



**BORNEO: *Broadbills and Bristleheads***  
**27 June - 12 July 2009**



Bornean Fruithunter is a highly sought-after quarry and is often elusive and sometimes dipped on this tour. This trip was characterized by a ridiculous number of these gorgeous thrushes, with us seeing them on 5 days! This stunner is a male (K.Barnes).

*Set departure tour. Leader: Keith Barnes.*

*All photos in this trip report were taken on this tour, mostly by trigger-happy participant Nigel Voaden, but also a few by Keith Barnes*

This was the best ever Tropical Birding tour to Borneo, and probably one of the best ever set departure birding tours run by any company to the island. If you include all the potentially split taxa we recorded 40 of the 43 Bornean endemics that were available on this trip (missing only the unpredictable Mountain Serpent Eagle and Hose's Broadbill, and more regrettably the endemic race of Black Magpie). We got good looks at the near-

mythical **Bornean Ground-cuckoo** and all three endemic pittas, including incredible views from 3 metres away of the seldom seen **Blue-banded Pitta**. This trip was further characterised by the great looks we had at some of Borneo's most-desirable species including **Blue-headed Pitta** standing in a trail in full sunlight, **Black-crowned Pitta** sitting in a canopy clearing and calling for over 5 minutes until we walked away, and **Bornean Bristleheads** at eye-level until we were satiated and left, amongst the very respectable list of 275 bird species recorded in 15 days of birding. However, the participants were required to put in a lot of work, with many trails hard going and the days requiring long hours in the field in sapping conditions making the tour quite challenging. But we were also lucky. Kinabalu was once again typically tough, with many afternoons being quite dead, but we still managed great looks at **Whitehead's Spiderhunter**, **Whitehead's Trogon** and classic looks at **Bornean Fruithunter** on no less than 5 consecutive days in the mountains. **Everett's Thrush** was once again good to us this year, with a very obliging bird bathing in a trail puddle early one morning, and both partridges were seen by at least some of the participants. Those participants with the greatest stamina were able to reap the greatest rewards. Although the birding was great, we also scored some superb mammals. Orang-utans were particularly co-operative this year with no less than 11 sightings of these charismatic apes, some only 100 metres away from our lodge in a fruiting tree that also attracted hornbills and other frugivores. No doubt though, the surprise was a full grown male only 4 metres away at eye level right next to the ticket office at Gomantong! Orang's though were not the only stars with a couple of sightings of Bornean pygmy elephant (including a mother and baby) along the Kinabatangan River and a probable pod of Irrawaddy river dolphins in the muddy waters of Sandakan Bay. The more usual highlights of proboscis monkeys and Bornean gibbons were also enjoyed by all.

This was the top 10 birds as voted for by the participants that completed both main tour and extension:

- 1) ***Bornean Bristlehead***. After seeing these poorly at BRL there was much enthusiasm to see them again, properly. So when we scored incredible views of three birds at Sepilok, and were able to absorb these crazy-weird birds in all their glory, there was much celebration by the group. They stayed so long, we were able to walk away from them, satiated. Borneo's only endemic family.



Bornean Bristlehead. This stunner was seen at Sepilok, and boy did we get good looks, as the photos attest (N.Voaden)

- 2) **Green Broadbill.** Maybe a surprise runner up, but not when you consider the views we had of this bird sitting right next to us in the forest. It glowed emerald in the dark, the bird version of the Incredible Hulk, and with its strange form and shape most of the group rated this experience as a top one.



Green Broadbill. A photo can say 1000 words, or so the saying goes. How is this bird even feasible? (N.Voaden)

- 3) **Blue-headed Pitta.** We twice had incredible experiences with this Bornean-endemic bird that was not calling quite as much as I would have liked in our time

at BRL. Walking back to the lodge late one night Keith looked up to see a male bird foraging unconcernedly on the path only 4 metres away. Everyone ended up getting killer looks at this elegant bird, the second-best looking pitta I have ever seen! On our last morning this bird ambushed us again (photo), with another male at first standing still in the middle of the path in full sunshine – glorious. A few metres further down the path we nailed his missus, getting great looks at both sexes! Shaggadelic baby.



Blue-headed Pitta. Yes, this is a real photo, and exactly how we saw it! Standing in the sunlight on the path. A photo can say 1000 words, or so the saying goes. How is this bird even feasible? Didn't I say this for the above photo? (N.Voaden)

- 4) **Bornean Ground-cuckoo.** A slightly contentious one. Only Keith and one participant tried for this bird, and they both saw it quite well. Because we tried in the middle of the day when it was very hot (and because it required some swamp wading and poor trails) most of the participants opted out, and thus didn't see it. Both Keith and Nigel rated this as their best bird of the trip, but their votes only got it to 4<sup>th</sup> on the group list. A very special bird, and one of the least likely of the endemics, both Keith and Nigel were extremely happy with this one! Unfortunately we don't have killer photos of this bird because we were so busy looking at it! So you'll just have to imagine how good it is till you see it.
- 5) **Bornean Fruithunter.** We had an incredible trip for this strange thrush. Between our days on Kinbalu and the Crocker Range we saw this bird on a record 5 of the six days we were in this area! Not only that, our views were always verging on spectacular (as the photos show). It was hard not to become blasé about this species, which is normally a very difficult bird to see on this tour, and decidedly dippable. See title pic.

- 6) ***Rhinoceros Hornbill***. A star amongst stars. The hornbills are always high on the list of want birds, and this guy is amongst the most spectacular. The name helps too, who on Earth doesn't want to see a flying rhino?
- 7) ***Black-crowned Pitta***. We had this stonker a couple of times. First repeatedly crossing a trail, and then again sitting for over 5 minutes and calling high up in the canopy (see photo). After video and many photographs we walked away from it. Saturated! Sad but true.



Black-crowned Pitta. Hai Karamba! How do you walk away from this? I don't know, but we did. (K.Barnes)

- 8) ***Buffy Fish-Owl***. Staggering views of this brown beast along the Kinabatangan ranked highly for the group. Owls are often favourites, and any owl that catches fish is always sought-after. It helps when it is only 10 m away!



Buffy Fish-Owl. Riverside stunner never to be ignored. Great views guaranteed some happy folks after a late night session (K.Barnes)

- 9) ***Blue-banded Pitta***. Probably lower-ranking because not everyone saw it, but those that did had a mind-goggling eyeful as the bird shot in to perch only 3 metres away. It fled in fright a few seconds later, having realised it's *grande faux-pas*, been tricked into coming face-to-face with 8 birders, some staring straight at it, and some unfortunately staring straight past it, only a few metres away!
- 10) ***Hooded Pitta***. OK so no great surprises that 4 pittas make the top 10, but they are incredible birds. Everyone saw this black-and-emerald beast rather well from the boat on the Kinabatangan River.



Hooded Pitta. It boomed loudly from the riverside veg, and then we called it in  
(N.Voaden)

I am not going to give a day-by-day blow of this tour, simply because I have so many other trip reports to write, but hopefully this summary will give you a good idea of the highlights.

**27 June: Arrival in Kota Kinabalu.** It was a fairly typical arrival day, with little to do except pick up the participants, one of whom missed a flight and we had a minor panic, but before long we had our crew gathered for their adventure. The taxi trips to and from the airport yielded some herons and egrets, a Black-shouldered Kite, Collared Kingfishers, White-breasted Woodswallow, Asian Glossy Starling and Chestnut Munia as some early ticks for our checklist. A nice dinner at the waterfront was our first as a group.



