

Borneo (Sabah) - A Birdwatching Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

22 August - 4 September 2009



Golden-naped Barbet, Kinabalu



Wallace's Hawk Eagle, Sukau



Storm's Stork, Sukau

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe

Images courtesy of Rainer Seifert



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Day 1

Saturday 22nd August

Outbound to Kuala Lumpur

Most of the group left Britain on a midday Malaysian Airlines flight to Kuala Lumpur. Although 30 minutes late taking off we more than made up the time and arrived after eleven-and-a-half hours at 07.10 local time (BST+7) the next day, in plenty of time to catch our connecting flight to Sabah.

Day 2

Sunday 23rd August

Outbound; Sepilok

Weather: dry, quite sunny, hot and humid

The onward flight to Sandakan via Kota Kinabalu took off on time at 09.20. At Kota Kinabalu we disembarked to carry out Sabah immigration formalities before re-boarding for the final 40 minute leg and arrived on time in Sandakan at 13.20. Once we'd collected our bags we met up with Hamit and the final group member, loaded the bus and set off on the 30 minute journey to our first base at Sepilok Jungle Resort. Those who opted to visit the nearby Orang Utan Rehabilitation Centre this afternoon had a rapid turnaround before setting off there for the 15.00 feeding.

The rest of the group set off by bus for the Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre at 15.30 after watching a Thick-billed Spiderhunter in the car park at 15.30. A couple of hours were then spent on the impressive canopy walkway where highlights included Raffle's Malkoha, Brown-backed Needletails, Black-winged Flycatcher-shrikes, White-chested Babbler and two scarce Streaked Bulbul. Later on, after dinner at the hotel, we retired for some welcome rest.

Day 3

Monday 24th August

Sepilok; en route to Sukau via Gomantong Caves

Weather: dry, overcast with sunny spells, hot and humid

We began our first full day with a return to the canopy walkway where immediate reward came in the shape of a couple of Grey-and-buff Woodpeckers and a pair of Black-and-red Broadbills. After about 30 minutes our main target here appeared when five Bornean Bristleheads flew in, perched in the nearest tree and remained for ages. Other species seen before we returned to the hotel for breakfast at 08.30 included Bat Hawk, Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, Maroon-breasted Philentoma, Black Magpies, Banded Woodpecker and Green Ioras.

After breakfast there was time for some relaxed birding around the hotel, (or a quick visit to see the rehabilitating Orang-utans), before our 11.00 departure - highlights included Scarlet-backed and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers and Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker.

After an hour in the bus we stopped for lunch at a roadside eatery before continuing for a further hour or so through vast oil palm plantations to Gomantong Caves with a stop en route to admire a perched Wallace's Hawk Eagle. Stopping about 1km before the Gomantong visitor centre we walked along the forested entrance road for 90 minutes seeing Scarlet-rumped Trogon, White-fronted Falconets, Little Green Pigeons, Violet Cuckoo, Wreathed Hornbill, perched Bat Hawks and a troop of Red Leaf Monkeys. At the visitor centre a couple Whiskered Treeswifts showed beautifully on the wires before Hamit led everyone on a tour of the famous caves before returning to the road to watch Bat Hawks picking off bats that emerged in their hundreds of thousands.

A thirty minute drive then delivered us to Sukau Village where a boat was waiting to transfer us to our next base at Sukau Rainforest Lodge a few minutes upstream. Sarongs were donned for dinner during which a Buffy Fish Owl was visible on a nearby post.

Day 4

Tuesday 25th August

Sukau

Weather: generally fine, hot and humid with a little rain early afternoon

After a pre-dawn cuppa and a piece of toast we set off just after 06.00 in two small motorised canoes to explore the Menangol Tributary, a narrow offshoot of the wide Kinabatangan River. Even before reaching the mouth of the tributary we stopped to view a sleepy Bornean Gibbon in a riverside tree and a couple of nearby Orange-backed Woodpeckers.

Once in the tributary we switched to quiet electric motors and glided slowly through the mangroves, soon seeing our first Proboscis Monkeys and birds such as Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, Diard's Trogon, several Blue-eared and Stork-billed Kingfishers and Lesser Fish Eagle before we returned to the lodge for breakfast at 08.30. On the way back one boat saw a group of Storm's Storks flying over but by the time we regrouped for breakfast they were visible for all to admire from the restaurant. For the rest of the morning people were free to do their own thing though most spent at least some time exploring the forest behind the lodge which is accessed by an excellent leech-free boardwalk; birds seen there included our first Chestnut-winged, Sooty-capped, Horsefield's and Ferruginous Babblers, a perched Crested Goshawk and our only Chestnut-rumped Babblers.

It rained for a while early afternoon but stopped in time for us to set off by boat again at the planned time of 15.00. This afternoon we concentrated on the main river upstream of the lodge and were soon rewarded with further views of Proboscis Monkeys and Wallace's Hawk Eagles (we saw four today), four Bushy-crested Hornbills were new and a surprise came in the shape of a Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike in a bare treetop. Evocative calls alerted us to the presence of Rhinoceros Hornbills and, unlike others we had heard previously, these took flight and decided to land in a tree right next to us allowing stellar views. Other highlights before we returned to the lodge at dusk included perched views of Storm's Stork, our first Silvered Langurs, both Pig-tailed and Long-tailed Macaques and a good flight view of a pair of Wrinkled Hornbills.

