

BORNEO

24 JULY – 10 AUGUST 2010

TOUR REPORT

LEADER: SIMON HARRAP

Yet again, we had a very successful Birdquest to Borneo in 2010, recording 308 species of bird in our 15 days in Sabah. Highlights amongst the endemics included Bornean Bristlehead and three hard to find specialities, Mountain Serpent-Eagle, Blue-banded Pitta and Everett's Thrush, all of which were seen well, in addition to Crimson-headed Partridge, Whitehead's Trogon, three endemic barbets, Whitehead's Broadbill, Blue-headed and Black-and-crimson Pittas, Fruit-hunter, the (eventually) Friendly Bush-Warbler, Pygmy White-eye and three endemic wren-babblers. Other notable species included Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, a simply stunning Great Argus, several Storm's Storks, Great-billed Heron, four Jerdon's Bazaes in the air together, Bat Hawk, Buff-banded Rail (a recent colonist from the Philippines), Metallic and Nicobar Pigeons, Grey Imperial Pigeon, Jambu Fruit-Dove, Buffy Fish-Owl, Brown Wood-Owl, Sunda Frogmouth, all the possible hornbills (although numbers of some were low and Helmeted eluded some of us), Great Slaty Woodpecker, bizarre Dusky Broadbills, a stunning little Rufous-chested Flycatcher, and Black-and-white and Finsch's Bulbuls. Of course, there were also good mammals, with five Orang-utans, Proboscis Monkeys and Leopard Cat all contributing to a truly memorable trip.

After the long flight it was great to finally arrive in Kota Kinabalu and to be greeted by the smiling face of Andrew, our guide for the duration of our stay. Braving the traffic of downtown KK we stopped at the lagoons at Likas, but only briefly because they seemed to be overgrown and rather birdless. It was then on and up to Kinabalu Park, which seemed busier than ever with tourists thronging the reception area on their way to and from the summit. Being mere birders, with no such lofty ambitions, we left the crowds behind and, once checked in, took a leisurely stroll along the road. We had a busy couple of hours with several endemics, the most notable of which were an absurdly tame Crimson-headed Partridge (it just sat and looked at us from a few feet away), Short-tailed Magpie, an elusive Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher and a very smart male Fruit-hunter (and not forgetting the many squirrels and a stunning fungus). By dusk we were almost all dead-beat, and after a good meal were certainly ready for bed.

Up before dawn the next morning, we drove uphill and walked a lovely trail along the side of the mountain. We did not find any rare thrushes, but did get great views of a Bornean Stubtail singing its

heart out, as well as finding three Bornean Whistling-Thrushes (two very briefly seen) and Black-capped White-eye, with another Jungle-Flycatcher on the road on the way down for breakfast. After this we worked a trail through very beautiful forest alongside the Liwagu River. Another astonishing fungus was found (like a miniature *Rafflesia*) but birds were very, very thin on the ground, with White-bellied Erpornis being the highlight for some. After lunch (and a foray to the shops to buy beer; the restaurant prices were outrageous), we worked the road again. This time it was very quiet, with just a female Snowy-browed Flycatcher being new, and we were almost gladdened by an early end to the day as the heavens opened.

Next day we started a little before dawn and tried to track down a calling Mountain Scops Owl, but it did not show itself (as usual). After dawn time along the road produced Temminck's Babbler and some good looks at Sunda Laughingthrush. We also saw two Fruit-hunters and two Whitehead's Broadbills, but the former were only seen in flight and the latter were also unsatisfyingly brief. After a quick breakfast we headed up to the Power Station and the summit trail. We were blessed with good weather, although the trail was busy with people on their way up to the summit (or, some hobbling, on their way down). We started well with good close views of Mountain Blackeye, but our main quarry, the Friendly Warbler, was elusive. Undaunted, we continued upwards, adding Pale-faced Bulbul and a surprise Island Thrush to the day's tally, as we as some fascinating pitcher-plants, but still no Friendly Warbler. At last we abandoned the climb and came down slowly, enjoying super close views of Mountain Wren-Babbler. Then, when I had given up (we were well below my lowest previous record), a Friendly Warbler began to sing below the path. After some tense minutes, and despite very poor visibility into the vegetation, it crept past us and showed at close range. Both elated and relieved, we carried on, past a troop of smart Maroon Langurs, to a very late lunch. Even this was now birdy, with Indigo Flycatcher, Ashy Drongo and Yellow-bellied Warbler, but the best was yet to come. A walk along the road turned up Crimson-winged and Maroon Woodpeckers and then ... an Everett's Thrush, hopping unconcerned along the side of the road at close range. We had good views and it even returned a few minutes later for a reprise. After this, even the brief views of Whitehead's broadbills were almost brushed aside, such was our elation.

On our third morning on Kinabalu we started along the road towards the power station. This produced some great views of wreathes of clouds over the lower slopes as well as Mountain Blackeye and Mountain Tailorbird. Most notable was a 'squirrel-fest' at some rubbish bins, where three species of squirrel were joined by a couple of small, dark, near tail-less Lesser Gymnures. Moving a little further down the road we did not have a repeat performance from the Everett's Thrush (it was rather busy by then) but we did have stunning views of two Whitehead's Broadbills as they fed on fruit: certainly a bird to see before you die! After breakfast we hit the trail again and, as usual, things slowed down considerably. A couple of Sunda Cuckooshrikes were spotted high in a tree and then a mixed flock of laughingthrushes eventually gave up its two Bare-headed Laughingthrushes as they 'whooped' from the tree tops, as well as two more Whitehead's Broadbills. Then, on the way back for lunch, our final target bird was found, a Whitehead's Trogon, albeit a female and albeit rather briefly. After lunch we loaded up and headed off down hill to warmer climes at Poring. It was hot and steamy and it did indeed rain, but a wander around the lodge area and the lowest slopes produced Grey-rumped Treeswift, Raffles's Malkoha, a very wet Blue-eared Barbet, White-crowned Shama and both Orange-bellied and Yellow-vented Flowerpeckers.

After an early breakfast (interrupted by Crimson Sunbirds) we headed off up the trail to the Langanan Waterfall. This is steep and slippery in places, and it is hot too, making it hard going, but it passes through some magnificent forest and we found some lovely birds. We started with babblers – Horsfield's and Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler, before passing on a circling Mountain Serpent-Eagle. Noisy chattering alerted us to some birds mobbing what was presumably a snake, and we enjoyed

Moustached Babbler (with a poor moustache in Borneo), Plain Sunbird and Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker. Next was a pair of Diard's Trogons and then a soft whistling alerted us to a Blue-banded Pitta. As usual, this was extremely hard to locate (they are almost always calling from high in a tree) and eventually, still unseen, it flew overhead to the other side of the trail. Luck was with us, however, as Jim M cleverly spotted it sitting high in a tree (almost eye level from the trail, such was the slope). It was obscured at first but, by stages, we got better and better views of what must be one of the best pittas, eventually watching it puff out its chest each time it gave its ventriloquial call. Very well pleased, we carried on to the spectacular falls for a picnic, finding Speckled Piculet and Buff-rumped Woodpecker, and then back-tracked down the trail. It started to rain but we were in no hurry and everyone had a chance to take their time on the descent. Despite the heavy rain we found a pair of Crested Jays at the last stream crossing but tragedy struck as Jim M (now not so lucky) put a foot wrong just 500 m from the chalets and had to be taken to hospital for an x-ray on a suspected torn ligament in his knee (he returned later that evening, on crutches, but had to take a couple of days out for more thorough tests - in what he reported was a luxurious hospital in KK - before rejoining us).