*Mountain Barbet*  
(N.Voaden)

**28 June: Crocker – Kinabalu National Park**

After last year's successes we headed straight for Crocker, which was pumping. Arriving, as soon as we alighted from the car we had calling Red-breasted and Crimson-headed Partridges. Soon we were thrown into a whirlwind of new birds, most of which were endemic, when a massive flock

of the cute little Chestnut-crested Yuhina and Black-capped White-eye moved through. It didn't take us long to locate a few fruiting trees. Standing there vigilantly we soon noted several Mountain Barbets gorging themselves on fruit and not long thereafter both male and female Bornean Fruithunters, one of Borneo's most wanted endemics, made a very welcome appearance. Delighted, the morning simply improved with a mixed mid-story flock containing Bornean Treepie as well as Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes. Not long thereafter we nailed what seems to be a very rare bird in Borneo, a flock of the superb Long-tailed Broadbills. Attention to the fruiting tree brought good looks at the stunning Golden-naped Barbet and then nearby the truly tricky Bornean Barbet started calling. Quickly following the sound we were delighted when the culprit sat up on a dead snag and continued to poop away. The site had delivered the three Bornean endemic barbets in rapid succession, and shortly thereafter we scored Brown and Gold-whiskered Barbet, making it very productive for these frugivores. We started walking down the road nailing Black-crested (Bornean) Bulbul, Blue-winged (Kinabalu) Leafbird, Ochraceous Bulbul and Ashy (Cinereous) Bulbul. Other high altitude specialties included Little Cuckoo Dove, Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Grey-chinned Minivet, White-throated Fantail

and Ashy Drongos. Then, the buzzing rasp of a Whitehead's Spiderhunter came from the right hand side of the road. After a little searching and playback the culprit made a dash for it flying across the forest. The views weren't perfect, but one can't be too choosy with these megabirds. Not long thereafter we encountered a Pygmy White-eye crossing the road. They landed just a few feet away, which was fortunate as you need this to see their scaly crowns and pale iris' to this positively ID one of the most diminutive of the world's birds,. It was a delight. Overwhelmed with our success the morning was starting to wear on, and activity was dying down, we decided to move on. We dropped off our stuff at the lodge and headed for Mt. Kinabalu NP, walking the Silau-Silau trail in the afternoon. It was pretty quiet, but we added a few goodies such as White-browed Shrike-babbler, Little Pied Flycatcher and the endemic Eye-browed Jungle Flycatcher.

*Indigo Flycatcher at Mt Kinabalu (N.Voaden)*



**29 June – 2 July: Kinabalu National Park**

The next four days were spent plying many of the parks trails, and also making junkets to Poring Hot Springs. One needs this much time here because many of the key birds are very low density and others just downright tricky. We got to the park predawn and on our way up to the upper reaches of the road around the power station we saw a couple of endemic

Bornean Whistling-Thrushes on the deck foraging in the pre-dawn light. The we drove into a covey of Red-breasted Partridges, the tougher of the small gamebirds in the park, what luck! Great way to start. We spent a fair bit of time around the power station, and working the higher trails, where you score some high elevation goodies that are hard to track down anywhere else in the park. Flocks moved through with stunning White-browed Shrike-babbler, Bornean Whistler and Chestnut-capped Laughing-thrush present. Other endemic babblers in the form of Sunda and Bare-headed Laughing-thrushes followed these. Indigo Flycatchers were still hawking crunchy moths off the hot lights that had just been switched off, while a Flavescent Bulbul lurked on the edge of the compound hawking insect that were fleeing in the early morning glare. Before we moved off, a small flock of the highly desirable Mountain Black-eye passed through, much to everyone's delight. The is a bizarre little White-eye indeed. We went along a quiet trail picking up the tricky but vocal Bornean Stubtail and Sunda Bush Warbler. Staking out a key spot, an Everett's Thrush put in an appearance, surely one of the hardest endemics to see on a Sabah tour. While it was bathing, a Shortwing came into the pool and bathed with it! Crimson-headed Partridges were being vocal, but only one lucky person connected with these. The canopy flitted with activity of Mountain Leaf and Yellow-breasted Warblers and a sudden movement low down revealed the stunning Snowy-

browed Flycatcher. Lower down the hill we connected with Maroon Woodpeckers, and the stunning wax-like Short-tailed Magpie. Other birds included Little Pied Flycatchers. Meals were attended by hoards of Temminck's Sunbirds, that foraged in the trees beside the restaurant, and a cooperative Crested Goshawk. The trails eventually yielded Mountain Wren-babbler as a perfect reward. Eventually we had seen most targets, but we had to work for two species that would not yield, Whitehead's Trogon and Whitehead's Broadbill. After considerable effort we eventually found a vocal female Trogon, to much relief. We also staked out a fruiting tree high up that looked good for White-head's Broadbill. Golden-naped Barbets and Bornean Fruithunter were everpresent there and although we spent the better part of a day near the tree, and the Broadbill did come in, it came in quick and fast, giving only Nigel and Keith looks at this massive green beast! A few junkets to Poring were successful for a diversity of lowland species including many flowerpeckers, spiderhunters, and shrike-flycatchers.

*Spectacular little endemic Mountain Wren-Babbler at Mt Kinabalu (N.Voaden)*



### **3 July: Kinabalu National Park – Kota Kinabalu.**

We added a few goodies on the mountain today before heading to Kota Kinabalu. Our stop, with the rain threatening, was at Likas Bay, where we added Green Imperial Pigeon, Pink-necked Green-Pigeon and Common Kingfisher, before the rain came hammering down and stopped play. We had an evening at a surprisingly inefficient

restaurant before bedding for the night, awaiting our next adventure at Danum.

### **4 July: Kota Kinabalu – Lahad Datu – Danum Valley.**

We were exceptionally sprightly, despite very little sleep, and headed off to the domestic airport. After 10 minutes, we were at the check-in desk and soon thereafter we were airborne, looking at the lofty peaks of Mt Kinabalu which we sailed passed and headed straight for our destination town of Lahad Datu. I encouraged the group to enjoy breakfast Malay-style. We hit a breakfast kiosk where our buns and roti with eggs dishes with a coffee were most welcome. Soon after we filled our bellies we pushed on, hitting the dirt track that runs into the immense and impressive Danum Valley. A few stops en-route gave us some birding opportunities, including our first views of the endemic Dusky Munia and cute Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, and then amazingly a White-breasted Babbler foraging on a picnic table. Glossy Swiftlet and Silver-rumped Needletail moved in small numbers overhead. Soon we were at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, where an



incredible feast of a lunch awaited us. We lapped it up. After lunch we walked up the road to a spectacular fruiting tree that precipitated our first of an incredible 11 encounters with Orang-utans on this trip.

Understandably, this Great Ape is a much-desired

‘**want-bird**’ on your average Borneo tour, and it is never guaranteed, so there are always some tense moments for the guides regarding this critter. This year was ridiculous however, many fruiting trees in the near vicinity of the lodge meant that we were constantly encountering the beasts during our stay, including watching several cross the roads right in front of us.

*One of 11 encounters with Orang-utan, the old man of the forests (N.Voaden)*

### **5 – 7 July: Borneo Rainforest Lodge.**

The three days at Danum yielded many highlights including the encounters with four species of pitta, great looks at both endemic wren-babblers. The nearby river yielded Oriental Darter and flashy Stork-billed Kingfishers. Noisy Ashy Tailorbirds were located in the gardens. Raffle’s Malkoha and both Gray-rumped and Whiskered Treeswifts were seen on numerous occasions. However some of the stars were a trio of impressive hornbills, Black, Bushy-crested and Rhinoceros Hornbills were all seen quite well along the entrance road. Barbets were in evidence with calling Red-throated, Yellow-crowned and Blue-eared’s all recorded. Small flocks yielded Black-winged Flycatcher Shrike, Red-eyed, Spectacled, Gray-cheeked and Hairy-backed Bulbuls. Other birds included

Short-tailed and Scaly-crowned Babbler. With some coaxing, a vocally responsive Banded Broadbill was eventually drawn into view. The gardens were their usual productive self, with one of our first birds being a pair of the now tame endemic *nobilis* race of the Crested Fireback, with its buffy flanks. Another great find along the boardwalks by the lodge was a pair of electric Malaysian Blue Flycatchers. The main access road held a constant stream of the diminutive Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots jettisoning overhead and Raffles, and a single Chestnut-breasted Malkoha sneaking through the tangles of the mid-growth. The trails held the phenomenal Red-bearded Bee-eater, and then all of a sudden there were several of them making their low grating cackle. Gray-bellied and Puff-backed Bulbuls came in and out, along with Buff-vented and more Spectacled, Gray-cheeked and Hairy-backed Bulbuls. However mammals too were noted, including a nearby group of Bornean Gibbons and some stunning Red Leaf-Monkeys.



