

# BORNEO

31 JULY – 15 AUGUST 2011

## TOUR REPORT

**LEADER:** SIMON HARRAP

2001 saw yet another successful Birdquest to Borneo. Highlights amongst the endemics included Crimson-headed Partridge, Whitehead's Trogon, three endemic barbets, Whitehead's Broadbill, Black-and-crimson Pitta, Fruit-hunter, Pygmy White-eye and three endemic wren-babblers. Other notable species included Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, Crested Fireback, several Storm's Storks and Jerdon's Baza, Bat Hawk, Malaysian Plover (a 'write-in'), Buffy Fish-Owl, Brown Wood-Owl, Sunda Frogmouth, three species of swiftlet on the nest, all but one of the possible hornbills, with particularly fine views of White-crowned, Green, Black-and-red, Banded and Black-and-Yellow Broadbills, Chestnut-capped Thrush, Orange-headed Thrush, Pale Blue, Bornean Blue and Large-billed Blue Flycatchers, a stunning little Rufous-chested Flycatcher, and Finsch's Bulbul. Of course, there were also good mammals, with eight species of primate including Orangutan, Bornean Gibbon, Proboscis Monkeys and a fantastic Western Tarsier, several great encounters with Elephants and no less than twelve species of squirrel.

Originating from as far afield as the UK, California and New Zealand, we eventually joined up at Kota Kinabalu's impressive airport to begin our Bornean adventure. We started off by checking out a few choice spots around KK. The first, a tidal creek, held good numbers of Pacific Reef Egrets (almost all of which were dark phase), a couple of Little Herons and a single Grey-tailed Tattler. Some nearby trees held both Rufous and Black-crowned Night Herons, a Pied Triller and a Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker. Some sewage lagoons produced an adult White-bellied Sea Eagle, Wandering Whistling Ducks and some very tame Pacific Swallows, whilst the final stop, a stretch of muddy shoreline, allowed fine comparisons of Greater and Lesser Sand Plover as well as harbouring more Tattlers and several Little Terns. There were also two special birds, a Chinese Egret and a single Malaysian Plover – the latter a 'write-in'. We then returned to the airport to pick up a bag that had somehow not made the morning flight to KK and headed up, under ever more leaden skies, to Kinabalu Park.

Our first day at Kinabalu Park started, as usual, with some time along the roads. Slowly but surely we picked up birds, with the highlight being great looks at Gold-naped Barbet, Little Pied Flycatcher and Temminck's Sunbird, and the frustration being a Temminck's Babbler that refused to show itself after

the first brief glimpse. We also kicked off the mammal list, with numerous Jentinck's Squirrels and two good tree-shrews: Smooth-tailed and Mountain, both of which showed very well. Over breakfast we had good scope views of a slightly odd looking female Sunda Cuckoo, and then it was time to hit the trail. As usual, this was very, very quiet, but we had smashing views of Eye-browed Jungle and Snowy-browed Flycatchers, Short-tailed Magpies, Mountain Wren-babblers and an Indigo Flycatcher, while those at the front caught a glimpse of a Crimson-headed Partridge as it raced away into cover. The squirrels kept coming too, with a smart Kinabalu Squirrel, and back on the road and on the way to lunch we were delayed by a pair of Temminck's Babbler which this time showed quite well to most of the party. Lunch was followed by a short break, and we then worked the road again till dusk. The afternoons can be dire on Kinabalu, but we were in luck. We had good looks at a party of Sunda Laughingthrushes, stunning views of a Sunda Bush-Warbler, added Sunda Cuckooshrike and Checker-throated Woodpecker to the list, and then watched an Orange-headed Thrush as it bounded along the side of the road. Frustration came in the form of a pair of very vocal Whitehead's Broadbills that only showed themselves briefly, but we did add another squirrel – Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel, so all was not lost.

We started before dawn on the second morning at Kinabalu in order to try for Mountain Scops Owl. On the way out two Ferret-Badgers ran across the road, but they were only on view for a couple of seconds! We did hear the owl, but as usual it was elusive, and we could not track down one that was calling from a roadside thicket. We were also frustrated by a Whitehead's Broadbill that called at dawn and then flew high over the road and off. The rest of the pre-breakfast session was not an improvement, with few birds seen and even fewer heard. Undaunted and replete, after breakfast we chased a calling Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove, picking up White-browed Shrike-babbler and White-bellied Erpornis in the process, and then hit the trail. Although it was again very quiet, we did pick up some star birds. A Bornean Forktail say in view for a couple of minutes, then we located a pair of Whitehead's Trogons and we even got the scope on the male – surely the most handsome of all the trogons? The session was finished with a male White-browed Shortwing creeping around in the undergrowth at close range, and then it was time for yet another meal. After a siesta we birded along the road but it was deadly quiet, with a dinky little Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel being the highlight.

The following morning we started again along the road, and in the gloom watched a male White-browed Shortwing, an Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher and a Bornean Whistling-Thrush as they hopped or bounded along the tarmac. We then found a fruiting tree, but Little Cuckoo-Doves were there highlight, despite initial promise, and we had great looks at Mountain Wren-Babblers. It was then time for breakfast, followed by ... the summit trail. This was to prove very busy, with a couple of hundred trekkers heading up and down hill. It was, however, the rather dry conditions that were likely to be responsible for a dearth of birds. We had four targets, and found three of them. Several Mountain Blackeyes showed well, with plenty of others heard, but the other two caused some frustration, as we were not all there when the flocked of Pale-faced Bulbuls passed through, and the pair of Fruit-hunters were on view rather briefly. But, the big dip was Friendly Bush-Warbler, with not a sign – this was the first time I have missed it in almost twenty attempts, and I was not pleased. Eventually we had to admit defeat and head back for a late lunch, after which we worked the road again, with a dead snake being the highlight.

