010 and a larger flock along the Silam Coast in 2016 are the only two other records for Borneo and for all of Malaysia, making this the third ever country and island record. This bird had been here since the 24th of June, so we saw it about a month after its discovery and it ended up staying for a long time. Upon arrival at Tenegang, where we were preparing ourselves for frustratingly having to sort through many large flocks of Blue-throated Bee-eaters in flight to try finding this one individual among them, it was essentially the closest bird in the very first small group of perched bee-eaters we saw (5.454, 118.245). Getting in a good twitch on holiday, love it!



**Rainbow Bee-eater**

Nearby, we also had our first **Buff-necked Woodpeckers** of the trip, which surprisingly was the commonest woodpecker we saw, almost always in pairs. This place was very popular tourist boats, as this was also where the big group of **Asian Elephants** were hanging around at the time. After the bee-eater, all of our attention shifted towards getting **White-crowned Hornbill**, hornbill #7 of the day, of which we eventually did see a pair crossing the river, but not before getting distracted by a pair of **Storm's Storks** perched up in a tall tree in the nice evening light. You can't make this stuff up, legendary birds are just casual here!



**Storm's Stork**



**White-crowned Hornbill**

The reason we had gone here on the first evening was because Tenegang was also one of the better stakeouts for **Large Frogmouths**. The pair of **Large Frogmouths** cooperated very nicely, and gave fantastic views. Normally Tenegang also has Romzi's favoured location to try for Oriental Bay Owl, but because of the big group of **Asian Elephants** that were currently in the area, it was too dangerous to get out of the boat here. Unfortunately, rain cut our night cruise short, and we spent the entire boat ride back to Sukau getting rained on. Right after we arrived back at Sukau it stopped raining, so we walked around the roads for a while... and heard an **Oriental Bay Owl** calling in the distance. Go figure! Another addition was a roosting fruit bat, which turned out to be the common and widespread **Lesser Short-nosed Fruit Bat**. This was unfortunately the only identifiable bat of the trip.

Between seven hornbill species, Orangutan, Ground Cuckoo, Storm's Stork and an extraordinarily rare vagrant in the Rainbow Bee-eater, this has to be a contender for one of the best days of our lives - And that's not even mentioning the Pitta, Bay Owl, Frogmouth, Elephants and Proboscis Monkeys... This place is unfair!

#### **DAY 9 - KINABATANGAN (24/07)**

Because we had already seen many real highlights on our first day, we could focus on allround good birding to see as many lowland species as possible, so that we had more time in Danum to focus on other big targets. The best place to see many flocks of passerines, with also good chances for woodpeckers, trogons, malkohas etc. is Silau Menanggul, so Romzi took us there for the entire morning. Immediately upon arrival the day started off great with heard **East Bornean Grey Gibbons**, **Sabah Partridges** and **Western Hooded Pittas**, but the morning got especially good when we bumped into a big bird wave that included our first **Black-headed Bulbuls**, **Malaysian Blue Flycatchers**, **Green Ioras**, **Black-naped Monarchs** and what ended up being the only **Yellow-vented Flowerpecker** of the trip - All absolute stunners! Surprisingly, one of only a few **Greater Racket-tailed Drongos** of the trip flew overhead, chasing away a **Crested Goshawk**.

Bigger highlights from the morning were our first views of **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, which we ended up getting a few more times at other locations, but which is much smaller than either of us expected. A very nice bird! A distant flyover **Violet Cuckoo** called out by Romzi was the only one of the trip, and our first **Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker** and **Buff-rumped Woodpecker** gave decent views. One of the most common birds along the river was **Black-and-red Broadbills**, which was very funny; Individuals, pairs and small groups of them were encountered consistently all throughout the morning.

Once it started getting later into the morning and the heat was starting to rise, bird activity died down a little bit, until we picked up on a sound in the distance: **Great Slaty Woodpecker**! Romzi had pointed out a nesting tree on our boat ride in, so this was probably



the resident pair as they were right around this area. After waiting a few minutes they eventually flew in and gave their classic communal display, with both massive woodpeckers holding open their wings and circling the open branch. Very impressive! Almost equally impressive was a beautiful **Orange-backed Woodpecker** that flew into the same few trees, also called loudly and also gave excellent fly-by views. These were the only views we had of these woodpecker species on the trip, though we did hear both at other locations. There was a nice big family group of **Proboscis Monkeys** here again, as well as our first **Asian Red-eyed Bulbul**. A **Lesser Adjutant** was soaring high above the forest.

**Great Slaty Woodpeckers**

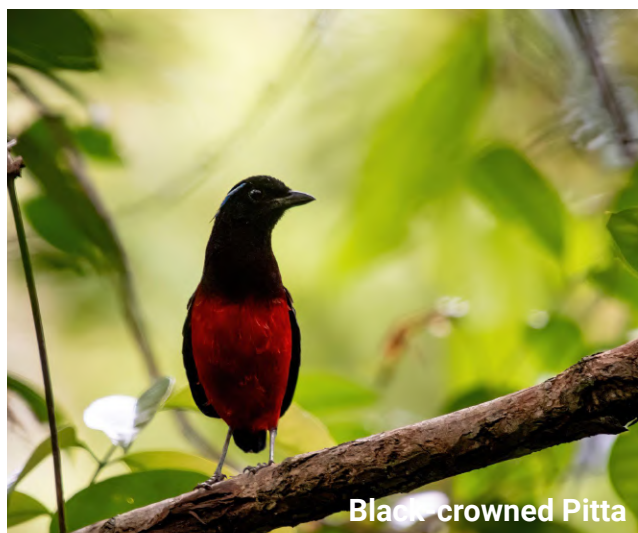


After exiting Menanggul we went back to Silau Sukau (where we had had the Ground Cuckoos the previous day) again to try for some more birds, including potentially Black-crowned Pitta, but the sun was high and bird activity was low, so we didn't manage more than a heard-only **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** and a small flock of **Yellow-bellied Bulbuls**.

During the rest period between boating trips at noon, we looked into if there had been any sightings of **White-bellied Munia** in the neighbourhood, as that was a bird we still needed and this seemed like the habitat to find it in. Sure enough there were a handful of sightings in the area (though this species seems much rarer in Borneo than we gave it credit for while planning), and a short walk along the road after lunch saw us getting a pair of them among **Dusky** and **Scaly-breasted Munias** (5.520, 118.298). These were the only **White-bellied Munias** of the trip.

In the afternoon, we went back to Oxbow Lake to try for Helmeted Hornbill again, where we also tried for some other harder targets like White-bellied Woodpecker and Dusky Broadbill, both of which we unfortunately ended up missing on the trip in general. While waiting on the water, we suddenly heard a long, drawn-out whistle from very far in the forest between the

Oxbow lake and the Kinabatangan. All of us knew immediately what we were hearing: **Black-crowned Pitta**! Romzi carefully guided the boat on the forest's edge, and after getting a pretty good idea of where it was we went inside the forest to look for it (right underneath a big group of Proboscis Monkeys!). It took us over half an hour of bushwhacking because the bird seemed to initially be in a pretty much impenetrable muddy gully full of low growth, but once we got around to the other side of that gully, Romzi found it fairly quickly. Sure enough, there it was, a stunning adult Pitta perched up on a thick vine just above eyeheight! The bird stayed there for quite a while while singing, and gave fantastic views.



Black-crowned Pitta



White-bellied Munia

Once we got out of the forest and back in the boat, we saw the same dark raptor in the same tree as the day before, this time confirming its identity as a **Bat Hawk**. Big groups of **Proboscis Monkeys** and **Silvery Lutung** were also still present. Perhaps the most surprising observation was a White-bellied Rat Snake (*Ptyas fusca*) racing across the lake at an incredible speed, to eventually climb out of the water elegantly and efficiently: the only snake of the trip.

In the evening, the weather was looking a bit dreary so it was likely that this night cruise would be cut short again, but we headed to Menanggul to try regardless. On the way to Menanggul, we saw many Saltwater Crocodiles of variable sizes, among which some very impressive giants. We had excellent views of a big **Buffy Fish Owl** here, and heard multiple others in the background.

The main targets for the night were Oriental Bay Owl and Gould's Frogmouth: the Bay Owls wouldn't respond because of the rain that was starting to pour in, but sure enough we heard **Gould's Frogmouth** calling in the distance. It seemed to stay in one location and call consistently, so we bushwhacked in and closed in on it, eventually getting fantastic views. Much smaller than we had expected! Unfortunately the rain picked up after that, so while we did look for a Flat-headed Cat along Menanggul for a little bit, we had to head back to the lodge shortly after.



Gould's Frogmouth



Large Frogmouth (23/07)



### DAY 10 - KINABATANGAN (25/07)

Our third morning on the water was spent downstream from Sukau Green View again, mostly in Silau Resang for a few tougher birds. On the way downstream we saw our first **Barn Swallows** of the trip, which ended up trickling in more and more commonly throughout the rest of the second half of the trip. After entering Silau Resang we tried a few calls of **Ruddy Kingfisher**, which immediately succeeded with a bird flying straight towards us and landing right beside the boat. Fantastic, and the only time we would see this characteristic kingfisher on the trip.



Bornean Black-capped Babbler



Ruddy Kingfisher

Good birding kept going with our first **Common Hill Mynas**, **Red-billed Malkohas**, and **Banded Broadbill** of the trip - All of which would also be fairly commonly observed in Danum, though this was the **only Banded Broadbill** we actually saw. The only endemic of the morning was the fantastic **Bornean Black-capped Babbler**, which is a great bird: sometimes they hop around in low branches like expected, but sometimes they walk around on the

ground like a Rail-babbler! We only ended up seeing this species twice, once here and once at Danum. Also at Resang was a very photogenic pair of **Storm's Storks** and the only **Copper-throated Sunbird** of the trip.

At noon, we walked around on the overgrown trails behind the lodge, which were very lacking in activity but had a few more **Malaysian Blue Flycatchers** and **White-crowned Shammas**. On the afternoon cruise we went back upstream to Oxbow Lake and Tenegang and mainly focused our energy on birds like Bornean Bristlehead, White-bellied Woodpecker, Dusky Broadbill and Helmeted Hornbill, none of which responded. A nice bird was the endemic **Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker**, which we would end up seeing two more times on the trip, but otherwise the afternoon was fairly uneventful.

The evening cruise was probably the highlight of the day. We went back to Menanggul, where for the first time in three nights there were open skies and no chance for rain. That meant: owl time! Fairly quickly after using playback we got an **Oriental Bay Owl** to respond, but it was still very far away. This happened twice more, until we found a bird that responded from very closeby. It seemed fairly mobile, but we gave it a try and Romzi steered the boat in the riverbank for us to get out. After about 20 mins of chasing them down it was obvious that there were two Bay Owls there, that were sending us around in circles. Dangerous, because that's a good way to get yourself lost in the forest at night, which is exactly what happened.

While still looking around for it regularly, seemingly out of nowhere Romzi points his torch towards the ground and says, in potentially the calmest voice imaginable: "**Banded Palm Civet**". This was an especially fantastic moment, because I (Anton) hadn't paid full attention and thought he referred to Striped Palm Civet, a potential split of the widespread and common Small-toothed Palm Civet, which mammalwatchers come across very often throughout Sabah. Mehdi hadn't heard which species Romzi had mentioned at all, so for both of us, suddenly seeing this rare stunner so closeby was a complete surprise!





It didn't take very long of us bushwhacking in circles after that until Romzi spotted one of the **Bay Owls**, which gave excellent but short views very low down in a tree. Less than half a minute after it flew, Romzi also found the second individual, similarly perched very low down to the ground. This second bird gave very long views, which was excellent. A **Brown Wood Owl** was calling from fairly nearby but could not be found.

Probably one of the coolest auditory experiences occurred on our boat ride back down Menanggul. We were going slow and spotlighting the riverbanks to try for Flat-headed Cat (unfortunately a dip, our odds might have been higher had we not had to cut both earlier night cruises short because of rain): we kept hearing more and more **Oriental Bay Owls** approaching closer and closer to the river and closer to each other, until we had about 5 or 6 birds calling from all directions, while we sat there in a boat under the moonlight. Chills!

Upon arrival back at Sukau, we got a tip from a group of Taiwanese birders we had been talking to and exchanging information with about a **Brown Wood Owl** just down the road, so we walked over to the location and got good views of the species there.

#### **DAY 11 - TRANSIT (26/07)**

This day would be primarily a travel day, from Sukau to Lahad Datu. A little bit of early morning birding yielded our first **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** close to the lodge, but not much else. We had been informed at our lodge the day prior about taking the bus to Lahad Datu, where we were surprised to learn that the Sandakan - Lahad Datu bus only went once per day, and it passed by the Sukau Junction at around 9:00-10:00 in the morning. A minibus, arranged the day prior, took us through the extensive palm oil plantations to the Sukau Junction. The power lines through the degraded habitat looked decent for falcons and shrikes, and sure enough we got our first views of the endemic **White-fronted Falconets** along the roadside close to the Sukau Junction, and **Long-tailed Shrike** was fairly common here as well.

After arrival in Lahad Datu, we took a grab and checked into our hotel, the Fajar Hotel, which was right by the DVFC office (close to the airport). After this we took a grab over to the coast, to try for some waders, seabirds and mangrove specialists that we were unsure we would still have more chances at during the rest of the trip. We initially went to the road close to the restaurant Wilayah Seafood (5.022, 118.334), which seemed interesting on Google Maps. In person it seemed less promising, as it was extremely polluted (like, unfortunately, the rest of the city...), and there was no good view of the sand banks anywhere, especially without scopes. After scanning a little bit and walking along the road to the mangrove forest east of this location we had only seen a handful new species for the trip list in **Striated Heron**, a **Green Sandpiper** and a pair of **Red-throated Sunbirds**. Green Sandpiper ended up surprisingly being a bit of a local rarity in Sabah, with only about 4 prior records that year.

We eventually decided our best views over the mudflats would be from the terrace of the seafood restaurant, which was correct: unfortunately we had just eaten, and the prices seemed steep when we did eventually order something to make it less awkward. From the restaurant we scanned the mudflats, which got us a few **Common Redshanks**, a pair of **Grey-tailed Tattler**, an unidentified *Charadrius* plover and *Calidris* stint. A white morph **Pacific Reef Heron** was a nice addition to the list as well. Overall, we had way too much time at Lahad Datu, and there was little to do in the way of birding: it didn't look like any other locations along the adjacent coast were much more inspiring for waders, and the incredible degree of pollution was very depressing to see.

In the evening we did some groceries for the upcoming days at Danum. To save on costs, we only paid for one meal per day, so the rest of the day we made do with cheap food we bought at a store in Lahad Datu. There is hot water, a stovetop and some appliances at the hostel there, so you can cook basic food. Instant noodles to the rescue!

#### **DAY 12 - DANUM VALLEY (27/07)**

In the morning, I (Anton) made a quick pass to the Eastern side of the airport, to check if there were any birds on the airfields: previous trip reports have found things like Oriental Pratincole and Oriental Plover here. It was not very birdy, and the only addition to the trip list was a **Paddyfield Pipit**, which was a common species in coastal areas throughout the rest of the trip. After this, we headed to the DVFC office, where we filled in a lot of forms, stopped by another store for some groceries, and headed up towards the DVFC.

In Danum Valley, which is probably one of the best lowland primary forest locations still accessible in Sabah and Borneo, there are two main options for accommodation: one (Borneo Rainforest Lodge) has absolutely unthinkable prices, the other (the Danum Valley Field Centre) is still fairly expensive, but also has a basic but comfortable hostel you can stay in. If you contact the DVFC normally, you only get offered a still very expensive package deal that includes three meals per day, and guided walks everywhere with private non-birding guides. We contacted Hafeona Jhony ([hafeona.camd@gmail.com](mailto:hafeona.camd@gmail.com)) directly, one of the managers of the DVFC, and asked for a 4 night stay at the hostel with only lunches and no guide. This was much more affordable, we paid about a third of the normal price for the same amount of days. People at the office and at the DVFC will tell you that without a guide you're not allowed to walk on certain trails, but we did so anyway, met multiple groups of people *with* guides, and nobody ever told us we were doing anything wrong.