We left Poring before dawn the next morning and headed back up to the cool heights of the park HQ. We started well here with a flock of at least eight twittering Pygmy White-eyes fussing around in the tree-tops; this obscure little bird is easily overlooked, but does seem to prefer a certain type of fruiting tree. After breakfast we hit the trail and this was predictably slow. Patience was rewarded, however, with four Eye-browed Jungle-Flycatchers, a pair of Temminck's Babblers and a family party of noisy Orange-backed Woodpeckers. A short walk on the road then added Checker-throated Woodpecker and some Bare-headed Laughingthrushes, which showed well, and then it was time for a quick lunch before we finally said goodbye to Kinabalu. Sitting back we descended to the lowlands and then spent a couple of hours exploring the rice fields near Kota Belud. These held good numbers of birds, and new species came thick and fast. Both Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns were seen very well, and there were plenty of Javan Pond-Herons in their 'blonde' breeding plumage. Black-shouldered Kites hovered over the fields and a colourful Brahminy Kite sailed overhead. Waders were well represented, with hundreds of Wood Sandpipers as well as small numbers of Long-toed Stints and several Oriental Pratincoles. We did not find any Watercocks, but made up with superb views of Buff-banded Rail, a very recent colonist from the Philippines. Add to this Lesser Coucal, Pied Triller, White-breasted Wood-Swallow and Striated Grassbird and we could then relax as the rain came down for the drive back to KK.

We left KK before dawn the next day, still in the rain, and it rained more or less all the way to the Rafflesia Reserve high in the Crocker Range, fortunately easing off towards dawn. With leaden skies and drizzle the birds were slow to get going, but at least this gave us time to eat our picnic breakfast. This site is very birdy compared to Kinabalu, and the noisy flocks of Chestnut-crested Yuhinas were soon joined by Cinereous Bulbuls and Bornean Leafbirds - both recent splits from the more widespread Ashy Bulbul and Blue-winged Leafbird. Walking down the hill we then had a surprise when a noisy flock of Long-tailed Broadbills crossed the road; a write-in and a new bird for the Birdquest Borneo list. But, we had still not seen any barbets and heard precious few; they are often late risers but things were getting ridiculous, as it was now brightening up somewhat. Golden-bellied Gerygone was another new bird, its wheezy song emanating from a lofty tree, while Scaly-breasted Munias joined the abundant Dusky Munias in the roadside grass. Eventually, we heard Mountain Barbet singing and then saw one feeding and loafing in a low fruiting tree. It may not be the most colourful of barbets (they ran out of paint before the job was finished...), but it is an endemic. In another piece of luck a Mountain Serpent Eagle then soared over the ridge calling, giving great views of its diagnostically contrasting plumage. Then, at the last minute, we heard Bornean Barbet and were soon watching one singing from a tall tree - distant but very welcome. Driving back down to KK we headed straight to the airport and took the short flight east to Tawau where, after a little delay, we

boarded our vehicles and headed off to the port of Semporna. We were delayed by 20 minutes in a traffic jam but made up time on arrival by getting straight on to the boat and speeding out to Mabul Island for the night.

Early the next morning we spent some time on the deck of our resort enjoying Rufous Night-Heron, a single Chinese Egret with a flock of Little Egrets, and good views of the many Lesser Frigatebirds that sailed overhead. We were, however, frustrated. Birdquest have been visiting Sipadan Island for several years now but we came close to missing out this time. Government bureaucracy is making it harder and harder to get permits and this year we were denied one altogether and could not land. Nevertheless, through the efforts of our host we were permitted to sail around the island at close range and, while not ideal, this was very productive. There were plenty of Pied Imperial Pigeons as well as a soaring White-bellied Sea-Eagle and as we relaxed in the boat the shout of 'Nicobar Pigeon' suddenly went up as one flew out from the island's forest and off out to sea. It then circled and returned, giving great views of its glossy green plumage and strangely short white tail. A little while later three more of these much-wanted birds did the same, only this time they kept on going into the distance. A Metallic Woodpigeon also gave us a short fly-past, while a Grey Imperial Pigeon flew a short distant and then perched in view. All too soon our allotted time was up and we had to return to Mabul for a relaxed morning and leisurely lunch. After this we returned to Semporna for the night, picking up a Great-billed Heron en route, and had yet more free time in the afternoon (unheard of on a Birdquest, but despite all the loafing around we had picked up several good birds for the day).

We left Semporna after breakfast the next morning. The road passed through seemingly endless oil palm plantations, with virtually no wildlife to be seen apart from the opportunistic ferns that grow on the trunks of the palms. There were some patches of forest, and in one of these we stopped for a while, enjoying good looks at Black and Wreathed Hornbills, Ashy Tailorbird and Crested Serpent Eagle, but best of all were the three White-fronted Falconets perched high on dead snags, one of which was eating a huge cricket. We stopped again at the point where the dirt road heads inland to Danum Valley, and here we were re-joined by Jim M, complete with a leg in plaster and high-tech crutches (he had elected to come along, no matter how restricted his movements might be). Eventually, after the always tedious bumpy journey in, we arrived at Borneo Rainforest Lodge (always shortened to BRL). We were soon sitting down to the first of many good meals but were rudely interrupted half way through by an Orang-utan that appeared in a nearby tree and proceeded to eat wild rambutans. Thus was a truly great start, and the remainder of the days was also excellent. We spent the best part of the afternoon walking along the road within a short distance of the lodge and notched up an impressive list of species (despite the rather dull conditions). A smart Whiskered Treeswift sallied out from a low tree right by the lodge, Black-bellied and Chestnut-breasted Malkohas clambered amongst the vines, joined by Buff-necked and Grey-and-buff Woodpeckers, Blue-rumped Parrots gave their metallic calls as they passed overhead, and a noisy Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (with short-grown rackets no longer than the rest of the tail) made a real racket. We called up a Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo which, as usual, shot past like an Exocet missile, but both Banded Bay and Little Bronze Cuckoos were more sedate, allowing some prolonged study. Best of all was the Red-bearded Bee-eater that sat for a long time in full view, more or less at eye level. A troop of Maroon Langurs were seen leaping spectacularly across the road, but the mammal interest did not stop there. After dinner, we took a night drive, and despite my dire warnings this was rather good. We started with a Buffy Fish-Owl sat in full view, following this with a Leopard Cat that slowly crossed the road in front of us, a Thomas's Flying Squirrel, a brief Long-tailed Porcupine and an equally brief Banded Palm Civet, and finished off with a roosting female Crested Fireback.

After such a good start, we were keen to be out the next morning and at dawn were listing to the whoops and trills of Bornean Gibbons as the mist slowly cleared. A Rufous-collared Kingfisher called

from the gloom, but it was too dark to see him and by the time it was light enough to try, he had sadly gone. Not so the three Bornean Blue Flycatchers, which showed very well, as did a female Crested Fireback and a Ferruginous Babbler. Most spectacular, however, were the two Black-capped Babblers that almost walked over our feet as they showed superbly at point-blank range. After a quick breakfast we hit the trail and had a great morning. We started with Buff-necked Woodpeckers and a nice male Red-naped Trogon and then, creeping uphill, found a male Great Argus sitting on a vine by his dancing ground. At first the views were limited (he looked more like a stone) but step by step we crept closer and eventually watched him shuffling and preening at point blank range: magnificent. He then slipped off, but some calling had alerted us to the presence of Chestnut-necklaced Partridges and we were soon watching once creeping through the undergrowth as it slowly circled us. Back on the trail we moved on to wren-babblers, with great views first of hulking Black-throated Wren-Babblers and then of a very vocal Striped Wren-Babbler. We then heard a Black-and-crimson Pitta calling, but were temporarily distracted by a pair of Large-billed Blue Flycatchers. These moved off and then the pitta crossed the trail in front of us, and we went on to have fairly good views as he rooted around in the leaf litter, every so often stopping to call. After such a full morning it was not surprising that we were a little late for lunch, but it had been worth it. After a break we headed for the canopy walkway, and in a short time there enjoyed Gold-whiskered Barbet, Common Hill Myna and a fly-past Black-and-white Bulbul. All the while it was getting darker however and then the heavens opened. We waited a while and then gave up, walking back to the lodge in a brief period of lighter rain and calling it a day.