Things had to get better, and they did. We made an early start the next morning and were soon watching a trio of Pygmy White-eyes feeding at close range, then preening and cuddling up to one-another. This tiny, rather nondescript bird is poorly illustrated in the books so it is no wonder that it goes un-noticed. We also found a Little Bronze Cuckoo that perched up for scope views, whilst an Oriental Honey-buzzard soared overhead. After this, breakfast tasted good, but keen to see more we were soon working the trails and the road at much higher altitudes. This started quietly, with a single

Mountain Blackeye and an un-responsive Stubtail, and then the fog rolled in. A Crimson-headed Partridges scuttled off through the undergrowth and then we heard Whitehead's Broadbills. We stayed with them (for there were two) for quite some time, and even watched one sitting in the canopy, in full view, for five minutes, but it was so misty that it was only just possible to see that it was green (although the shape and the calls were a dead giveaway). Ironically, the fog soon lifted again, and back on the road we found a pair of Fruit-hunters that showed well, if rather briefly, as well as a range of nice species: Snowy-browed, Indigo and Little Pied Flycatchers, Mountain Tailorbird, Mountain Imperial Pigeon and Gold-naped Barbet. Squirrel interest was maintained by great looks at a couple of Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrels. It was then time for lunch, with a Kinabalu Pit Viper outside the restaurant as a starter and a Black-sided Flowerpecker at close range as desert. We then sat back for the drive down to the steamy lowlands at Poring. Once we had checked in, we did some gentle birding around the accommodation, and our first afternoon at Poring was anything but boring (ouch!). We had good scope views of three species of barbet – Gold-whiskered, Red-throated and Blue-throated – and other canopy species that showed well included Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Green Iora and Orange-bellied and Thick-billed Flowerpeckers. Perhaps the best bird was Banded Broadbill, which also posed for scope views, as did a superb flying lizard.

The next morning we started early and worked the steep and steamy trail to the Langanan Waterfall. On route we picked up a good selection of birds, including Horsfield's and Grey-headed Babblers, Drongo Cuckoo, Malaysian Hawk-cuckoo, Scarlet-rumped Trogon and a juvenile Red-bearded Bee-eater. We staked out a fruiting tree that has been one of the best spots for Hose's Broadbill, but with no success, although we did get smashing views of Bornean Barbet. On the way back down we found two White-fronted Falconets on a distant snag, but the best was yet to come. We were almost back at base when a superb Chestnut-capped Thrush flew up and perched in full view for several minutes – a real star. After a break, we did some birding around the hot springs, adding great looks at Yellow-rumped Flowerpeckers and a noisy party of Buff-rumped Woodpeckers to the day's tally.

We left Poring before dawn the next morning and headed back up to the cool heights of the park HQ. We worked the trail at the Power Station and the road, but it was dull and a little windy, and deadly quiet. It was only when we hit the final stretch of trail that we saw some birds: a party of three noisy Orange-backed Woodpeckers, several tame Snowy-browed and Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatchers, and then a noisy mixed flock (our first at Kinabalu) with Maroon and Checker-throated Woodpeckers, Short-tailed Green Magpies, Spangled Drongos, Sunda Laughingthrushes, Sunda Cuckooshrikes, Ochraceous Bulbuls and a new bird, Black-and-crimson Oriole. We were, however, frustrated by Bare-headed Laughingthrush, as some calling birds never really came close and only a couple of us had a glimpse.

After lunch we bid farewell to Kinabalu and drove to Kota Belud. Here we had a very productive session in the paddy fields, with birds coming thick and fast (in marked contrast to Kinabalu). There were good numbers of Javan Pond-Herons, most in their smart 'blond' summer plumage, and we also had good looks at both Yellow and Cinnamon Bitterns, including a neat looking immature Cinnamon with intricately marked plumage. Watercock and Black-backed Swampheens both showed well, and the small selection of waders included lots of Oriental Pratincoles as well as a dozen Long-toed Stints. Two Painted Snipe were a nice surprise, and add to these Whiskered Terns, Wandering Whistling-Ducks, Lesser Coucal and Striated Grassbird, and you have an impressive tally for just a couple of hours. In good time we were in our hotel in KK, enjoying the buffer dinner, for we had an early start to look forward too.

We left KK well before dawn the next day to get to the Rafflesia Reserve high in the Crocker Range for first light. Here we enjoyed fine weather and our last taste of a temperate climate in Borneo. We

found our main targets fairly easily – Mountain Barbet, Bornean Bulbul, Cinereous Bulbul and the very beautiful Bornean Leafbird – and also enjoyed a soaring Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, great looks at Black-sided Flowerpecker, Brown Barbets and Black-and-crimson Oriole, but again failed with Bare-headed Laughingthrush, which clearly have heard far too many tapes to bother responding. We then dropped back down to KK for the flight to Lahad Datu. Lahad Datu was our gateway to eastern Sabah, and we were soon bumping along the long dirt road to Borneo Rainforest Lodge (77 km from civilisation). We stopped for a short while en route, admiring good numbers of low flying Silver-rumped Swifts, some very close perched Whiskered Treeswifts, and a fly-over Violet Cuckoo. Arriving just before dusk, we were greeted by a doe Sambar at the roadside before enjoying a superb dinner and a pleasantly early night.

Our explorations of Danum Valley got off to an excellent start when, barely 20 minutes after starting the next morning, we were watching a male Orang-utan close to the lodge! Time along the road then produced Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrots, Chestnut-breasted Malkohas, Bushy-crested Hornbills and a Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike on the nest. We spent most of the morning, however, on the trail, and it was a bit of a babbler-fest. We saw Grey-headed, Chestnut-winged, Rufous-fronted, Black-capped, Moustached, Sooty-capped, Rufous-crowned, Ferruginous and Short-tailed, almost all very well. There were some babbler mega-stars too, with very obliging Black-throated Wren-Babblers and Striped Wren-Babblers, and a pair of smart Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babblers. Colour was added by a svelte male Scarlet-rumped Trogon, a party of Rufous-winged Philentomas, and a pair of Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds. In the afternoon we worked the road again. It was, as usual, hot and stifflingly humid, but we did pick up some more birds. Two or three Blyth's Hawk-Eagles were circling as we set off, and later on a dark raptor seen briefly was finally nailed as the local race of Peregrine. Black-and-yellow Broadbills showed well, as did Raffles's Malkoha, and on the way back to the lodge we had nice looks at a pair of Black Hornbills. Perhaps the best bird of the afternoon was Bornean Black Magpie, but we were frustrated when a party of Bristleheads called briefly in the distance and then were silent, never to be seen or even heard again. Towards dusk it was very threatening, and after dark we had the first significant rain of the trip.