*The impressive Crested Fireback is easy at BRL (N.Voaden).*

Walking the trails also yielded the dazzling Blue-headed Pitta. Unconcerned by our presence, he purposefully kept foraging. We simply got gob-smacking looks at this incredible gem, arguably the world's best looking pitta. We also had

much success with Black-crowned Pitta, which circled around us and kept hopping on or flying over the track. A Gray-breasted Spiderhunter was a welcome surprise and Black-headed Munia put in an appearance. The hornbills were out on show regularly, and a morning session yielded more Black, as well as the new and immensely impressive and much-desired Helmeted Hornbill. The incredible Diard's and Red-naped Trogons were other trail birds. We also saw Red-throated and Purple-naped Sunbirds, and Little Spiderhunter. Some fruiting trees yielded both Greater and Lesser Green Leafbirds, Dark-necked Tailorbird and Verditer Flycatcher, Pied Fantail, several new babbler species, including the stunning Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler and Yellow-breasted and Yellow-rumped Flowerpeckers. An incredible Eastern Crimson Sunbird showed very well close to the lodge. We located a Chestnut-necklaced Partridge that was pretty close to the road. With some stealthy work the bird popped up into an open patch. The Bornean Bristleheads were stealthy here, and although we saw a party distantly, it was not particularly satisfying. The lodge trails revealed a very cooperative Striped Wren-babbler right on the road, and the difficult endemic Black-throated Wren-babbler.



*We got very lucky with some scarce and difficult birds in the lowlands at Danum. Clockwise from top left, the impressive Helmeted Hornbill was seen a few times. However the two scarce kingfishers, the magical Banded Kingfisher (top right) and beautiful Rufous-collared Kingfisher (bottom right) were seen only once. For some reason, the Olive-backed Woodpecker (bottom left), a bird we dip in other years was everywhere! All pix by N. Voaden.*

### **8 July: Borneo Rainforest Lodge – Kota Kinabalu.**

Largely a travel day, we only managed a short birding sortie before departure. We headed for Lahad Datu, and then waited for our flight back to KK, where some of the group departed, but the rest of us prepared for our extension to the Kinabatangan River.

### **9 July: Kota Kinabalu to Sukau**

A relatively uneventful morning saw us fly to Sandakan, where we were picked up by the friendly and efficient Sukau staff. Our first stop was Sepilok, where we had one of the trip highlights, coming face-to-face with a group of Bornean Bristleheads. These birds are simply incredible, and we were able to enjoy up-close-and-personal experiences with their odd Red-and-yellow heads, and strange calls. We also saw Purple-throated Sunbird here. Our journey up the Kinabatangan from Sandakan was quite eventful, with us seeing a probably pod of Irawaddy River Dolphins and then also a group of Bornean pygmy elephant along the river. Soon we were at Sukau, and began enjoying the first of our boat cruises on the quiet backwaters of the Kinabatangan River. We saw some great birds including Brahminy Kite, Lesser Fish Eagle, Collared Kingfisher and Dollarbird. Hornbills were omnipresent, with 5 species being seen including Oriental Pied, Black,

Rhinoceros, Wrinkled and the spectacular White-crowned for the whole group. Undoubted birding highlights though were Black-and-Red and Dusky Broadbill. However a mammal probably stole the show. The improbable proboscis monkeys are loaded with character and hard to ignore. One pot-bellied male, with a Gerard Duipardieu nose, entertained us with some of his lewd behaviour. Although our day was over, the birding wasn't, with a night-time excursion on the river yielding Buffy Fish Owl and Small-toothed Palm Civet.



*Sukau was also very productive for both birds and mammals. Clockwise from top left, the cute and impressive Bornean Pygmy Elephant. The extroverted Proboscis monkeys (top right) were also seen quite a bit as was the well-endowed Stork-billed Kingfisher (bottom right). We also lucked out on Storm's Stork (bottom left) seeing over 15 birds during our stay along the Kinabatangan River. All pix by N. Voaden.*

### **10 – 11 July: Sukau.**

With two full days to explore the riverine jungles here we embarked on our early morning trip adding a bounty of goodies including Lesser Fish Eagle, Little Green Pigeon, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, White-chested Babbler and Long-tailed Parakeet. However a definite highlight of the morning was when I heard a Hooded Pitta calling near the stream and we pushed the boats under the overhanging vegetation and started playing the tape. A superb male Hooded Pitta shot in to tape and landed on a reasonably exposed branch. One afternoon we were treated to incredible views of Black-headed Pitta when one perched overhead for 5 minutes singing non-stop. During our time here we made a special visit to the impressive Gomantong Caves. Just outside the caves we found

another wild Orangutan in the middle of the day right next to the ticket kiosk! Quite a surprise. Gomantong Cave was it's usual swift-fest, with us seeing five species at the caves, including the virtually identical Edible-nest, Black-nest and Mossy-nest Swiftlets. The explanation of the incredible nest-harvesting activities was also captivating. Another incredible experience was had when one afternoon we returned to an area where we had heard Bornean Ground Cuckoo in the morning. Given that it was hot and sweaty, I really hadn't expected this to work. After about 10 minutes of playing a bird responded, but it was a long way away. We waded through swamps, fought there through forest and did a remarkable number of other ridiculous things, but eventually we were close to the bird, but it would not come that final 20 m. Assuming we had no chance, we just walked towards it, expecting it to flush or walk off forever. But it didn't. It kept calling. And there it was, Nigel and I clapped eyes on the green-and-sapphire behemoth, it kind of hid behind tree trunks, but we were able to see most of the bird including the black head and yellow-eye skin. Then a group of Long-tailed Macaques seemed to attack it! That was too much, it split, and we were delighted at having seen this spectacular endemic species.



*More from Sukau including the impressive large and loud White-crowned Hornbill (top left) and Bushy-crested Hornbill (top right). The ubiquitous, but always welcome Red-and-black Broadbill (middle left) was seen on many occasions and at night we spotlighted the dainty Blue-eared Kingfisher (middle right) several times. The curious Rufous Piculet (bottom left) we picked up out the back of our lodge and the Scarlet-rumped Trogon (bottom right) was nailed on one of the tributaries of the Kinabatangan River. All pix by N. Voaden.*

### **12 July: Sukau – Kota Kinabalu**

We enjoyed a final morning cruise, lapping up some of the many great birds that Sukau offers again! After a late breakfast we made for Sandakan, seeing a kettle of some 5 Storms Storks circling on route! After a fun lunch at a classy Sandakan colonial restaurant we headed for the airport and KK, where the tour drew to a close.

# **BIRD LIST**

Taxonomic order and nomenclature follow Clements, 6th edition updated 2007.

**Birds that are marked with (GO) were seen by the guide only.**

**Birds that are marked with (H) were only heard.**

## **ANHINGAS (PELECANIFORMES: Anhingidae)**

Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) *At Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley and Sukau.*

## **HERONS, EGRETS and BITTERNs (CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae)**

Great-billed Heron (*Ardea sumatrana*) *One along the river at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) *several at Sukau.*

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) *Scattered sightings on various journeys.*

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) *Scattered sightings near Kota Kinabalu.*

Pacific Reef Heron (*Egretta sacra*) *Scattered sightings near Kota Kinabalu.*

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) *A few sightings on the tour.*

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) *A few sightings on the tour.*

## **STORKS**

Storm's Stork (*Ciconia stormi*) – *Over 15 on the Kinabatangan River, near Sukau!*

Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – *A few individuals on the Kinabatangan River.*

## **DUCKS**

Wandering Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna arcuata*) *A handful of these near Gomantong.*

## **HAWKS, EAGLES and KITES (FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae)**

Jerdon's Baza (*Aviceda jerdoni*) *Several sightings of this gorgeous ginger-crested 'cuckoo-hawk' on the Kinabatangan River at Sukau.*

Bat Hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) *Not too far from Sukau, a bird in a nest was located in broad daylight. Fantastic.*

Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) *Near KK on arrival.*

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) *Small numbers on the Kinabatangan and Danum.*

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) *On the coast near Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan and at Sukau.*

Lesser Fish-Eagle (*Ichthyophaga humilis*). *A few individuals along the Kinabatangan River.*

Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*). *One individual along a tributary of the Kinabatangan River.*

Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) *Seen a number of times, both perched and in flight.*

Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*). *Seen a number of times, both perched and in flight.*

Rufous-bellied Eagle (*Aquila kienerii*). *One seen in flight in Lahad Datu.*

Changeable Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus cirrhatus*) *Several at Sukau, particularly the darker race.*

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus nanus*) *A handful of sightings in the Danum valley.*