Night drives can be arranged at the DVFC itself, so are also not a reason to choose for a package deal. However, they can be slightly frustrating to organise here, so try to be as clear as possible with communication towards the people at the visitor centre. Slots also fill relatively quickly, so it is smart to book yourself on as many night drives as you're interested

in beforehand. The price of the night drive was very affordable at RM160 divided by the people in the car (up to 8 people, almost always full while we were there). Upon arrival, we booked ourselves on the upcoming three night drives. We always opted for the second drive of the night, which leaves between 20:00 and 20:30, depending on how long the first drive of the night goes. Below is an overview of our experiences logistically:

- Day 1: We arrive at the meet-up point at 19:50, wait about 45 minutes until the car arrives at 20:35. The night drive goes as planned.
- Day 2: We plan to arrive at 20:00, but bump into the car that had already left the pick-up area slightly earlier: the driver and guide had no idea we were supposed to be on this drive, and the car was almost full (there were two spots left, but only because there had been one other person who cancelled). Luckily, we could still join.
- Day 3: We check at noon at the visitor centre about what happened with our scheduled night drive the previous night, but the person there had no clue why they didn't wait for us. We ask to confirm that we are on that night's drive, to which they react surprised and reply that all the night drives are full: apparently our booking beforehand was not correctly registered? That night, we expected not to be able to join the night drive and had a later dinner at the hostel, when suddenly the night drive car specifically makes a detour to come pick us up at the hostel, because they had empty spots left over!

Summarised: bizarre situation, where somehow very clear communication from our end in the beginning of the stay resulted in a very messy situation, with very different results on all three nights. The night drives were worth it though, with solid highlights on all three days, and are easy to combine with walking around on your own before or after the drive itself.

As we arrived at the DVFC and had checked in, we dropped off our bags and started birding. The bushes close to the Hostel were flowering and held many Spiderhunter species during our stay: on the first morning they held **Thick-billed** and **Spectacled Spiderhunter**, and were joined by our first **Lesser Green Leafbirds** and **Spectacled Bulbuls** of the trip. After exploring the DVFC site a little bit, where **Whiskered** and **Grey-rumped Treeswifts** are very common, we headed across the big bridge to the trail towards the Rhino Pond, which was not very birdy in the early afternoon but did have a calling **Black-crowned Pitta**. Distantly, many barbets were singing, including **Black-eared**, **Red-throated**, **Gold-whiskered** and our first **Yellow-crowned**.

The trail that goes through the middle of the "Grid" was very birdy though: at one point we were stuck between having to choose between pursuing a calling **Blue-headed Pitta**, a pair of **Green Broadbills** and a **Banded Kingfisher**, all of which were calling from closeby, all while our first **Bornean Black Magpies** made an appearance. Hectic, but the good kind! We got good views of almost all of the above species this afternoon, besides Blue-headed Pitta. This was our only Banded Kingfisher of the trip.



The quality birding kept going, and walking along the grid trail we suddenly heard a series of whistling calls that we had rehearsed on the drive up: **Bornean Wren-Babbler**! We positioned ourselves nicely on the ground behind a big root system of a tree in the middle of the path, and didn't have to wait very long until we were looking at this ridiculous bird! This easily has to be one of the best Babblers in the world, the way they move through the undergrowth is bizarre. While this was occurring another **Blue-headed Pitta** started calling, followed by yet another whistling call we had just rehearsed... Sure enough, there was a **Striped Wren-Babbler** here too! This bird gave briefer views, and was gone immediately. The Pitta would initially come closer but eventually take off before showing itself, as Pittas often do...

A goosebumps-inducing moment was that first low-pitched hoot that both of us instantly knew was our first **Helmeted Hornbill**. We ended up hearing them a few times on all of our days at the DVFC. A big flock of swifts over the river had our only **Asian Palm Swifts** of the trip, and a pair of **White-crowned Forktails** made a brief appearance along the big river in the evening.

At night, we prepared our noodles at the kitchen of the Hostel, from where we heard a distant presumed frogmouth that we left unidentified. On the walk over to the dining hall (where the night drives start), we had a group of **Sambar** and a **Greater Mouse Deer**, which were nice. Sambar ended up being very common throughout our stay, including also a few diurnal appearances close to the dining hall area. On the first night drive, both **Greater** and **Lesser Mouse Deer** were quite common. Interestingly, we did not see any Mouse Deer at all after this first night! Other than that, our first **Red Giant Flying Squirrel** were excellent to see well, being a bit more common and active than their Spotted cousins at Kinabalu. The highlight of the first night drive was a **Sunda Leopard Cat** feeding on the road, which gave incredible views.



After arriving back at the hostel, we went on a night walk to see if we could see some other nocturnal animals. Our first **Sunda Colugo** of the trip was excellent, and so was a nice rare **Black Giant Flying Squirrel**, which was our only one of the trip. As we continued walking along the road, a pair of very red-legged birds flew out of the top of a tree: a pair of **Crested Partridges**! We would not see or hear these at any other point in the trip until Trus Madi.



**Black Giant Flying Squirrel**



**Sunda Leopard Cat**

### **DAY 13 - DANUM VALLEY (28/07)**

On the morning of our first full day we spent a bit too much time around the entrance area itself to really get a lot of good morning birding in. Regardless, a big group of swiftlets contained our first **Silver-rumped Spinetails**, and our lingering in the entrance area did mean we bumped into some other guests, who pointed out a massive male **Bornean Orangutan** sitting out in the open on a branch across the river, sitting up and staring at us. Absolutely incredible! A pair of fly-by **Large Green Pigeons** was just about enough to pull our attention away briefly.

Shortly after, our first few passerine flocks had **Long-billed Spiderhunters**, **Cream-vented Bulbuls**, **Olive-winged Bulbuls** and **Greater Green Leafbirds**, while a **Helmeted Hornbill** and multiple **East Bornean Grey Gibbons** were calling in the distance. Today was about to be a good day, that much was clear! We entered the waterfall trail and took a right after the lookout tower, because we heard **Great Argus** calling from there, but not before we found a pair of **Bornean Crested Firebacks** scurrying in the undergrowth next to the path. Of these two pheasants, Argus would be very commonly heard but never seen the upcoming days, and Firebacks would be encountered a few times but never heard. It didn't take long for us to notice yet another intriguing whistle, so we checked the recordings and sure enough, **Black-throated Wren-Babbler**! We tried sitting behind a big tree (4.961, 117.801) for a long time but unfortunately this bird didn't come, nor did another one that started calling from a distance. These were our only Black-throated Wren-Babblers of the trip. After this we chased behind a few calling Argus and Gibbons, we eventually must have gotten very close

to a Gibbon but it did not want to show. Other additions from this offshoot of the Waterfall trail were **Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler** and a few heard only **Sunda Scimitar Babbler**, which remained heard only throughout the trip.

After this, we continued onwards toward the actual waterfall trail, where we quickly found a fairly open area that seemed very good for birds (4.960, 117.802). There was a fairly big flock here, that had a nice pair of **Scarlet-rumped Trogons**, along with our first **Bornean Blue Flycatchers**, (Dark-throated) **Ventriloquial Oriole**, **Bronzed Drongo**, and a female **Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher**. This flock also had our first **Scaly-crowned Babblers** and **Chestnut-rumped Babblers**, which we would commonly see and hear throughout Danum. Also from this slightly more open area, we saw our first pair of **East Bornean Grey Gibbons** well. We saw this pair here on two other occasions as well, they seemed resident here. At this open clearing we heard a few **Blue-headed Pittas** calling from closeby. A bit of strategic positioning and playback later, and we were looking at a stunning adult bird! Truly one of the most impressive pittas in the world.



Blue-headed Pitta

It was getting close to noon, and we had read online that it was smart to be at the dining hall on time as the buffet apparently ran out of the best food quite early. We thought we wouldn't wait too long before heading back... But that's exactly when a **Helmeted Hornbill** called, seemingly just across the river! This was right as we arrived at the start of a side track with a sign pointing towards the river, so we figured we'd pop in there quickly and see if there was an opening in the canopy that we could scan the trees on the opposite side of the river from. We didn't find any great vantage points (nor did we see the Helmeted Hornbill, though it did call a few more times), but we did bump into our only **Chestnut-breasted Malkohas** and **Sunda Blue Flycatchers** of the trip.



After this, we walked back to the dining hall and had lunch there, which was a fantastic and variable meal on all days, and a good way to escape the heat while scanning for raptors and other big birds. The earlier comment about needing to be earlier because the buffet would run out fast ended up not being our experience at all, with there being plenty of food for everyone and more on all three days.

Birding in the lodge area was pretty good, with the flowering trees and bushes close to the hostel producing a few more fun birds like our first **Large Woodshrike** and a pair of **Cream-eyed Bulbul**, alongside our first **Grey-cheeked Bulbul** and **Yellow-eared Spiderhunter** of the trip, foraging together with other Spiderhunters. Especially the Cream-eyed Bulbul was appreciated, as during preparation that was a species we were expecting to potentially miss.



**Green Broadbill (27/07)**



**Cream-eyed Bulbul**

After lunch and birding around the entrance area, we headed back over the bridge towards the grid, because it was so good on the first afternoon. We were not able to replicate our stroke of luck from the day prior here, with bird activity in general being much lower (though there were still many **Blue-headed Pittas** calling everywhere, and a very weird Pitta-like call that we couldn't assign to any species, nor to anything else). The best bird of the afternoon was undoubtedly a **Rufous-tailed Shama**, the only one we would see all trip. We also got decent views of our first **Chestnut-naped Forktails** here, which we would only see a few more times in the upcoming days.

In the evening, we returned to the hostel area to have our noodle soup, and we got ready to head towards the dining hall area for our night drive. On the first day we had arrived there at about 19:50 (the night drives were scheduled to leave between 20:00 and 20:30) and we ended up having to wait about 45 minutes there, so this time we decided to be a bit less strict with the timing... Only for us to bump into the driving car at exactly 20:00 along the main road! The car was almost full, and had obviously left without us, despite us having booked for three night drives immediately upon arrival. Luckily they had two spaces left in

the truck so we could jump in regardless, but apparently there were only two spots left because one person had cancelled: close one! This endeavour ended up nearly costing us one of our most surprising sightings of the trip: as we drove under a low-hanging branch with something that looked like a red-and-yellow bird, a few other interested people helped us signal to the guide to stop the car. Red-and-yellow quickly turned into pink-and-white, and soon enough we were looking at a **Jambu Fruit Dove**, completely fast asleep! It seems like there are only about a handful records of Jambu Fruit Dove ever at Danum Valley.



Other things seen along the night drive consisted mainly of the same species as on the same night, with more **Red Giant Flying Squirrel**, probably the same **Sunda Leopard Cat** and a different **Sunda Colugo**. We also had our first **Thomas's Giant Flying Squirrel** on this night drive, which is supposed to be quite rare (but less so than the Black Giant Flying Squirrel we had on the previous night). Our only **Small-toothed Palm Civet** of the entire trip gave a bit of a show in the trees just above the road. After this we went on another walk, but both of us were exhausted so we gave up shortly after. Surprisingly absent on both the night drive and the walk, as mentioned earlier, were mouse deer of either species.

#### **DAY 14 - DANUM VALLEY (29/07)**

Right as we woke up, we knew it would be a fantastic day: any day that starts with a distant **Great Slaty Woodpecker** as part of the morning chorus is a good one! One was calling upslope from the hostel, just as we woke up and left the hotel. Most people tend to bird three main areas in the DVFC: the central path in the grid, the waterfall trail, and the entrance road. We had done two of the three so far and still needed bigger birds like raptors, bristleheads and views of Helmeted Hornbill, so we headed out that way at the start of the day. It didn't take very long before the biggest highlight of the day showed up: along the main road close to the river (4.969, 117.805) we heard the classic loud and long buildup of a



calling **Helmeted Hornbill** just across the river, so we waited for a few minutes... And sure enough, there it came flying towards us! Even just with distant head-on views it was immediately obvious that we were looking at a hornbill completely in its own weight class, with much slower and heftier wingflaps than any of the other forest giants. Complete with long tail streamers, it flew close to immediately overhead and allowed for some pictures. Solid contender for bird of the trip, but there were many of those!

### **Helmeted Hornbill**



We didn't have extremely long to fully let that sighting sink in, though, because not even half an hour later, at a bend in the road fairly close to the former rhino paddock (4.968, 117.809) we suddenly heard a sound we had studied well, a **Giant Pitta!** We quickly took action and found a spot deep in the forest to put our speaker: the bird responded for a long time and did come close a few times, but never in a position where we could see it. A **Black-crowned Pitta** was more obliging, and came right away to playback of the Giant Pitta. We relocated to a few more places and got very close multiple times, and eventually heard that it had crossed the road.

We felt that our best chance was probably to position the speaker on this side of the road and wait in a covered area for the bird to cross again: it eventually did, but only one of us (Anton) got poor views of it flying across the road. A second bird called from very far away as well, and not long after that the bird close to us stopped calling altogether. Feels like this could have been a better observation, but we were both very happy with having heard this bird as well as we did, from very closeby. While we waited, at least two male **Asian Fairy-bluebirds** flew overhead and briefly landed closeby, the first ones of the trip.

The open area around the former rhino paddock was very birdy despite the heat, and had a completely different set of birds than the dark interior forest trails. Among good views of more **Common Hill Mynas**, **Black-headed Bulbuls** and **White-fronted Falconets**, we also saw many **Grey-bellied Bulbuls**, a **Horsfield's Babbler** and a **Van Hasselt's Sunbird**, and

could identify the distant flyover swifts to be **Brown-backed Needletails**. A very tall fruiting tree had the only **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker** and **Banded Bay Cuckoo** of the trip.

On the way back, we stopped over at the visitor centre and asked about the night drives: how was it possible that they had left without us on the previous night and only had place for both of us thanks to a cancellation? We asked to make sure we had a spot in the upcoming night drive from that evening, to which the lady at the visitor centre responded that all of the spots were full, and that we would not have a spot on the night drive that night... Huh? We exited the visitor centre slightly confused and annoyed, as we had definitely booked a slot for that night. This annoyance didn't bother us too long, though, because there was a young **Bornean Orangutan** staring at us as we left the building, very low to the ground and finally obliging for some nice pictures!



We had lunch at the dining hall again, from where we heard our first **Maroon-breasted Philentoma** and saw a few raptors: a pair of **Crested Honey Buzzards**, a **Changeable Hawk Eagle** and our first **Black Eagles** of the trip.

After lunch, we headed back into the waterfall trail, with the intention of going a bit further than we had previously to try for birds most regularly seen there like Blue-banded Pitta and Blue-banded Kingfisher. Along the track we bumped into a few flocks, which included our first visuals of **Maroon-breasted Philentomas**, more **Scarlet-rumped Trogons** and our only male **Sunda Blue Flycatcher** of the trip. Other good birds here were our first **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** since Kinabatangan, and a few more additions to the trip list in **Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone**, **Streaked Bulbul** and **Moustached Babbler**.

After a while, we found a small offshoot of the path that led to a shaded gravel beach along the Danum River (4.952, 117.801). This spot looked interesting for kingfishers, and provided

us with some views of tall trees on the opposite bank and the open sky, so it could also be good for a hornbill or raptor. After waiting around for about half an hour with close to no activity, a male **Malaysian Blue-banded Kingfisher** flew past us at eye level in one direction, followed shortly by a female flying overhead in the other direction! Excellent views of an excellent bird, one of the two main "blue-banded" birds we were looking for along the waterfall trail! A nice flock at this beach had our first male **Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher** (a stunning white morph!), and our first **Spotted Fantails** and **Brown Fulvettas** of the trip.

After this we started heading out, because we didn't want to be stuck out on the trails after dark, definitely not with all of our torches charging at the Hostel, so we made our way back at a fast birding pace. The way back was much quieter than the way here, but we did get more great views of **Raffles's Malkoha**, **Chestnut-naped Forktails**, and **Bornean Blue Flycatcher**. We also heard both **White-crowned** and **Bushy-crested Hornbills** on the walk back, which, together with observations of the other six species throughout the day, meant that we had seen and/or heard all eight of Borneo's hornbills today!

The nicest birds of the walk back were the very last sightings: a **Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher** was drinking from the stream underneath the hanging bridge close to the dining hall area, at the entrance of the waterfall trail. Also here were the only **Olive-backed Woodpeckers** of the trip, a pair next to that same bridge.

Disappointed that we wouldn't be able to do a night drive on this night, we had a slightly later dinner, only to suddenly be surprised when the night drive vehicle drove up to the hostel to come get us! Luckily we were just finished eating so we could just hop on easily and go on our way. Not sure how we were somehow scheduled on the first and third nights but not on the second... If you book night drives, double and triple check your name is on the list to save you on disappointment later!

The night drive was productive yet again, with more of all the common species from the first two days, and also three very poor views of **Malayan Civets** that immediately shot in the dense undergrowth. The best thing seen on this night, besides our first actually gliding flying squirrels, was a **Western Tarsier** that the guide found! The Tarsier stayed on a relatively open branch, so a few of us jumped out of the vehicle for better views. Incredible!