After an early breakfast the next morning we headed up to 'the gate' and slowly made our way back along the road. We started off with a pair of Rufous Woodpeckers, smart little Black-and-yellow Broadbills, a selection of bulbuls and a surprise female Jambu Fruit-Dove, which vanished a little too soon. As we walked along the road we added Black Eagle, Oriental Honey-buzzard, Violet and Plaintive Cuckoos, Dark-throated Oriole, Lesser Cuckoo-shrike, Black-and-white Bulbul, Spotted Fantail, Streaky-breasted and Yellow-eared Spiderhunters and Velvet-fronted Nuthatch amongst others. A noisy group of four Great Slaty Woodpeckers was a real highlight as they flew in, perched high in a tree and proceeded to chase and wing-flag. We heard pitas from the road too, and sneaking in were treated to a male Blue-headed Pitta that circled us at close range (sometimes a birder has to become a bit of a wryneck). We also found a couple of Bornean Gibbons and a second Jambu Fruit-Dove, this time a male, and this time a bit more obliging. We spent some time on the canopy walkway but it was quite quiet, although the Whiskered Treeswifts sallying out from the railings and then returning to sit and watch were simply stunning in the sun. As we approached the lodge mid morning it had become a little hot for the road. We stopped to admire a male Orang-utan eating wild rambutans and then plunged into the forest for a last section of trail. This produced great looks at Black-and-crimson Pitta, Rufous-winged Philentoma, Brown Fulvetta and Short-tailed Babbler, with a Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo close to the lodge, and then it was time for lunch and a welcome siesta. In the late afternoon we headed out to the canopy walkway again and a couple of hours there were most productive. We had stunning views of the weird (and aptly-named) Dusky Broadbill, and one the huge emergent trees had puddles in one or two of its crooks and these were attracting a variety of birds to drink and bathe. Blue-eared Barbet, Yellow-eared Spiderhunter, Greater and Lesser Green Leafbirds and a Rufous-fronted Babbler were joined by a variety of bulbuls, the most notable being a pair of the seldom-seen Finsch's Bulbul. Back on the road the male Orang has been replaced by a female and immature in the rambutan tree, and walking back to the lodge we had a good look at a Crested Goshawk and then found a rather more down-to-earth Rufous-fronted Babbler to end the session. It rained a little at dusk but fortunately cleared up in time for a night drive which, although not as good as the first, did produce two Greater Mouse-Deer, a Thomas's Flying Squirrel and a 'walk up and touch it' Brown Wood-Owl.

After three nights at BRL I could detect a certain anxiety, as we had still not seen XXXX. Starting at dawn again we enjoyed Malaysian Blue Flycatcher and Grey-cheeked Bulbul by the lodge before hitting the trail. We heard lots of birds (but not XXXX) and found a couple of female Red-naped Trogons before making a return visit to the Great Argus, which put on an amazing show, sitting there calling in full view for almost 20 minutes while we watched (and took a few photos), just yards away. Astonishing! We then had another session on the canopy walkway, finding Banded as well as Dusky Broadbills, a Wallace's Hawk-Eagle and a sneaky Helmeted Hornbill that slipped off before we could all get a look. All the while Bornean Ground-Babbler was calling below, and by mid morning I could resist no longer so we dropped down and tried to see it. Almost immediately one walked into view and then there were two of the little stunners, showing well and easily for what is often a rather hard species. A tip off via the radio then had us hastening down to the river where (we can now mention the name), Bristleheads had been heard by one of the guides. There were tense moments as they called distantly over the river and we had to go down to the bridge to cross. Fortunately we chose the right bridge for they were then calling almost overhead and then ... there they were, complete with wails and scowls and a bright red head. The relief was tangible and we ended up having good scope views of this amazing bird. On the way back to the lodge, all smiles, we added Large-billed Blue Flycatcher to the Bornean Blue that we had seen earlier and yet another bulbul: Streaked. In the afternoon, following the successes of the morning, we simply pottered around the lodge, looking for anything interesting. A Stork-billed Kingfisher along the river sat for scope views, as did our first Blue-eared, and we also enjoyed good looks at Silver-rumped Swift (at last) and a pair of Crested Firebacks on the road. After dinner we took a final night drive, which was very very quiet until the very end, when we saw Malay Civet well and had another look at the Buffy Fish-Owl.

Our last morning at Danum was memorable, but basically for the wrong reasons. It was raining at dawn so we indulged in a bit of 'verandah birding' before hitting the trail once the rain had stopped. It seemed that the birds were sulking as it was really rather quiet, with just Spotted Fantails and Large-billed Blue Flycatchers of note. We then heard Bornean Ground-Babbler calling, and very soon afterwards a Bornean Ground-Cuckoo. These are never easy and this one really played hard to get. It came in and obviously saw us before we saw it for then, despite it calling for perhaps 90 minutes at relatively close range, we saw absolutely nothing of it. All the while the Ground-Babblers were calling too, but we had to ignore them. On the way back to the lodge, now a little late, we did enjoy a good look at Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatcher, but after this even calling Bristleheads could not delay us (they were out of sight above the canopy) as we needed to get back. Packing and lunch were not too rushed, however, despite the delay, and we then sat back for the long drive out. Danum presented us with one last present, however, in the form of a White-crowned Hornbill carrying food that showed wonderfully by the side of the road. We then continued on (now tarmac all the way) to Sukau, where in the twilight we added another hornbill to the list, Oriental Pied by the jetty.

Sukau was to provide an exciting but relaxed end to the tour. On the first morning we took a boat ride along the mighty Kinabatangan River. This was a great success. We started with three Storm's Storks hunched up (all depressed?) on riverside snags, and quickly added a couple of Lesser Adjutants on the opposite side of the river. We found a single Jerdon's Baza on the way up and then, almost back to camp, came across no less than four Jerdon's Bazas soaring low over the river and calling - one of the highlights of the tour for me. Other raptors included White-bellied Sea-Eagle and Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, and we also added Little Green Pigeon, Long-tailed Parakeet (albeit brief), Violet Cuckoo, Dollarbird, Brown Barbet, bizarre Black-and-red Broadbills and two Hooded Pittas, one of which showed really well. Mammal interest was provided by (of course) Proboscis Monkey, as well as the bizarre sight of Silvered Leaf-Monkeys engaged in a tussle with a Bornean Gibbon; it was not clear who was the winner. Rope 'bridges' have been installed over the minor tributaries to allow

the primate to cross and we had our first sight of Pig-tailed Macaques teetering and swinging across, some more accomplished than others.

In the afternoon we visited Gomantong caves. Here we enjoyed Edible-nest, Black-nest and Mossy-nest Swiftlets on their distinctive nests, but I am not sure how many of the group really enjoyed the caves (the smell and the myriad cockroaches may have had something to do with this). Gomantong is rich in birds away from the caves, and we saw the first of several Wrinkled Hornbills (thus completing the set, for some of us at least; that Helmeted at Danum had not shown to all). We also had a good look at a perched Violet Cuckoo, found Puff-backed Bulbul and the delightful little Plain Pygmy Squirrel, and then settled down to wait for the bats and their attendant Bat Hawks. Well before dusk, however, a couple of Bat Hawks flew in to a huge emergent and showed very well indeed in the scope. Then, as the bats started to decamp from the caves in their thousands, these joined a third Bat Hawk and a Peregrine in what seemed like easy sport, although the Brahminy Kite that was also sailing around did not seem as well designed for bat hunting. Well pleased, we headed back to base at the end of a great day.

We started very early the next morning and near to our base went in search of night birds. A Reddish Scops-Owl called in the distance but our main target waited until it was nearly light before really getting going. Loud 'caws' announced the presence of a Sunda Frogmouth, with its mate whistling fairly close by and we were soon enjoying views of this diminutive frogmouth, albeit more or less 'up and under' views from below. Once it was light we moved on and worked the road near to Gomantong. This provided a few more new birds, notably Black-throated Babbler, a very smart Rufous-backed Kingfisher that was trying to swallow a large dragonfly, great views of a Rufous Piculet, several Olive-winged Bulbuls (better than the name suggests) and finally a wonderful Rufous-chested Flycatcher that, at one point, sat just two metres away from us. We also found a rather stropy young female Orang-utan that seemed intent on ripping apart the forest in her anger. After lunch and a siesta it was back out on the river. More Hooded Pittas were joined by two or three Lesser Fish-Eagles and a couple of Storm's Storks. We also saw a troop of Proboscis Monkeys crossing the river, more, or mostly less, successfully. The first crash-landed in the vegetation just above the water's surface, to be followed by at least three that just belly-flopped into the river (and these included females with young infants clinging to their bellies). They seemed to take it in their stride, however, and swam to the shore and clambered up into the trees. We then heard THAT call again, the dreaded Bornean Ground-Cuckoo, but again, despite the bird approaching and calling for quite a while, saw nothing. I suspect that repeated playback at Sukau has made the birds too wary to see very easily at all, despite their continued vocal response. In the end, the light fading, we gave up and drifted back to base. On our last morning at Sukau we re-visited the Ground-Cuckoo, again with no success, but did see a fine Olive-backed Woodpecker as well as White-crowned Hornbill and Long-tailed Parakeet. It was then time to shower and change, pack our bags and head to the airport at the end of another great tour to Borneo. It really is one of my very favourite places, a destination that I never tire of - a true wildlife spectacle. Some of us headed back to the UK, but the majority of the group stayed on in KL for part two of our Malaysian adventure, the Peninsula.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leader are indicated by the symbol (NL).