### **FALCONS (FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae)**

**White-fronted Falconet (*Microhierax latifrons*) ENDEMIC** *Three individuals of this 'dead snag specialist' were seen, (appropriately perched up on a dead tree), just once in the Danum Valley, becoming harder and harder each year.*

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) *Seen from the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

### **PHEASANTS and PARTRIDGES (GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae)**

**Red-breasted Partridge (*Arborophila hyperythra*) ENDEMIC** *Ridiculous, a covey walked out onto the tar road on our first morning on Mount Kinabalu*

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge (*Arborophila charltonii*) *Seen spectacularly well at the Danum Valley, where one came in close and in the open*

**Crimson-headed Partridge (*Haematortyx sanguinceps*) ENDEMIC** *Mostly unresponsive in our time on Mount Kinabalu, although they were heard calling regularly in the early mornings while we were there, a lucky participant flushed one on a trail while the others were staking out a fruiting tree.*

Crested Fireback (*Lophura ignita*) *Understandably these gorgeous pheasants were one of the species being talked about fondly at the end of the trip, when best tour birds were being discussed; a pair were regularly seen patrolling the grounds at Borneo Rainforest Lodge at both dawn and dusk. A very welcome daily feature of that well-run resort in the heart of some of Sabah's very best rainforest.*

Great Argus (*Argusianus argus*) HO *Birds were not calling, not on their display grounds when at Danum this year. One responded briefly to playback but did not come in.*

### **PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS (Charadriidae)**

Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) *Next to the KK airport.*

### **SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES (Solopacidae)**

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) *A few seen along the Kinabatangan River.*

### **RAILS, GALLINULES and COOTS (GRUIFORMES: Rallidae)**

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) *Recorded in a few spots.*

## **PIGEONS and DOVES (COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae)**

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) *Common around KK.*

Spotted Dove (*Streptopelia chinensis*) *Commonly seen, around KK and elsewhere in lowlands.*

Little Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia ruficeps*) *Seen daily in small numbers up on Mount Kinabalu.*

Emerald Dove (*Chalcophaps indica*) *This attractive dove was seen in scattered localities,*

Zebra (Peaceful) Dove (*Geopelia striata*) *Seen on roadsides especially in the Kota Kinabalu area.*

Little Green-Pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*). *Several birds were seen in a fruiting tree along the Kinabatangan River.*

Pink-necked Green-Pigeon (*Treron vernans*) *A few flocks at Likas in KK.*

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon (*Treron curvirostra*) *Several birds at the big fruiting tree in Danum.*

Green Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula aenea*) *First recorded a number of times in Danum and much better views were had later in the Sukau area.*

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula badia*) *The first views were typical of this montane species - flying high over the forest in the mist, although later much better perched looks were obtained at Mt Kinabalu.*

## **TERNs (Sternidae)**

Little Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) *A few seen in KK, particularly the airport*

Black-naped Tern (*Sterna sumatrana*) *A few seen in KK.*

Greater Crested Tern (*Thalassius bergii*) *A few seen in Sandakan Bay.*

## **PARROTS (PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae)**

Blue-rumped Parrot (*Psittinus cyanurus*) *One bird flying over at Danum.*

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot (*Loriculus galgulus*). *This dinky little parrot is always a fascination for first-time visitors to Asia (I mean a parrot that sleeps upside down - give me a break!), and this group of keen birders were no exception. Well, we never saw it sleeping upside down although we did have several good looks of it up in the treetops.*

Long-tailed Parakeet (*Psittacula longicauda*) *A few along the Kinabatangan River were the only records.*

## **CUCKOOS (CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae)**

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo (*Cuculus vagans*) *Calling bird at Sukau eventually responded.*

Malaysian Hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus fugax*) *We were lucky walking into one bird at Danum.*

Sunda Cuckoo (*Cuculus saturatus*) *Seen several times on Mt Kinabalu.*

Banded Bay Cuckoo (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) *This often difficult cuckoo was seen in the Danum Valley.*

Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) *Seen along the road near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Little (Malay) Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*) *Seen along the road near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Violet Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) *Spectacularly well-behaved individual seen on the rivers at Sukau.*

Asian Drongo-Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*) *Just a single sighting of a bird seen well on the rivers at Sukau.*

Asian Koel (*Eudynamys scolopaceus*). HO *One bird singing at night in KK was the only one!*

**Bornean Ground-Cuckoo (*Carpococcyx radiceus*). ENDEMIC.** *A pair seen well on the Kinabatangan. Serious highlight.*

Black-bellied Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus diardi*) *One sighting around Poring Hot Springs.*

Raffles's Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*) *A few small groups seen in Danum Valley and elsewhere.*

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*) *We recorded this species along the Borneo Rainforest Lodge access road on two separate occasions.*

Red-billed Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*). *Seen once at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Short-toed Coucal (*Centropus rectunguis*) *Seen well by a few folks at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) *Heard a number of times, with one sighting of roadside birds in the Danum Valley.*

Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*) *A few seen at Sukau.*

### **OWLS (STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae)**

Reddish Scops-Owl *Otus rufescens* HO *Heard on our night drive in the Danum Valley.*

Buffy Fish-Owl (*Ketupa ketupu*) *We had to wait until our river trips at Sukau for good looks at this impressive Fish-Owl.*

### **SWIFTS (APODIFORMES: Apodidae)**

Glossy Swiftlet (*Collocalia esculenta*) *Commonly seen in lowland areas.*

Cave Swiftlet (*Collocalia linchi*) *Very common up on Mount Kinabalu.*

Mossy-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus salangana*) *Seen on their nests at Gomantong.*

Black-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus maximus*) *Seen on their nests at Gomantong.*

Edible-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) *Seen on their nests at Gomantong.*

Brown-backed Needletail (*Hirundapus giganteus*). *Seen once at Danum.*

Silver-rumped Needletail (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*) *Fairly commonly seen at Danum, when a number were usually seen hawking insects in full view of the lodge verandah.*

House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*) *Just recorded around Kota Kinabalu.*

Fork-tailed Swift (*Apus pacificus*) *Just recorded around Kota Kinabalu.*

### **TREESWIFTS (APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae)**

Gray-rumped Treeswift (*Hemiprogne longipennis*) *Some really superb looks at this large treeswift from Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Whiskered Treeswift (*Hemiprogne comata*) *This beautiful treeswift was seen in the Danum Valley and is understandably always popular.*

### **TROGONS (TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae)**

Red-naped Trogon (*Harpactes kasumba*) *A calling male was seen in the same area as the similar Diard's Trogon, along one of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge trails.*

**Whitehead's Trogon (*Harpactes whiteheadi*) ENDEMIC** *Much effort was expended getting to this bird eventually finding a single vocal female after much effort.*

Diard's Trogon (*Harpactes diardii*) *A sighting in Danum Valley, around Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Scarlet-rumped Trogon (*Harpactes duvaucelii*) *This breathtaking trogon was seen at both Borneo Rainforest Lodge and Sukau, as one responded while we were in a boat sailing on a tranquil backwater, giving us all amazing views.*

### **KINGFISHERS (CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae)**

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) *A few at Likas in KK.*

Blue-eared Kingfisher (*Alcedo meninting*) *Several birds on the Kinabatangan River.*

Black-backed Kingfisher (*Ceyx erithacus*) *One of these diminutive kingfishers was found sitting quietly in the forest very close to BRL.*

Banded Kingfisher (*Lacedo pulchella*) *One well-behaved stunner at BRL.*

Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*) *Seen along the Sungei Danum around Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileata*) *Seen by members of our group on two occasions.*

Collared Kingfisher (*Todirhamphus chloris*) *We had a few scattered sightings on the journey between Lahad Datu and Sukau.*

Rufous-collared Kingfisher (*Actenoides concretus*) *Spectacular male next to a trail at BRL.*

### **BEE-EATERS (CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae)**

Red-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis amictus*) *We had a few sightings of this fabulous bee-eater at Borneo Rainforest Lodge*

Blue-throated Bee-eater (*Merops viridis*) *Seen several times at BRL and Sukau.*

### **ROLLERS (CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae)**

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*). *Seen several times along the Kinabatangan River.*

### **HORNBILLS (CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae)**

Oriental Pied Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) *Several birds at both Danum Valley and Kinabatangan River.*