After dinner we set off on an hour-long night cruise and were rewarded with spotlight views of Stork-billed, Blue-eared and Collared Kingfishers, a Common Palm Civet and five Buffy Fish Owls.

Day 5

Wednesday 26th August

Sukau; en route to Lahad Datu via Gomantong Caves

Weather: mostly fine and warm, a light shower early afternoon, humid

At 06.00 we returned to the Menangol Tributary, today motoring to the far end before switching to the electric motors and cruising back towards the main channel. Our only Black-headed Bulbuls were seen along with repeat encounters with several previously seen species including excellent perched views of Wrinkled Hornbills and a fly past by eight Storm's Storks plus, for some, a displaying Crested Goshawk.

After breakfast those who wanted to returned to the boardwalk where highlights included great views of two tricky babblers in the shape of Black-capped and Black-throated plus our first Purple-naped Sunbirds.

After lunch it was time to move on so we returned by boat to Sukau Village where a bus was waiting to take us to Lahad Datu via a return visit to the Gomantong Caves area. En route to Gomantong a group of Wandering Whistling Ducks were seen well on a roadside pool. On arrival at the visitors centre we began an extended walk back along the entrance road which produced Yellow-rumped Flowerpeckers, decent views of Buff-rumped Woodpecker for the first time plus Green Ioras, Bronzed Drongo, a soaring Rufous-bellied Eagle, excellent views of Black-and-yellow Broadbills and our only Puff-backed Bulbul.

We commenced the final two hour leg of our journey to Lahad Datu at 16.30 and checked in quickly on arrival at the Executive Hotel before sitting down for dinner and musical entertainment!

Day 6

Thursday 27th August

Tabin

Weather: fine, warm, humid

A leisurely breakfast preceded our 08.30 departure to Tabin Wildlife Reserve where we arrived at 10.00, dropped our bags in our rooms and began birding in the scenic lodge surroundings before 10.30. In the two hours before lunch we notched up several new species within a few metres of the restaurant with particular highlights being Red-billed Malkohas, Plain Sunbirds, Everett's White-eyes, Lesser Cuckooshrike, Asian Fairy Bluebird and a couple of Bornean Gibbons, the latter a regular feature near the lodge in the coming days.

After lunch those who resisted the temptation for a siesta were rewarded with a Greater Green Leafbird and an Asian Black Eagle. At 15.00 we climbed aboard the lodge truck which delivered us to a point several kilometres along the Tomangong Road and walked slowly most of the way back to the lodge. It was a particularly productive afternoon; we were soon puzzling over a couple of barbets, fleetingly attending a nest hole, but finally confirmed them as Red-throated. Just around the next corner came the very welcome sight of three Orang-utans (a mother with baby and her nearly independent older offspring) that performed to perfection for as long as we wanted. Eventually we dragged ourselves away and began to wonder over the identity of a dull brown bird perched in a very distant bare tree top; approaching closer and using the scope on full zoom it finally became apparent that we were watching a Malaysian Honeyguide, a new bird for both of the experienced local guides! The rest of the afternoon was marked by an excellent selection of woodpeckers including Rufous Piculet, Grey-and-buff and Buff-rumped Woodpeckers and our first Rufous, Buff-necked and Crimson-winged Woodpeckers. As dusk approached our vehicle returned to transport us back to the lodge where a large buffet and a well stocked bar awaited us.

Day 7

Friday 28th August

Tabin

Weather: fine, dry and humid until evening when several hours of heavy rain

We began the day with hot drinks and toast at 05.45 before we were transported back along the Tomangong Road where the group divided, half concentrating on the road with Jason while the rest took a stroll along the narrow 700m long Mud Volcano Trail that terminates at a clearing surrounding the mud volcano. Both groups saw some excellent birds again with those on the road finding White-crowned Hornbills, Olive-backed Woodpecker, Banded Broadbill and many others while the trail group saw Crested Firebacks, a brief Blue-headed Pitta, various Babblers and a Rufous-tailed Shama along the trail while the mud volcano area itself produced Pink-necked, Little, Thick-billed and the rare Large Green Pigeon plus a pair of Helmeted Hornbills and a White-fronted Falconet.

Our vehicle returned to take us to breakfast at 08.45 after which the period either side of lunch was free to explore the productive lodge area where three Wreathed Hornbills performed well, Lesser Fish Eagle and White-bellied Sea Eagles flew over and other birds included a couple of Maroon-breasted Philentomas, our first Dark-throated Orioles, Fiery and Scarlet Minivets and many others.

At 15.00 we returned to the Tomangang Road, those who visited the mud volcano in the morning now concentrating along the road and vice versa; the species seen by both groups were essentially similar to those seen in the morning, for example White-crowned Hornbills were seen along the road again and Helmeted Hornbills and Large Green Pigeons at the mud volcano. The journey back to the lodge was rather soggy in heavy rain and this persisted through much of the evening resulting in the cancellation of a planned night drive. Remarkably this was the first serious rain we had encountered on the tour.