PHASIANIDAE

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra* (H): Heard but not seen at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve.

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii*: One seen creeping along the forest floor at Danum, with others heard there. Also heard at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*: Great views of one on the first morning at Kinabalu, then many others heard there; also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita*: A roosting female seen on the first night drive at Danum, later a female and then a male and female together were seen nicely on the access track, while at male flew over the river at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Great Argus *Argusianus argus*: Heard at Poring, then a male watched shuffling, preening and occasionally calling at Danum, while on the second visit he posed for photos at just a few yard's range. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*: Four at Kota Belud.

CICONIIDAE

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*: Three on the first morning at Sukau, depressed and hunched up, with two over the river on the last morning there. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Endangered', because it has a very small, fragmented population which is very rapidly declining, owing to destruction of lowland forest through logging, dam construction and conversion to oil-palm plantations. It is found in Sumatra, Peninsula Malaysia and Borneo, and may still survive in Thailand, but the World population is estimated to number 250-500 individuals.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: Two perched on snags and two soaring birds on the first morning at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable' because it has a small population which is rapidly declining, in particular as a result of hunting pressure. The World population is estimated to be in the range 6,500-8,000 individuals.

ARDEIDAE

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: Great views of an adult and juvenile at Kota Belud.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: Fantastic unobscured views of two in rice fields at Kota Belud.

Little Heron (Striated Heron) *Butorides striatus*: One on Mabul island.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: Up to four on Mabul, with two seen later in Semporna by Simon.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*: 25 plus at Kota Belud, most in smart breeding plumage.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: Common at Kota Belud.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*: One en route back to Semporna from Mabul island.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: One at Likas and one at Kota Belud.

Great Egret *Egretta alba*: 2-3 on various journeys, then 40 plus at Kota Belud, many over Mabul island (most in summer plumage), and a small colony near the hotel in Semporna. At the end of the tour small numbers along the river at Sukau.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: 75 plus at Kota Belud, with two at Lahad Datu airfield.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: 75 plus at Kota Belud and 30 over Mabul Island.

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*: Several at Mabul and Sipadan Islands.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*: One with Little Egrets over Mabul Island. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable' and has a small, declining population, principally as a result of the reclamation of tidal mudflats and estuarine habitats for industry, infrastructure development and aquaculture. The World population is estimated to be in the range 2,600-3,400 individuals.

FREGATIDAE

Great Frigatebird *Fregata minor*: A female seen by Simon on the first evening on Mabul Island.

Lesser Frigatebird *Fregata ariel*: Good numbers over Mabul Island, some showing very well.

ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: One near daily on the river at Danum and fairly common at Sukau.

FALCONIDAE

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons*: Three en route to Danum, one in flight from the canopy walkway, and one on a distant snag at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: A singleton hunting bats at Gomantong.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*: One seen by Jim at Danum, while at Sukau one was seen on the first morning, followed by four soaring together and calling, a great treat.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard (Crested Honey-Buzzard) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: A single soaring bird at Danum.

Bat Hawk *Machaeerampus alcinus*: Two perched in a tree at Gomantong, one of which showed very well, followed by three birds in the air together, hunting bats.

Black-shouldered Kite (Black-winged Kite) *Elanus caeruleus*: Four or five at Kota Belud and several on roadside poles around Semporna and Tawau.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: One overhead at Kota Belud, several on Mabul and at Semporna, and small numbers at Sukau and Gomantong.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (White-bellied Fish-Eagle) *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: A singleton on Sipadan, a subadult in the early morning on Semporna, and one on the first morning at Sukau.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*: Eventually, good views of two or three individuals perched along the river at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*: Several en route to Danum and at Danum itself, as well as at Sukau and Gomantong.

Mountain Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis*: One soaring over the trail at Poring showed fairly briefly, then great looks at a calling bird as it soared overhead at the Rafflesia Reserve. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable'. Given the small range and relative mobility of this species, it is judged to comprise a single small population which is likely to be decreasing as a result of continuing habitat loss and degradation

creeping up hill-slopes into its altitudinal range. The World population is estimated to be in the range 2,500-9,999 individuals.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: One seen well both perched and in flight at Danum.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: One low over the road at Kinabalu and one over the road at Danum (and also seen over the lodge there by Jim M).

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus*: An immature perched along the roadside en route to Danum.

Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus alboniger*: Two soaring high over Poring and an immature at Danum from the canopy walkway.

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nanus*: An immature from the canopy walkway at Danum and a singleton at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable'. This species is suspected to be undergoing a rapid population decline owing to widespread and ongoing loss of lowland forest and the World population is estimated to be in the range 2,500-9,999 individuals.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*: One seen as we arrived at Kinabalu.

RALLIDAE

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus philippensis*: Two at Kota Belud. This very recent colonist from the Philippines was a 'write-in'.

Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus* (NL): One seen from the bus by Marian as we left Sukau.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*: Several at Kota Belud.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: At least five at Kota Belud, most scampering off the road.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: Four at Kota Belud.

PLUVIALIDAE

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*: Three at Kota Belud.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*: Singles at Kota Belud and on Sipadan.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: Over 250 at Kota Belud.

Common Redshank *Tringa totanus*: One at Kota Belud.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*: Around 30 in wet paddies in Kota Belud.

GLAREOLIDAE

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*: Four or five at Kota Belud, including at least two juveniles.

STERNIDAE

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*: At least eight at Kota Belud.

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*: Several on Mabul Island.

Metallic Pigeon (White-throated Pigeon) *Columba vitiensis*: One seen reasonably well on Sipadan Island.

Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps*: Several at Kinabalu, Poring and the Rafflesia Reserve, with some showing very nicely.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Abundant at Kota Belud and on the roadsides of eastern Sabah.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: Several at Danum and Sukau.

- Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica*: A singleton and then three together at Sipadan, showing superbly in flight. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Zebra Dove (Peaceful Dove) *Geopelia striata*: Several on the roadside at Likas and at Kota Belud.
- Jambu Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus jambu*: A female and then a male at Danum, the latter showing rather better (fortunately) than the former. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Little Green-Pigeon *Treron olax*: Small numbers at Sukau and Gomantong.
- Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*: Two or three seen at Danum and then fairly common at Sukau and Gomantong.
- Grey Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula pickeringii*: One seen quite briefly at Sipadan. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable'. It occupies a very small range, currently occurring at perhaps fewer than ten locations. Its range, habitat and numbers are suspected to be declining owing to increasing conversion of natural forests to palm plantations. The World population is estimated to be in the range 2,500-9,999 individuals.
- Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*: Two or three seen and several heard at Kinabalu, then around a dozen flying high overhead at the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Pied Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula bicolor*: Two parties en route to Sipadan and then quite common on the island itself.