After getting back to the hostel, we didn't really feel like doing another night walk, so we stayed at the balcony of the Hostel again, where we got some very good information about the resident flocks of Bristleheads from Dan, a resident guide and gibbon researcher working with the Kyoto University. Apparently the Bristleheads here have a daily routine, with a group of 7 apparently passing by the rhino paddock every morning and a group of 5 crossing the river close to the entrance of the waterfall trail every afternoon. While having this conversation, a stunning **Malayan Civet** walked right next to the hostel balcony and gave our only decent views of the species.

## DAY 15 - DANUM VALLEY (30/07)

Armed with our new information regarding the bristleheads, we got an early start and walked towards the entrance road again, just like the day before. Close to the hostel we had our first **Red-bearded Bee-eater**, perched on the wires. Along the road we had many of the same birds again, with a nice pair of **Wrinkled Hornbills** giving good views, and calling **Giant** and **Black-crowned Pittas**. We wanted to prioritise getting Bristlehead, so decided not to spend time chasing down this Giant Pitta: it sounded very far, regardless. Our first and only **Crested Jay** (Jayshrike/Shrikejay) crossed the road around the bend where we had had the Giant Pitta before, which was a relief.

After arriving at the former rhino paddock, we waited around in the sun, analysing every distant call for potentially belonging to a Bristlehead; As expected, many **Common Hill Mynas** and a handful **Bornean Black Magpies** made this fairly difficult as all three species have very variable screeches and whistles, though eventually we did hear a series of calls we were reasonably happy with; still a very unsatisfactory observation though, so we decided not to count it. The heat was not ideal for birds, though Mehdi did briefly get another view at a distant **Helmeted Hornbill** just as it was flying in to a perch, but unfortunately we couldn't get a view on the perched bird. Frustration all around, but the only **Finsch's Bulbul** (heard) and **Dark-necked Tailorbirds** of our trip and our first **Plain Sunbirds** partially made up for it. Other highlights on our way back were a single **Maroon Surili**, another very obliging **Bornean Black-capped Babbler** at the roadside, and a pair of **Bornean Crested Firebacks** crossing the road. Time was running out for Bristlehead, though...



Bornean Crested Fireback



Spotted Fantail (29/07)

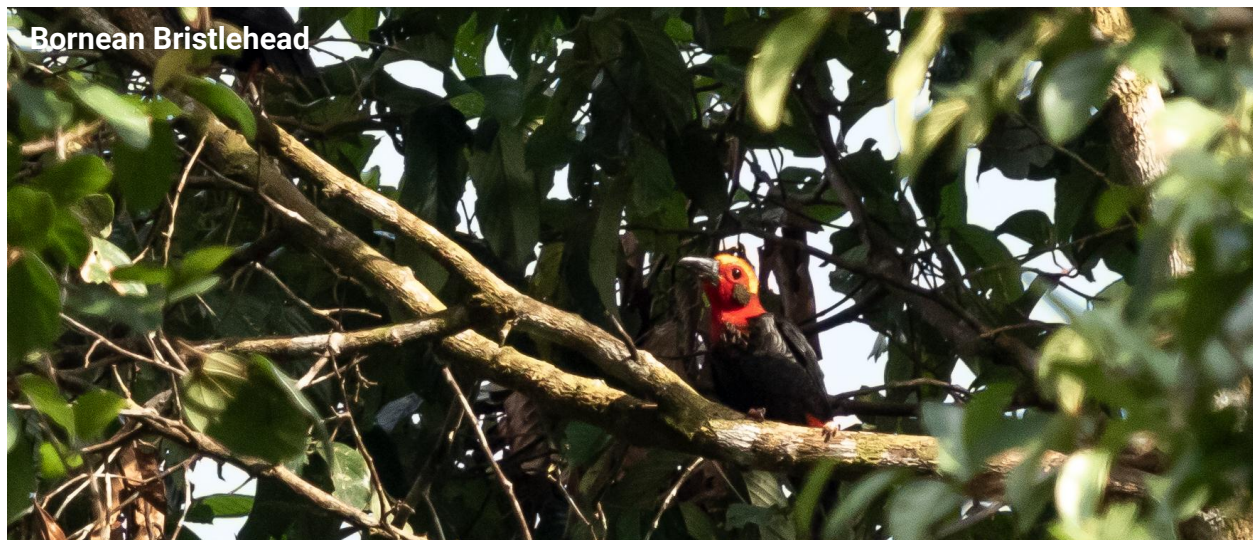
After having lunch, we headed out to the beginning of the waterfall trail, to hopefully intercept the other resident group along their afternoon movement. The forest was very quiet, so we arrived fairly quickly at the slightly more open part of the forest where we had seen Blue-headed Pitta and the Gibbons earlier. We saw and heard a pair of **Green Broadbills** here, only our second ones after the birds of the first afternoon. These ended up



being the last Green Broadbills of the trip as well! Because activity was down everywhere, we decided to play some calls of birds we still needed. Initially nothing was responding, but sure enough, eventually three of our targets responded! First a **Diard's trogon** (which we were able to track down and get decent views of in the middle of the forest), then a distant calling **Indian Cuckoo** and finally a fairly close **Red-naped Trogon** (both of which we couldn't track down for views). This spot delivers!

We decided not to stray too far from the entrance of the waterfall trail, as we knew this to be one of the core locations for our main target bird. Bird-wise, though, the forest was still very quiet, so we left for a bit to head towards the entrance of the grid, where other tourists and their guide told us they had seen a Bristlehead the day prior. Along the way there we stopped at the platform of the rainforest discovery centre, because that looked like an excellent view point over the river.

While we were waiting there, we refreshed our knowledge a bit about the calls of Bornean Bristlehead. We thought we had a pretty good idea of what to listen for, as we had been listening to the Merlin recordings often. As we were saying this, though, we found some other recordings on Xeno Canto that sounded completely different: a series of long, drawn-out whistles, unlike other recordings we had listened to. As we listened, it dawned on us: we're hearing this right now!



As we were sat there listening to these sounds, we suddenly saw a group of a handful of birds of the right size and shape pop up in the canopy, and as we waited a bit more the five **Bornean Bristleheads** flew right towards us, landing in a tree not too far away! This had become our most anticipated bird of the trip by a long margin, so we were ecstatic to get proper views and hear their calls. A **Lesser Cuckooshrike** in the bush beside us did its best to try and distract us, but was not given much attention, despite being the only one on the trip.

After now having gotten pretty much all of the biggest targets, we had one main endemic we really wanted to get: Blue-banded Pitta. The best place is the waterfall trail: we had spent a lot of time there already, though perhaps we hadn't gone far enough along the trail. Other forest birds would also be very welcome though, so we headed out in that direction regardless. Instead of doing the same path as usual, we took an early offshoot towards the left, that I believe was signposted as the "adventure trail". There we found a few more nice birds, like a pair of **Buff-rumped Woodpeckers** and a **Hairy-backed Bulbul**, but no pittas. We turned back to exit the forest because it got quite dark and got close to the bridge, when suddenly we heard that long, high-pitched whistle coming from somewhere between the adventure trail and the river offshoot! We played a few calls, to which it responded, which confirmed the ID of **Blue-banded Pitta** (as opposed to the commoner and lower-pitched Black-crowned Pitta): this was an interesting location quite close to the buildings, most people tend to only get it much further into the trail. The light level was too low to look for it immediately (definitely because we had heard probable Elephant sounds close to here on earlier evenings), so we decided to head back first thing tomorrow morning.

We were not booked on any night drives, so at night we made a point of walking a bit further down the road than we usually did, because we still had a few spotlighting targets left to go: primarily owls, but also a handful mammals, and any small non-Gould's frogmouth would be excellent as well. Our night started off strong with a calling **Barred Eagle-Owl** close to the sign that welcomes you to the DVFC. We decided not to playback for it, as Trus Madi is supposed to have a very easy Barred Eagle-Owl. This ended up costing us a visual observation of the species, but that's fine.



Another very nice sighting was another **Western Tarsier**, around the same area as where we had had one from the car the day prior, that gave excellent views and allowed for some nice pictures. Tarsiers are known for having very little eyeshine and thus being harder than other nocturnal mammals to find: in our experience this is not the case at all, and the eyeshine was quite bright and obvious. Around the rhino paddock there were suddenly owls



everywhere: at one point we counted up to six calling **Brown Boobooks!** These were easily found with the torch, without playing any calls. A very distant **Reddish Scops Owl** calling from close to the river was a nice tick as well, but was not worth trying to pursue.

Good night already, that got much better when we suddenly saw very bright orange eyeshine from a relatively low isolated tree: **Slow Loris!** We left it alone after a few quick bad pictures, as it didn't seem to adjust to the light very well. Taxonomy of Slow Lorises on Borneo is a bit of an unresolved mess right now. Danum Valley is potentially in the overlap zone between Philippine (*N.menagensis*) and Kayan (*N.kayan*) Slow Lorises. Tentatively (because morphology and phylogeny don't seem to line up quite well according to the latest articles...) this individual looked better for **Philippine Slow Loris**, which is supposed to be the more common and widespread species anyways.



Philippine Slow Loris

#### **DAY 16 - TRANSIT (31/07)**

Our pickup at the entrance would be at 10AM in the morning, so we made sure to already pack our gear the night prior, so we would be able to spend the daylight hours maximising our birding at the DVFC. After waking up we headed immediately to the adventure trail, and headed towards the area that we thought the **Blue-banded pitta** from the day before must have been calling from (4.961, 117.803). After playing a few calls, sure enough, it responded immediately! As had proved pretty successful with many rare ground birds on the trip so far, we positioned ourselves behind a nice big log close to a gully and waited... The pitta responded a few more times, but then stopped calling altogether. We waited for it for about an hour unsuccessfully.

*Erythropitta* are somewhat renowned for not readily coming to playback but instead perching up somewhere and waiting for you to approach them, but it's hard to go after a bird



that stopped calling... We gave up on trying to see this bird after about an hour of waiting and occasionally playing calls. Oh well, we can't complain when it comes to pittas, and we're happy with the extra confirmation of it responding to playback and coming in closer today!

After this, we headed back towards the waterfall trail, where we stuck around the entrance area and looked for a few flocks, somewhat distracted by a group of **Southern Pig-tailed Macaques** moving through the undergrowth. The first new bird was a nice pair of **Rufous-winged Philentomas**, which gave excellent views as they hopped around on a few hanging branches, joined again by female **Blyth's Paradise Flycatchers** and a series of common babblers. Frustratingly, we also heard more **Sunda Scimitar Babblers** here as well, that we did not see. At the bridge, we were surprised by a large group of **Maroon Surili** in all of the surrounding trees giving prolonged views of many different animals of different genders and ages, incredible!



Just before 10:00, we headed towards the visitor centre where we checked out and hopped in a minivan that took us back to Lahad Datu. The drive back was fairly uneventful, and despite actively scanning the road behind each bend for crossing birds, it did not deliver an Argus, though a **Southern Pig-tailed Macaque** was also fun. After arriving back in Lahad Datu we had lunch and checked into the flight that would take us back to Kota Kinabalu. On the runway **Paddyfield Pipits** were common as expected, so Mehdi saw his first there.

As we landed in Kota Kinabalu, we saw that the airfield was quite full of herons, so we scanned them from the plane and quickly found a **Great-billed Heron** between multiple **Great Egrets** and **Purple Herons**. This species is not extremely expected at the airport here and is definitely a nice trip tick: unsurprisingly, this was our only one of the trip.

The upcoming 3 days were arranged via Calvin Ng ([photokk.calvin@gmail.com](mailto:photokk.calvin@gmail.com), but our contact with him was via Facebook), who is probably anyone's best bet to arrange a trip to Trus Madi to see Bulwer's Pheasant and other specialties. He works closely with the Trus Madi Entomology Camp (formerly Borneo Jungle Girl Camp): we contacted the Entomology Camp to organise our trip independently, but were referred back to Calvin to organise it for us. There are also other guides that offer tours to the Tambunan entrance of Trus Madi (instead of via Keningau, like we did). The Tambunan entrance seems to have slightly better odds at a few good birds that we missed (Orange-headed Thrush, Orange-breasted Trogon, Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler...), but is perhaps slightly less consistent for Bulwer's Pheasant, and has no option for an overnight stay in the park itself.

Calvin himself did not have time to guide us, instead he referred us to Rudolph Koh (+60 12-821 8288), who works closely with Calvin and has brought many entomologists and birders up to Trus Madi. He was not a bird guide, but stopped whenever we saw something along the way anyways, and was an excellent driver. On this first evening, he was the one to pick us up from the airport and take us directly to Keningau, where we had a good meal and a night in the nicest hotel of the trip.

#### DAY 17 - TRUS MADI (01/08)

We woke up early in our Keningau hotel, so that we could be at the Trus Madi gate at 6:00, when it opens. The drive up after that is renowned to be in very poor condition, but because of the dry season it was honestly about as bad as any muddy 4WD track, though it does go on for a very long time. Along the way we had a **Southern Red Muntjac** shoot across the road right in front of us: our only visual observation, though we would hear them often throughout this area the next two days. As we arrived at the hide, which was very similarly built as the hide for the Bornean Peacock Pheasants earlier in the trip, we were immediately greeted by **Bornean Banded Pittas** and a male **Dayak Blue Flycatcher** giving point-blank views: a fantastic way to start! They had multiple **Bornean Banded Pittas** around the two hides, and it seems as if they are pretty much guaranteed here.



Dayak Blue Flycatcher



Bornean Banded Pitta



The chorus of barbets in the background was especially impressive, including **Bornean** (which was one of the last Bornean barbets we still needed), **Mountain**, **Yellow-crowned**, **Golden-whiskered**, **Red-throated**, and **Black-eared**. After about an hour of enjoying the **Bornean Banded Pittas**, the omnipresent **White-crowned Shamas**, **Low's Squirrels**, **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrels**, **Tufted Pygmy Squirrels** and a **Long-footed Treeshrew** were putting up, a soft whisper was uttered: "Bulwer's".



A pair of magnificent and secretive **Bulwer's Pheasants** walked into view in front of the hide, and as we were instructed on the drive up, we waited before taking pictures until both birds were eating. This male was in full breeding plumage, with a stunning large white tail, vibrant light blue mask and many tiny vibrant blue spots against the black body: truly an incredibly elegant bird.





From the way they walked around, it was immediately obvious that these birds were very shy as well; very different behaviourally from the Firebacks we saw elsewhere. Incredible! In many ways, this bird was the reason why we visited Borneo when we did, so it was very fun to leave it until the last major birding location of the trip. Another source of excitement was a pair of Squirrels that we couldn't get good views of for the longest time, which ended up being a stunning pair of **Sculptor Squirrels**: a true rarity!

After having successfully gotten fantastic views of the main targets, the driver and the local guide drove us up towards the Entomology Camp, stopping unassumingly at a big fruiting tree (5.439, 116.449), that had apparently had a **Binturong** sleeping and feeding in it for the past three days. We found it relatively quickly, but only got very poor views then of the animal sleeping. Behind us, there were more **Sunda Scimitar Babblers** calling: we heard multiple of these during our 1,5 days at Trus Madi, but as in Danum, we never saw one.

After arriving at the camp, we put our bags in the room and walked around along the roads for a bit, quickly adding quality birds like **Bornean Bulbul**, **Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo** and many **Cinereous Buleuls** to the list. Interesting was a **Dark Hawk-Cuckoo** that responded to the calling Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, two species that are normally completely separated by altitude! Also nice was a big flock of **Pygmy White-eyes**, of which we could study the behaviour a bit better this time. Both these and **Bornean Buleuls** are not too rare throughout Sabah and Borneo, though they do seem to avoid the most popular hotspots for visiting birders and are truly gorgeous birds. Truly surprising was a **Helmeted Hornbill** suddenly calling from behind us: not exactly where we were expecting to hear one, though it does make sense as this forest is old and well-protected.