Day 8

Saturday 29th August

Tabin

Weather: fine, dry, rather hot and humid

For our pre-breakfast birding we returned once more to the Tomangong Road and Mud Volcano Trail, those who had explored the latter yesterday evening returned there this morning and vice versa, meaning everyone had a chance to explore the trail morning and evening. Highlights along the road included a Black-headed Bulbul, our first Bold-striped Tit-babbler (after several heard only birds), and a pair of Pale Blue Flycatchers. Along the trail the undoubted highlight was one or two Black-headed Pittas while at the mud volcano one member of the group had a lucky brief encounter with a young Bornean Pygmy Elephant. Back at the lodge the period either side of lunch was again spent near our accommodation with a pair of Blue-banded Kingfishers along the river the star turn.

For our evening birding we returned to the now familiar haunts with those on the Mud Volcano Trail having most success with views of Black-headed and Blue-headed Pittas and a Red-naped Trogon though those on the road did see another Crimson-winged Woodpecker and several other choice species.

After dinner most opted to join an hour long night drive that produced a Brown Wood Owl, a sleeping Rhinoceros Hornbill and, perhaps best of all, up to four Leopard Cats.

Day 9

Sunday 30th August

Part 1: Tabin WR; en route to Kota Kinabalu via Lahad Datu; en route to UK via Kuala Lumpur or Mt. Kinabalu extension

Weather: fine and warm at Tabin, fine and cooler at Mt. Kinabalu

With our flight back to Kota Kinabalu from Lahad Datu not until early afternoon, we had time for several hours birding before departure from Tabin at 10.45. Before breakfast a stroll along the road near the lodge produced a fly-over Great Slaty Woodpecker, several White-bellied Munias and Bold-striped Tit-babblers, a perched Storm's Stork, a handful of Yellow-bellied Prinias and three incredibly obliging White-crowned Hornbills. The regular group of Bornean Gibbons near our rooms put on a good show and while watching them a Giant Squirrel appeared in the same tree.

After breakfast there was time for packing and the settling of bills but just as we were about to leave a group of four Greater Green Leafbirds put on a great show at the restaurant.

After a 90 minute journey back to Lahad Datu we settled down to eat our packed lunches and awaited our flight back to Kota Kinabalu which left on time and delivered us there 50 minutes later at 15.35. Four group members left us in Kota Kinabalu to return to the UK while everyone else, plus two new recruits, collected our bags and met Osman, our guide for the four night Mt. Kinabalu extension.

Day 9

Sunday 30th August continued

Part 2 Mt Kinabalu extension

After loading up the bus we set off on the two-and-a-half hour journey to our accommodation at the Kinabalu Rose Cabins, just outside Kinabalu National Park. A short photo stop was made as we neared our destination as the mountain top was free of cloud, something we couldn't guarantee again given the vagaries of mountain weather. After settling into our rooms we enjoyed a banquet dinner in anticipation of the next day's birding adventure.

Day 10

Monday 31st August

Mt. Kinabalu tour extension (Day 1 Kinabalu Park)

Weather: refreshingly cool after the lowlands, fine and dry until late afternoon when some heavy rain showers

We began our day at 05.45 with a 10 minute drive to the Liwagu Restaurant area in Kinabalu Park where we spent a little over two hours enjoying the early rush of bird activity which included first looks at several endemic specialities of the area such as Black-sided Flowerpecker, Golden-naped Barbets, Chestnut-crested Yuhinas and Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes plus Temminck's Sunbird, Short-tailed Green Magpie (always a favourite), Black-and-crimson Orioles (the only ones we saw), , Black-capped White-eyes, Ashy and Hair-crested Drongos, Mountain Leaf Warblers, Yellow-breasted Warblers Grey-chinned Minivets, Mountain Tailorbirds and Indigo Flycatchers. With this excellent haul under our belts we returned to the hotel for a leisurely breakfast before returning to the park.

Once there we divided into two groups to explore some of the trails. Osman's group went along the trails to the east of the Liwagu Restaurant and saw the lion's share of the goodies this morning with Bare-headed Laughingthrushes and a couple of fleeting White-crowned Forktails the pick of the bunch. Those who explored the Kiau View Trail found one mixed feeding flock containing Chestnut-hooded and Sunda Laughingthrushes, Hair-crested Drongo, Bornean Treepies and a Checker-throated Woodpecker.

We regrouped for lunch at the Balsam Cafe near the park entrance before returning to the Liwagu Restaurant to commence our afternoon activities. Plans to repeat the routes taken in the morning with the groups reversed were scuppered by low cloud and, later-on, some heavy rain but those who ventured along the Silau Silau Trail were rewarded with a White-browed Shortwing at close range before fleeing back to the Liwagu Restaurant to keep dry and for a coffee. As the weather showed no hints of improvement we returned to the Rose Cabins at 17.00.