PSITTACIDAE

- Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*: One seen from the canopy walkway and another two or three seen in flight at Danum.
- Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*: Three or four at Danum were seen on two dates. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*: Five seen briefly on the first morning at Sukau and one over the river on the last morning there. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

CUCULIDAE

- Dark Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx bocki* (H): Heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax*: One seen well on the nature trail at Danum.
- Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans*: One taped in at Danum for flight views, then heard at Sukau and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus* (H): Heard at Kinabalu, but always in the distance.
- Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*: Heard at Poring, Sukau and Gomantong, with one seen well at Danum.
- Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: One seen along the road at Danum, also heard at Sukau.
- Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*: One in flight at Danum with 2-3 others heard there, two in the treetops at Sukau and one scoped at Gomantong.
- Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*: On scoped along the road at Danum on the first afternoon there.
- Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* (H): Heard distantly at Poring.
- Bornean Ground Cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiatus* (H): Heard at Danum (close, but no cigar!), and also heard at Sukau on the last evening and again the following morning, but shy and never within viewable range. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Black-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus diardi*: One at Danum on the first afternoon there. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*: Several at Poring and quite common at Danum and Gomantong.
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*: Singles at Poring and Gomantong and several at Danum.
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: One or two along the road at Danum and others heard there, also heard at Sukau and Gomantong.
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: Two showed well in wet paddies at Kota Belud and one perched up in riverside vegetation at Sukau.

STRIGIDAE

Reddish Scops-Owl *Otus rufescens* (H): Heard distantly near Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* (H): Heard at Kinabalu.
Sunda Scops-Owl *Otus lempiji* (H): Heard both nights at Poring, but always very high and out of sight above the canopy.
Buffy Fish-Owl *Ketupa ketupu*: One seen nicely on the first and third night drives at Danum.
Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica*: Superb views on the second night drive at Danum.

PODARGIDAE

Sunda Frogmouth *Batrachostomus cornutus*: A female seen and 1-2 others heard near Sukau.

APODIDAE

Glossy Swiftlet (White-bellied Swiftlet) *Collocalia esculenta*: Common at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.
Bornean Swiftlet *Collocalia dodgei*: Common at Kinabalu, nesting in the main admin building.
Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia salangana*: Just 2-3 seen on their nests at Gomantong.
Black-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia maxima*: Many seen on the nest at Gomantong.
Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fuciphaga*: A few nests seen, some with birds on them, at Gomantong.
Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: One near Kota Belud.
Silver-rumped Needletail (Silver-rumped Swift) *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*: Several at Danum, where seen best on the last afternoon there.
Brown-backed Needletail (Brown Needletail) *Hirundapus giganteus*: One briefly over the road at Danum.
House Swift *Apus nipalensis*: One or two at Poring, one near Kinabalu and one at Sandakan airport.
Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*: Several over the chalets at Poring, two from the canopy walkway at Danum and three perched on riverside trees at Sukau.
Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*: Several around the lodge at Danum and showing superbly there as they sat on the railings of the canopy walkway.

TROGONIDAE

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba*: A male and two females at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*: Both male and female seen well at Poring. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
Whitehead's Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi*: A single female at Kinabalu. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*: One near BRL as we drove in to Danum and a female seen below the canopy walkway. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

CORACIIDAE

Dollarbird (Broad-billed Roller) *Eurystomus orientalis*: A singleton at Sukau.

ALCEDINIDAE

Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus* (H): Heard a couple of times at Danum but never responding. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*: Seen along the river at Danum every day, with several at Sukau.

Collared Kingfisher (White-collared Kingfisher) *Todirhamphus chloris*: Two or three at Kota Belud, one at Lahad Datu, and one at Sukau.

Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*: A couple at Gomantong, one of which was scoped as it tried to eat a large dragonfly.

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*: One on the river on the last afternoon at Danum, with several more along the smaller streams at Sukau.

MEROPIDAE

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*: Great views along the road at Danum on two dates.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*: Several around the lodge and canopy walkway at Danum, along the river at Sukau and at Gomantong.

BUCEROTIDAE

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*: Three seen at Danum (with more sightings there around the lodge by Jim M).

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*: Two as we arrived at Sukau, with up to 20 on the river trips there and several at Gomantong.

Black Hornbill (Asian Black Hornbill) *Anthracoceros malayanus*: One en route to Danum and then several at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*: Rather few at Danum this year, and just 1-2 seen at Sukau and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*: A sneaky bird at Danum from the canopy walkway was only seen by some of the group before it slipped away. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

White-crowned Hornbill (White-crested Hornbill) *Aceros comatus*: One showed superbly by the road as we left BRL and one crossed the river on the last morning at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*: Several showed well at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*: One en route to Danum, several at Danum (it was the commonest hornbill there this year) and then several at Sukau and Gomantong.

RAMPHASTIDAE

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon*: Heard at Poring and the Rafflesia Reserve, and seen at Danum from the canopy walkway.

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos* (H): Heard only at Poring, Danum, Sukau and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Mountain Barbet *Megalaima monticola*: Eventually, three seen at the Rafflesia Reserve, one of which sat in full view at close range for several minutes.

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii*: Heard at Poring and Danum, and seen at the latter site by Jim M. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

- Golden-naped Barbet *Megalaima pulcherrima*: Commonly heard at Kinabalu, with great views of one from the lunch table.
- Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*: A 'wet one' at Poring and several seen at Danum from the canopy walkway; heard at Sukau and Gomantong.
- Bornean Barbet (Black-throated Barbet) *Megalaima eximia*: Heard in the canopy high on the trail at Poring and, at the last moment, one scoped at the Rafflesia Reserve, with 1-2 others heard there.
- Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*: Brief views of one at Danum (and also seen rather better by Jim M) and a few at Sukau and Gomantong.

PICIDAE

- Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*: One seen along the trail by some of the group at Danum (and also seen along the road there by Jim M), and one showed well at Gomantong.
- Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*: One seen briefly high on the trail above Poring.
- Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*: Two at the gate at Danum and two at Gomantong.
- Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*: Nice looks at one at Kinabalu on the last morning there.
- Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*: A pair along the road at Kinabalu.
- Olive-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium rafflesii*: One on the last morning at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*: Good views of two at Kinabalu on two dates, with one over the river on the last morning at Sukau.
- Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus*: Three along the trail at Kinabalu on the last morning there.
- Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*: Singles at Poring and Danum.
- Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*: Good views along the nature trail at Danum, and at least three at Sukau while looking for the dreaded ground-cuckoo. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus*: One at Danum.
- Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*: Four noisy birds along the road at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable'. It has suffered a rapid population decline over the past 20 years (three generations) due to loss of primary forest cover throughout much of its range. However the true rate of decline may be greater than currently estimated, and evidence of such declines may result in the species being uplisted in the future. The World population is estimated to be in the range 26,000-550,000 individuals.

EURLAIMIDAE

- Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi*: Eight seen at Kinabalu (four pairs), with great views of two there in a roadside fruiting tree.
- Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*: A noisy party crossed the road above us at the Rafflesia Reserve, paused and moved on. A 'write-in'.
- Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus*: Two on two dates at the canopy walkway (and also seen there by Jim M).
- Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*: Several along the backwaters at Sukau, with one at Gomantong.
- Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*: Heard at Poring and seen at Danum from the canopy walkway, where a bird was carrying nest material.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*: Fairly common at Danum, where we had some good views, also seen at Gomantong and heard at Poring. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

PITTIDAE

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*: Two seen (one very well) on the first morning at Sukau, then another half dozen birds on the other boat trips there: we ended having to ignore them while concentrating on the ground-cuckoo.

Blue-headed Pitta *Pitta baudii*: A male at Danum, with a female seen more briefly, with several others heard but not seen. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable'. Given its apparent restriction to lowland forest in an area that has suffered extremely rapid destruction of this habitat as a result of conversion to agriculture following commercial logging and uncontrolled fire, this species is suspected to have undergone rapid population declines that are likely to continue. The World population is estimated to be in the range 10,000-19,999 individuals.

Blue-banded Pitta *Pitta arquata*: After some hard work, a calling bird was seen well at Poring, staying in view for 20 minutes or more.

Black-and-crimson Pitta *Pitta ussheri*: One seen well at Danum on the first morning, then 2-3 others seen there subsequently, with one of these showing nicely. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana* (H): A couple heard at Danum.

VIREONIDAE

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: A male and female at Kinabalu.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*: A party along the trail at Kinabalu and one at Danum; is this a future family 'split'?

ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea*: Seen well at the roadside at the Rafflesia Reserve and heard at Danum.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala hypoxantha*: Common at Kinabalu, also several at the Rafflesia Reserve.