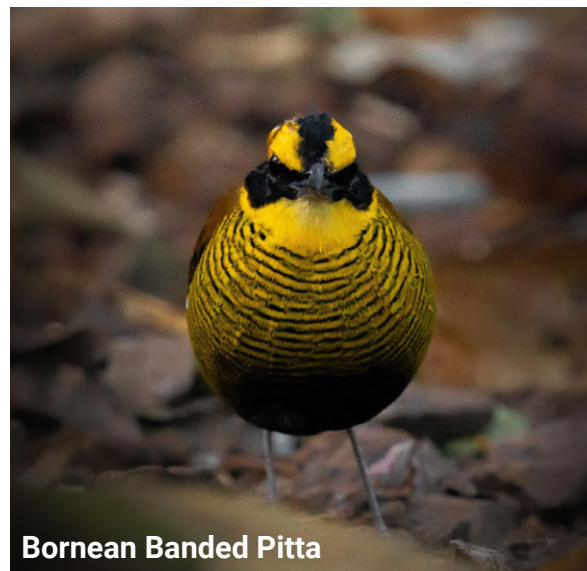
After lunch we headed out again, and walked downhill to check back on the Binturong tree and hopefully get better views. Along the way, we saw many barbets of most species that were around, joined by a pair of **Red-bearded Bee-eaters**, a handful **Raffles's Malkohas**, and our only **Thick-billed Green Pigeons**, **Crimson-winged Woodpecker** and **Cream-colored Giant Squirrel** of the trip. Also present were some excellent **Tufted Pygmy Squirrels**, our

first since Kinabalu. The Binturong was not visible anymore, but must have still been present as we saw it again in the evening. Just before heading back to the hide, we got great views of a **Black-bellied Malkoha** and another small group of **Bornean Bulbuls** close to the Entomology Camp.

At the hide (the same one as in the morning), we primarily waited for the Great Argus to come, while obviously also checking out any other birds or mammals that passed. The **Great Argus** did call a handful of times, but never approached the hide unfortunately, though the **Bulwer's Pheasants** did make another pass, and so did the same three resident **Bornean Banded Pittas**. Very surprising was a sudden brief appearance of an excellent **White-necked Babbler**, one of the few babbler species we still needed and quite a rare bird overall! Also here was a calling **Scarlet-rumped Trogon** and something that sounded very close to a Cinnamon-rumped Trogon, but frustratingly we were unable to confirm it as such... When we got back to the camp just before dusk, there was a small family of **Verditer Flycatchers** hanging around close to the main clearance in front of the camp, where the flycatchers were picking out a few of the first moths to arrive at the lights.



**Bulwer's Pheasant**



**Bornean Banded Pitta**

We had a quick but wonderful dinner, after which we got ready for some spotlighting. We got a tip from the guides present that the food scraps thrown in the vegetable garden just beside the camp often attracted civets and porcupines, which we checked about 5 or 6 times throughout the night (we didn't sleep very well), but nothing ever came to feed. While walking around, though, we did have a lot of really good sightings, starting off with a singing **Bornean Frogmouth** just behind the open clearance (5.441, 116.450)! This was one of the endemics that we were absolutely not expecting to get at all, and is definitely one of the hardest endemics that are possible in Sabah. More spotlighting highlights were a **Sunda Leopard Cat** that crossed the road, the **Binturong** that was actively moving throughout the same fruiting tree (5.439, 116.449) and now gave excellent views, and a **Masked Palm Civet** of the cool white-headed subspecies that was sleeping right next to the Camp. A walk



towards the other side of the park quickly paid off with a nice **Asian (Common) Palm Civet**, and incredibly surprising was a pair of **Sunda Frogmouths** that started singing as well! An unfortunate miss here that is normally guaranteed was Barred Eagle Owl, and both Frogmouths remained heard only thanks to the harsh winds, but we were very satisfied with this last spotlighting session of the trip.



Masked Palm Civet

#### DAY 18 - TRUS MADI (02/08)

The next morning, we drove further into the park to go to the other hide, which was also constructed in a similar way. This hide was located between an open forested area with an automatic feeder (to ensure that the birds kept coming without them having to restock food daily) and a watering hole for mammals: apparently they have seen Sun Bears and Sunda Clouded Leopards at this hide, but the watering hole was devoid of life while we were there. At the hide we saw many good birds, among which three more **Bulwer's Pheasants** (two males and a female, all a bit scruffier than yesterday's birds), a very showy **Bornean Banded Pitta**, a pair of **Short-tailed babblers**, etc.

Besides the Pheasants, the other main target here was **Crested Partridge**, of which a big group came in to feed and gave excellent views. New for the trip list were a stunning male **Rufous-chested Flycatcher** and a **Horse-tailed Squirrel** that absolutely dwarfed the other squirrels and treeshrews present at the hide. In the distance there were two **Southern Red Muntjac** calling out to each other the entire time, with their loud strange barks. After this we slowly made our way back up towards the camp, birding along the way. We bumped into a really impressive flock that completely surrounded us with birds: among four or five barbet species there were **Streaked**, **Bornean** and **Cinereous Bulbuls**, **Brown Fulvettas** and both **Black-capped** and **Pygmy White-eyes**. Excitingly we also had two new species for the trip: a



pair of **Scaly-breasted Bulbuls** and a female **Pale Blue Flycatcher**. A very obliging Southern Pig-tailed Macaque and Black-bellied Malkoha allowed for some nice pictures, and to round out our Trus Madi leg of the trip, a distant calling **Helmeted Hornbill** gave a final series of calls and laughed us off.



Crested Partridge



Black-bellied Malkoha



Horse-tailed Squirrel

As per usual, we spent the drive back constantly birding from the car. A flooded field close to Kapayan had our only **Wood Sandpipers** of the trip, a group of 25 or so birds. We stopped to check through them, but there wasn't anything else mixed in with the group. Before heading to Gunung Alab, we stopped somewhere to have a drink, where we met Calvin briefly and exchanged some information; he was on his way to Trus Madi to guide other birders.

We stopped at the Gunung Alab Substation for lunch, which is a spot we had briefly considered visiting 'properly' (they had hides set up for the partridges that we had only heard at Mount Kinabalu, and it is the most consistent place in Sabah for Long-tailed

Broadbill): during this preparation we had also read about the swiftlets breeding at the substation potentially being Bornean Swiftlets: however, according to the most recent information, this turns out not to be true. Frustratingly, this is an endemic we will probably have missed. After finishing our lunch at Gunung Alab, Rudolph dropped us off at our hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

While planning, we had made a point of leaving the last few days of the trip open so that if we were missing some major target, we could perhaps rearrange some things and slot in an extra day somewhere. With no endemic targets on the main part of the trip left (we could return to Mount Kinabalu to try for Mountain Serpent Eagle again, but that seemed pointless...), we decided to spend time looking for a few more widespread lowland species at the coast. In hindsight we probably could have organised a Mantanani trip in these last few days, as we had just about two full days, but if anything had gone wrong then we would have missed our flight back home, so perhaps it's better that we didn't. Instead, we decided to visit Manukan for a few of those island specialties, and spent the rest of the time chasing down new species for the trip list.

First stop after arriving in KK in the afternoon were the Penampang paddyfields, maybe the best hotspot around Kota Kinabalu, which certainly had the most potential for new additions. The sun was absolutely scorching upon our arrival here, but eventually we found the best strategy to just sit somewhere at the edge of the reeds and wait for things to fly: this way we got great views of many **Lesser Coucals**, **Cinnamon Bitterns** and **Black-backed Swamphens**, and both a **Buff-banded Rail** and a **White-browed Crake**. The slightly elevated empty sand plots were good for a few early wintering **Little Ringed Plovers** as well. A nice encounter was a single **Java Sparrow** flying high overhead as we headed out of the fields; Java Sparrow is an established introduced species on Borneo.





The next spot was Lok Kawi beach, which seemed to be a near guarantee for Malaysian Plover. Sure enough, as we made our way out towards the beach at sunset, we saw three shorebirds in flight, that when they landed quickly proved to be a **Common Sandpiper** and a nice pair of **Malaysian Plovers**. We had hoped to also see some more widespread waders on the mudflats here as well, but unfortunately nothing else was around.

#### **DAY 19 - KOTA KINABALU (03/08)**

The next day was solid as well, and primarily consisted of a trip to Manukan Island. On the drive to Jesselton Point we made sure to pay attention to any potential crows we saw here, as there is a small population of **House Crows** in the harbour here: sure enough, a few birds were seen as we drove in. We arrived at Jesselton Point at about 6:00, only to find that the first normal ferries to the islands only started going two hours later. No matter, we booked slots on the first boat, had breakfast at one of the local food stalls, and walked around a bit, though we didn't manage any relevant birds in the area: we walked over to Likas Bay, which was empty. Upon arrival back at Jesselton Point the organisation is frustratingly overcomplicated, but eventually we got on a boat to Manukan, from which we saw a tern that was almost certainly Black-naped, but just too far to properly clinch. As we arrived on the island, we immediately had fantastic views of a few dark morph **Pacific Reef Herons** from very close range.



The island itself is quite straightforward: if you head to the left after going through the visitor centre, there is both a normal paved trail and an unpaved 'adventure trail', both of which head towards the leftmost tip of the island. We had many **Philippine Megapodes** along both, including one within our first ten or twenty minutes of being on the island, which was nice. The two other mangrove island specialists were a lot tougher to find, though, and we only got definite views of both **Mangrove Blue Flycatcher** and **Mangrove Whistler** quite a



while later, at multiple locations along the paved path. The biggest surprise was ironically with a very widespread and common Asian species: a shama flew into view, which was immediately suspicious because of its massive long tail... After which it turned its head, which was fully black, confirming it as a **White-rumped Shama**! It makes sense that White-rumped Shama would be slightly more common on offshore islands where there is less competition with White-crowned Shammas, but we suspect that there won't be very many records of these here, and it definitely seems like an excellent species for Sabah as a whole. Fantastic!

After a while, it started storming really hard, and the big mass of people that had come here to snorkel or dive were all sheltering under the very limited shelters on the island. We did our best to arrange a boat back to the mainland as quickly as we could, though we had to wait a little bit because the Kota Kinabalu port authorities weren't sure whether or not they could let boats come and go between the mainland and the islands. It didn't take us long to find a boat though. While getting in the boat, a plover flew by at short range that must have been a Malaysian or a Kentish, but the storm and rain made definite identification impossible. After arriving on the mainland we had lunch until the rain was over, and then headed towards Tanjung Aru beach for one of our other main KK targets: **Blue-naped Parrot**!



Blue-naped Parrot



Blue-naped Parrot

For how big and loud they are, these birds took a surprisingly long time to see, and we had walked big circles around and through the park at least three times before suddenly hearing their characteristic calls. These introduced parrots ended up giving fantastic views. Frustrating were two unidentified *Sterna* terns: one very closeby over the beach that we couldn't get binoculars on in time, and one flying distantly out at sea as we were trying to refind that bird.

The Penampang paddyfields had been quite productive on the previous evening, so we headed back there to clean up a few more targets. Immediately as we entered we saw a big

flock of **Baya Weavers**, and it didn't take too long for us to manage a few **Yellow Bitterns** as well, all while having fly-by's of many more **Black-backed Swamphens**, **Lesser Coucals**, **Cinnamon Bitterns** and flocks of hundreds of primarily **Chestnut Munias**. Very cool was a leucistic unidentified swiftlet that circled us a few times. On the drive back to the city, Mehdi saw a **Black-winged Kite** on a telephone pole, a bird that Anton would catch up with at the KK airport the next day.

#### **DAY 20 - KOTA KINABALU (04/08)**

On our final half day of birding in Sabah, we didn't know what to do, but the hotspot for the zoo in Lok Kawi had a few more birds for us, so we headed in that direction and had a brief visit to the place, which unfortunately had a lot of very small and outdated enclosures. Two of the three birds that had been seen there recently were fairly easily picked up, though: with a handful of calling **Red-crowned Barbets** we completely finished the set of Bornean barbets, and a distant but clear male **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** was a nice final addition to the Sabah trip list. We kept an eye out, but could not locate any Rufous Woodpeckers (which was the third bird that was reported here).

After this, we headed towards the airport, where we saw nesting **Little Terns** and, from the taxiing plane, a **Black-winged Kite** to round out the trip. Good stuff! Ultimately we could have done something else with our time in and around KK, but we were very happy to add as many birds to the trip list as we did here, definitely because there were quite a few quality species in the mix. A trip to Mantanani might have gotten us some better birds and a shot at a handful early migrants or rarities, but perhaps by missing out on Penampang, Tanjung Aru and Lok Kawi, we would have gotten fewer species on the trip overall!

# STATISTICS

## **Borneo:**

As we mentioned in the introduction, we managed a total of **328** bird species on the Bornean leg of this trip. The full list is visible below, in *Appendix 1*.

This includes **9** established exotic species (Rock Dove, Red Collared Dove, Blue-naped Parrot, House Crow, Javan Myna, Crested Myna, Common Myna, Java Sparrow and Baya Weaver), so without those our trip list is 319.

In total, **19** species were heard only (Great Argus, Crimson-headed Partridge, Red-breasted Partridge, Bornean Frogmouth, Sunda Frogmouth, Dark Hawk-Cuckoo, Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, Plaintive Cuckoo, Ruddy-breasted Crake, Barred Eagle-Owl, Reddish Scops Owl, Mountain Scops Owl, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Red-crowned Barbet, Blue-banded Pitta, Bare-headed Laughingthrush, Black-throated Wren-Babbler, Sunda Scimitar Babbler and Finsch's Bulbul).

Lastly, bird-wise, as mentioned in the introduction, we ended up getting **50** of Borneo's 63 species-level endemics, meaning we "missed" 13 of the Bornean endemics (Dulit Partridge, Bornean Crestless Fireback, Dulit Frogmouth, Bornean Swiftlet, Mountain Serpent Eagle, Hose's Broadbill, Black Oriole, Friendly Bush Warbler, Meratus White-eye, Black-browed Babbler, Meratus Blue Flycatcher, Crocker Jungle Flycatcher and Spectacled Flowerpecker). However, one of these is extinct, half of those have never been seen in Sabah and most of the others are among Borneo's toughest birds overall, so I feel like we did pretty well. We might have seen Bornean Swiftlets at Timpohon Gate: an identification article on them is being written at the moment, which will hopefully clear things up. Slightly better organisation could perhaps have seen us getting Mountain Serpent Eagle, Friendly Bush Warbler and Crocker Jungle Flycatcher, but obviously it's impossible to see everything.

Rather 'effortlessly' (we did spotlight regularly, but never long into the night, and our focus on this trip was definitely the birds), we also managed a total of **45** mammal species. Additionally, **23** species of reptiles and amphibians were bumped into, identified and noted.

## **Peninsular Malaysia:**

In total, across both of our pre- and post-trip extensions in Peninsular Malaysia (detailed in *Appendix 2*), we observed a combined **88** bird species, of which **33** were species that we did not see in Sabah. This leads to a combined trip total of **361** species in Malaysia on this trip. Because both of us had a handful of unique species in Peninsular Malaysia that the other did not see, our individual total counts were **352** (AC) and **349** (MS).

We also had **7** mammal species (**5** only in Peninsular Malaysia, for a trip total of **50**) and **3** herp species (**2** new, for a trip total of **25**).



# APPENDIX 1: ANNOTATED SPECIES LIST

HO: Heard only species

(\*): Introduced species

abc: Bornean endemic species

## BIRDS:

### 1. Wandering Whistling Duck

*Dendrocygna arcuata arcuata*  
5 Likas Lagoon 17-07

### 2. Philippine Megapode

*Megapodius cumingii cumingii*  
5 Manukan 03-08

### 4. Red-breasted Partridge - HO

*Arborophila hyperythra*  
1 (HO) Kinabalu Park 18-07, 2 (HO) Kinabalu Park  
21-07

### 6. Bornean Crested Fireback

*Lophura ignita nobilis*  
2 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 2 Danum  
30-07

### 8. Sabah Partridge

*Tropicoperdix graydoni*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 4 (HO) Kinabatangan  
24-07, 3 (HO) Danum 29-07, 3 (HO) Danum 30-07

### 10. Bornean Peacock-Pheasant

*Polyplectron schleiermachersi*  
1 (HO) + 1 Ulu Telupid 22-07

### 11. Large Frogmouth

*Batrachostomus auritus*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07

### 13. Bornean Frogmouth - HO

*Batrachostomus mixtus*  
1 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

### 15. Large-tailed Nightjar

*Caprimulgus macrurus salvadorii*  
2 Likas Sport Complex 16-07

### 3. Crested Partridge

*Rollulus rouloul*  
2 Danum 27-07, 20 Trus Madi 02-08

### 5. Bulwer's Pheasant

*Lophura bulweri*  
2 Trus Madi 01-08, 3 Trus Madi 02-08

### 7. Great Argus - HO

*Argusianus argus grayi*  
Commonly heard at Danum

### 9. Crimson-headed Partridge - HO

*Haematortyx sanguiniceps*  
Commonly heard at Kinabalu Park

### 12. Gould's Frogmouth

*Batrachostomus stellatus*  
1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 (HO) Danum 30-07

### 14. Sunda Frogmouth - HO

*Batrachostomus cornutus cornutus*  
2 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**16. Grey-rumped Treeswift***Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*

Common throughout (KK, Danum, Trus Madi, ...)