Day 11

Tuesday 1st September

Mt. Kinabalu tour extension (Day 2)

Weather: rain overnight then overcast but mostly dry until late afternoon when showery

We were up early again having arranged in advance for transport to the Timpohon Gate at the highest drivable point on the mountain. On arrival there we were relieved to find that what remained of the inclement weather was mainly below us and we racked up a few new birds in the shape of White-browed Shrike-babbler, Mountain Black-eye and Bornean Whistling Thrush as well as having improved views of several species such as Short-tailed Green Magpie, Golden-naped Barbet and Bornean Treepie. After an hour or so at the gate we began to walk slowly down the road and were rewarded with a couple of obliging Sunda Bush-warblers before returning to the hotel for breakfast at 08.45.

On our return to the park rather murky conditions on the ridges meant we concentrated our efforts at lower elevations along the Silau Silau Trail and adjacent road. Along the trail the obvious highlights were a group of Mountain Wren Babblers and a pair of White-crowned Forktails while the road produced a few Snowy-browed Flycatchers and others until we struck gold with an obliging pair of Whitehead's Trogons just before lunch.

Later in the afternoon we did finally return to the trails, one group explored the Bukit Ular Trail with Osman, finding both Crimson-headed and Red-breasted Partridges while the rest walked the Silau Silau Trail, where Mountain Wren-babblers showed to those who had missed them earlier, then the Kiau View Trail where we enjoyed close but brief views of a pair of Bornean Stubtails.

Day 12

Wednesday 2nd September

Mt. Kinabalu tour extension (Day 3)

Weather: Murky at dawn with steady rain from 07.30 until 09.00 and from 14.40 until dusk, otherwise mostly fine with intermittent mist

We returned once more to the Timpohon Gate and although we had good repeat views of several good species nothing new was seen. Those who had not yet ventured along the Bukit Ular Trail visited there and succeeded in finding a Red-breasted Partridge and White-browed Shortwing, while the rest walked down the road. Rain set in at 07.30 so we retreated to the bus and headed back to the hotel for breakfast.

On our return to the park we concentrated on mist free lower elevations and walked from the main gate along the road as far as the top end of the Silau Silau Trail seeing our only Temminck's Babbler and getting our first perched views of several Little Cuckoo-doves. A walk along the Silau Silau Trail allowed several members of the group a chance to get their first good views of White-crowned Forktails before we went for lunch.

Plans to have an extended walk along the Power Station Road in the afternoon were thwarted by persistent rain so we retreated to the Liwagu Restaurant to see if it would clear and when it became apparent that it wouldn't we returned to the hotel at 16.30 which gave an opportunity to do some packing before dinner.

Day 13

Thursday 3rd September

Mt. Kinabalu tour extension (Day 4: Kinabalu Park; Kota Belud; inbound to Europe via Kuala Lumpur)

Weather: fine and sunny, warm; hot and sunny at Kota Belud

A dawn start saw us return to the Liwagu Restaurant area. Some ventured along the Silau Silau Trail and the road beyond there while the rest concentrated on the restaurant area. Few new birds were seen but a pair of Sunda Cuckooshrikes were added to our list and we had much improved views of Mountain Imperial Pigeons after previous flight only views plus final looks at various gems like Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes, Indigo Flycatcher and Chestnut-crested Yuhinas. A surprise find came in the shape of a juvenile Drongo Cuckoo near the restaurant and rather above its usual altitudinal range.

Back at the hotel there was ample time to finish packing after breakfast and before our 11.00 check-out. As the flight to Kuala Lumpur was quite late in the evening the decision was made to squeeze in a couple of hours birding at the wetlands and rice paddies at Kota Belud and we arrived there an hour later. Before finally departing for the airport at 15.00 an excellent selection of wetland species seen included a rare Buff-banded Rail, Over 20 Javan Pond Herons amongst the numerous Egrets present, a Lesser Fish Eagle and waders including many Long-toed Stints and Wood Sandpipers, a few Red-necked Stints, plenty of Oriental Pratincoles and a couple of Greater Painted Snipes plus Striated Grassbirds and a Lesser Coucal.

Once at the airport, check-in was quick and easy and the long journey back to Europe was underway.

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Species Lists

Birds

Nomenclature, taxonomy and species order follows the world list of the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) v2.2 (August 2009), available online at <http://www.worldbirdnames.org/>

Accepted subspecies are based on those listed in the Handbook of the Birds of the World (Lynx Edicions) when available or, when not, Clements' Checklist of the Birds of the World (Cornell). During the tour an excellent new field guide to the birds of Borneo by Susan Myers was published that seems likely to become a standard reference, alternative nomenclature and taxonomic treatments followed by Myers are mentioned as appropriate.

The following codes are used:

E = a Bornean endemic species

e = a Bornean endemic subspecies

(l/o) = seen only by the tour leader or guides

(n/l) = not seen by the tour leader or guides

(I) = an introduced / non-native species

= only recorded on the Mt. Kinabalu extension (68 species)

Species that were heard only, not positively identified to species, only seen by tour leader or guides and introduced species are placed in square brackets

Details refer to the main tour only unless otherwise indicated

Conservation status according to IUCN/ Birdlife International is indicated when applicable: NT=near threatened; VU=vulnerable; EN=endangered

PHASIANIDAE

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra erythrochrys* E

Singles were seen on successive days along the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu Park; others were heard near the Timpohon Gate there

[Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni*] NT e

Heard but not seen at Sukau and Tabin

Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* E

One showed well along the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu Park and others were heard at the Silau Silau Trail

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis* NT e

A group of four were seen briefly on the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin.