CAMPEPHANGIDAE

Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike) *Coracina larvata*: Two high in the canopy at Kinabalu.

Lesser Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina fimbriata*: Male and female along the road at Danum.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*: A couple at Kota Belud.

Grey-chinned Minivet (Mountain Minivet) *Pericrocotus solaris*: Several small parties at Kinabalu.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*: Seen by Jim M at Danum, and a male at Gomantong.

ORIOLIDAE

Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus*: Just one seen at Kinabalu.

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*: Fairly common at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

GENERA INVERTAE CEDIS

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus*: Two at Kinabalu.

Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*: One at Danum on the first afternoon.
Rufous-winged Philentoma (Rufous-winged Flycatcher) *Philentoma pyrhoptrum*: Several seen well at Danum.
Maroon-breasted Philentoma (Maroon-breasted Flycatcher) *Philentoma velatum*: Two by the lodge at Danum on the first morning there. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Wood Swallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*: Common at Kota Belud and also seen along the river and roads around Sukau.

AEGITHINIDAE

Common lora *Aegithina tiphia* (H): Heard at Sukau.

Green lora *Aegithina viridissima*: Good views of several from the canopy walkway at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

RHIPIDURIDAE

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*: One or two at Likas, at Kota Belud, by the lodge at Danum, at Sukau and at Gomantong.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: Common at Kinabalu and also seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*: Several at Danum, with the best views on the last morning there.

MONARCHIDAE

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: Several along the trail at Poring, with small numbers at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*: Just one seen at Danum, then 1-2 at Sukau and Gomantong.

DICRURIDAE

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: A few at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: Two at Danum on the last morning there.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: Seen at Danum, tail-less by the road but tailed in the forest.

Hair-crested Drongo (Spangled Drongo) *Dicrurus hottentottus*: A few discrete birds in the forest at Kinabalu.

CORVIDAE

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*: Fairly common at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: Two in Lahad Datu.

Short-tailed Green Magpie (Short-tailed Magpie) *Cissa thalassina*: This noisy bird was fairly common at Kinabalu.

Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens*: Seen daily at Kinabalu, and also along the road at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*: Two at the end of the trail at Poring (in the rain), and heard at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

PITYRIASEIDAE

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala*: Aah! Three were tracked down at Danum and eventually gave great scope views (I did not know whether to look at the Bristleheads or at Dave's face), and heard but not seen in the same area the following morning. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

NECTARINIIDAE

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*: One at Poring (probably mobbing a snake) and one seen by Jim M at Danum.

Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-t Sunbird) *Anthreptes malacensis*: A couple at Gomantong.

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*: Several around the canopy walkway at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*: Just two or three at Danum, but then several at Gomantong.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*: A couple near Kinabalu and at Kota Belud.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: Several around the hot springs at Poring, and several sightings around the lodge at Danum.

Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*: Several seen and others heard at Kinabalu, also two females on the trail at Poring and others seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*: Several at Danum.

Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter (Bornean Spiderhunter) *Arachnothera affinis*: Seen around the lodge and along the trail at Danum.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*: Common at Poring, Danum and Gomantong.

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera robusta*: One seen by some along the road at Danum, and one flying back and forth over the road at Gomantong.

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*: One along the road at Danum.

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys*: Two or three seen at Danum.

Whitehead's Spiderhunter *Arachnothera juliae* (H): Heard only on one occasion at Kinabalu.

DICAEIDAE

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus*: Singles at Danum were seen by Simon and Jim M, then two at Gomantong.

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius*: One at Poring, mobbing a snake, then 1-2 at Danum and a male at Gomantong.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*: Several at Poring.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*: One by the lodge at Poring.

Black-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticolum*: Common at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve, some showing well.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*: One briefly along the river at Sukau on the last afternoon there.

CHLOROPSEIDAE

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*: At Danum several were seen along the road and by the canopy walkway.

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*: Common at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Bornean Leafbird *Chloropsis kinabaluensis*: Five or more at the Rafflesia Reserve.

IRENIDAE

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*: Two showed briefly at Poring and then several at Danum.

SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: Seen at Danum along the road and by the canopy walkway.
The race in Borneo has red feet and is appropriately named *corallipes*.

ESTRILDIDAE

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans*: Common at Poring, the Rafflesia Reserve, Danum and Gomantong.
Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Several in roadside grass at the Rafflesia Reserve.
Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*: Abundant at Kota Belud, several at Likas, around the lodge at Danum and at Sandakan airport.

PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Recorded at Kinabalu, Poring, in KK and at Lahad Datu.

MOTACILLIDAE

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*: One at Sandakan airport.

STURNIDAE

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*: Two seen and others heard at Danum, with two at Sukau.
Asian Glossy Starling (Philippine Glossy Starling) *Aplonis panayensis*: Several around KK, Poring, Kota Belud, on the drive to Sukau and on the river there.

TURDIDAE

Island Thrush (Mountain Blackbird) *Turdus poliocephalus*: One showed well along the summit trail at Kinabalu.
Everett's Thrush *Zoothera everetti*: Astonishing views of one on the roadside at Kinabalu; this is a notorious, hard to find ultra-skulker! This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
Fruit-hunter (Black-breasted Fruit-hunter) *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*: One showed nicely on the first afternoon at Kinabalu, then another pair seen there in flight.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Bornean Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus glaucinus*: Fairly common at Kinabalu, with some good views.
White-browed Shortwing (Blue Shortwing) *Brachypteryx montana* (H): heard at Kinabalu.
Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*: One or two at Poring, Kota Belud, en route to Danum and along the river at Sukau.
White-crowned Shama *Copsychus stricklandi*: Seen at Poring, Danum (where good views around the lodge) and at Gomantong.
Rufous-tailed Shama *Trichixos pyrropyga*: Nice views at Danum on the first morning, with another seen there briefly. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*: Two or three brief sightings at Danum.
Bornean Forktail *Enicurus borneensis*: Brief views only at Kinabalu and Poring; ironic, as it was usually quite easy to see before it was split.
Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*: A male showed well by the lodge at Danum, several at Sukau and a male at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
Bornean Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus*: Three on the first morning at Danum, with several others seen there subsequently; a good showing.
Large-billed Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis caerulatus*: Two on the first morning at Danum (diverting us from a Black-and-crimson Pitta), with several subsequent sightings; again, a good

showing. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable' because it is restricted to low-lying forest in a region where this habitat-type is being cleared and degraded at a rapid rate. The World population is estimated to be in the range 10,000-19,999 individuals.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*: One along the road at Danum.

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*: Just one at Kinabalu, by the restaurant on a couple of dates.

Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria*: A superb male showed well at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: A few on Kinabalu, especially on the summit trail.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: Two or three smart males on Kinabalu.

Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias umbratilis*: One showed well on the last morning at Danum as we were rushing back to the lodge. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher (White-browed Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias gularis*: A good number of sightings on Kinabalu, where eventually we all saw it well.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*: A few heard at Poring (and seen there by Gill), then common at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

Black-and-white Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanoleucos*: Several sightings at Danum in a good year for this often elusive species. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus*: A couple of these punk-haired bulbuls at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Pale-faced Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucops*: Two on the summit trail at Kinabalu; a recent split.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*: Common (e.g. gardens below Kinabalu, Kota Belud, the Rafflesia Reserve).

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*: Several along the road at Gomantong.

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*: A couple at Danum from the canopy walkway and two on the first morning at Sukau along the river.

Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*: Several at Poring and common at Danum and Gomantong.

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*: Quite a number seen at Danum and many more heard.

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea*: Several at Danum, especially from the canopy walkway. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*: Two at Poring, several at Danum and a single at Gomantong.

Finsch's Bulbul *Criniger finschii*: Two at Danum from the canopy walkway (and also seen there by Jim M); this scarce bulbul was a good one to get. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*: Two at Poring were the only ones seen.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*: Very good looks near the lodge at Danum.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*: Several at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve.

Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis*: Two by the suspension bridge at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Cinereous Bulbul *Hypsipetes cinereus*: Nice views of around eight birds at the Rafflesia Reserve.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Several at Kota Belud, then abundant on the drive to Sukau and along the river.