We were on the road again early the next morning, and again this was well worthwhile. We started with several Crested Firebacks that showed exceptionally well, and then added Black-bellied Malkoha, Yellow-crowned Barbet, Dark-throated Oriole, Large Wood-shrike, Chestnut-rumped Babbler and two very showy White-crowned Forktails that paraded up and down in front of us. A Wallace's Hawk-Eagle sat on an exposed perch, while two Jerdon's Bazaras showed quite nicely as they flew, one after the other, over the road. It was to be a morning of highs and lows, however. We went in after a calling Giant Pitta, which did not really respond, and only gave a couple of brief glimpses, but in the same spot a pair of Chestnut-necklaced Partridges showed really well. Once on to the trail proper we had good looks at a pair of Bornean Blue Flycatchers, a Spotted Fantail and then a fantastically obliging Rufous-chested Flycatcher. But, the morning ended in frustration. We heard a Bornean Ground-Cuckoo and spent a long time trying to see it. It came close and called at us for a prolonged period, but just out of sight. Eventually, we had to let it go and head back for a late lunch. In the afternoon we wandered along the road and ended up putting in quite a bit of time to get good looks at a Black-and-crimson Pitta. We were then booked for an early night drive, and this was well worthwhile. Following a tip off from one of the lodge drivers we went a little further than usual and ended up getting good looks at almost twenty Pygmy Elephants. We started with a baby wandering along the road, and then three mixed groups. They were shy, and crashed off into the forest as we approached, but not so fast that we could not see them very well. Add to this two female Sambar and a Bearded Pig, and it was a pretty productive night drive for BRL!

The following morning we drove up to the gate shortly after dawn and spent a long time wandering back down the road towards the lodge. Perhaps the best bird was White-crowned Hornbill, but these were unusually shy and slipped off without giving good looks. We then added a good range of species to our list ... Banded Bay Cuckoo, Bronzed and a racket-less Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Plain and Red-throated Sunbirds, Slender-billed Crow (ever scarcer at BRL) and Brown Fulvetta, whilst some time late morning on the trails added a surprise in the form of a Hooded Pitta – a new species for me at Danum. Over lunch we enjoyed Red Leaf-Monkeys in the trees opposite the lodge, and then a party of Bornean Gibbons passed through. In the afternoon we went out on to the canopy walkway. This was relaxing but relatively quiet, but we did see three Finsch's Bulbuls feeding in the canopy of an emergent (still high above us) and a singing male Pale Blue Flycatcher. That night the bird list was interrupted by the news that a Western Tarsier was 'staked out' next to the lodge, and rushing out we had great looks at this little primate (the first time it has been recorded on a Birdquest since 1995). A select few then took a night drive which, whilst not stunning, was unusually productive. At least three each of Thomas's and Red Giant Flying Squirrels were joined by a brief Malay Civet, a Banded Linsang, a couple of Sambar and an adult Brown Wood Owl feeding a fledged juvenile.

On our final morning at BRL I decided to try for Blue-banded Pitta, which involved quite a hike uphill. We did hear the pitta, but it was always distant and we did not get a glimpse. But, on the way up and down we found Large-billed Blue Flycatcher, Maroon-breasted Philentoma, Green Broadbill and, best of all, a Bornean Ground-Babbler that gave reasonably good views. It was then time to pack and have a final meal at this superb lodge, before sitting back for the bumpy ride back to Lahad Datu and on (this time on tarmac) to Sukau. We saw little en route apart from a soaring Black Eagle and a couple of Lesser Adjutants, and then took a boat across the river to our very pleasant lodge.

We took our first river trip the next morning. It was raining a little (it had poured most of the night) but this did not dampen our spirits and it gradually cleared to a bright and sunny day. Despite the drizzle, we were soon watching a group of four Storm's Storks perched on riverside trees. We followed this with perhaps another four birds, as well as a group of three perched Lesser Adjutants and, later in the morning, two more circling low overhead. Hornbills were in evidence too, with perhaps the bird of the morning being a superb White-crowned Hornbill that perched up in full view and then sailed overhead. We also logged our first Oriental Pied Hornbills and a few Black and Bushy-crested. Raptors was also in evidence, with a juvenile White-bellied Sea-Eagle, a nice perched Lesser Fish-Eagle and a pair of Jerdon's Bazaes calling as they circled high over the river. Amongst the smaller birds Malaysian Blue Flycatcher and White-chested Babbler were new, and we all had a decent view of a Hooded Pitta as he sat on low branches, calling. Mammal interest was, of course, provided by several troops of Proboscis Monkey, but the highlight for me was the herd of at least a dozen Elephants feeding happily on the riverbank at close range.

In the afternoon we visited Gomantong, where we started with a visit to the famous caves. There were large numbers of Black-nest Swiftlets on their rather untidy cups, and we had excellent looks at a few Edible-nest and Mossy-nest Swiftlets on their distinctive nests too. During the wait for dusk we admired the bizarre Black-and-red Broadbill, yet another Blyth's Hawk-Eagle and a Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker. Despite the clear skies, the bats began to emerge rather early, forming swirling smoke-like spirals as they left; we could even hear the low roar of their wing beats. A Bat Hawk was soon in attendance, easily catching his evening meal, while two Brahminy Kites, although not so agile, seemed to have some successes. Well-pleased with the day, we headed back for dinner.

We started very early the next morning and near to our base went in search of night birds. It was raining en route and our efforts seemed doomed to failure, but it did stop and so we went for it and entered the forest. At first we were deafened by the drips, but quite soon loud 'caws' announced the

presence of a Sunda Frogmouth and we were soon enjoying views of this diminutive bird, with some very nice looks, almost at eye level, at its wispy head plumes. Once it was light we moved on and worked the road near to Gomantong. Despite the weather (for it was now raining again, but not very heavily), this provided a few more new birds, including Little Green Pigeon, Olive-winged and Buff-vented Bulbuls, a fly-past Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo and Black-throated Babbler – this last species was unusually elusive but late morning we finally got decent views of a pair.