Black Hornbill (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) *Several sightings along the road close to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, including a pair that were sharing the same fruiting tree with a Rhinoceros Hornbill.*

Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*) *This spectacular hornbill was seen on three of our four days around Danum.*

Helmeted Hornbill (*Buceros vigil*) *We had great success with this behemoth seeing them on several different days.*

Bushy-crested Hornbill (*Anorrhinus galeritus*) *A couple of parties were seen along the road in Danum Valley, around Borneo Rainforest Lodge, and again at Sukau.*

White-crowned Hornbill (*Aceros comatus*) *Seen well a couple of times at Sukau.*

Wrinkled Hornbill (*Aceros corrugatus*) *We were lucky again with this one with several encounters on the Kinabatangan River.*

Wreathed Hornbill (*Aceros undulatus*). *First seen in Danum and again at Sukau.*

### **BARBETS (PICIFORMES: Capitonidae)**

Brown Barbet (*Calorhamphus fuliginosus*) *At Crocker, one party in Danum and again along the Kinabatangan River. Of the red-throated Bornean-endemic race.*

Gold-whiskered Barbet (*Megalaima chrysopogon*) *A couple were seen at Crocker and again along the road in Danum Valley where they were commonly heard.*

Red-throated Barbet (*Megalaima mystacophanos*) *Seen really well at Poring Hot Springs, and again in the Danum where they being a constant background noise in the canopy there.*

**Mountain Barbet (*Megalaima monticola*) ENDEMIC** *A very successful trip to the Crocker's was made for this barbet amongst others. A number of trees were fruiting there at the time that subsequently brought in a number of these endemic barbets. One was seen really well feeding in a low fruiting tree right by the center itself, the very same tree having held a pair of Fruit-hunters only minutes earlier.*

Yellow-crowned Barbet (*Megalaima henricii*) *HO at Danum.*

**Golden-naped Barbet (*Megalaima pulcherrima*) ENDEMIC** *Generally the easiest of the endemic barbets to see, and it turned out that way for us this year also as a bird was found perched low down right by the Crocker and again at Mount Kinabalu.*

Blue-eared Barbet (*Megalaima australis*) *A regular sound around Danum and Sukau, where we had several views.*

**Bornean Barbet (*Megalaima eximia*) ENDEMIC** *Generally the toughest of the endemic barbets to see. This was not however the case for us this year, as shortly after our arrival at Crocker's a lone Bornean Barbet flew in and perched on a highly visible dead snag giving us all great looks through the scope. Virtually the first bird we saw on arrival, so it eased the pressure somewhat as this bird can be a real struggle to find. We also later found a nesting pair!*

### **WOODPECKERS (PICIFORMES: Picidae)**

Rufous Piculet (*Sasia abnormis*) *We had several sightings of this tiny woodpecker at Danum and Sukau.*

White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*) HO *These giants were heard only at Sukau, and could not be coaxed closer by playback.*

Crimson-winged Woodpecker (*Picus puniceus*) HO *heard only in the Danum Valley, where they remained hidden despite much playback.*

Checker-throated Woodpecker (*Picus mentalis*) *Seen on Mount Kinabalu when singles or pairs were found following some of the busy bird waves there.*

Olive-backed Woodpecker (*Dinopium rafflesii*) *Great luck this year with this scarce bird, seeing it well on at least three occasions at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Maroon Woodpecker (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*) *Heard a number of times up on Mount Kinabalu and also around Poring Hot Springs. One was seen in a bird wave on Kinabalu.*

Orange-backed Woodpecker (*Reinwardtipicus validus*) *A pair were seen on a tributary at Sukau.*

Gray-and-buff Woodpecker (*Hemicircus concretus*) *A pair flitted around and played low down in vegetation along the Main access road at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

### **BROADBILLS (PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae)**

Long-tailed Broadbill (*Psarisomus dalhousiae*) *A large flock near Crocker's of this very scarce species in Borneo.*

Dusky Broadbill (*Corydon sumatranus*) *Several groups were watched at Danum and at Sepilok.*

Black-and-red Broadbill (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*) *A pair of these stunning broadbills were seen several times along the Kinabatangan River.*

Banded Broadbill (*Eurylaimus javanicus*) *Seen near to Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Black-and-yellow Broadbill (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) *Four sightings of this tiny, 'toy-like' bird at Danum Valley, where it was a very common sound in the forest.*

Green Broadbill (*Calyptomena viridis*). *Initially we thought we'd missed it when a calling bird went silent, but then it shot in and sat in clear view for everyone. An unbelievable colour green, this was a firm favourite at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

**Whitehead's Broadbill (*Calyptomena whiteheadi*) ENDEMIC** *Another bird that gets all the right juices flowing. Only seen a couple of times and it gave us the real run around. Only Nigel and I got look at this as it gave us a torrid time.*

### **PITTAS (PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae)**

Giant Pitta (*Pitta caerulea*) HO *This elusive pitta was heard not that far from Borneo Rainforest Lodge, but failed to be seen.*

**Blue-headed Pitta (*Pitta baudii*) ENDEMIC** *This gorgeous endemic was seen twice at Danum. First a male hopped in front of me on a trail as I walked up one of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge trails, showing to everyone in the group well. Another show-stopping male and female were seen in broad daylight and sunshine in the middle of a trail when we were chasing something else.*

**Blue-banded Pitta (*Pitta arquata*) ENDEMIC** *After considerable playback, this bird rocketed in to sit only 4 m away from us. The shock of seeing a group of birders at point-blank range was enough to have it shoot off after a few seconds of point blank views. The unfortunate few who were not looking in the right place missed it.*

**Black-headed (-crowned/Black-and-crimson) Pitta (*Pitta ussheri*) ENDEMIC** *A pair of these beautiful endemic pittas was seen close to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge and then we had a ridiculous male calling in the canopy near Sukau for over 5 minutes. After enough photos and video, we walked away, with him still mournfully calling in the canopy.*

Hooded Pitta (*Pitta sordida*). *One magnificent individual responded very well while doing a river cruise on the Kinabatangan, and we were able to show the whole group the bird from inside boat!*

### **SWALLOWS (PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae)**

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) *An exciting one for Keith at Sukau, just one individual, it's a new Borneo bird for him!!!*

Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*) *Commonly recorded in lowland areas throughout.*

### **WAGTAILS AND PIPITS (PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae)**

Oriental (Paddyfield) Pipit (*Anthus rufulus*) *Just a couple at the Lahad Datu airport.*

### **CUCKOO-SHRIKES (PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae)**

Sunda (Black-faced) Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina larvata*) LO – *Seen by Keith when something more exciting distracted our attention and heard by everyone else.*

Lesser Cuckoo-shrike (*Coracina fimbriata*) – *Seen a few times at BRL on the entrance road.*

Fiery Minivet (*Pericrocotus igneus*) *A few of these colorful passerines were found at BRL and on the boat at Sukau.*

Gray-chinned Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*) *Seen in small numbers each day on Mount Kinabalu, including a few birds which alighted on the fence of the power station early one morning.*

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus picatus*). *A few were located in flocks at Poring.*

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*) *A few at Poring and again in Danum.*

### **BULBULS (PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae)**

Black-and-white Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanoleucos*) *This rare bulbul was seen twice in the Danum Valley.*

Black-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus atriceps*). *Common in Danum Valley.*

**Black-crested (Bornean) Bulbul (*Pycnonotus melanicterus montis*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES** *A group of two birds of this distinctive 'form', (that has a pale throat), was seen close to the Crocker's. This Bornean endemic race, montis, is popularly split off as 'Bornean Bulbul'.*

Flavescent Bulbul (*Pycnonotus flavescens*). *Just one of these high altitude bulbuls was seen at the powerstation on the summit trail.*

Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) *Commonly seen in the lowlands.*

Red-eyed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus brunneus*) *The most commonly recorded bulbul in the lowlands.*

Spectacled Bulbul (*Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*) *Three sightings in Danum Valley, including a bird that was sharing a fruiting tree with a Plantain Squirrel.*

Finch's Bulbul (*Alophioxus finschi*) *Just the one sighting of this rare bulbul near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Ochraceous Bulbul (*Alophioxus ochraceus*) *Seen a few days in small numbers on Mount Kinabalu.*

Gray-cheeked Bulbul (*Alophioxus bres*) *A couple of sightings were had in Danum Valley.*