House Swallow (Pacific Swallow) *Hirundo tahitica*: Seen at most sites, especially in the lowlands.

CETTIIDAE

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*: Two or three seen by the restaurant at Kinabalu, also heard at Poring.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*: Two or three seen by the restaurant at Kinabalu, also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi*: Great looks at one at Kinabalu, also several others heard there.

Sunda Bush-Warbler (Mountain Bush-Warbler) *Cettia vulcania*: Several seen at Kinabalu, their slurred whistle is quite often heard there at higher altitudes.

PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*: Common at Kinabalu and a few at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Mountain Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*: Several at Kinabalu, where it is commonest at the higher altitudes.

TIMALIIDAE

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*: One seen and others heard at Poring, and then fairly common at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti*: Common at Kinabalu, a few at Poring and then abundant at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapilla*: Several at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve.

Pygmy White-eye *Oculocincta squamifrons*: Fairly good views of at least eight birds at Kinabalu.

Mountain Blackeye *Chlorocharis emiliae*: Four seen on Kinabalu, around the power station and on the summit trail.

Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*: Two at Gomantong eventually showed well. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Grey-headed Babbler *Stachyris poliocephala*: Four seen at Poring.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: Common at Kinabalu and also seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera*: Fairly common at Danum and also seen at Sukau and Gomantong.

Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*: Seen well at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*: One from the canopy walkway at Danum (thus high in a tall tree) and one seen along the road there.

Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous bornensis*: Common around the lodge at Danum, also at Sukau and Gomantong.

Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus*: Two seen well at Poring, with very good views of two along the road at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrogenys*: A singleton and a pair seen at Kinabalu, also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*: Fantastic close views on the first morning at Danum, with several others seen there more briefly and also recorded from Sukau and Gomantong.

Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre*: Two at Poring and several at Danum; birds in Borneo have a poorly-marked moustache.

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*: Seen in Danum by the canopy walkway and then very well at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*: Common at Danum.

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*: Not as common as the previous species at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Bornean Ground-Babbler (Bornean Wren-Babbler) *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*: Two showed very well at Danum, then two heard there while we were stalking the ground-cuckoo. This species is restricted to low-lying forest in a region where this habitat-type is being cleared and degraded at a rapid rate. As such, rapid population declines are suspected, and the species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Vulnerable'. The World population is estimated to be in the range 10,000-19,999 individuals.

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum*: Several showed well at Sukau and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*: Two or three seen at Danum.

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*: One at Poring, then several seen at Danum and heard at Sukau.

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis*: Two at Danum, one of which showed very well. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*: Fantastic scope views at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Black-throated Wren-Babbler *Napothera atrigularis*: Two showed well on the first morning at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Mountain Wren-Babbler *Napothera crassa*: Great views of a party of four or five at Kinabalu.

Sunda Laughingthrush (Grey-and-brown Laughingthrush) *Garrulax palliatus*: Several noisy flocks at Kinabalu, also seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Rhinocichla treachery*: Common at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve.

Bare-headed Laughingthrush *Garrulax calvus*: A fairly elusive pair high in the trees at Kinabalu were followed by much better looks at three individuals on the last morning there.

MEGALURIDAE

Friendly Bush-Warbler (Kinabalu Friendly Warbler) *Bradypterus accentor*: Eventually ... one seen on Kinabalu.

Striated Grassbird (Striated Warbler) *Megalurus palustris*: Several at Kota Belud.

CISTICOLIDAE

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*: One en route to Danum, also seen high in the trees from the canopy walkway, then common at Gomantong.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*: One at Poring and great looks by the lodge at Danum.

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*: One on the first afternoon at Danum, then two at Gomantong.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: Two at Kota Belud, heard at the Rafflesia Reserve, seen at Danum along the road and by the river, and also seen along the river at Sukau.

MAMMALS

Lesser Gymnure (Lesser Moonrat) *Hylomys suillus*: Two around rubbish bins near the power station on Kinabalu.

Lesser Tree Shrew (Pygmy Tree Shrew) *Tupaia minor*: One at Gomantong (but the identification is tentative).

Mountain Tree Shrew *Tupaia montana*: One at Poring.

Bornean Smooth-tailed Tree Shrew *Dendrogale melanura*: One on the last morning at Kinabalu.

Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bat *Tadarida plicata*: This is by far the most abundant bat at Gomantong.

Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating Macaque) *Macaca fascicularis*: Seen en route to Semporna and around the mangroves as we returned by boat from Mabul Island. Recorded at Danum and common at Sukau.

Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*: Several troops at Danum, including animals shinning down the trunks of high forest trees. Common at Sukau, where we saw whole troops crossing the rivers via 'high wires', more or less gracefully.

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*: Seen well at Sukau, where one troop crossed the river in front of us on the last morning, several of them belly-flopping into the water.

Silvered Langur (Silvered Leaf Monkey) *Presbytis cristata*: Seen by Brian at Poring and at least two at Sukau, beating up a Bornean Gibbon!

Maroon Langur (Maroon Leaf Monkey, Red Leaf Monkey) *Presbytis rubicunda*: A lovely troop at the foot of the summit trail on Kinabalu, then several at Danum and Gomantong.

Bornean Gibbon (Müller's Gibbon) *Hylobates muelleri*: Two seen by the road at Danum, also seen by the lodge by Jim M, and one along the river on the first morning at Sukau, having a tussle with Silvered Leaf Monkeys.

Bornean Orangutan *Pongo pygmaeus*: One on the first afternoon at Danum – from the veranda – a male eating wild rambutans by the canopy walkway, followed by a female and youngster in the same tree later the same day, and finally a stropky young female at Gomantong.

Oriental Small-clawed Otter *Aonyx cinerea* (NL): Seen by Brian from the lodge at Sukau.

Malay Civet *Viverra zibetha*: One seen well on the third night drive at Danum.

Banded Palm Civet *Hemigalus derbianus*: One briefly on the road on the first night drive at Danum.

Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis*: One showed well on the first night drive at Danum.

Indo-Pacific Bottle-nosed Dolphin *Tursiops aduncus*: At least 25 on the trip to Sipadan Island.

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*: Seen at Danum around the lodge and on the road nearby.

Greater Mouse-Deer (Greater Malay Chevrotain) *Tragulus napu*: Two on the second night drive at Danum.

Common Giant Squirrel (Cream-coloured Giant Squirrel) *Ratufa affinis*: Seen by Gill at Kinabalu and one at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Kinabalu Squirrel *Callosciurus baluensis*: One at Kinabalu.

Bornean Black-banded Squirrel *Callosciurus orestes*: Several at Kinabalu and also seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*: Several at Kinabalu and Gomantong.

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii*: These smart squirrels were seen at Poring, Danum and Gomantong.

Jentink's Squirrel *Sundasciurus jentinki*: Common at Kinabalu and also seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Brook's Squirrel *Sundasciurus brookei*: Several at Kinabalu appeared to be this species.

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti*: Several very tame animals at Kinabalu.

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis*: One at Poring and very good looks at one along the boardwalk at Gomantong.

Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi* (NL): One seen by Brian on the last morning at Kinabalu.

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi*: Single on the first and second night drives at Danum.

House Rat (Roof Rat, Black Rat) *Rattus rattus*: One in the restaurant at Semporna, and also seen in the restaurant at Danum!

Long-tailed Porcupine *Trichys fasciculata*: One (without a tail) on the first night drive at Danum.

REPTILES

Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*: Several seen along the rivers at Sukau.