After lunch and a siesta it was back out on the river. Trying a different direction, we had a very productive afternoon. Hornbills were in evidence, with Pied, Black, Rhinoceros and, best of all, a party of Wrinkled Hornbills that showed well. We also saw a Jerdon's Baza and both Grey-headed and Lesser Fish-Eagles perched. Green Imperial Pigeons at rest were also admired, especially when the green of the mantle was in evidence, and other new birds were Common Sandpiper, Blue-eared Kingfisher and, for most of us, Red-billed Malkoha. Bird of the afternoon for me was, however, Brown Needletail, with three of them circling the boat like jet fighters and coming down to the river to drink. On the mammal front we saw more Proboscis Monkeys and added another primate to the list – Silvered Leaf Monkey. After dinner we took another short boat ride and were soon watching the first of four Buffy Fish Owls, all of which showed well, Both Blue-eared and Stork-billed Kingfishers allowed a close approach as they roosted on exposed branches, and we tracked down a couple of small Crocodiles. On our last morning at Sukau we had a final boat trip down to one of the backwaters. We saw several Lesser Adjutants and Storm's Storks, mostly in flight but including our best perched views of a Storm's in good light. Raptors included two more Jerdon's Bazas and a couple of Wallace's Hawk-Eagles. Amongst other birds were two svelte male Scarlet-rumped Trogons, Cream-vented Bulbul (a new bird, but no-one looked too thrilled) and a brief fly-over Long-tailed Parakeet. Then it was time to head back to the lodge, pack and drive to Sandakan and the final stage of our Borneo adventure.

We checked into our very pleasant lodge at Sepilok and after lunch and a break headed out to the Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC) and its monumental canopy walkway. Just by our lodge some roadside trees held Orange-breasted, Yellow-vented and Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers, while the car park of the RDC added another new bird, Javan Myna – an aggressive introduction. We spent a pleasant afternoon on the walkway, and although we did not see our real target, we did add a few more birds to the trip list: Rufous-bellied Eagle, Asian Palm Swift, Lesser Cuckooshrike and a write-in, Copper-throated Sunbird. It was also great to have better looks at Long-tailed Parakeet and enjoy the sight of at least seven Rhinoceros Hornbills in the same huge tree. We were back at the RDC early the next morning. A Buff-necked Woodpecker was elusive, but not so the four noisy Rufous Woodpeckers that delighted on the canopy walkway, or the superb male Diard's Trogon. But, despite looking hard, there was neither sight nor sound of the dreaded Bristlehead and we had to put it down to experience. It was time to shower and change, pack our bags, have a last meal together 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. I must pay particular tribute to Andrew, our guide for over twenty years, whose patience, good humour, quiet efficiency and tremendous knowledge of his country's birds added so much to our trip.

## 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).

Species that were only seen by the leader are indicated by the symbol (LO).

### PHASIANIDAE

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra*: Elena saw one at Kinabalu and a few others heard there, also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii*: A pair showed well at Danum and also heard at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*: One scuttled off at close range on the first morning at Kinabalu, and then two seen running off through the forest near the power station. Also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita*: Great views of up to six near the lodge at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Great Argus *Argusianus argus* (H): A few heard at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

### ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*: Two or possibly four birds on the first afternoon near KK and at least 30 at Kota Belud.

### CICONIIDAE

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*: At least eight on the first morning at Sukau, with at least four on the last morning there and particularly good views of a perched bird. 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 as we drove to Sukau, then three perched on snags and two soaring birds on the first morning at Sukau, one on the second afternoon and perhaps five soaring birds on the last morning. 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*: Several at Kota Belud.

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*: Great views of an adult and juvenile in the rice fields at Kota Belud and a couple of others seen in flight there.

Little Heron (Striated Heron) *Butorides striatus*: One or two on the first afternoon at KK.

Rufous Night Heron *Nycticorax caledonicus*: An adult and a sub-adult hiding in the trees near the shore at KK.

Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Half a dozen on the first afternoon in KK, then a similar number at the oxbow lake at Sukau and an adult on the night boat ride there.

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola speciosa*: At least 45 at Kota Belud, most in their smart 'blond' breeding plumage.

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*: Very common at Kota Belud.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Around six on the first afternoon at KK, a couple at Kota Belud, and small numbers along the river at Sukau,

Great Egret *Egretta alba*: Good numbers around KK, with 1-2 in full breeding dress with dark bill and reddish legs. A couple around Kota Belud, one at Gomantong (on a muddy patch in the forest) and, at the end of the tour, good numbers along the river at Sukau.

Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia*: A couple at KK and a handful at Kota Belud, with one at Lahad Datu airfield.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Three on the shore at KK and a couple at Kota Belud.

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*: Around six at KK, all but one dark phase.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes*: One on the beach at KK. 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.

#### ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: One on the river at Danum and several at Sukau with superb close views on the last morning there.

#### FALCONIDAE

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons*: Two seen on distant snags at Poring. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: A singleton along the road at Danum. The resident race in Borneo, *ernesti*, is particularly dark.

#### ACCIPITRIDAE

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*: Two showed well in flight at Danum, while at Sukau two soaring birds were seen on the first morning, one briefly on the second afternoon and two perched up for a short while on the third boat trip.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard (Crested Honey-Buzzard) *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: A single soaring bird near Kinabalu Park, then at least two along the road at Danum.

Bat Hawk *Machaearamphus alcinus*: One hunting bats at Gomantong.

Black-shouldered Kite (Black-winged Kite) *Elanus caeruleus*: Four or more at Kota Belud.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: One at KK, one at Kota Belud, and small numbers at RDC, Sukau and Gomantong – at the latter site hunting bats.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (White-bellied Fish-Eagle) *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: An adult at KK, with a subadult nearby over (appropriately enough) the sea. An immature on the first morning at Sukau with perhaps the same immature on the second boat trip.

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*: One on the first morning at Sukau but much better views of a perched adult on the second boat trip there. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*: Single adult seen on all three boat trips at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*: One at Danum, then a few at Sukau and Gomantong.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: One along the road at Danum and a perched bird showing well along the road at Gomantong.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*: One over the road at Danum on two dates.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus*: A dark phase bird seen by Gina and Simon as they collected their laundry at Poring.



Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus alboniger*: One overhead at the Rafflesia Reserve and another nearby en route to KK, with several sightings at Danum – where there was a particularly good showing – and another at Gomantong.

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nanus*: A perched bird at Danum, a singleton at Sukau on the first boat trip with two together on the last morning there, and a nice perched adult at Gomantong (it tried to catch a bat). 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*: An immature over the RDC at the end of the tour.

#### RALLIDAE

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*: Four or more at Kota Belud, including one perched up in full view; all appeared to be brownish non-breeding birds.