**18. Giant Swiftlet***Hydrochous gigas*

1 Kinabalu Park 20-07, 3 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**20. Silver-rumped Spinetail***Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

6 Danum 28-07, 3 Danum 29-07

**22. Asian Palm Swift***Cypsiurus balasienis infumatus*

2 Danum 27-07

**24. Greater Coucal***Centropus sinensis bubutus*

Commonly heard throughout (Telupid, Kinabatangan, Danum), seen at Penampang

**26. Bornean Ground Cuckoo***Carpococcyx radiceus*

1 (HO) + 1 Kinabatangan 23-07

**28. Red-billed Malkoha***Zanclostomus javanicus pallidus*

2 Kinabatangan 25-07, 1 Danum 27-07

**30. Black-bellied Malkoha***Phaenicophaeus diardi borneensis*

1 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

**32. Banded Bay Cuckoo***Cacomantis sonneratii fasciolatus*

1 Danum 29-07, 1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**34. Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo - HO***Hierococcyx vagans*

2 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**36. Indian Cuckoo - HO***Cuculus micropterus concretus*

1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**17. Whiskered Treeswift***Hemiprocne comata*

Common in Danum

**19. Plume-toed Swiftlet***Collocalia affinis cyanoptila*

Common and widespread throughout

**21. Brown-backed Needletail***Hirundapus giganteus giganteus*

2 Danum 29-07

**23. House Swift***Apus nipalensis subfurcatus*

4 En route 17-07, 2 Gunung Alab Motel 02-08

**25. Lesser Coucal***Centropus bengalensis javanensis*

2 Penampang 02-08, 3 Penampang 03-08

**27. Raffles's Malkoha***Rhinorhiza chlorophaea*

1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 30-07, 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**29. Chestnut-breasted Malkoha***Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus*

1 Danum 28-07

**31. Violet Cuckoo***Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus xanthorhynchus*

1 Kinabatangan 24-07

**33. Plaintive Cuckoo - HO***Cacomantis merulinus threnodes*

Common in Kinabatangan, also Ulu Telupid 22-07

**35. Dark Hawk-Cuckoo - HO***Hierococcyx bocki*

1 (HO) Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 (HO) Kinabalu Park 21-07, 1 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**37. Sunda Cuckoo***Cuculus lepidus*

2 (HO) Kinabalu Park 18-07, 2 Kinabalu Park 19-07, 2 (HO) Kinabalu Park 20-07

**38. Red Collared Dove (\*)**

*Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis*  
2 En route (Kampung Tambalugu) 17-07

**40. Little Cuckoo-Dove**

*Macropygia ruficeps nana*  
Commonly seen at Kinabalu Park, also 1 en route (Trus Madi) 01-08, 2 en route (Gunung Alab) 02-08

**42. Zebra Dove**

*Geopelia striata*  
Common and widespread throughout

**44. Little Green Pigeon**

*Treron olax*  
Commonly seen at Kinabatangan

**46. Thick-billed Green Pigeon**

*Treron curvirostra nasica*  
2 Trus Madi 01-08, 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**48. Jambu Fruit Dove**

*Ptilinopus jambu*  
1 Danum 28-07

**50. Mountain Imperial Pigeon**

*Ducula badia badia*  
Commonly seen and heard at Kinabalu Park

**52. Rock Dove (\*)**

*Columba livia f. domestica*  
Common and widespread in cities

**53. Buff-banded Rail**

*Hypotaenidia philippensis philippensis*  
1 Penampang 02-08, 1 Penampang 03-08

**55. Ruddy-breasted Crake - HO**

*Zapornia fusca fusca*  
6 (HO) Likas Sport Complex 16-07

**57. White-breasted Waterhen**

*Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*  
Commonly seen in lowlands (Likas, Kinabatangan, Taman Prince Philip, Lok Kawi, en route...)

**39. Spotted Dove**

*Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*  
Common and widespread throughout

**41. Common Emerald Dove**

*Chalcophaps indica indica*  
Commonly heard in lowlands (Danum, Kinabatangan, Telupid), also seen at Kinabatangan and en route

**43. Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon**

*Treron fulvicollis baramensis*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 2 Kinabatangan 25-07

**45. Pink-necked Green Pigeon**

*Treron vernans*  
Commonly seen in lowlands (KK, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Danum, Penampang)

**47. Large Green Pigeon**

*Treron capellei magnirostris*  
2 Danum 28-07, 1 (HO) Danum 29-07, 3 Danum 30-07

**49. Green Imperial Pigeon**

*Ducula aenea polia*  
Common and widespread throughout

**51. Pied Imperial Pigeon**

*Ducula bicolor*  
Kota Kinabalu Airport 16-07

**54. Black-backed Swamphen**

*Porphyrio indicus*  
2 Penampang 02-08, 1 (HO) + 5 Penampang 03-08

**56. White-browed Crake**

*Poliolimnas cinereus*  
1 Penampang 02-08



**58. Little Ringed Plover**  
*Charadrius dubius curonicus*  
25 Penampang 02-08

**60. Common Sandpiper**  
*Actitis hypoleucos*  
1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 6 Lahad Datu 26-07, 1 (HO)  
Lok Kawi beach 02-08

**62. Grey-tailed Tattler**  
*Tringa brevipes*  
2 Lahad Datu 26-07

**64. Wood Sandpiper**  
*Tringa glareola*  
25 Sugoi Apin-Apin paddies 02-08

**65. Little Tern**  
*Sternula albifrons sinensis*  
7 KK Airport 16-07, 2 KK Airport 04-08

**66. Lesser Adjutant**  
*Leptoptilos javanicus*  
1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1  
Kinabatangan 25-07

**68. Oriental Darter**  
*Anhinga melanogaster*  
Common in lowlands near water

**69. Yellow Bittern**  
*Ixobrychus sinensis*  
3 Penampang 03-08

**71. Black-crowned Night Heron**  
*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*  
Commonly in lowlands near water

**73. Striated Heron**  
*Butorides striata javanica*  
2 Lahad Datu 26-07

**75. Grey Heron**  
*Ardea cinerea jouyi*  
1 Likas Lagoon 17-07

**59. Malaysian Plover**  
*Anarhynchus peronii*  
2 Lok Kawi beach 02-08

**61. Green Sandpiper**  
*Tringa ochropus*  
1 Lahad Datu 26-07

**63. Common Redshank**  
*Tringa totanus*  
2 Lahad Datu 26-07

**67. Storm's Stork**  
*Ciconia stormi*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 4 Kinabatangan 24-07

**70. Cinnamon Bittern**  
*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
4 Penampang 02-08, 5 Penampang 03-08

**72. Nankeen Night Heron**  
*Nycticorax caledonicus manillensis*  
Common in Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu

**74. Eastern Cattle Egret**  
*Bubulcus coromandus*  
Common in lowlands

**76. Great-billed Heron**  
*Ardea sumatrana*  
1 KK Airport

**77. Purple Heron**

*Ardea purpurea manilensis*  
Common in lowlands near water

**79. Medium Egret**

*Ardea intermedia*  
Common in lowlands near water

**81. Pacific Reef Heron**

*Egretta sacra sacra*  
1 Lahad Datu 26-07, 1 Jesselton Point 03-08, 2  
Manukan 03-08

**82. Black-winged Kite**

*Elanus caeruleus vociferus*  
1 Donggongon 03-08, 1 KK Airport 04-08

**84. Crested Serpent Eagle**

*Spilornis cheela pallidus*  
Common throughout (Kinabatangan, Danum, Trus  
Madi)

**86. Wallace's Hawk-Eagle**

*Nisaetus nanus nanus*  
Common in Kinabatangan, 1 Danum 30-07

**88. Changeable Hawk-Eagle**

*Nisaetus cirrhatius limnaeetus*  
1 Kinabatangan, 1 Danum

**90. Black Eagle**

*Ictinaetus malaiensis malaiensis*  
2 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 31-07

**92. Besra**

*Accipiter virgatus rufotibialis*  
1 en route (Bukit Perahu) 17-07

**94. White-bellied Sea Eagle**

*Ichthyophaga leucogaster*  
Common in lowlands near water

**96. Grey-headed Fish Eagle**

*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 (HO) Kinabatangan  
24-07, 1 Kinabatangan 25-07

**78. Great Egret**

*Ardea alba modesta*  
Common in lowlands

**80. Little Egret**

*Egretta garzetta garzetta* and *E. g. nigripes*  
*garzetta*: Common in lowlands near water  
*nigripes*: 1 Lahad Datu 26-07

**83. Crested Honey Buzzard**

*Pernis ptilorhynchus torquatus*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum  
31-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08

**85. Bat Hawk**

*Macheiramphus alcinus alcinus*  
2 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 (HO) Kinabatangan 25-07

**87. Blyth's Hawk-Eagle**

*Nisaetus alboniger*  
2 Kinabalu Park 19-07, 2 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**89. Rufous-bellied Eagle**

*Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus*  
2 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**91. Crested Goshawk**

*Accipiter trivirgatus microstictus*  
Common in Kinabatangan, 1 Ulu Telupid 22-07

**93. Brahminy Kite**

*Haliastur indus intermedius*  
Commonly seen in lowlands

**95. Lesser Fish Eagle**

*Ichthyophaga humilis*  
1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Kinabatangan 25-07

**97. Oriental Bay Owl***Phodilus badius badius*

1 (HO) Kinabatangan 23-07, 2 (HO) + 2  
Kinabatangan 25-07

**99. Sunda Owlet***Taenioptynx sylvaticus borneensis*

1 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**101. Mountain Scops Owl - HO***Otus spilocephalus luciae*

2 (HO) Kinabalu Park 17-07, 1 (HO) Kinabalu Park  
18-07

**103. Barred Eagle-Owl - HO***Ketupa sumatrana tenuifasciata*

1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**105. Red-naped Trogon - HO***Harpactes kasumba impavidus*

1 (HO) Danum 30-07, 1 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**107. Whitehead's Trogon***Harpactes whiteheadi*

3 Kinabalu Park 19-07

**109. White-crowned Hornbill***Berenicornis comatus*

2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 2 (HO) Danum 29-07, 1  
(HO) Danum 30-07, 3 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**111. Helmeted Hornbill***Rhinoplax vigil*

Heard every day and seen twice at Danum, also 1  
(HO) Trus Madi 01-08, 1 (HO) Trus Madi 02-08

**113. Black Hornbill***Anthracosceros malayanus*

Common in Kinabatangan and Danum

**115. Wreathed Hornbill***Rhyticeros undulatus*

Common in Danum, also 1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1  
Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

**98. Brown Boobook***Ninox scutulata borneensis*

1 (HO) + 5 Danum 30-07

**100. Reddish Scops Owl - HO***Otus rufescens rufescens*

1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**102. Buffy Fish Owl***Ketupa ketupu pageli*

1 (HO) + 1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 (HO)  
Kinabatangan 25-07

**104. Brown Wood Owl***Strix leptogrammica vaga*

1 (HO) Kinabatangan 25-07, 1 Sukau 25-07, 1 (HO)  
Danum 27-07

**106. Diard's Trogon***Harpactes diardii diardii*

1 Danum 30-07

**108. Scarlet-rumped Trogon***Harpactes duvaucelii*

1+1 (HO) Kinabatangan 24-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 1  
(HO) Danum 31-07, 1 (HO) Trus Madi 02-08

**110. Rhinoceros Hornbill***Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis*

Common and widespread in lowlands

**112. Oriental Pied Hornbill***Anthracosceros albirostris convexus*

Common and widespread in lowlands

**114. Bushy-crested Hornbill***Anorrhinus galeritus*

Common in Kinabatangan, also 3 Danum 30-07

**116. Wrinkled Hornbill***Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus*

Common in Kinabatangan, also 2 Danum 29-07



**117. Oriental Dollarbird**

*Eurystomus orientalis orientalis*

Common in Kinabatangan, 1 Kota Kinabalu 03-08

**118. Banded Kingfisher**

*Lacedo pulchella melanops*

1 Danum 27-07

**120. Ruddy Kingfisher**

*Halcyon coromanda minor*

1 Kinabatangan 25-07

**122. Malaysian Blue-banded Kingfisher**

*Alcedo peninsulæ*

1 Danum 29-07

**124. Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher**

*Ceyx rufidorsa motleyi*

2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1+1 (HO) Danum 29-07, 1+1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**125. Red-bearded Bee-eater**

*Nyctyornis amictus*

1 Danum 30-07, 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**127. Blue-throated Bee-eater**

*Merops viridis*

Commonly seen in lowlands (Likas, Kinabatangan, Danum, Penampang, en route...)

**128. Gold-whiskered Barbet**

*Psilopogon chrysopogon chrysopsis*

Commonly heard and sometimes seen (Telupid, Danum, Trus Madi)

**130. Red-throated Barbet**

*Psilopogon mystacophanos mystacophanos*

Commonly heard and sometimes seen (Kinabatangan, Danum)

**132. Yellow-crowned Barbet - HO**

*Psilopogon henricii brachyrhynchus*

Commonly heard at Danum, also 2 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**119. Stork-billed Kingfisher**

*Pelargopsis capensis innominata*

7 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 Kinabatangan 25-07

**121. Collared Kingfisher**

*Todiramphus chloris laubmannianus*

Common and widespread in lowlands

**123. Blue-eared Kingfisher**

*Alcedo meninting meninting*

Common in lowlands (Kinabatangan, Danum, etc.)

**126. Rainbow Bee-eater**

*Merops ornatus*

1 Kinabatangan 23-07

**129. Red-crowned Barbet - HO**

*Psilopogon rafflesii*

2 (HO) Lok Kawi 04-08

**131. Mountain Barbet**

*Psilopogon monticola*

Commonly heard and sometimes seen in highlands (Kinabalu Park, Trus Madi)

**133. Golden-naped Barbet**

*Psilopogon pulcherrimus*

Commonly heard and sometimes seen in Kinabalu Park

**134. Back-eared Barbet**

*Psilopogon duvaucelii duvaucelii*

Commonly heard and sometimes seen  
(Kinabatangan, Danum, Trus Madi, Lok Kawi)

**136. Brown Barbet**

*Caloramphus fuliginosus tertius*

Commonly seen and heard in the lowlands  
(Kinabatangan, Danum)

**137. Rufous Piculet**

*Sasia abnormis abnormis*

1 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 1+1 (HO) Kinabatangan 23-07,  
2 Danum 29-07

**139. Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker - HO**

*Yungipicus moluccensis moluccensis*

2 (HO) Likas Sport Complex 16-07, 1 (HO) Taman  
Prince Philip 03-08

**141. Crimson-winged Woodpecker**

*Picus puniceus observandus*

1 Trus Madi 01-08

**143. Orange-backed Woodpecker**

*Reinwardtipicus validus xanthopygius*

1 (HO) Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 (HO) Kinabalu Park  
19-07, 1 Kinabatangan 24-07

**145. Maroon Woodpecker**

*Blythipicus rubiginosus*

2 Kinabalu Park 20-07, 1 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 1  
Danum 27-07, 1 (HO) Danum 29-07, 1 (HO) Trus  
Madi 01-08

**147. Buff-necked Woodpecker**

*Meiglyptes tukki tukki*

2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 4 Kinabatangan 24-07, 2  
Kinabatangan 25-07

**149. White-fronted Falconet**

*Microhierax latifrons*

2 En route (Sukau) 26-07, 2 Danum 29-07, 1 Trus  
Madi 02-08, 1 en route 02-08

**135. Bornean Barbet**

*Psilopogon eximius eximius*

Commonly heard and seen at Trus Madi

**138. Grey-and-buff Woodpecker**

*Hemicircus concretus sordidus*

1 Danum 29-07

**140. Checker-throated Woodpecker**

*Chrysophlegma mentale humii*

1 (HO) + 1 Kinabalu Park 19-07

**142. Common Flameback**

*Dinopium javanense raveni*

1 Likas Sport Complex 16-07, 1 (HO) Lok Kawi  
04-08

**144. Olive-backed Woodpecker**

*Gecinulus rafflesii dulitensis*

2 Danum 29-07, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

**146. Buff-rumped Woodpecker**

*Meiglyptes grammithorax*

1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 2 Danum 28-07

**148. Great Slaty Woodpecker**

*Mulleripicus pulverulentus pulverulentus*

2 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**150. Blue-naped Parrot (\*)**

*Tanygnathus lucionensis salvadorii*  
4 Taman Prince Philip 03-08

**152. Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot**

*Loriculus galgulus*  
Common in lowlands (en route, Kinabatangan, Danum)

**153. Black-and-red Broadbill**

*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*  
Common in Kinabatangan and Danum

**155. Black-and-yellow Broadbill**

*Eurylaimus ochromalus*  
Commonly heard and sometimes seen (Telupid, Kinabatangan, Danum, Trus Madi)