[Great Argus *Argusianus argus grayi*] NT e

Heard several times but not seen at Tabin

ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna a. arcuata*

A flock of 14 were on a roadside pond between Sukau and Gomantong Caves

CICONIIDAE

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi* EN

Five and seven respectively were seen on successive mornings over the Menangol Tributary and lodge at Sukau and a perched bird was seen upstream of there; singles were seen twice at Tabin

ARDEIDAE

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

One was seen twice in flight at Kota Belud

Striated Heron *Butorides striata javanica*

One was seen twice in the grounds of our lodge at Sepilok; given the early date the bird was presumably of the resident race rather than a migrant *amurensis* from mainland Asia

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola s. speciosa*

Up to 25 gathered with the many egrets at Kota Belud, all but one were in full breeding plumage making identification thankfully straightforward!

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Several were at KK airport and a flock of 30 flew over at Sukau; hundreds were in paddies at Kota Belud. Formerly regarded as a subspecies of Cattle Egret *B. ibis* but differs from western birds in breeding plumage and structure

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Two were at Sukau one evening; a couple more were at Kota Belud

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

A handful were at Sukau, a couple at Tabin and up to 100 at Kota Belud. Formerly regarded as a subspecies of Great Egret *A. alba* and retained in that species by Myers (2009)

Intermediate Egret *Egretta i. intermedia*

One was noted at Kota Kinabalu Airport and several were at Kota Belud

Little Egret *Egretta g. garzetta*

Up to 20 were along the river at Sukau with a few more seen from the moving bus; hundreds were at Kota Belud. All those examined in detail showed the yellow feet of northern *garzetta* rather than the black feet of Australasian *nigripes*

ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* NT

One was on a roadside pool near Gomantong and about 15 were noted at Sukau

ACCIPITRIDAE

Bat Hawk *Machaerambus a. alcinus*

One at Sepilok was unexpected; the Gomantong Caves area produced excellent views of two perched birds and up to four hunted the emerging bats there

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus intermedius*

Up to three were recorded on six dates; also noted at Kota Belud

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Singles were at Sukau (a perched immature) and Tabin (a soaring adult)

Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga b. humilis* NT

After one at Sukau was seen by only half the group another at Tabin gave several good views on three dates; another was at Kota Belud

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus* e

One or two were seen on five dates

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus microstictus* e

Two at Sukau included an obliging perched bird and two more were at Tabin on our final morning

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus m. malayensis*

One was seen over the lodge at Tabin (n/l)

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus*

An adult was soaring over the entrance road to Gomantong Caves during our second visit there; a probable immature of this species was over the mud volcano at Tabin one afternoon

Crested Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus limnaeetus*

Singles were at Sukau and Gomantong Caves on the same date; formerly known as Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* and as *N. limnaeetus* if birds from the Indian Peninsular are split from those elsewhere (and themselves called Crested Hawk Eagle), the name Changeable Hawk Eagle *N. cirrhatus* is used by Myers (2009)

Wallace's Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus n. nanus* VU

A total of seven were recorded at Sukau, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR over four dates

FALCONIDAE

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* NT E

Between four and six were along the Gomantong Caves entrance road and another was seen three times at the Tabin mud volcano

RALLIDAE

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus p. philippensis*

One gave good scope views at Kota Belud. The first record for Sabah occurred at Kota Belud as recently as late-October 2007 but this species now seems to have established itself in the area having colonised Sabah from the Philippines

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis p. phoenicurus*

A handful were at Sepilok, along the road near Gomantong and at Tabin; a few more were at Kota Belud

Purple Swamphen *Porphyrio porphyrio indicus*

One or two were at Kota Belud. Myers (2009) accepts the split of birds of the very dark race *indicus* (and other tropical Asian taxa, mostly from west of Wallace's line) as Black-backed Swamphen *P. indicus* (range: southern Thailand to Sulawesi).

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus orientalis*

Two were at Kota Belud

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

About 20 were at Kota Belud. White-headed Stilt *H. leucocephalus* (formerly a subspecies of Black-winged) also occurs in Borneo but none of the birds we saw resembled the more distinctive individuals of that species, though it is possible that some less obvious birds were present

CHARADRIIDAE

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

At least 20 were at Kota Belud but most were rather distant

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius d. dubius / curonicus*

Up to eight were at Kota Belud. Myers (2009) lists only subspecies *dubius* (breeds from the Philippines southwards to New Guinea) as occurring but most birds, at least, will actually be of the migratory northern race *curonicus*

ROSTRATULIDAE

Greater Painted Snipe *Rostratula benghalensis*

Two, probably a pair, were at Kota Belud. Myers (2009) refers to Bornean birds as belonging to the subspecies *benghalensis* which suggests that she does not accept the split of Australian birds as Australasian Painted Snipe *R. australis* which is accepted by IOC making *benghalensis* a monotypic species

SCOLOPACIDAE

[Snipe species *Gallinago* sp.]