Black-backed Swamphe *Porphyrio indicus*: This split from Purple Swamphe *P. porphyrio* was seen well at Kota Belud.

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

White-breasted Waterhe *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: Around three at Kota Belud.

#### RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*: Around 35 at Kota Belud.

#### PLUVIALIDAE

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

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*: A female or non-breeding male on the beach at KK. A 'write in'.

Lesser Sand Plover (Mongolian Plover) *Charadrius mongolus*: Around five on the beach at KK, at least two of which were still in summer plumage.

Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii*: About a dozen on the beach at KK.

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*: Around six on the beach at KK.

Common Sandpiper *Tringa hypoleucos*: One at Sukau.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*: A couple on the sewage ponds at KK and perhaps 75 at Kota Belud.

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

#### GLAREOLIDAE

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*: Perhaps 70 at Kota Belud – an exceptionally high count.

#### STERNIDAE

Little Tern *Sterna albifrons*: Four on the beach at KK.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*: At least 50 at Kota Belud.

#### COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (Rock Dove) *Columba livia*: Several around KK, Kota Belud and Lahad Datu.

Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana* (H): One heard at Kinabalu.

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

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Common around KK, Kota Belud and on the roadsides of eastern Sabah.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: One shot past on the last morning at the RDC.

Zebra Dove (Peaceful Dove) *Geopelia striata*: A couple on the roadside on the way to Sandakan airport.

Little Green-Pigeon *Treron olax*: Good numbers at Gomantong and a few along the river at Sukau and at RDC.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*: Just one seen at Danum, fairly common at Sukau and Gomantong and several at the RDC.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*: Several seen and other heard at Kinabalu, with great looks at a perched bird, and around a dozen in flight over the Rafflesia Reserve.

#### PSITTACIDAE

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*: One briefly in flight at Poring, then good views along the road at Danum and a few at Sukau, Gomantong and the RDC.

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*: One seen briefly on the last morning at Sukau and then better views of three on the first afternoon at the RDC with a flock of 16 the following morning. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

#### CUCULIDAE

Dark Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx bocki* (H): Heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans*: Two taped in at Gomantong for flight views. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax*: One on the waterfall trail at Poring.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* (H): Heard distantly at Danum.

Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus*: Several heard at Kinabalu, and nice views of a female from the restaurant at lunchtime.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*: One seen well by the gate at Danum, then heard at Sukau.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: Heard by the lodge at Danum and a roosting juvenile seen under the lodge. Also heard at Sukau and Gomantong.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* (H): Heard at Danum on the last morning there.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*: Several flight views at Danum and Sukau.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*: On scoped near Kinabalu Park HQ.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*: One seen well at Poring and heard at Gomantong.

Bornean Ground Cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiatus* (H): Heard at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Black-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus diardi*: Two or three along the road at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*: One from the canopy walkway at Danum and one showed well in riverside trees on the second boat trip at Sukau.

Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*: A few at Poring, Danum and Gomantong.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*: A couple along the road at Danum, two pairs at Gomantong, one at Sukau on the third boat trip and one at the RDC.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: One seen and others heard along the road at Danum, and also heard at the RDC.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*: One showed well in wet paddies at Kota Belud.

#### STRIGIDAE

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

Buffy Fish-Owl *Ketupa ketupu*: Great views of four birds on the night boat trip at Sukau.  
Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica*: Superb views on the second night drive of an adult feeding a fledged youngster at Danum.

#### PODARGIDAE

Sunda Frogmouth *Batrachostomus cornutus*: A female seen exceptionally well near Sukau.

#### APODIDAE

Glossy Swiftlet (White-bellied Swiftlet) *Collocalia esculenta*: Small numbers at Sukau and Gomantong.

Bornean Swiftlet *Collocalia dodgei*: Common at Kinabalu, nesting around our chalets, and at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia salangana*: Around a dozen seen on their nests at Gomantong.

Black-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia maxima*: Many seen on their nests at Gomantong.

Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fuciphaga*: A few around KK, thought to be this species, and a few white nests seen, some with birds on them, at Gomantong.

Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*: A few around the RDC at the end of the tour.

Silver-rumped Needletail (Silver-rumped Swift) *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*: Good numbers along the road on the drive in to Danum, with just a few near the lodge, and a couple at the RDC.

Brown-backed Needletail (Brown Needletail) *Hirundapus giganteus*: Breathtaking looks at three along the river at Sukau and a couple at the RDC.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*: One at KK and several at the Pygmy White-eye spot near Kinabalu.

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*: Several around the chalets at Poring and from the canopy walkway at Danum.

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*: Great views on the drive in to Danum and along the road near the lodge there.

#### TROGONIDAE

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba* (H): Heard at Poring. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*: Heard at Poring and great looks at a male on the last morning at the RDC. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Whitehead's Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi*: A pair showed very nicely at Kinabalu. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*: A female at Poring and a superb male at Danum, with two more males at Gomantong and then two males and a female together on the last boat trip at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

#### CORACIIDAE

Dollarbird (Broad-billed Roller) *Eurystomus orientalis*: A few at Sukau and several at the RDC, including tail-less juveniles that looked very odd in flight.

#### ALCEDINIDAE

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*: Seen by some along the river at Danum, with several at Sukau, including a roosting bird.

Collared Kingfisher (White-collared Kingfisher) *Todirhamphus chloris*: One at KK, a couple at Kota Belud and a few on the road near Sukau.

Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*: One around the lodge at Danum, perching on the balcony of the chosen few (!).

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*: Several at Sukau, including very close views of a roosting bird.

#### MEROPIIDAE

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*: A juvenile at Poring and seen briefly by Bob at Danum.

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

#### BUCEROTIDAE

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*: Good numbers seen at Danum and a couple along the river at Sukau.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*: Good numbers on the river trips at Sukau and several at Gomantong.

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

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*: Several at Danum in the figs over the river, a couple at Sukau and seven in the same tree at the RDC. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil* (H): Heard at Danum and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

White-crowned Hornbill (White-crested Hornbill) *Aceros comatus*: Three near BRL, but they snuck off quickly. The bird we found at Sukau could not, however, have shown much better, with prolonged views. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*: Two showed well on the third boat trip at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*: Several at Danum.

#### RAMPHASTIDAE

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon*: Seen well at Poring, and heard at the Rafflesia Reserve and Danum.