**157. Whitehead's Broadbill**

*Calyptomena whiteheadi*  
2 (HO) + 1 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 2 (HO) Kinabalu Park 19-07, 2 (HO) Kinabalu Park 21-07

**158. Giant Pitta**

*Hydrornis caeruleus hosei*  
1 (HO) + 1 Danum 29-07, 1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**160. Blue-headed Pitta**

*Hydrornis baudii*  
Commonly heard and once seen at Danum

**162. Blue-banded Pitta - HO**

*Erythropitta arquata*  
1 (HO) Danum 30-07, 1 (HO) Danum 31-07

**164. Golden-bellied Gerygone**

*Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*  
1 Danum 29-07

**165. Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike**

*Hemipus picatus intermedius*  
1 Kinabalu Park 17-07

**151. Long-tailed Parakeet**

*Psittacula longicauda longicauda*  
Common in lowlands (Kinabatangan, Danum, Taman Prince Philip)

**154. Banded Broadbill**

*Eurylaimus javanicus brookei*  
1 Kinabatangan 25-07, 1 (HO) Danum 29-07, 1 (HO) Danum 31-07, 1 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08, 1 (HO) Trus Madi 02-08

**156. Green Broadbill**

*Calyptomena viridis gloriosa*  
2 Danum 27-07, 2 Danum 31-07, 2 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**159. Bornean Banded Pitta**

*Hydrornis schwaneri*  
2 (HO) + 1 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

**161. Black-crowned Pitta**

*Erythropitta ussheri*  
1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 (HO) Danum 27-07, 3 (HO) + 1 Danum 29-07, 2 (HO) + 2 Danum 30-07

**163. Western Hooded Pitta**

*Pitta sordida mulleri*  
2 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 (HO) Kinabatangan 24-07

**166. Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike**

*Hemipus hirundinaceus*  
2 Likas Sport Complex 16-07



**167. Large Woodshrike**  
*Tephrodornis virgatus frenatus*  
2 Danum 28-07

**169. Maroon-breasted Philentoma**  
*Philentoma velata caesia*  
1 (HO) + 5 Danum 29-07

**170. Bornean Bristlehead**  
*Pityriasis gymnocephala*  
5 Danum 30-07

**171. White-breasted Woodswallow**  
*Artamus leucorhynchus leucorhynchus*  
Common and widespread throughout

**172. Common Iora**  
*Aegithina tiphia aequanimis*  
Common in lowlands (Likas, Kinabatangan,  
Danum, Lok Kawi)

**174. Grey-chinned Minivet**  
*Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula*  
4 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 15 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**176. Pied Triller**  
*Lalage nigra nigra*  
3 Likas Sport Complex 16-07, 1 Penampang 03-08

**178. Mangrove Whistler**  
*Pachycephala cinerea cinerea*  
5 Manukan 03-08

**180. White-browed Shrike-Babbler**  
*Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni*  
2 Kinabalu Park 17-07

**182. Black-and-crimson Oriole**  
*Oriolus consanguineus vulneratus*  
3 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**168. Rufous-winged Philentoma**  
*Philentoma pyrhoptera pyrhoptera*  
2+1 (heard) Danum 31-07

**173. Green Iora**  
*Aegithina viridissima viridissima*  
1 (HO) + 2 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 Danum 28-07, 1  
Danum 29-07

**175. Sunda Cuckooshrike**  
*Coracina larvata normani*  
3 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**177. Lesser Cuckooshrike**  
*Lalage fimbriata schierbrandi*  
1 Danum 30-07

**179. Bornean Whistler**  
*Pachycephala hypoxantha hypoxantha*  
Common in Kinabalu Park

**181. White-bellied Erpornis**  
*Erpornis zantholeuca brunnescens*  
3 Kinabalu Park 20-07, 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**183. Ventriloquial Oriole**  
*Oriolus consobrinus consobrinus*  
1 (HO) + 2 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**184. Bronzed Drongo**

*Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**186. Hair-crested Drongo**

*Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*  
Commonly seen at Kinabalu Park, also 1 Danum  
30-07

**188. White-throated Fantail**

*Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu*  
Commonly seen at Kinabalu Park

**190. Spotted Fantail**

*Rhipidura perlata*  
2 Danum 29-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08

**191. Black-naped Monarch**

*Hypothymis azurea prophata*  
2 (HO) + 2 Kinabatangan 24-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 1  
(HO) Danum 29-07

**193. Crested Jayshrike**

*Platylophus galericulatus lemprieri*  
1 Danum 30-07

**195. Bornean Black Magpie**

*Platysmurus aterrimus*  
2 Danum 27-07, 2 Danum 30-07

**197. Bornean Treepie**

*Dendrocitta cinerascens*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**199. Slender-billed Crow**

*Corvus enca compilator*  
Common and widespread in lowlands

**200. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher**

*Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha*  
1 Danum 29-07

**185. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**

*Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus*  
1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**187. Ashy Drongo**

*Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops*  
Common in highlands (Kinabalu Park, Trus Madi,  
en route...)

**189. Malaysian Pied Fantail**

*Rhipidura javanica longicauda*  
Common throughout (Likas, Kinabatangan,  
Danum, Trus Madi)

**192. Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher**

*Terpsiphone affinis borneensis*  
2 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 31-07, 2  
Trus Madi 02-08

**194. Long-tailed Shrike**

*Lanius schach bentet* and *L. s. nasutus*  
Commonly seen on the road, also Likas Sport  
Complex and Penampang

**196. Bornean Green Magpie**

*Cissa jefferyi*  
2 Kinabalu Park 19-07

**198. House Crow (\*)**

*Corvus splendens*  
2 KK waterfront

**201. Pacific Swallow** *Hirundo tahitica javanica*  
Common and widespread throughout

**202. Barn Swallow** *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*  
Migrants at Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu & Trus Madi

**203. Yellow-bellied Warbler**  
*Abroscopus superciliaris schwaneri*  
1 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**204. Mountain Tailorbird**  
*Phyllergates cucullatus cinereicollis*  
2 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**205. Aberrant Bush Warbler**  
*Horornis flavolivaceus oreophilus*  
5 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**206. Bornean Stubtail**  
*Urosphena whiteheadi*  
1 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**207. Yellow-breasted warbler**  
*Phylloscopus montis montis*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**208. Mountain Leaf Warbler**  
*Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**209. Striated Grassbird**  
*Megalurus palustris forbesi*  
Common in lowlands (Kota Kinabalu, en route...)

**210. Yellow-bellied Prinia**  
*Prinia flaviventris latrunculus*  
Common in lowlands throughout

**211. Dark-necked Tailorbird**  
*Orthotomus atrogularis humphreysi*  
2 Danum 30-07

**212. Rufous-tailed Tailorbird**  
*Orthotomus sericeus sericeus*  
Common in lowlands (Telupid, Kinabatangan, Danum)

**213. Ashy Tailorbird**  
*Orthotomus ruficeps borneonensis*  
Common in coastal areas (Likas, Kinabatangan, Lahad Datu, Taman Prince Philip)

**214. Hairy-backed Bulbul**  
*Tricholestes criniger viridis*  
Seen almost every day at Danum, also 1 Kinabatangan 23-07

**215. Yellow-bellied Bulbul**  
*Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens*  
2 (HO) + 1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 Danum 28-07, 2 Danum 29-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08

**216. Grey-cheeked Bulbul**  
*Alophoixus tephrogenys gutturalis*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07

**217. Penan Bulbul**  
*Alophoixus ruficrissus ruficrissus*  
Common in highlands (Kinabalu Park, Trus Madi)

**218. Finsch's Bulbul - HO**  
*Iole finschii*  
1 (HO) Danum 30-07

**219. Charlotte's Bulbul**  
*Iole charlottae*  
3 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 1 en route 27-07, 2 Danum 29-07, 2 Danum 30-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08

**220. Cinereous Bulbul**  
*Hemixos cinereus connectens*  
Common at Trus Madi

**221. Streaked Bulbul**  
*Ixos malaccensis*  
2 Danum 29-07, 2 Danum 30-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

**222. Black-headed Bulbul**

*Brachypodius melanocephalos melanocephalos*  
2 (HO) + 4 Kinabatangan River 24-07, 2 en route  
27-07, 4 Danum 30-07

**224. Grey-bellied Bulbul**

*Ixodia cyaniventris paroticalis*  
2 Danum 29-07, 7 Danum 30-07

**226. Bornean Bulbul**

*Rubigula montis*  
2 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 (HO) + 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**228. Olive-winged Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus plumosus hutzi*  
1 Danum 28-07

**230. Cream-eyed Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus pseudosimplex*  
2 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07

**232. Yellow-vented Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini*  
Common and widespread throughout

**233. Chestnut-crested Yuhina**

*Staphida everetti*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**235. Black-capped White-eye**

*Zosterops atricapilla atricapilla*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**237. Bold-striped Tit-Babbler**

*Mixornis bornensis bornensis*  
Common in lowlands (Kinabatangan, Danum, Trus  
Madi)

**239. Grey-hooded Babbler**

*Cyanoderma bicolor bicolor*  
2 (HO) + 2 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 1  
Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 31-07

**241. Sunda Scimitar-Babbler - HO**

*Pomatorhinus bornensis bornensis*  
2 (HO) Danum 28-07, 2 (HO) Danum 31-07, 3 (HO)  
Trus Madi 01-08, 2 (HO) Trus Madi 02-08

**223. Spectacled Bulbul**

*Ixodia erythrothalmos*  
2 Danum 27-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 2 Danum 30-07, 1  
Trus Madi 01-08

**225. Scaly-breasted Bulbul**

*Ixodia squamata borneensis*  
2 Trus Madi 02-08

**227. Cream-vented Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus simplex perplexus*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Manukan  
03-08

**229. Red-eyed Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus*  
Common throughout (Kinabatangan, Danum, etc.)

**231. Pale-faced Bulbul**

*Pycnonotus leucops*  
3 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 (HO) Kinabalu Park 21-07

**234. Pygmy White-eye**

*Heleia squamifrons*  
2 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 9 Trus Madi 01-08, 13 Trus  
Madi 02-08

**236. Mountain Blackeye**

*Zosterops emiliae emiliae*  
15 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 10 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**238. Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler**

*Macronus ptilosus trichorrhos*  
1 (HO) + 2 Danum 28-07, 1 (HO) Danum 29-07, 1  
(HO) Danum 30-07

**240. Bare-headed Laughingthrush - HO**

*Melanocichla calva*  
2 (HO) Kinabalu Park 20-07

**242. Black-throated Babbler**

*Stachyris nigricollis*  
4 Ulu Telupid 22-07



**243. Chestnut-rumped Babbler**

*Stachyris maculata maculata*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 31-07

**245. White-necked Babbler**

*Stachyris leucotis obscurata*  
1 Trus Madi 01-08

**247. Sooty-capped Babbler**

*Malacopteron affine phoeniceum*  
Common in lowlands (Telupid, Kinabatangan, Danum)

**249. Rufous-crowned Babbler**

*Malacopteron magnum saba*  
Common at Danum, also 1 Ulu Telupid 22-07

**251. Bornean Black-capped Babbler**

*Pellorneum capistratoides morrelli*  
1 Kinabatangan 25-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**253. Temminck's Babbler**

*Pellorneum pyrrogenys canicapillus*  
2 Kinabalu Park 17-07, 2 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 10 Trus Madi 02-08

**255. Ferruginous Babbler**

*Pellorneum bicolor*  
1 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 1 Danum 28-07

**257. Horsfield's Babbler**

*Malacocincla sepiaria harterti*  
1 Danum 29-07

**259. Bornean Wren-Babbler**

*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*  
1 Danum 27-07, 1 (HO) Danum 28-07

**261. Sunda Laughingthrush**

*Garrulax palliatus schistochlamys*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**263. Asian Fairy-Bluebird**

*Irena puella crinigera*  
1 Danum 29-07, 3 Danum 30-07

**264. Asian Glossy Starling**

*Aplonis panayensis eusthatis*  
Common and widespread throughout

**244. Grey-throated Babbler**

*Stachyris nigriceps borneensis*  
Common in highlands (Kinabalu Park, Trus Madi)

**246. Black-throated Wren-Babbler - HO**

*Turdinus atrigularis*  
2 (HO) Danum 28-07

**248. Scaly-crowned Babbler**

*Malacopteron cinereum cinereum*  
Common at Danum

**250. Moustached Babbler**

*Malacopteron magnirostre cinereocapilla*  
2 Danum 29-07

**252. Short-tailed Babbler**

*Pellorneum malaccense poliogene*  
1 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**254. White-chested Babbler**

*Pellorneum rostratum macropterum*  
Common at Kinabatangan

**256. Striped Wren-Babbler**

*Kenopia striata*  
1 Danum 27-07

**258. Mountain Wren-Babbler**

*Gypsophila crassa*  
5 (HO) Kinabalu Park 20-07

**260. Brown Fulvetta**

*Alcippe brunneica eriphaea*  
2 Danum 29-07, 5 Trus Madi 02-08

**262. Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush**

*Pterorhinus treacheri treacheri*  
Common at Kinabalu Park, also 2 (HO) Trus Madi 01-08

**265. Common Hill Myna**

*Gracula religiosa religiosa*  
Common at Danum also 2 Kinabatangan 25-07

**266. Crested Myna (\*)**

*Acridotheres cristatellus*  
3 En route 22-07

**268. Common Myna (\*)**

*Acridotheres tristis tristis*  
Common in Kinabatangan (near Sukau)

**269. Greater Green Leafbird**

*Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07

**271. Bornean Leafbird**

*Chloropsis kinabaluensis*  
3 Kinabalu Park 20-07, 1 Trus Madi 01-08

**272. Fruithunter**

*Chlamydochaera jefferyi*  
1 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 (HO) Kinabalu Park  
19-07, 1 (HO) + 2 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**274. Island Thrush**

*Turdus poliocephalus seebohmi*  
1 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**275. Oriental Magpie-Robin**

*Copsychus saularis adamsi*  
Common in Danum, also 2 Kinabalu Park 17-07, 1  
en route 01-08

**277. White-crowned Shama**

*Copsychus stricklandii stricklandii*  
Common throughout (lowland forests, Trus Madi)

**279. Indigo Flycatcher**

*Eumyias indigo cerviniventris*  
Common at Kinabalu Park

**281. Pale Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis unicolor cyanopolia*  
1 Trus Madi 02-08

**283. Malaysian Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis turcosus*  
3 (HO) + 3 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 Kinabatangan  
25-07, 1 Danum 28-07, 2 Danum 30-07

**285. Mangrove Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis rufigastra rufigastra*  
5 Manukan 03-08

**267. Javan Myna (\*)**

*Acridotheres javanicus*  
Common and widespread in lowlands

**270. Lesser Green Leafbird**

*Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon*  
1 Danum 27-07, 2 Danum 29-07, 2 Danum 30-07

**273. Everett's Thrush**

*Zoothera everetti*  
1 Kinabalu Park 17-07, 1 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**276. Rufous-tailed Shama**

*Copsychus pyrropygus*  
1 Danum 28-07

**278. White-rumped Shama**

*Copsychus malabaricus suavis*  
1 Manukan 03-08

**280. Verditer Flycatcher**

*Eumyias thalassinus thalassoides*  
2 Trus Madi 01-08, 2 Trus Madi 02-08

**282. Bornean Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis superbus*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07

**284. Sunda Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis caerulatus caerulatus*  
2 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07

**286. Dayak Blue Flycatcher**

*Cyornis montanus*  
1 Trus Madi 01-08

**287. Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher**

*Cyornis umbratilis*

1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**289. Bornean Forktail**

*Enicurus borneensis*

1 Kinabalu Park 17-07, 1 Kinabalu Park 19-07

**291. Bornean Whistling Thrush**

*Myophonus borneensis*

2 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 2 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**293. Bornean Shortwing**

*Brachypteryx erythrogyna*

2 (HO) + 1 Kinabalu Park 19-07, 1 (HO) + 1 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**295. Pygmy Flycatcher**

*Ficedula hodgsoni sondaica*

2 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**297. Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula***

*dumetoria muelleri*

1 Trus Madi 02-08

**298. Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker**

*Prionochilus maculatus maculatus*

1 Kinabatangan 24-07, 1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**300. Yellow-vented Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum chrysorrheum chrysorrheum*