An unidentified/ unidentifiable Snipe was seen briefly at Kota Belud. In Sabah, Pintail Snipe *G. stenura* and Swinhoe's Snipe *G. megala* are both relatively common compared to Common Snipe *G. gallinago* but all occur in good numbers.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

One flew over at Sukau; up to 400 were at Kota Belud

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Ones and twos were seen at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin; a nocturnal migrant was heard over our hotel near Kinabalu Park and a couple more were at Kota Belud

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*

Two were at Kota Belud

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*

About 100 were at Kota Belud

GLAREOLIDAE

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*

At least 50 were at Kota Belud

LARIDAE

Whiskered Tern *Chilodrias hybridus javanicus* / *fluviatilis*

One was at Kota Kinabalu airport as we arrived from Kuala Lumpur; about 50 were at Kota Belud. The presence of birds in fresh breeding plumage as well as juveniles and worn adults suggests that migrants from the south (*fluviatilis*) and north (*javanicus*) were both present, the latter recently arrived and the former soon to leave for Australasian breeding areas. Myers (2009) lists only subspecies *javanicus* but there are specimen records of *fluviatilis* to support the notion of austral migrants occurring

COLUMBIDAE

['Feral' Rock Pigeon *Columba livia* 'domesticus'] (1)

Flying rats were unfortunately seen at Kota Belud and Kota Kinabalu airport

Spotted Dove *Stigmatopelia chinensis tigrina*

Small numbers were seen as we travelled between sites (this being one of the few species that thrives in oil palm plantations); about 50 were at Kota Belud. Formerly in the genus *Streptopelia* and retained in there by Myers (2009)

Little Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia ruficeps nana* e

Based on the detailed identification criteria presented in Myers (2009) it is evident that at least the large majority of the Cuckoo-doves seen at Mt. Kinabalu, and especially those seen perched that exhibited pale irides, were this species rather than Ruddy Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia emiliana*; it is uncertain whether we saw any of the latter

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps i. indica*

Four were seen briefly at Tabin; another was at Kinabalu Park

[Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*] (I)

Only seen at Kota Belud where about six were recorded. Although generally considered to be a non-native species there is the possibility that this is a recent natural colonist. Formerly also known as Peaceful Dove but that name is now reserved for the split *G. placida* of New Guinea and Australia

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

Two were at the mud volcano at Tabin one morning

Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax*

About 30 were noted after the first along the Gomantong Caves approach road; seen on six dates with especially good views at the Tabin mud volcano

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

A couple were noted at Sepilok and Sukau and four were at the Tabin mud volcano one morning

Large Green Pigeon *Treron capellei* VU

Only seen at the mud volcano at Tabin, a traditional site for this scarce and localised species, a total of 10 were seen during two of our four visits there

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula a. aenea*

Widespread and quite common with about 50 seen in total. Myers (2009) refers Bornean birds to subspecies *polia* but that race is usually regarded as confined to the Lesser Sundas and often considered synonymous with nominate *aenea* anyway

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula b. badia*

A total of five at Kinabalu Park included a couple of perched birds; an active nest was located on our final morning

PSITTACIDAE

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*

Frequently heard and seen in flight at all sites, a couple of perched birds were viewed at Sepilok; recorded on eight dates. Myers (2009) specifies subspecies *galgulus* but this species is usually considered monotypic

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula l. longicauda* NT

About 30 were seen in flight at Sepilok with a few more at Sukau

CUCULIDAE

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis bubutus*

Singles were seen at Sepilok and Tabin

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis javanensis*

One was seen between Sandakan and Sepilok; another was at Kota Belud

Raffles's Malkoha *Rhinortha c. chlorophaeus*

The most frequently seen Malkoha with about 20 recorded after the first at Sepilok; seen on seven dates. Myers (2009) treats this species as monotypic

Red-billed Malkoha *Zanclostomus javanicus*

Two showed well at the lodge at Tabin on the morning of our arrival, another was seen next day. Myers (2009) specifies subspecies *pallidus* but most regard this species as monotypic

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus* e

Ones and twos were seen at Sepilok, Sukau, Gomantong Caves and Tabin; about 12 were recorded in total

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx x. xanthorhynchus*

Three singles were seen calling in flight at Sepilok, Sukau and along the Gomantong entrance road

[Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus threnodes*]

One was heard but not seen along the Gomantong Caves entrance road

Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris brachyurus*

A juvenile Drongo-cuckoo at Kinabalu Park on our final morning there was a surprise find at an altitude of c1400m. (Asian) Drongo Cuckoo *S. lugubris* is now split into two species by IOC: Square-tailed *S. lugubris* and Fork-tailed Drongo Cuckoos *S. dicruroides*. The latter is only a rare migrant in Borneo and has never been certainly recorded on the mainland. The strong likelihood therefore is that our bird was a dispersing juvenile from the resident population of *lugubris* (where it is not uncommon in the lowlands but very difficult to detect when not calling); it certainly lacked any evidence of an obvious tail fork though that may be of little relevance when dealing with young birds. Myers (2009) appears not to follow the split, simply listing Bornean birds as Drongo Cuckoo *S. lugubris* and specifying subspecies *brachyurus*. The illustration used in her book, and labelled *brachyurus*, is a copy of that in Craig Robson's Field Guide to the Birds of South-east Asia where it is listed (apparently in error as clearly lacking a forked tail) as subspecies *dicruroides*