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos*: Several seen nicely at Poring, then one or two seen at Danum, and heard at Sukau and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Mountain Barbet *Megalaima monticola*: A couple in a tall fruiting tree at the Rafflesia Reserve, and several others calling there.

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii*: Heard at Poring and one seen at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Golden-naped Barbet *Megalaima pulcherrima*: Commonly heard at Kinabalu (what a relaxing sound), with great views of several. Also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*: Seen well at Poring and one or two seen at Danum and Sukau.

Bornean Barbet (Black-throated Barbet) *Megalaima eximia*: Heard in the canopy on the trail at Poring and one seen very well there in a fruiting tree (strangely, it had a black throat, rather than the blue of the Kinabalu race *cyanea*; obviously hadn't read the books). Also seen in a fruiting tree at the Rafflesia Reserve, with others heard there.

Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*: A couple in the fruiting tree at the Rafflesia Reserve and others seen at Danum, Gomantong and Sukau.

## PICIDAE

Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*: A juvenile high above Poring and a couple at Danum.

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (Grey-capped Woodpecker) *Dendrocopos canicapillus*: A single bird seen in flight at Sukau.

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*: One on the first afternoon at KK.

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*: Great views of a noisy party of four on the last morning at the RDC.

Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*: Nice looks at a couple at Kinabalu on two dates.

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*: Seen briefly at Poring but perhaps three in the big flock on the last morning at Kinabalu, also a couple of brief sightings at Danum.

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus*: Three noisy birds along the trail at Kinabalu on the last morning there.

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*: A party of four at Poring, a couple at Danum and two more at Gomantong.

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*: One briefly on the last morning at the RDC. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* (H): Heard distantly on the first morning at Sukau. 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.

## EURYLAIMIDAE

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*: Good views of one on the last morning at Danum.

Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi*: Seen on three occasions at Kinabalu, but due to poor light and fog we never had a good look.

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*: Several along the backwaters at Sukau, with great looks at a pair at Gomantong.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*: Scope views at Poring, and several heard at Danum and Gomantong.

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

## PITTIDAE

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*: One at Danum was a real surprise but showed only briefly. We all saw one on the first boat trip at Sukau.

Blue-headed Pitta *Pitta baudii* (H): Heard distantly at Danum. 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* (H): Despite some hard work, only heard at Danum.

Black-and-crimson Pitta *Pitta ussheri*: One seen well at Danum, with another seen briefly by Mark, and heard at Gomantong and Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Giant Pitta *Pitta caerulea*: Despite putting quite a bit of time in, there were only brief views for some of us of an intermittently calling bird near the lodge at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

#### VIREONIDAE

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*: A male and female at Kinabalu, with others heard there and at the Rafflesia Reserve.

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

#### ACANTHIZIDAE

Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater) *Gerygone sulphurea* (H): Heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.

#### PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala hypoxantha*: Several at Kinabalu.

#### CAMPEPHANGIDAE

Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike (Black-faced Cuckoo-Shrike) *Coracina larvata*: Two in the mist at Kinabalu, with better views of a pair there on the last morning, and a pair seen well at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Lesser Cuckoo-Shrike *Coracina fimbriata*: At least five on the first afternoon at the RDC.

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

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*: One from the canopy walkway on the last afternoon at Danum and several along the road at Gomantong and at the RDC.

Grey-chinned Minivet (Mountain Minivet) *Pericrocotus solaris*: Several small parties at Kinabalu and a few at the Rafflesia Reserve.

#### ORIOLIDAE

Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus*: One or two seen on the last morning at Kinabalu and one showed well at the Rafflesia Reserve.

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

#### GENERA INCERTAE CEDIS

Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*: One at Poring on the first afternoon and a couple of sightings at Danum, including a bird on a nest.

Rufous-winged Philentoma (Rufous-winged Flycatcher) *Philentoma pyropteron*: Several seen well at Danum, including a couple of 'blue phase' males.

Maroon-breasted Philentoma (Maroon-breasted Flycatcher) *Philentoma velatum*: Two on the last morning at Danum. 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 roads near Sukau.

#### AEGITHINIDAE

Common lora *Aegithina tiphia*: One at KK, and a couple seen and other heard at Sukau.

Green lora *Aegithina viridissima*: A pair at Poring and then good views of several at Danum and the RDC. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

#### RHIPIDURIDAE

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*: One or two at KK, Kota Belud and Sukau (including a roosting bird at the latter site) and numerous at Gomantong.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: Common at Kinabalu.

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*: A couple showed well at Danum.

#### MONARCHIDAE

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

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*: Two seen briefly at Danum, then a splendid white male at Gomantong.

#### DICRURIDAE

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: A few at Kinabalu, one at Poring, and good numbers at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: One or two at Danum.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: Two birds seen at Danum, both tail-less, and also seen at the RDC, including a bird *with* a tail.

Hair-crested Drongo (Spangled Drongo) *Dicrurus hottentottus*: A few at Kinabalu.

#### CORVIDAE

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*: Very few at Danum, but then fairly common at Sukau.

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

Bornean Black Magpie *Platysmurus aterrimus*: One along the road at Danum and two at the RDC.

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

Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus* (H): Heard at Poring and Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

#### PITYRIASEIDAE

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* (H): Heard in the distance on two occasions at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

#### NECTARINIIDAE

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*: One along the road at Danum.

Brown-throated Sunbird (Plain-t Sunbird) *Anthreptes malacensis*: A male at KK, one or two at the lodge at Sukau, a couple at Gomantong and several at Sepilok.

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*: One along the road at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*: A pair at Danum.

Copper-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma calcostetha*: A male at the RDC.

Van Hasselt's Sunbird (Purple-throated Sunbird) *Nectarinia sperata* (NL): Seen by Brian at Sepilok.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*: One at KK and several near Kinabalu Park and at Sukau.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: One at the hot springs at Poring, one along the road at Danum and several around Sepilok.

Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*: Several seen and others heard at Kinabalu, and a couple seen at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*: One on the first morning at Danum and one at Gomantong.

Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter (Bornean Spiderhunter) *Arachnothera affinis*: One in flight at the Rafflesia Reserve and seen around the lodge at Danum.

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

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

Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*: One flew over the gate at Danum, giving it's redpoll-like call.