BORNEO 2010

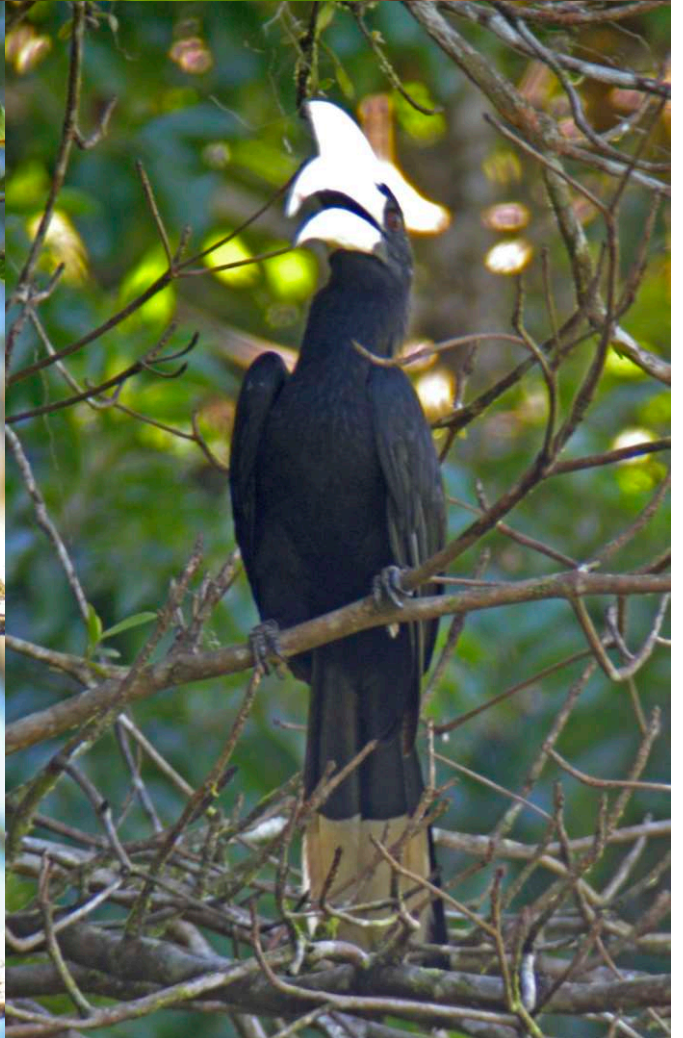
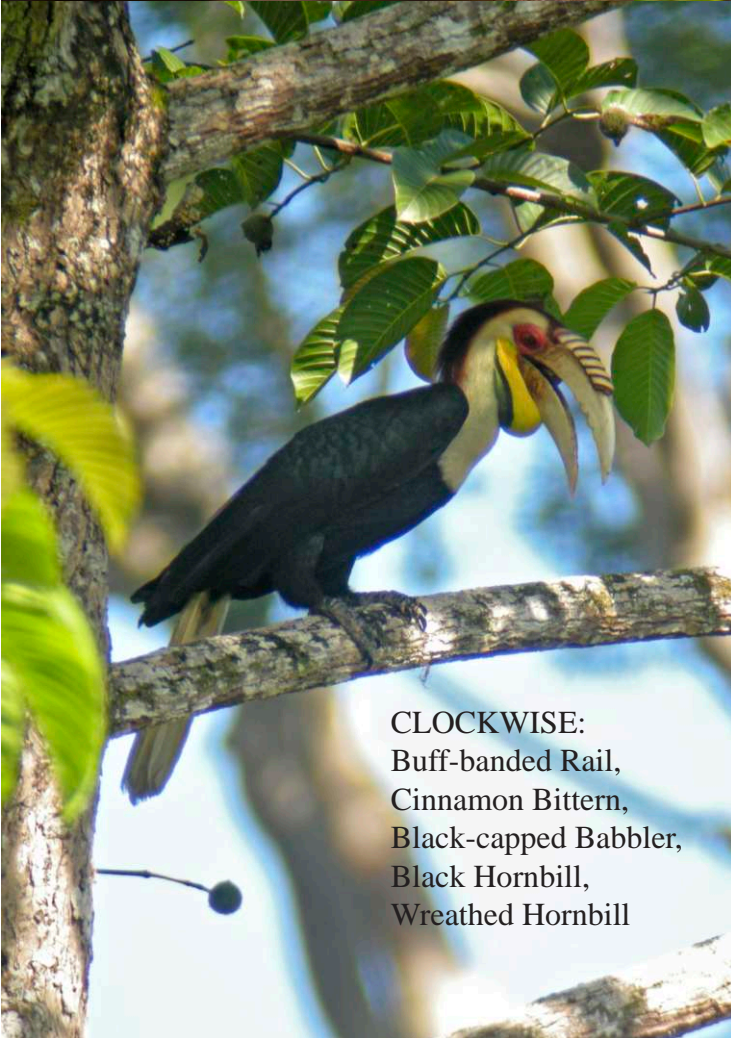
All photos by Simon Harrap



CLOCKWISE:
Everett's Thrush,
Bornean Swiftlet,
fungi on Kinabalu,
Bornean Whistling
Thrush.



CLOCKWISE: Whitehead's Broadbill,
Bornean Stubtail,
Mountain Barbet,
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel,
Rajah Brooke's Birdwing



CLOCKWISE:
Buff-banded Rail,
Cinnamon Bittern,
Black-capped Babbler,
Black Hornbill,
Wreathed Hornbill

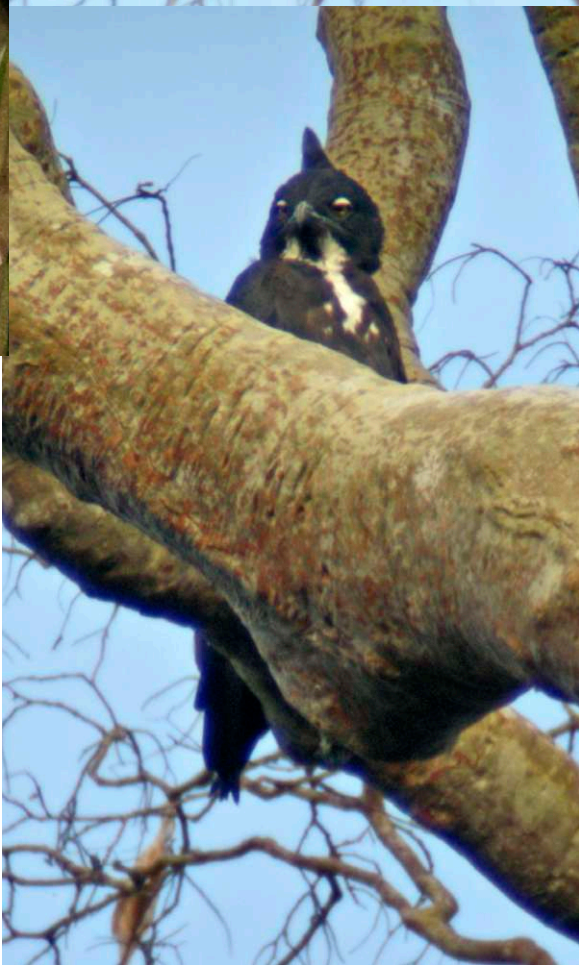
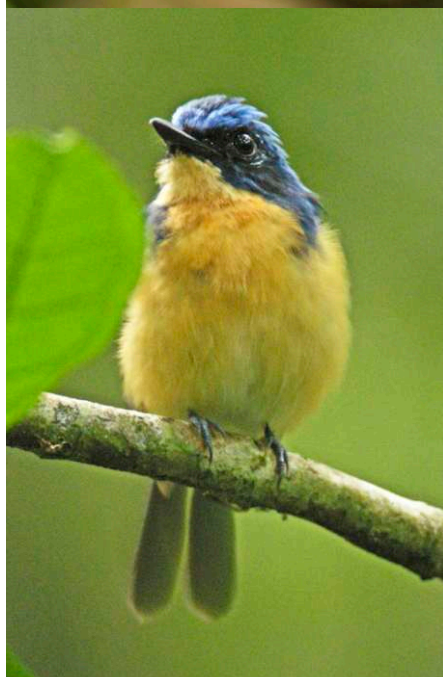


CLOCKWISE:
Great Argus,
Bornean Bristlehead,
Leopard Cat.

OVERLEAF:
Brown Wood Owl,
Buffy Fish Owl,
Dusky Broadbill,
Red-bearded Bee-eater.







CLOCKWISE:
Rufous-chested
Flycatcher,
Bat Hawk,
Striped Wren-
Babbler,
Bornean Blue
Flycatcher,
Sunda Frogmouth.