1 Kinabatangan 24-07

**302. Black-sided Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum monticolum*

Common at Kinabalu Park

**304. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird**

*Chalcoparia singalensis borneana*

1 Kinabatangan 26-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**306. Brown-throated Sunbird**

*Anthreptes malacensis bornensis*

Common in lowlands

**308. Van Hasselt's Sunbird**

*Leptocoma brasiliiana brasiliiana*

1 Danum 29-07

**288. White-crowned Forktail**

*Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*

Common near water at Danum

**290. Chestnut-naped Forktail**

*Enicurus ruficapillus*

1 Danum 28-07, 2 Danum 29-07

**292. Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher**

*Vauriella gularis*

Common at Kinabalu Park

**294. Snowy-browed Flycatcher**

*Ficedula hyperythra sumatrana*

Commonly heard and sometimes seen at Kinabalu Park

**296. Little Pied Flycatcher**

*Ficedula westermanni westermanni*

Common at Kinabalu Park

**299. Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker**

*Prionochilus xanthopygius*

1 Kinabatangan 25-07, 1 Danum 30-07, 2 Trus Madi 01-08

**301. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum*

Common in lowlands (Telupid, Danum, Trus Madi)

**303. Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker**

*Dicaeum cruentatum nigrimentum*

1 Lok Kawi 04-08

**305. Plain Sunbird**

*Anthreptes simplex*

3 Danum 30-07

**307. Red-throated Sunbird**

*Anthreptes rhodolaemus*

1 Lahad Datu 26-07

**309. Copper-throated Sunbird**

*Leptocoma calcostetha*

1 Kinabatangan 25-07

**310. Ornate Sunbird***Cinnyris ornatus ornatus*

Common in lowlands

**312. Temminck's Sunbird***Aethopyga temminckii*

Common at Kinabalu Park, also 2 Trus Madi 01-08

**314. Little Spiderhunter***Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi*

1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**316. Long-billed Spiderhunter***Arachnothera robusta robusta*

1 Danum 28-07

**318. Yellow-eared Spiderhunter***Arachnothera chrysogenys harrissoni*

1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**320. Whitehead's Spiderhunter***Arachnothera juliae*

1 Kinabalu Park 20-07, 1 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**321. Eurasian Tree Sparrow***Passer montanus malaccensis*

Common and widespread throughout

**323. Java Sparrow***Padda oryzivora* (\*)

1 Penampang 02-08

**325. Dusky Munia***Lonchura fuscans*

Common and widespread throughout

**327. Chestnut Munia***Lonchura atricapilla jagori*

Common and widespread throughout

**328. Paddyfield Pipit***Anthus rufulus malayensis*

1 Lahad Datu airport 27-07, 2 Lahad Datu Airport 31-07, 1 KK airport 31-07, 3 Penampang 02-08, 1 Penampang 03-08

**311. Crimson Sunbird***Aethopyga siparaja siparaja*

Common in lowlands

**313. Purple-naped Sunbird***Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum hypogrammicum*

1 Kinabatangan 23-07, 2 Danum 29-07

**315. Thick-billed Spiderhunter***Arachnothera crassirostris*

1 Danum 27-07, 1 Danum 28-07

**317. Spectacled Spiderhunter***Arachnothera flavigaster*

1 Danum 27-07, 1 Danum 29-07

**319. Bornean Spiderhunter***Arachnothera everetti*

1 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 Danum 28-07

**322. Baya Weaver (\*)***Ploceus philippinus infortunatus*

25 Penampang 03-08

**324. Scaly-breasted Munia***Lonchura punctulata cabanisi*

Common and widespread throughout

**326. White-bellied Munia***Lonchura leucogastra palawana*

2 Sukau 24-07



HO: Heard only species  
(\*): Introduced species  
abc: Bornean endemic species

## MAMMALS:

### 1. Asian Elephant

*Elephas maximus borneensis*

1+6 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 (HO) Danum 29-07, 1 (HO) Danum 30-07

### 2. Long-footed Treeshrew

*Tupaia longipes*

1 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 2 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 01-08

### 4. Mountain Treeshrew

*Tupaia montana baluensis*

1 Kinabalu Park 18-07

### 3. Lesser Treeshrew

*Tupaia minor minor*

1 Likas Sport Complex 16-07

### 5. Large Treeshrew

*Tupaia tana kretami*

5 Kinabatangan 23-07, 1 Kinabatangan 26-07

### 6. Sunda Colugo

*Galeopterus variegatus borneanus*

1 Danum 27-07, 2 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07

### 7. Western Tarsier

*Cephalopachus bancanus borneanus*

1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 30-07

### 8. Philippine Slow Loris

*Nycticebus menagensis*

1 Danum 30-07

### 9. Long-tailed Macaque

*Macaca fascicularis fascicularis*

Common in Kinabatangan and Danum, also 1 en route (Crocker Ranges) 31-07

### 10. Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque

*Macaca nemestrina*

Relatively common in Kinabatangan, Danum and Trus Madi

### 11. Proboscis Monkey

*Nasalis larvatus*

Common in Kinabatangan

### 12. Maroon Surili

*Presbytis rubicunda chrysea* and *P. r. Ignita*

*ignita*: 2 Kinabalu Park 21-07

*chrysea*: 1 Danum 29-07, 20 Danum 31-07

### 13. Silvery Lutung

*Trachypithecus cristatus*

Common in Kinabatangan

### 14. East Bornean Grey Gibbon

*Hylobates funereus*

Commonly heard in Kinabatangan, Danum and Trus Madi, occasionally seen in Danum

### 15. Bornean Orangutan

*Pongo pygmaeus morio*

1 female Kinabatangan 23-07 & 24-07, 1 male Danum 28-07, 1 juvenile Danum 29-07 & 30-07

**16. Greater Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse**

*Chiropodomys major*  
1 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**17. Black Flying Squirrel**

*Aeromys tephromelas phaeomelas*  
1 Danum 27-07

**19. Spotted Giant Flying Squirrel**

*Petaurista elegans banksi*  
2 Kinabalu Park 19-07, 1 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**21. Kinabalu Squirrel**

*Callosciurus baluensis*  
1 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**23. Borneo Black-banded Squirrel**

*Callosciurus orestes*  
Common in Kinabalu Park

**25. Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel**

*Dremomys everetti*  
Common in Trus Madi, also 1 Kinabalu Park 18-07,  
1 Kinabalu Park 21-07

**27. Least Pygmy Squirrel**

*Exilisciurus exilis*  
1 Ulu Telupid 22-07, 1 Kinabatangan

**29. Cream-colored Giant Squirrel**

*Ratufa affinis baramensis*  
2 Trus Madi 01-08

**31. Brooke's Squirrel**

*Sundasciurus brookei*  
1 Kinabalu Park 18-07

**33. Jentink's Squirrel**

*Sundasciurus jentinki*  
Relatively common in Kinabalu Park

**34. Lesser Short-nosed Fruit Bat**

*Cynopterus brachyotis brachyotis*  
1 Kinabatangan 23-07

**†. Long-tailed Giant Rat**

*Leopoldamys sabanus*  
1 roadkill Kinabalu Park 20-07

**18. Thomas's Flying Squirrel**

*Aeromys thomasi*  
1 Danum 28-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Danum 30-07

**20. Red Giant Flying Squirrel**

*Petaurista petaurista rajah*  
1 Danum 27-07, 1 Danum 28-07, 3 Danum 30-07

**22. Plantain Squirrel**

*Callosciurus notatus suffusus*  
Common in lowlands

**24. Prevost's Squirrel**

*Callosciurus prevostii pluto*  
Common in Kinabatangan and Danum, also 1 Lok  
Kawi 04-08

**26. Sculptor Squirrel**

*Glyphotes simus*  
2 Trus Madi 01-08

**28. Tufted Pygmy Squirrel**

*Exilisciurus whiteheadi*  
2 Kinabalu Park 18-07, 1 Kinabalu Park 19-07, 2  
Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

**30. Horse-tailed Squirrel**

*Sundasciurus hippurus pryeri*  
1 Trus Madi 02-08

**32. Low's Squirrel**

*Sundasciurus lowii lowii*  
Common in Trus Madi and Danum, also 3 Ulu  
Telupid 22-07

**35. Binturong**

*Arctictis binturong pageli*

1 Trus Madi 01-08

**37. Banded Palm Civet**

*Hemigalus derbyanus derbyanus*

1 Kinabatangan 25-07

**39. Common Palm Civet**

*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus philippinensis*

1 Trus Madi 01-08

**41. Sunda Leopard Cat**

*Prionailurus javanensis*

1 Danum 27-07, 1 Danum 29-07, 1 Trus Madi  
01-08

**42. Lesser Mouse Deer**

*Tragulus kanchil klossi*

3 Danum 27-07

**44. Sambar**

*Rusa unicolor brookei*

Common in Danum

**36. Small-toothed Palm Civet**

*Arctogalidia trivirgata trivirgata*

1 Danum 28-07

**38. Masked Palm Civet**

*Paguma larvata leucocephala*

1 Trus Madi 01-08

**40. Malayan Civet**

*Viverra zangalunga zangalunga*

3 Danum 29-07

**43. Greater Mouse Deer**

*Tragulus napu napu*

1 Danum 27-07

**45. Southern Red Muntjac**

*Muntiacus muntjak rubidus*

1 Trus Madi 01-08, also 2 (HO) Trus Madi 02-08

HO: Heard only species  
(\*): Introduced species  
abc: Bornean endemic species

## HERPS:

### 1. Saltwater Crocodile

*Crocodylus porosus*

Common at Kinabatangan

### 2. Amboina Box Turtle

*Cuora amboinensis*

1 Likas Sport Complex 16-07

### 3. Balu Bow-fingered Gecko

*Cyrtodactylus baluensis*

1 Kinabalu 19-07, 2 Kinabalu 20-07

### 4. Asian House Gecko

*Hemidactylus platyurus*

Common throughout

### 5. Spotted House Gecko

*Gekko monarchus*

2 Danum 28-07

### 6. Borneo Skink

*Dasia vittata*

Common in Kinabatangan

### 7. Brown's Mabuya

*Eutropis indeprensa*

2 Trus Madi 01-08, 1 Trus Madi 02-08

### 8. Lewis's Mabuya

*Eutropis lewisi*

Common in Danum, also 10+ Manukan 03-08

### 9. Sabah Slender Skink

*Sphenomorphus sabanus*

Common in Danum, also 3 Ulu Telupid 22-07

### 10. Clouded Monitor

*Varanus nebulosus*

1 Kota Kinabalu 16-07

### 11. Asian Water Monitor

*Varanus salvator*

Common in Kinabatangan, also 1 en route 26-07

### 12. Sabah Eyebrow Lizard

*Pelturagonia borneensis*

2 Kinabalu Park 20-07

### 13. Mocquard's Eyebrow Lizard

*Pelturagonia cephalum*

1 Kinabalu Park 20-07

### 14. Oriental Garden Lizard (\*)

*Calotes versicolor*

Common in Kota Kinabalu

### 15. Green Crested Lizard

*Bronchocela cristatella*

1 Lok Kawi 04-08

### 16. Borneo Anglehead Lizard

*Gonocephalus bornensis*

1 Danum 27-07



**17. White-bellied Rat Snake**

*Ptyas fusca*

1 Kinabatangan 24-07

**18. Kinabalu Large-eyed Litter Frog**

*Leptobrachium gunungense*

Common in Kinabalu Park

**19. Kobayashi's Horned Frog**

*Pelobatrachus kobayashii*

1 Kinabalu Park 20-07

**20. "Kuhl's" Creek Frog**

*Limnonectes cf. kuhlii (undescribed form)*

Common in Kinabalu Park, also 1 Danum 27-07

**21. Kinabalu Torrent Frog**

*Meristogenys kinabaluensis*

Common in Kinabalu Park

**22. Borneo Eared Tree Frog**

*Polypedates otilophus*

1 Danum Valley 28-07

**23. Wallace's Flying Frog**

*Rhacophorus nigropalmatus*

2 Danum Valley 29-07

## APPENDIX 2: PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

Because of our flights from different destinations, and in order to keep flights affordable, Anton had 1,5 days before the main leg of the trip, and Mehdi had 1 day after the main leg of the trip, to spend near Kuala Lumpur. Both of us decided to spend this time at Bukit Tinggi to visit the Mountain Peacock Pheasants at the hide there, because what better than another good pheasant to add onto an already very galliform-y trip! Rightfully, Bukit Tinggi seems like a very popular layover location for birders transiting through KL.

Both of us saw the Mountain Peacock Pheasants and got lucky with many other highlight species there as well, of which the most outstanding were Great Hornbill and Rail-Babbler. Below, we will detail our individual accounts for Bukit Tinggi, as well as any other birds we saw during our short stints in Peninsular Malaysia. We will try to keep these reports brief, and only describe our general experiences, alongside our encounters with species that we did not get in Sabah, with the exception of a few specific highlights.

During our brief stints in Peninsular Malaysia we observed a combined **88** bird species, of which **33** were species that we did not see in Sabah. We also had **7** mammal species (of which **5** only in Peninsular Malaysia) and **3** herp species (of which **2** only in Peninsular Malaysia).

### ANTON - DAY 1 (14/07)

After arriving from the plane from Europe at around 08:00 in the KL International Airport, I had breakfast at the airport and booked a Grab (about RM140) over to Bukit Tinggi and started paying attention to birds from the car. Most species seen from the drive were widespread species we also had in Sabah, but a few **White-throated Kingfishers** and a small flyover flock of **Painted Storks** (introduced in Malaysia) were nice. As I approached Bukit Tinggi, a nice **Black Eagle** flew overhead.

I checked into Colmar Tropicale, which is a truly bizarre Disneyland-esque mock village on top of a hill in the middle of the forest-covered mountains: a highly uncomfortable and weird place, but it was useful to have access to food, a 7-eleven, and people that could organise transportation back to KL. I took care of some logistic things first: I wanted to make sure I could get to the Pheasant hide in the early morning the next day and shuttle buses going up to the Japanese Garden only start going at 10:00, so I asked if it was okay to go up earlier. They had somebody open the gate for me at around 06:00 the next day, an hour before sunrise (entirely unnecessary, as it is very easy to walk around the gate). I also booked a taxi back to the airport in two days time (RM200), as Grabs do not run this far out of the city.

After this, it was birding time! I took the shuttle bus up to the Japanese Garden, from where I immediately saw quite a few **Dusky Lutungs** - these would end up being very common throughout Bukit Tinggi, in both darker and paler colour morphs. Apparently White-thighed

Surili is also present here, but I did not see any. After arriving up at the parking lot near the Japanese Garden I immediately heard a group of **Siamang**, which would unfortunately remain heard only throughout my two days here. I initially did not know where to go to find the hide for the Peacock Pheasants, so I wandered around the Japanese Garden and saw **Black-crested Bulbuls**, **Buff-breasted Babblers** and a **Common Treeshrew**, but not much else. Eventually a friend sent me the directions to the hide: keep going up along the main road, past the Japanese Gardens until the road stops, and then continue straight on a narrow unpaved path going straight in the forest. This road was very birdy and had my only **Silver-breasted Broadbill**, which gave incredible prolonged views.



The hide itself was fairly quiet on the first afternoon, but had a pair of **Himalayan Striped Squirrels**, a small flock of **Ochraceous Bulbuls**, a **Buff-breasted Babbler** and a **Common Emerald Dove** across a few intermittent hours of waiting at the small hide made of mesh. In between waiting at the hide I birded the surrounding roads some more and saw **Sooty Barbets**, **Common Tailorbirds** and **Rufescent Prinias**, as well as a distant pair of **Wreathed Hornbills**. The biggest surprise of the first day was a **Helmeted Hornbill** that was calling, though I only realised this way too late and was not quite mentally prepared, so I am glad we got excellent auditory and visual observations of the species in Sabah to fully connect with this species.

### **ANTON - DAY 2 (15/07)**

After a very early start at 05:00, about two hours before sunrise, I started heading out towards the top of the hill, with the idea of spotlighting and owling a little bit on the walk up. The walk down from Colmar Tropicale was fairly straightforward, but as I arrived at the junction of the Adventure Park I started to second-guess myself, mostly because of a pack of dogs that approached while barking loudly. My torch was brand new and I had no idea how long it would hold out in practice, and I did not feel like having to wait out the dark without a torch, so I stayed near the intersection (where there were street lights). Waiting

here was good for about 3-4 fairly distant singing **Sunda Scops Owls**, a pair of heard only **Brown Wood Owls** nearby, and most excitingly a **Blyth's Frogmouth** that I saw as it flew away. Just before 06:00 the gate (which was very easy to walk around...) was opened and I started making my way up the hill, with the intent of arriving there early to hopefully have more luck at the hide.