#### DICAEIDAE

Thick-billed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum agile*: Two scoped at Poring, twisting and flirting their tails.

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus*: A couple of brief singles at Danum, then one showed well at Gomantong.

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius*: Great views of 2-3 at Poring and then a male and female at Gomantong.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*: Several at Poring and a couple around the lodge at Sukau and at Sepilok.

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*: Nice views of one by the lodge at Sepilok.

Black-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticolum*: Just a few at Kinabalu, but good views by the restaurant, and even better views of a pair along the road at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*: A pair at the lodge at Sepilok.

#### CHLOROPSEIDAE

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

Bornean Leafbird *Chloropsis kinabaluensis*: One seen by Mark at Poring, and then at least four at the Rafflesia Reserve.

#### IRENIDAE

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella*: Several at Poring, Danum (where they showed well) and Sukau.

#### SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: A couple at Kinabalu and also seen at the RDC at the end of the tour. The race in Borneo has red feet and is appropriately named *corallipes*.

#### ESTRILDIDAE

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans*: First seen at Kota Belud, then common at the Rafflesia Reserve, Danum and Gomantong.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Several at Kota Belud.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*: Several around KK and at the RDC.

#### PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Recorded at all sites apart from Danum.

#### MOTACILLIDAE

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*: One at the Fairy Falls at Danum. A 'write-in'.

#### STURNIDAE

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*: Two seen and others heard at Danum, with several at Sukau and the RDC.



Asian Glossy Starling (Philippine Glossy Starling) *Aplonis panayensis*: Several around KK, Poring, Kota Belud, Sukau etc.  
Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*: One in KK on the first afternoon. Introduced to Borneo.  
Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*: A couple around the RDC and Sandakan. A recent and spreading introduction to Borneo.

#### TURDIDAE

Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*: One hopping along the side of the road on the first afternoon at Kinabalu.  
Chestnut-capped Thrush *Zoothera interpres*: Great views of one perched up at Poring as we descended the waterfall trail.  
Fruit-hunter (Black-breasted Fruit-hunter) *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*: Two together on the summit trail at Kinabalu, the another pair along the road the next morning; neither pair stayed around for long.

#### MUSCICAPIDAE

Bornean Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus glaucinus*: A few at Kinabalu, with some good views.  
White-browed Shortwing (Blue Shortwing) *Brachypteryx montana*: One seen at close range along the trail at Kinabalu (but skulking), and one hopping on the road there at dawn.  
Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*: Several near Kinabalu Park, at Poring, Kota Belud, en route to Danum and at Sukau.  
White-crowned Shama *Copsychus stricklandi*: Seen at Poring, Danum (where good views around the lodge) and Gomantong.  
Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus* (NL): One seen by Andrew at Danum.  
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*: Two seen very well indeed along the road at Danum.  
Bornean Forktail *Enicurus borneensis*: Good views at Kinabalu – it does look rather short-tailed and dinky. A recent split.  
Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor*: A male from the canopy walkway on the last afternoon at Danum.  
Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*: Several at Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.  
Bornean Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus*: Good views of a male at Danum.  
Large-billed Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis caeruleus*: A male on the last morning at Danum. 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*: Seen by some near Kinabalu, and also seen at Danum, Gomantong and the RDC.  
Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*: Several showed well at Kinabalu.  
Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria*: A superb male showed exceptionally well at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.  
Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: A few on Kinabalu, tame and giving great views.  
Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: Two or three smart males on Kinabalu.  
Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher (White-browed Jungle-Flycatcher) *Rhinomyias gularis*: A few of sightings on Kinabalu, with some good prolonged views.  
Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher (Grey-headed Flycatcher) *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: One seen and others heard at Danum.

## PYCNONOTIDAE

- Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*: A few heard at Poring, then several at Danum, but the best looks were at Sukau.
- Bornean Bulbul *Pycnonotus montis*: Good views of three at the Rafflesia Reserve. This is a split from Black-crested Bulbul *P. flaviventris* (formerly *melanicterus*). Features include the dark eye and differently shaped crest.
- Pale-faced Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucops*: Three or four for some on the summit trail at Kinabalu; a recent split.
- Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*: Common.
- Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*: Several at Gomantong.
- Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*: Seen at Sukau and the RDC.
- Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*: Several at Poring and common at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.
- Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*: Quite a number seen at Danum and many more heard there, and also seen at Gomantong.
- Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea*: Two at Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*: Three at Poring and a couple at Gomantong.
- Finsch's Bulbul *Criniger finschii*: Three at Danum from the canopy walkway on the last afternoon; this scarce bulbul was a good one to get. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*: Several at Danum and one at Gomantong.
- Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*: Good looks at Danum.
- Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*: A few at Kinabalu and a couple at Poring.
- Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis*: Two seen in flight at Poring. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Cinereous Bulbul *Hypsipetes cinereus*: A couple of elusive birds at Poring, then nice views of several at the Rafflesia Reserve.

## HIRUNDINIDAE

- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Common at Kota Belud, then abundant on the drive to Sukau.
- House Swallow (Pacific Swallow) *Hirundo tahitica*: Seen at most sites, especially in the lowlands, with great views of a pair feeding a fledged youngster on the first afternoon at KK.

## CETTIIDAE

- Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*: Two or three seen by the restaurant at Kinabalu, also several at Poring and heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*: Two or three at Kinabalu, also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi* (H): Sadly, only heard at Kinabalu, where they were unusually quiet.
- Sunda Bush-Warbler (Mountain Bush-Warbler) *Cettia vulcania*: Several seen at Kinabalu, their slurred whistle is commonly heard there at higher altitudes. This is a species that seems to have become *commoner*.

## PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

- Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*: Common at Kinabalu.
- Mountain Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*: Good numbers at Kinabalu, where it is commonest at the higher altitudes.