Yellow-bellied Bulbul (*Alophioxus phaeocephalus*) *A few pairs were seen on the Borneo Rainforest Lodge trails.*

Hairy-backed Bulbul (*Tricholestes criniger*) *Regularly recorded at Danum, where several birds were seen.*

Buff-vented Bulbul (*Iole olivacea*) *Several were seen at Danum.*

**Ashy (Cinereous) Bulbul (*Hemixos flava*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES** *Another unofficially split bulbul, that many split off as 'Cinereous Bulbul'. This Bornean race, connectens, has a distinctive puffy white throat. We saw one of them near the entrance of the Crocker's, where there were a few fruiting trees in prime condition at the time.*

#### **LEAFBIRDS (PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae)**

Greater Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) *A couple of males of this chunky leafbird were found close to Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Lesser Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*) *Seen at Danum.*

**Blue-winged (Bornean/Kinabalu) Leafbird (*Chloropsis cochinchinensis*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES** *This flavocincta endemic mountain 'race' of Blue-winged is widely split off as Bornean or Kinabalu Leafbird. Interestingly, the female possesses a black throat in this form. A few were found right near the entrance of the Crocker's, with a few other groups seen flying over there also and we also caught up with it again at Mt Kinabalu, a new locality for me.*

#### **IORAS (PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae)**

Common lora (*Aegithina tiphia*). *Seen at Poring and again in Danum Valley.*

Green lora (*Aegithina viridissima*). *Seen convincingly just the once at Poring.*

### **THRUSHES (PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae)**

**Bornean Whistling-Thrush (*Myophonus borneensis*) ENDEMIC** *Many sightings on Mount Kinabalu, with the best of these being a bird on our final morning that froze on the road a few meters in front of our stationary vehicle. Another was seen at its traditional hangout - around the cars in the power station car park.*

Orange-headed Thrush (*Zoothera citrina*) *This beautiful thrush was flushed off a path during a phenomenal rainstorm on Mt. Kinabalu!*

**Everett's Thrush (*Zoothera everetti*) ENDEMIC** *This bird has been good to TB over the years, another year scoring this seldomly-seen Zoothera. We had a bird bathing in a pool in the middle of the track for a few minutes that everyone saw. It was there so long that even a Shortwing joined it for a splash-and-dash.*

**Borneo Island Thrush (*Turdus poliocephalus seebohmi*) ENDEMIC FORM.** *This was seen by Nigel after he tried for the Scrub-warbler a second time.*

**Fruit-hunter (*Chlamydochaera jefferyi*) ENDEMIC** *Another highly-desired, handsome endemic. We were all treated to amazing views of a pair of these frugivorous birds feeding in a low fruiting tree by the entrance to the Crocker's and then saw them on three consecutive days at Mt. Kinabalu, an incredible run on this fabulous 'thrush', as the photos attest to.*

White-browed Shortwing (*Brachypteryx montana*) *A few seen on Mt Kinabalu, where we also saw one sharing a bathing pool with Everett's thrush one morning.*

### **CISTICOLAS and ALLIES (PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae)**

Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris*). *Sightings at BRL and at night along the Kinabatangan River.*

### **OLD WORLD WARBLERS (PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae)**

**Bornean Stubtail (*Urosphena whiteheadi*) ENDEMIC** *This tiny, near tailless warbler was seen twice on Mount Kinabalu.*

Sunda Bush-Warbler (*Cettia vulcania*) *While getting a flurry of new species around the Mount Kinabalu power station during our first mornings birding there, one of these unobtrusive warblers popped out on an open branch literally within inches of us all. Many others were also heard up there.*

Kinabalu Friendly Bush-Warbler (*Bradypterus accentor*) *Trickier than usual. Several brave souls made the accent up the mountain, but this time the warbler was rather decidedly unfriendly, one bird called briefly and then stopped, another came into tape without calling, showing only briefly and badly to the leader. A few days later, Nigel, faster and fitter than anyone else in the group including the leader, decided to try for it again. His success that afternoon prevented the bird being a leader-only trip bird.*

Mountain Tailorbird (*Orthotomus cuculatus*) *Seen commonly at Mt Kinabalu.*

Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*). *Seen at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sericeus*) *Several were seen in the Danum area.*

Ashy Tailorbird (*Orthotomus ruficeps*) *First seen at Poring and again later in our stay at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Mountain (Leaf) Warbler (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*) *A regular member of bird waves up on Mount Kinabalu, where we saw them in small numbers.*

Yellow-breasted Warbler (*Seicercus montanis*) *Another regular flock member, this attractive, striking orange-headed warbler was seen several times on Mount Kinabalu.*

Yellow-bellied Warbler (*Abroscopus superciliaris*) *A pair were observed fighting in a tree close to Poring Hot Springs.*

Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*) *A few seen near Sukau.*

### **OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS (PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae)**

**Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher (*Rhinomyias gularis*) ENDEMIC** *We saw a couple of these on our stay at Mount Kinabalu.*

Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*) *Seen with monotonous regularity on Mount Kinabalu.*

Little Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula westermanni*) *Strangely only seen on our second day on Mount Kinabalu.*

Verditer Flycatcher (*Eumyias thalassina*) *A pair were found perched at Danum.*

Indigo Flycatcher (*Eumyias indigo*) *This attractive sundaic flycatcher was first found perched on the power station fence at Mount Kinabalu, with other small numbers being recorded on most days up there also. A very approachable pair near Timpohon Gate were particularly memorable.*

Long-billed Blue-Flycatcher (*Cyornis caerulatus*). *Just the one bird in the Danum Valley.*

Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher (*Cyornis turcosus*) *A lodge regular while we were staying at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum. A pair were regularly seen feeding in the lodge garden, and the male regularly picked insects off the roof of Nigel's cabin in the afternoon/early in the morning.*

**Bornean Blue-Flycatcher (*Cyornis superbus*) ENDEMIC** *Several handsome blue-and-orange males and duller females visited the Borneo Rainforest Lodge trails.*

Pale Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis unicolor*) *For a while a bit of an ID problem as there was no male and the female/juvs had us stumped, but a good bit of evening internet detective work solved our problem. A scarce bird in the Danum Valley.*

Gray-headed Canary-flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) *First recorded several times around Danum,*

Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) *Fairly commonly recorded in the lowlands. The distinctive black-bellied pluto race was seen.*

**White-rumped (Crowned) Shama (*Copsychus malabaricus coronatus*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES** *This has recently been lumped by some taxonomists within the widespread White-rumped Shama, that was followed by Clements. However, many people still believe the markedly different song and consistent plumage differences indicate that it should remain the beautiful Bornean endemic it once was. We recorded them daily in Danum, including a very*

*friendly bird that regularly visited the lodge garden. Also seen at Poring.*

Chestnut-naped Forktail (*Enicurus ruficapillus*) *This stunning bird is surely the best-looking in a fantastic genus of birds. We saw the same pair well repeatedly in the Danum Valley.*

White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*) *This striking terrestrial flycatcher from the infamous Oriental forktail genus (that is understandably so highly desired by first time visitors), was seen briefly on a few occasions along a small tributary off the Sungei Liwagu on Mount Kinabalu.*

### **FANTAILS (PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae)**

White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*) *Recorded daily on Mount Kinabalu.*

Pied Fantail (*Rhipidura javanica*) *A few were seen at Danum and more at Sukau.*

Spotted Fantail (*Rhipidura perlata*) *One was picked up on one of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge trails at Danum.*

### **MONARCH FLYCATCHERS (PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae)**

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) *Several were seen close to Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) *Several spectacular white phase males were seen at Danum.*

### **WHISTLERS (PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae)**

**Bornean Whistler (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*) ENDEMIC SPECIES.** *A few of this montane endemic were found sitting quietly in passing flocks on most days up on Mount Kinabalu.*

### **BABLERS (PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae)**

Sunda (Gray-and-brown) Laughingthrush (*Garrulax palliatus*) *This noisy laughter was found nearly every day up on Mount Kinabalu, once hanging about the small rubbish tip near the top of the road, which was an attractive setting to see them in!*

**Black (Bare-headed) Laughingthrush (*Garrulax lugubris*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES** *The bald-headed calvus race on Borneo has been split by many authors for a long period as 'Bareheaded Laughingthrush', although was never adopted on the Clements list. Several individuals of this ugly 'laughter' were found in a mixed laughingthrush flock near Timphon gate, Mount Kinabalu.*

Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush (*Garrulax mitratus*) *One of the commonest birds up on Kinabalu, where many were seen every day up there.*

White-chested Babbler (*Trichastoma rostratum*) *This riparian babbler was surprisingly first encountered eating scraps around a picnic table on our way into Danum and then encountered several times around Sukau.*

Ferruginous Babbler (*Trichastoma bicolor*) *This subtly attractive babbler was seen several times in Danum, where they were more frequently heard.*

Horsfield's Babbler (*Malacocincla sepiarium*) *Seen just the once at Danum.*

Short-tailed Babbler (*Malacocincla malaccensis*) *Seen a few times at Danum near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Black-capped Babbler (*Pellorneum capistratum*) *One walked in while we were taping in something else. Highly under-rated terrestrial babbler.*

Moustached Babbler (*Malacopteron magnirostre*). *Just a handful of sightings of a few birds at Danum.*

Sooty-capped Babbler (*Malacopteron affine*) *Several sightings around BRL, Gomantong and again near Sukau.*

Scaly-crowned Babbler (*Malacopteron cinereum*) *Many sightings at Danum, close to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Rufous-crowned Babbler (*Malacopteron magnum*) *Mega surprising dip of this common bird, heard a few times, but always distantly. Shows you can miss anything in the rainforest!*

Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus montanus*) *This much under-estimated species was seen near the canopy walkway at BRL as it responded strongly to tape.*

**Bornean Wren-Babbler (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*) ENDEMIC** *This bird was frustrating this year, but brief views were had a couple of times.*

Striped Wren-Babbler (*Kenopia striata*) *Unlike the Bornean this significantly more attractive wren-babbler played the game well and flew in and perched up real close allowing everyone very good looks.*

**Black-throated Wren-Babbler (*Napothera atrigularis*) ENDEMIC** *This large noisy endemic babbler came in really close along one of the trails near BRL at Danum, allowing everyone to get good views.*

**Mountain Wren-Babbler (*Napothera crassa*) ENDEMIC** *We lucked into this one on Kinabalu on a few occasions.*

Gray-throated Babbler (*Stachyris nigriceps*) *This really attractive Stachyris was seen at Kinabalu several times during our stay there.*

Black-throated Babbler (*Stachyris nigricollis*) *Nice find at Gomantong. Showed well for all, eventually.*

Chestnut-rumped Babbler (*Stachyris maculata*) *This striking babbler was seen several times during one day close to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Chestnut-winged Babbler (*Stachyris erythroptera*) *We saw this species several times around Danum.*

**Striped (Bornean) Tit-Babbler (*Macronous gularis*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES.** *Seen in several different places at Danum, and also heard around Poring. This form has been split off as an endemic, Bornean Tit-Babbler, by some authors.*

Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler (*Macronous ptilosus*) *Two gloriously cooperative birds at Danum.*

White-browed Shrike-Babbler (*Pteruthius flaviscapis*) *A pristine male was seen near top of the Powerstation road.*

Brown Fulvetta (*Alcippe brunneicada*). *Heard incessantly and seen in a few active flocks in the Danum Valley.*

**Chestnut-crested Yuhina (*Yuhina everetti*) ENDEMIC** *This endemic is very common up on Mount Kinabalu and at Crocker's, where small chattering groups were seen on every visit to the mountain.*

White-bellied Yuhina (*Yuhina zantholeuca*). *Our first and only was encountered in Danum.*

### **SUNBIRDS (PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae)**

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) *Several at Poring and Danum throughout our trip.*

Plain Sunbird (*Anthreptes simplex*) *Seen in Danum on a few occasions.*

Plain-throated (Brown-throated) Sunbird (*Anthreptes malacensis*) *Seen first at Poring, where they were common.*

Red-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes rhodolaema*) *Seen at Poring and in the Danum Valley.*

Olive-backed Sunbird (*Cinnyris jugularis*). *Seen at Poring and at Sepilok, near Sandakan.*

Purple-throated Sunbird (*Leptocoma sperata*) *One male seen very well at Sepilok.*

Purple-naped Sunbird (*Hypogramma hypogrammicum*) *Many sightings at Danum, including a bird that showed really well in the lodge garden.*

Eastern Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopygia siparaja*) *One seen brilliantly at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

Temminck's Sunbird (*Aethopygia temminckii*) *The best sunbird of the tour by a long way, what with the male being bright vermilion red above and all! Most memorably, we recorded them from the restaurant on Mount Kinabalu and elsewhere on the mountain and a showy male bird posed for photos close to the Crocker's.*

Little Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirostra*) *The most commonly encountered Spiderhunter at Danum, where it was recorded daily.*

Thick-billed Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera crassirostris*) *One recorded at Poring, where many spiderhunters were visiting the Strelitzia's.*

Spectacled Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera flavigaster*) *A very cooperative individual kept visiting a tree in the gardens at BRL. Sunbirds of steroids!*

**Gray-breasted (Bornean) Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera modesta*) ENDEMIC FORM/SPECIES** *We recorded this well-streaked spiderhunter at Danum, Crocker's and also at Poring. NB. Some authors have split this into two species - Gray-breasted and Bornean Spiderhunter. When split there seems to be much confusion over the exact ranges of the two species, some people suggesting that in fact only Bornean occurs in Sabah at all, although this issue has yet to be fully resolved.*

**Whitehead's Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera juliae*) ENDEMIC.** *This strikingly patterned endemic spiderhunter has become much rarer in recent years at the historically good site of Mount Kinabalu, and so we decided to try and get it at the more regular spot of Crocker's. Amazingly after spending some time at trees where they had recently been seen we nailed one individual, and then got even better looks back on Mt. Kinabalu.*

### **FLOWERPECKERS (PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae)**

Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker (*Prionochilus percussus*) *Seen along a trail by Nigel.*

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker (*Prionochilus maculatus*). *A couple of sightings - one in the lodge garden at Danum and another along the road near there.*

**Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*) ENDEMIC.** *A male was regularly seen close to our cabins at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, and others were seen along the road there.*

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*). *This very attractive widespread flowerpecker was seen in huge numbers at Poring, including several individual (juvs) with pale bills, and also on the way into the Danum Valley.*

**Black-sided Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum monticulum*) ENDEMIC** *Two sightings around the park HQ area in Mount Kinabalu Park and also at Crocker's.*

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum cruentum*). *Seen only by Alan.*

### **WHITE-EYES (PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae)**

Black-capped White-eye (*Zosterops atricapillus*) *This attractive white-eye is common on Kinabalu and Crocker's and many were seen up there on each day.*

**Mountain Black-eye (*Chlorocharis emiliae*) ENDEMIC** *This very distinctive endemic 'white-eye' was fortuitously picked up on our first day on Mount Kinabalu, a little lower than would normally be expected but we were definitely not complaining.*

**Pygmy White-eye (*Oculocincta squamifrons*) ENDEMIC** *We were very excited by this find, this local endemic has been difficult to find the last couple of years, so point blank views of birds was very exciting.*

### **ORIOLES (PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae)**

Dark-throated Oriole (*Oriolus xanthonotus*) *Just one bird between Poring and the upper portions of Mt. Kinabalu National Park.*

Black-and-crimson Oriole (*Oriolus cruentus*) *One pair at Crocker's were very well behaved showing well in a fruiting shrub near head height.*

### **FAIRY-BLUEBIRDS (PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae)**

Asian Fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*) *An extremely attractive Asian species that was encountered a number of times along the road at Danum.*

### **SHRIKES (PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae)**

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) *A few overwintering still near Gomantong.*

### **HELMETSHRIKES and ALLIES (PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae)**

Maroon-breasted Philentoma (*Philentoma velatum*) *Seen from a boat at Sukau, although it did not show particularly well.*

### **DRONGOS (PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae)**

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) *Regularly recorded up on Mount Kinabalu, especially around the power station where they conveniently regularly perch up on the station fence.*

Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) *Seen in the Danum Valley.*

Hair-crested (Spangled) Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) *Seen twice in Kinabalu Park.*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) *Seen once by Laura at Poring Hot Springs, including one fully-racketed bird.*

### **WOODSWALLOWS (PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae)**

White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) *Scattered sightings throughout in both the mountains and lowlands.*