On the walk up, among multiple species we also had in Sabah I saw a few **Slender Squirrels**, a **Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker**, and my first **Black-bellied Malkoha** and **Rhinoceros Hornbill**. The hornbill could not be enjoyed for a very long time, because near the bend just below the Japanese Gardens car park I heard a long, drawn-out piercing whistle, coming from just about where the hide must be; It sounded spot-on for **Rail-Babbler**! I knew there couldn't really be anybody at the hide using playback because I was the first one going up that day and nobody had passed me, but I was still hesitant because of the location.

The walk up all the way around the Japanese Gardens was gruelling after that, but after arriving at the hide I made myself as small and quiet as possible... And saw a pair of two female **Mountain Peacock-Pheasants**, exactly where they were supposed to be! I get myself settled in a somewhat comfortable position, take some pictures of the Peacock-Pheasants, and get ready to stay there for a while. It didn't take long before I suddenly heard a **Rail-Babbler** again: two birds this time, both from downhill to the right of me, of which one seemed very closeby. I positioned my speaker and waited, but did not have to wait too long until one of the absolute avian wonders of the world passed by the hide not even three meters from me! It did this about three times, unfortunately all before other people arrived throughout the day, so I couldn't share this moment with any other birders.





The **Mountain Peacock-Pheasants** ended up giving amazing prolonged views at different times throughout the day. From what I could see there were two adult female birds, a younger male and an adult male bird coming to the hide, with both males also occasionally displaying towards the females: seeing this from up front, as it did once very briefly towards the hide, was magical. Two of the absolute birding highlights of my life, and the trip hasn't even started yet!



The rest of the day was spent interchangeably birding from the road and at the hide. At the hide I got good views of more of the same species as the first day, plus **Yellow-bellied Warblers** and **Red-billed Malkohas**. Road birding was more variable, and got me a heard only **Black-browed Barbet**, flocks of **Hume's White-eyes** and **Stripe-throated Bulbuls**, a **Blue-winged Leafbird** and many more groups of seen **Dusky Lutungs** and heard **Siamangs**.

### **ANTON - DAY 3 (16/07)**

After these first 1,5 actual days of birding, I had one last morning to pack my things and bird a little bit around Colmar Tropicale. In the forested edges along the shuttle bus stop there was a big flock of **White-rumped Munias**, and in the trees next to Colmar Tropicale there was a nice **Black-thighed Falconet** perched out in the open, though a bit distantly. The taxi driver picked me up in the underground garage of Colmar Tropicale, where there were many swiftlets, of which a few were on nests: most were just **Plume-toed Swiftlets**, but some nesting *Aerodramus* were **Germain's**.

On the drive back to KLIA I saw a **Rhinoceros Hornbill** while driving away from the Bukit Tinggi area, along with more **Painted Storks** and **White-throated Kingfishers** in the city itself. An addition was a **Red-wattled Lapwing** in a muddy shoulder next to the road: nice! After this I arrived at the KLIA, met up with Mehdi, and we flew to Kota Kinabalu to do the Sabah trip as detailed earlier.

### MEHDI - DAY 1 (04/08)

As Anton and I arrived in KLIA after the Sabah trip, we saw a **Red-wattled Lapwing** and an **Oriental Pratincole** from the taxiing plane. I said farewell to Anton as he had to catch his connecting flight back home, and left the airport, taking a taxi to the hotel I booked in Kuala Lumpur, as it was already too dark outside to try to bird anywhere.

### MEHDI - DAY 2 (05/08)

I was quite tired from this amazing but exhausting trip that we had just been through, so I decided not to wake up too early for my last full day in Malaysia, setting up an alarm for 06:30. This proved to be a poor decision because although I left my hotel around 06:45, ordering a Grab to Bukit Tinggi as I was leaving, we only started driving towards Bukit Tinggi at around 08:00! This was due to two different Grab drivers cancelling my ride when they arrived to pick me up as they did not want to go that far away from KL. Thankfully the third time was the charm and I ended up arriving, although quite late (around 08:45), at the parking spot near Colmar Tropicale. Not many birds were seen on the way but my lifer **Painted Stork** was a nice one.

Although it was already quite past sunrise, there was some good bird activity and I could already pick up a few species not found or rare in Sabah near the parking lot, namely a **Grey-breasted Spiderhunter**, as well as a heard-only **Large-billed Crow**. The road from Colmar Tropicale to the setoff to the gate ended up being surprisingly productive (seeing as the sides are mainly covered in pine monoculture) and although I tried to stop as little as possible to get to the hide early, I ended up having to stop quite a lot to check bird flocks. New birds were a pair of really nice **Stripe-throated Bulbuls**, heard-only **Pin-striped Tit-Babbler** and most importantly a pretty **Rufous-bellied Swallow**, a Malaysian peninsula specialty, flying over with some swiftlets. A **Dusky Lutung** perched near the gate was also great.





I soon made my way to the gate only to face more unplanned delay as a security guard told me I wasn't allowed to walk further along the road because "there are tigers and wild monkeys around". A decidedly stupid excuse as there are, of course, no tigers to be found in the area... I tried talking through to him that other people (including Anton) had crossed the gate way earlier than me and that I would be careful, to no avail... The only option I had left to reach the hide would be to take the bus to the Japanese Garden that only leaves at 10:00, in more than an hour's time. In the meantime, I decided to continue birding along the road from the Colmar Tropicale parking lot and it ended up working out wonderfully. After hearing a **Rhinoceros Hornbill** in the distance, I heard two more similar hornbill sounds that didn't quite fit this species and as I knew **Great Hornbill** was a possibility here, I checked how they sounded on Merlin and sure enough, it was spot-on! Just as I was doing so, I started hearing the slow but strong wingflaps of two hornbills coming towards me and there they were, a pair of Great Hornbills flying over me. My 9th hornbill species of the trip! Not long after, the first of the ubiquitous **Siamangs** started calling in the distance and a **Blyth's Hawk-Eagle** flew over before perching on a bare treetop.

I made my way back to the Colmar Tropicale parking lot and took the 10:00 bus to the Japanese Garden. From there, I walked to the pheasant hide (location detailed by Anton above) where I met some very friendly Malaysian birders. Unfortunately, they did not bear good news, as they told me that the pheasants were seen at the hide just ten minutes prior to me arriving. Here I was sitting at the hide hoping that they would reappear, because missing on such a good species because of cancelled Grab rides and fake tigers would have been a bummer. While waiting, three showy **Blue-winged Leafbirds**, a group of **Ochraceous** and **Cinereous Bulbuls**, a heard-only **Black-browed Barbet** as well a **Himalayan Striped Squirrel** were a nice consolation prize.



Mountain Peacock-Pheasant



Mountain Peacock-Pheasant

Thankfully for me, the pair of **Mountain Peacock-Pheasants** walked back in around half an hour later and gave great views. What a bird! They went back into hiding once again and reappeared one last time around ten minutes later for all of us to enjoy, after which we all left the hide.

I had lunch at the expensive Ryo Zan Tei restaurant and then started to head back to Colmar Tropicale through the rain. As soon as the rain stopped, bird activity peaked again and a first flock had a group of **Black-crested Bulbul**, a sole **Buff-vented Bulbul** as well as a single **Streaked Spiderhunter**. A second one a few minutes later had a pair of **Scaly-breasted Bulbul** as well as a boisterous group of **Hume's White-eyes**, a single **Common Tailorbird** and a few **Sooty Barbets**. I arrived back at the Colmar Tropicale parking lot and checked for the **Germain's Swiftlets**, White-rumped munias and Black-thighed falconet Anton had found nearby during his stay but only managed to spot the first on the nest.

Soon after, I decided to call it a day as bird activity was dying out and I had to head back to Kuala Lumpur. I booked a taxi through one of the hotels at Colmar Tropicale as although expensive, that's the only way I could find to go back and it arrived about an hour and a half later. Back in KL, I pondered going for a Mangrove Pitta that had been seen recently at the Kapar Power Station but as it was already nearing sunset, I decided not to go for it.



# APPENDIX 3: PENINSULAR MALAYSIAN SPECIES LIST

All species were seen in Bukit Tinggi (between Colmar Tropicale and the Japanese Gardens), unless mentioned otherwise.

HO: Heard only species

(\*): Introduced species

**abc**: Species we only saw in Peninsular Malaysia

## BIRDS:

### 1. Mountain Peacock-Pheasant (AC&MS)

*Polyplectron inopinatum*

### 2. Blyth's Frogmouth (AC)

*Batrachostomus affinis affinis*

### 3. Grey-rumped Treeswift (AC&MS)

*Hemiproctne longipennis harterti*

### 5. Germain's Swiftlet (AC&MS)

*Aerodramus germani germani*

### 7. Brown-backed Needletail (MS)

*Hirundapus giganteus giganteus*

### 9. House Swift (AC&MS)

*Apus nipalensis subfurcatus*

### 10. Red-billed Malkoha (AC&MS)

*Zanclotomus javanicus pallidus*

### 12. Spotted Dove (AC)

*Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

### 14. Common Emerald Dove (AC)

*Chalcophaps indica indica*

### 16. Mountain Imperial Pigeon (MS)

*Ducula badia badia*

### 18. Red-wattled Lapwing (AC&MS)

*Vanellus indicus atronuchalis*

KLIA, en route (Kuala Lumpur)

### 4. Plume-toed Swiftlet (AC&MS)

*Collocalia affinis cyanoptila*

### 6. Silver-rumped Spinetail (AC)

*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

### 8. Asian Palm Swift (AC)

*Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus*

### 11. Black-bellied Malkoha (AC)

*Phaenicophaeus diardi diardi*

### 13. Little Cuckoo-Dove (AC&MS)

*Macropygia ruficeps nana*

### 15. Zebra Dove (MS)

*Geopelia striata*

### 17. Rock Dove (AC&MS) (\*)

*Columba livia domestica*

### 19. Oriental Pratincole (AC&MS)

*Glareola maldivarum*

KLIA

**20. Painted Stork (AC&MS) (\*)**

*Mycteria leucocephala*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**21. Black-crowned Night Heron (AC&MS)**

*Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**23. Purple Heron (MS)**

*Ardea purpurea manilensis*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**25. Medium Egret (AC)**

*Ardea intermedia*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**27. Crested Serpent Eagle (MS)**

*Spilornis cheela malayensis*

**29. Black Eagle (AC)**

*Ictinaetus malaiensis malaiensis*

En route (near Bukit Tinggi)

**31. Sunda Scops Owl (AC) - HO**

*Otus lempiji lempiji*

**33. Rhinoceros Hornbill (AC&MS)**

*Buceros rhinoceros rhinoceros*

**35. Helmeted Hornbill (AC) - HO**

*Rhinoplax vigil*

**37. White-throated Kingfisher (AC)**

*Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**38. Golden-whiskered Barbet (AC&MS)**

*Psilopogon chrysopogon laetus*

**40. Black-browed Barbet (AC&MS) - HO**

*Psilopogon oorti*

**42. Black-eared Barbet (AC&MS) - HO**

*Psilopogon duvaucelii duvaucelii*

**22. Grey Heron (AC)**

*Ardea cinerea jouyi*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**24. Great Egret (MS)**

*Ardea alba modesta*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**26. Little Egret (AC&MS)**

*Egretta garzetta garzetta*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**28. Blyth's Hawk-Eagle (MS)**

*Nisaetus alboniger*

**30. Brahminy Kite (AC)**

*Haliastur indus intermedius*

En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**32. Brown Wood Owl (AC) - HO**

*Strix leptogrammica maingayi*

**34. Great Hornbill (MS)**

*Buceros bicornis*

**36. Wreathed Hornbill (AC)**

*Rhyticeros undulatus*

**39. Red-throated Barbet (AC&MS)**

*Psilopogon mystacophanos mystacophanos*

**41. Yellow-crowned Barbet (AC&MS)**

*Psilopogon henricii henricii*

**43. Sooty Barbet (AC&MS)**

*Caloramphus hayii*

**44. Black-thighed Falconet (AC)**

*Microhierax fringillarius*

**45. Silver-breasted Broadbill (AC)**

*Serilophus lunatus rothschildi*

**47. Large Woodshrike (AC&MS)**

*Tephrodornis virgatus fretensis*

**48. House Crow (AC&MS) (\*)**

*Corvus splendens protegatus*  
En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**50. Rail-babbler (AC)**

*Eupetes macrocerus macrocerus*

**51. Ochraceous Bulbul (AC&MS)**

*Alophoixus ochraceus sacculatus*

**53. Cinereous Bulbul (AC&MS)**

*Hemixos cinereus cinereus*

**55. Scaly-breasted Bulbul (MS)**

*Ixodia squamata webberi*

**57. Asian Red-eyed Bulbul (AC&MS)**

*Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus*

**59. Pacific Swallow (AC&MS)**

*Hirundo tahitica javanica*

**61. Yellow-bellied Warbler (AC)**

*Abroscopus superciliaris sakaiorum*

**63. Yellow-bellied Prinia (AC)**

*Prinia flaviventris rafflesi*

**65. Dark-necked Tailorbird (AC&MS)**

*Orthotomus atrogularis atrogularis*

**46. Black-and-yellow Broadbill (AC)**

*Eurylaimus ochromalus*

**49. Large-billed Crow (AC&MS)**

*Corvus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*

**52. Buff-vented Bulbul (MS)**

*Iole crypta*

**54. Grey-bellied Bulbul (AC)**

*Ixodia cyaniventris cyaniventris*

**56. Black-crested Bulbul (AC&MS)**

*Rubigula flaviventris caecillii*

**58. Stripe-throated Bulbul (AC&MS)**

*Pycnonotus finlaysoni finlaysoni*

**60. Rufous-bellied Swallow (MS)**

*Cecropis badia*

**62. Rufescent Prinia (AC)**

*Prinia rufescens extrema*

**64. Common Tailorbird (AC&MS)**

*Orthotomus sutorius maculicollis*

**66. Hume's White-eye (AC&MS)**

*Zosterops auriventer tahanensis*

**67. Pin-striped Tit-Babbler (MS)**

*Mixornis gularis gularis*

**69. Buff-breasted Babbler (AC)**

*Pellorneum tickelli tickelli*

**71. Asian Glossy Starling (AC&MS)**

*Aplonis panayensis strigata*

**73. Common Myna (AC&MS)**

*Acridotheres tristis tristis*

KLIA, En route (Kuala Lumpur)

**74. Oriental Magpie-Robin (AC&MS)**

*Copsychus saularis musicus*

**76. Verditer Flycatcher (AC&MS)**

*Eumyias thalassinus thalassoides*

**77. Lesser Green Leafbird (AC&MS)**

*Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon*

**79. Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker (AC)**

*Prionochilus percussus ignicapilla*

**81. Purple-naped Sunbird (AC)**

*Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum nuchale*

**83. Long-billed Spiderhunter (AC)**

*Arachnothera robusta robusta*

**85. Grey-breasted Spiderhunter (MS)**

*Arachnothera modesta modesta*

**87. Eurasian Tree Sparrow (AC&MS)**

*Passer montanus malaccensis*

**68. Moustached Babbler (MS)**

*Malacopteron magnirostre magnirostre*

**70. Brown Fulvetta (AC)**

*Alcippe brunneicauda brunneicauda*

**72. Javan Myna (AC&MS) (\*)**

*Acridotheres javanicus*

**75. White-rumped Shama (AC&MS)**

*Copsychus malabaricus tricolor*

**78. Blue-winged Leafbird (AC&MS)**

*Chloropsis moluccensis moluccensis*

**80. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker (MS)**

*Dicaeum trigonostigma trigonostigma*

**82. Little Spiderhunter (MS)**

*Arachnothera longirostra cinereicollis*

**84. Spectacled Spiderhunter (AC)**

*Arachnothera flavigaster*

**86. Streaked Spiderhunter (MS)**

*Arachnothera magna pagodarum*

**88. White-rumped Munia (AC)**

*Lonchura striata subsquamicollis*



HO: Heard only species

(\*): Introduced species

abc: Species we only saw in Peninsular Malaysia

## MAMMALS:

### 1. Common Treeshrew (AC)

*Tupaia glis*

### 2. Long-tailed Macaque (AC)

*Macaca fascicularis fascicularis*

### 3. Dusky Langur (AC&MS)

*Trachypithecus obscurus obscurus*

### 4. Siamang (AC&MS) - HO

*Symphalangus syndactylus continentis*

### 5. Himalayan Striped Squirrel (AC&MS)

*Tamiops mccllellandii leucotis*

### 6. Plantain Squirrel (AC&MS)

*Callosciurus notatus miniatus*

### 7. Slender Squirrel (AC)

*Sundasciurus tenuis tenuis*

## HERPS:

### 1. Asian House Gecko

*Hemidactylus platyurus*

### 2. Tokay Gecko (AC)

*Gekko gekko*

### 2. East Indian Brown Mabuya (MS)

*Eutropis multifasciata*