## TIMALIIDAE

- Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*: Fairly common at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti*: Common at Kinabalu, a flock at Poring and then common at the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapilla*: Several at Kinabalu and the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*: A couple seen briefly along the road at Danum.
- Pygmy White-eye *Oculocincta squamifrons*: Good views of at least three birds at Kinabalu.
- Mountain Blackeye *Chlorocharis emiliae*: Several on Kinabalu, around the power station and on the summit trail.
- Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*: After some effort, two at Gomantong showed well. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Grey-headed Babbler *Stachyris poliocephala*: Two seen at Poring and a couple along the road at Danum.
- 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 Gomantong.
- Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*: Seen well at Danum and the RDC. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*: Several showed well at Danum.
- Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*: Two showed very well at Danum.
- Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous bornensis*: Common along the road and around the lodge at Danum, also at Sukau and Gomantong.
- Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus*: Two seen well at Poring, also heard at Danum and Sukau. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrogenys*: A few seen at Kinabalu, also seen briefly at the Rafflesia Reserve.
- Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*: Fantastic close views on the first morning at Danum.
- Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre*: Several at Danum; birds in Borneo have a poorly-marked moustache.
- Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*: Seen in Danum and Gomantong. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*: Great views at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.
- Bornean Ground-Babbler (Bornean Wren-Babbler) *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*: One showed well on the last morning at Danum. 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 and heard at Gomantong.
- Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*: One at Poring, then a couple at Danum and one at close range at Gomantong.
- Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis*: Heard at Poring (and seen there by Bob), and great views of two birds on two days at Danum. This species is classified by Birdlife International as 'Near Threatened'.

Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*: Good 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 several at Kinabalu.

Sunda Laughingthrush (Grey-and-brown Laughingthrush) *Garrulax palliatus*: Several noisy flocks at Kinabalu.

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

Bare-headed Laughingthrush *Garrulax calvus*: Heard at Kinabalu, but very unresponsive and only two or three of the party got a brief look; also heard at the Rafflesia Reserve but again, not coming close enough.

#### MEGALURIDAE

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

#### CISTICOLIDAE

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*: Several at Poring, Danum and the RDC.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*: Several by the lodge at Danum and we all had good views at Gomantong.

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*: Seen several times along the road at Danum.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: Heard at several sites and seen nicely at Kota Belud.

#### MAMMALS

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

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

Bornean Smooth-tailed Tree Shrew *Dendrogale melanura*: One (with the above) at Kinabalu.

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

Western Tarsier *Tarsius bancanus*: One near the ledge at Danum – fantastic.

Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating Macaque) *Macaca fascicularis*: Common at Sukau.

Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*: A troop by the gate at Danum, also seen at Gomantong,

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*: Seen well at Sukau.

Silvered Langur (Silvered Leaf Monkey) *Presbytis cristata*: Seen by Mark at Poring and then four along the river at Sukau (in two groups).

Maroon Langur (Maroon Leaf Monkey, Red Leaf Monkey) *Presbytis rubicunda*: A couple across the river at Danum and also seen at Gomantong.

Bornean Gibbon (Müller's Gibbon) *Hylobates muelleri*: Three seen from the restaurant at Danum.

Bornean Orangutan *Pongo pygmaeus*: One on the first morning at Danum (an old male known as 'Abu') and also seen by some from the restaurant.

Malay Weasel *Mustela nudipes*: One of these large orange weasels ran across the trail in front of us on the first day at Kinabalu.

Ferret-Badger *Melogale personata*: Two scuttled across the road as we headed off on an owling expedition at Kinabalu. A 'write-in'.

Malay Civet *Viverra zibetha*: One seen briefly on the second night drive at Danum.

Banded Linsang *Prionodon linsang*: One briefly by the roadside on the second night drive at Danum.

Asian Elephant (Indian Elephant) *Elephas maximus*: At least seventeen along the road at Danum on the first night drive (rather nervous, with plenty of jostling and crashing into the bushes and trumpeting), then two on the bank near our lodge at Sukau and a wonderful relaxed herd of around fourteen further down the river. There has long been controversy regarding the status of Elephants on Borneo; their limited distribution and the lack of sub-fossil remains suggesting that they may have been introduced in historical times. Recent DNA evidence shows, however, that Borneo's elephants were isolated about 300,000 years ago from their cousins on mainland Asia and Sumatra and thus presumably walked to Borneo over the land bridges of ancient Sundaland (the date of the colonisation of Borneo is still unknown). During this long period of isolation they grew smaller with relatively larger ears, longer tails and straighter tusks. Their genetic distinctiveness makes them one of the highest priority populations for conservation, and current population estimates are 1,000-2,500 animals.

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*: Seen at Danum on the first night drive, near the gate and a singleton on the trail there, also one at the RDC.

Sambar Deer (Sambhar) *Cervus unicolor*: One greeted us as we arrived at BRL, the two seen on each of the night drives.

Common Giant Squirrel (Cream-coloured Giant Squirrel) *Ratufa affinis*: One at Poring and one showed very well on the last morning at the RDC.

Kinabalu Squirrel *Callosciurus baluensis*: Two seen well at Kinabalu.

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

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*: One at Kinabalu and several at Gomantong.

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

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

Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowii* (LO): Seen twice by Simon at Danum.

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti*: Some very tame animals at Kinabalu, and also seen along the road at the Rafflesia Reserve.

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis*: One at Poring and then several at Danum.

Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi*: Several of these fantastic little critters at Kinabalu.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista*: Three on the second night drive at Danum.

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi*: Three on the second night drive at Danum.

House Rat (Roof Rat, Black Rat) *Rattus rattus* (NL): One at Danum.

## REPTILES

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

Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*: One big one at Sukau.

Kinabalu Pit Viper *Trimeresurus sumatranus malcolmi*: One outside the restaurant at Mount Kinabalu.



# BORNEO 2011

All photos by Simon Harrap



CLOCKWISE:  
Whitehead's Trogon;  
Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher;  
Gold-naped barbet.





CLOCKWISE:  
Indigo Flycatcher;  
Pygmy White-eye;  
Sunda Bush Warbler;  
Snowy-browed Flycatcher;  
Short-tailed Green Magpie  
Mountain Wren-Babbler.





CLOCKWISE:  
Black-backed Swampphen;  
Chestnut-capped Thrush;  
Kinabalu Pit Viper;  
Short-tailed Babbler;  
Black-capped Babbler.





CLOCKWISE:  
Whiskered Treeswift (female, male);  
Rufous-chested Flycatcher; Crested  
Fireback; Lantern Bug;  
Crested Fireback.







CLOCKWISE:  
Western Tarsier;  
Brown Wood Owl;  
White-crowned Hornbill;  
Scarlet-rumped Trogon;  
Storm's Stork.







CLOCKWISE:  
Brown Needletail;  
Buff-breasted Fish Owl;  
Chestnut-rumped Babbler;  
Proboscis Monkey;  
Pygmy Elephant.