### **BRISTLEHEADS (PASSERIFORMES: Pityriaseidae)**

**Bornean Bristlehead (*Pityriasis gymnocephala*) ENDEMIC** *Always a big target bird, being a monotypic endemic bird family, in addition to the fact it just looks good. We tried very hard for this one in the Danum Valley, where they misbehaved, and were only seen poorly from some distance, and mostly in flight. So I was very relieved to pick them up again near Sepilok where we had a party for so long, we were able to walk away from it!*

### **CROWS, JAYS and MAGPIES (PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae)**

Crested Jay (*Platylophus galericulatus*). *Seen close to BRL.*

Short-tailed (Green) Magpie (*Cissa thalassina*) *A really strikingly beautiful magpie, this species was seen a handful of times up on the mountain in Kinabalu Park. A much appreciated bird by all, everyone being suitably impressed by this extremely attractive emerald green corvid, with rich rufous wings and bright orange bill.*

**Bornean Treepie (*Dendrocitta cinerascens*) ENDEMIC** *One of the easier montane endemics, we first saw them hanging about the Mount Kinabalu power station shortly after dawn, a regular spot for this characteristic bird. A few others were later seen on the mountain.*

Slender-billed Crow (*Corvus enca*) *Seen regularly around Danum.*

### **STARLINGS (PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae)**

Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*). *Seen in a few places. First in the gardens near BRL and later commonly on the Kinabatangan River.*

Asian Glossy Starling (*Aplonis panayensis*) *Commonly seen around Kota Kinabalu, and also around the town of Lahad Datu in the east.*

Crested Myna (*Acridotheres cristatellus*) *A few of these introduced birds were seen as we passed through Kota Kinabalu.*

Common Myna (*Acridotheres tristis*). *One seen in KK.*

### **WAXBILLS and ALLIES (PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae)**

**Dusky Munia (*Lonchura fuscans*) ENDEMIC** *Commonly encountered in the lowlands throughout.*

Nutmeg Mannikin (*Lonchura punctulata*). *A few in the gardens at BRL.*

Black-headed Munia (*Lonchura atricapilla*). *A few in downtown Lahad Datu.*

### **OLD WORLD SPARROWS (PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae)**

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (*Passer montanus*) *Commonly encountered in many places.*

## **MAMMAL LIST**

Taxonomy and nomenclature follow: **Payne, Junaidi & Francis Charles, M. (1998) A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo.** The Sabah Society, Sabah, Borneo.

### **MOONRAT AND LESSER GYMNURE: Erinaceidae**

**Lesser Gymnure (*Hylomys suillus*)** *At the Timphon gate, and also on the walk up to the friendly bush-warbler.*

### **TREESHREWS (Tupaiaidae)**

Common Treeshrew (*Tupaia glis*) *Seen at Poring Hot Springs.*

Large Treeshrew (*Tupaia tana*) *Seen at Gomantong.*

**Mountain Treeshrew (*Tupaia montana*) ENDEMIC** *This montane species was seen once on Mount Kinabalu.*

**Smooth-tailed Treeshrew (*Dendrogale melanura*) ENDEMIC** *This montane species was seen once on Mount Kinabalu and later near Crocker's.*

### **FRUIT BATS (Pteropodidae)**

Large Flying-fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) *The distinctive shapes of these enormous bats were seen at Sukau.*

### **MONKEYS (Cercopithecidae)**

**Maroon Langur/Red Leaf-Monkey (*Presbytis rubicunda*) ENDEMIC** *Neither maroon or red, but bright orange with a blue face, a seriously impressive endemic primate. We found several small troops near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, and several others were seen later around Danum.*

Silvered Langur/ Leaf-Monkey (*Presbytis cristata*). *Seen along the Kinabatangan River a few times close to Sukau.*

Long-tailed or Crab-eating Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) *A few were recorded at Danum and later at Poring.*

Pig-tailed Macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) *This powerful macaque was seen in the Danum Valley and again at Gomantong.*

Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) *If not the reason to come to Borneo, then certainly the reason to come to the Kinabatangan River. This outlandish creature is super-charismatic and*

*they entertain no end. We saw many troops and soaked up their amazing habits. A serious highlight for any wildlife enthusiast.*

### **GIBBONS (Hylobatidae)**

**Bornean (Mueller's) Gibbon (Hylobates muelleri) ENDEMIC** *Several sightings of this extremely agile primate around the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, including right in front of the lodge itself - just the way we like it!*

### **GREAT APES (Pongidae)**

**(Bornean) Orang-Utan (Pongo pygmaeus) ENDEMIC** *Understandably often THE reason for coming to Borneo for many. We first ran into a female and a male in a big fruiting tree close to BRL, but had another nine encounters including many memorable ones with these magnificent Apes. Several females with babies feasting on ripe fruit along the access road not far from the lodge at Danum. Beautiful massive and impressive males and another individual crossing the main road near the lodge; and finally a large male put on quite a show at Gomantong, eating pale leaves only 4 m away from us. This has since been split from the Sumatran 'form', and is now a Bornean endemic.*

### **SQUIRRELS (Sciuridae)**

**Prevost's Squirrel (Callosciurus prevostii)** *Regular sightings were made around Danum and Sukau.*

**Kinabalu Squirrel (Callosciurus baluensis)** *One high up near the Bukit Ular trail on Mt Kinabalu.*

**Bornean Black-banded Squirrel (Callosciurus orestes) ENDEMIC** *One was seen close to the power station on Gunung Kinabalu.*

**Plantain Squirrel (Callosciurus notatus)** *One was seen along the trail to Gomantong caves and again near the Kinabatangan river.*

**Jentink's Squirrel (Sundasciurus jentinki) ENDEMIC** *Recorded on several days on Mount Kinabalu, including some particularly confiding ones around one of the shelters.*

**Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel (Dremomys everetti) ENDEMIC** *Seen a number of times on Mount Kinabalu, including a few tame animals around one of the shelters.*

**Whitehead's Pigmy Squirrel (Exiliscirus whiteheadi)** *You can't get any cuter than this, tiny with pointed ear-tufts and it moves like Kung Fu Panda. Just the one seen on the Bukit Ular trail while we staked out the Whitehead's Braodbill.*

**Plain Pigmy Squirrel (Exiliscirus exilis) ENDEMIC** *This extremely tiny squirrel was regularly recorded in the lowlands.*

### **FLYING SQUIRRELS (Petauristinae)**

**Red Giant Flying Squirrel (Petaurista petaurista)** *Just the one seen on our night drive at Danum.*

### **MARTENS, BADGERS AND OTTERS: (Mustellidae)**

**Oriental Small-clawed Otter (Aonyx cinerea)** *A few got lucky with some swimming in front of the BRL lodge while others were off birding*

### **CIVETS AND MONGOOSES (Viverridae)**

Malay Civet or Tangelung (*Viverra zibellina*) *This spotty civet snuck off quickly on our Danum night drive.*

Common Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*) *Seen from the boat at Sukau on two consecutive nights*

### **PIGS (Suidae)**

Bearded Pig (*Sus barbatus*) *Borneo Rainforest Lodge had a regular individual coming into the lodge, and others were recorded a few times on some of the night drives out of Danum.*

### **ELEPHANTS (Elephantidae)**

Borneo Pygmy Elephant (*Elephas maximus bornensis*) *Its Critically Endangered and you can see why. Hemmed in by people and inconsiderate behaviour by wildlife watchers truly threatens these incredible little beasts. We were lucky enough to see them a couple of times, with youngsters, along the Kinabatangan River.*

### **MOUSE-DEER (Tragulidae)**

Lesser Mouse-Deer (*Tragulus javanicus*) *A few seen on walks in Borneo Rainforest Lodge.*

### **DEER (Cervidae)**

Sambar Deer (*Cervus unicolor*) *Regularly recorded on the Danum night drives.*

## **OTHERS**

Common Sun Skink (*Mabuya multifasciata*)

Crested Green Lizard

Mangrove Skink (*Emoia atrocostata*)

Friilly House Gecko (*Cosymbotes craspedotus*)

Common Flying Lizard (*Draco volans*)

Asian Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*)

Green Tree Lizard (*Anolis bimaculatus*)

Triangle Keelback Snake (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*)

Painted Bronzeback (*Dendrelaphis pictus*)

Mangrove Cat Snake (*Boiga dendrophila*)