STRIGIDAE

Buffy Fish-owl *Ketupa k. ketupu*

An obliging individual perched next to the restaurant at Sukau and another five or six were seen during our night cruise there

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* ssp. e

One was seen twice during the night drive at Tabin. Birds in north Borneo are usually considered to belong to the subspecies *vaga* which is sometimes included in a putative separate species, Bartel's Wood Owl *S. bartelsi* (core range Java and Bali but perhaps in uplands elsewhere). However, birds in the lowlands of north Borneo tend to look and, perhaps most importantly, sound more like nominate *leptogrammica* (which occurs throughout south and central Borneo) rather than *vaga* though birds in the uplands might well be referable to the latter. A revision of the subspecies limits in Bornean birds is probably in order but there is no reason at present to think that the birds at Tabin (a lowland site) are anything other than Brown Wood Owls

CAPRIMULGIDAE

[Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus salvadorii*] e

One flew over the car park of our hotel at Sepilok just before dawn (1/o)

HEMIPROCNIDAE

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*

Small numbers were seen in the Sepilok area with a few more at Tabin

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne c. comata*

A couple gave great views at the Gomantong Caves car park and several more were seen at Tabin

APODIDAE

[Giant Swiftlet *Hydrochous gigas*] NT

One was seen briefly over the mud volcano at Tabin. Myers (2009) calls this Waterfall Swift (1/o)

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila*

Common throughout; Swiftlets nesting around our hotel near Kinabalu Park appeared closer to the next species

Cave Swiftlet *Collocalia linchi dodgei* e

Current thinking is that the Collocalia Swiftlets found inside Kinabalu Park are this species (and they do look subtly different from Glossy Swiftlets found just outside the park and elsewhere, being less glossy and with a greyish-green sheen on the mantle and wing coverts). This species and Glossy Swiftlet were once considered races of the same species but some recent authors (including Myers (2009)) favour a further split which would make the Swiftlets in the Bornean mountains a new endemic species called Bornean Swiftlet *C. dodgei*, though given its scientific name, and the confused taxonomy of Swiftlets generally, perhaps Dodgy Swiftlet would be a better moniker. The IOC list fails to mention Borneo as being within the range of Cave Swiftlet, presumably in error.

[Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus salangana natunae*]

Presumably seen, as known to be common, but not positively identified

[Black-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus maximus lowi*]

Aerodramus Swiftlets in limestone areas such as Gomantong Caves are thought to be predominantly this species but none were positively identified

[Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus vestitus*]

Presumably seen but not positively identified. Listed as *A. fuciphaga vestita* by Myers (2009)

Silver-rumped Spinetail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

Small numbers were seen around Sepilok and Gomantong Caves with a few more at Tabin; recorded on five dates

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus g. giganteus*

After six or so at Sepilok a few singles were seen at Sukau and Tabin; a distant group of about 40 Needletails visible from the Timpohon Gate at Kinabalu Park one morning were at least mostly this species

Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus*

Only seen at Sepilok RDC where about five were around the car park and probably nesting in the palms there

[House Swift *Apus nipalensis subfurcatus*]

A couple flew over Kota Kinabalu airport's car park while the group were checking-in after the extension. Often considered a subspecies of Little Swift *A. affinis* and retained in that species by Myers (2009), though she uses the name House Swift for *affinis* (l/o)

TROGONIDAE

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba impavidus* NT e

A male was seen along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin on our final evening there

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes d. diardii* NT e

A calling male gave several brief views along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

Whiteheads Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi* NT

A pair gave great views along the Power Station Road opposite the Silau Silau Trail at Kinabalu Park on one date

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvanelii* NT

A total of five were seen on four dates after the first at Gomantong Caves

CORACIIDAE

Dollarbird *Eurystomus o. orientalis*

Sepilok and Sukau produced about 10 birds over three dates; subspecies *calonyx* from NE Asia also occurs as a frequent winter visitor but seems unlikely to have been present at the time of our tour

ALCEDINIDAE

[Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus borneanus*] NT e

Heard but not seen at Sepilok and along the Gomantong Caves approach road

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella melanops* e

A female showed very well one lunchtime at Tabin

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis cyanopteryx*

One at Sepilok was followed by five at Sukau and a couple more at Tabin

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris laubmannianus*

A few were seen on roadside wires as we travelled between sites and one was spotlighted during our night cruise at Sukau

Blue-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo euryzona peninsulae* VU

A pair showed well on the river below our rooms at Tabin on one date

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii*

A couple at Sepilok were followed by about 10 at Sukau

MEROPIDAE

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops v. viridis*

Recorded on eight dates with a maximum of 10 per day at Sukau

BUCEROTIDAE

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*

Five together at Sukau were followed by two more at Tabin

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*

Overall the most widespread hornbill with small numbers everywhere we went, recorded on eight dates

Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus* NT

Small numbers were recorded almost daily with most (up to 10 per day) at Sepilok

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis* NT e

The first seen (after several were heard previously) were at Sukau, three more were seen, and others heard, at Tabin

Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil* NT

A pair was seen on two occasions at the mud volcano at Tabin and heard nearby

White-crowned Hornbill *Berenicornis comatus* NT

A total of five at Tabin included superb views of a family group on our final morning there

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus* NT

Four were seen at Sukau and a couple more at Tabin

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus*

Flying birds were seen twice at Gomantong Caves and three perched birds posed for the scope at Tabin

MEGALAIMIDAE

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima m. mystacophanos* NT

A pair were seen twice at Tabin, several more were heard there and at Sepilok

Golden-naped Barbet *Megalaima pulcherrima* E

Up to six per day were seen at Kinabalu Park, mainly in fruiting trees at the Timpohon Gate, many more were heard

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis duvaucelii*

Ones and twos were occasionally seen at all sites visited, many more were heard

Brown Barbet *Caloramphus fuliginosus tertius* e

A total of nine were noted at Sepilok and Sukau; Myers (2009) misspells the scientific name *Calorhamphus*

INDICATORIDAE

Malaysian Honeyguide *Indicator archipelagicus* NT

One gave prolonged, if rather distant, views in a bare treetop at Tabin

PICIDAE

Rufous Piculet *Sasia a. abnormis*

Singles were seen twice at Gomantong Caves and a couple more were noted at Tabin

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos m. moluccensis*

One was in the hotel grounds at Sepilok. Formerly known as Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker, that name is now applied to the split *D. nanus* from the Indian Subcontinent

Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus badius* e

A total of seven were seen over two dates at Tabin. Myers (2009), and some others, place this species in the monospecific genus *Micropterus*, all other members of the genus *Celeus* are Neotropical in distribution

[White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus j. javensis*]

A calling bird along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau was seen poorly flying away (1/o)

Banded Woodpecker *Picus mineaceus malaccensis*

One showed well at Sepilok

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus observandus*

Singles were seen twice at Tabin

Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis humii*

Two were seen on one date at Kinabalu Park

Olive-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium rafflesii dulitense* NT e

One was seen at Tabin along the Tomangong Road

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*

One was seen briefly at Sukau; two similarly fleeting birds were seen at Kinabalu Park

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus xanthopygus*

Three were seen at Sukau on one date and another at Tabin

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax*

A total of 10 were seen over six dates at Gomantong Caves, Sukau and Tabin

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes t. tukki* NT

Four or five were seen at Tabin over two dates

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus sordidus*

Two were at Sepilok RDC, one at Gomantong Caves and three at Tabin

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus p. pulverulentus*

One flew over the lodge grounds at Tabin on our final morning there

EURYLAIMIDAE

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus m. macrorhynchus*

Two were at Sepilok RDC, two at Sukau and two more at Tabin

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei* e

Singles were seen twice at Tabin, also heard at Sepilok

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus* NT

About 20 were seen in total with birds recorded at all sites on seven dates, many more were heard

PITTIDAE

[Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana schwaneri*] e

Heard but not seen at Tabin. Bornean birds are a potential split

Black-crowned Pitta *Pitta ussleri* E

Two or three gave some reasonable views at Tabin where several more were heard, also heard at Gomantong Caves. Also known as Aka Black-headed or Black-and-crimson Pitta (the latter used by Myers (2009) and sometimes treated as a subspecies of the widespread Garnet Pitta *P. granatina*

Blue-headed Pitta *Pitta baudii* VU E

Singles were seen twice along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin, both were rather fleeting; a few more were heard there

[Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida mulleri*]

Heard once but not seen at Sukau

TEPHRODORNITHIDAE

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus intermedius*

One was noted at Tabin (n/l)

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

About 15 were recorded over eight dates

Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velata caesia* NT

One at Sepilok was followed by up to eight at Tabin over three dates. Formerly *P. velatum caesium* and listed with those gender endings by Myers (2009)

PITYRIASIDAE

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* NT E

Five or six gave excellent views at during our morning at Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre's canopy walkway; always near the top of the most wanted list!

ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus l. leucorhynchus*

Small numbers were seen at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin on three dates; several were also at Kota Belud

AEGITHINIDAE

Green Iora *Aegithinia v. viridissima* NT

Up to four were at each of Sepilok RDC, Gomantong Caves and Tabin

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Sunda Cuckooshrike *Coracina larvata normani* e

A pair were seen near the Liwagu Restaurant during our final morning at Kinabalu Park

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata sumatrensis*

A female was seen at Sukau during our evening cruise there

Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata schierbrandii*

One females was seen at Tabin

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus i. igneus* NT

Six were at Sepilok and up to 10 at Tabin over three dates

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula* e

Two groups, of four and three, were seen at Kinabalu Park

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus insulanus* e

About 15 were seen at Tabin over two dates; a few unidentified Minivets at various sites were either this species or Fiery

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala b. hypoxantha* E

Fairly common at Kinabalu Park where about 10 per day were noted

VIREONIDAE

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis robinsoni* e

A total of eight were seen at Kinabalu Park

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca brunnescens* e

Four were seen at the lodge at Tabin one lunchtime. Formerly known as White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca* but genetic studies show it to be quite unrelated to other Yuhinas

ORIOLIDAE

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus* NT e

About six were seen at Tabin after an earlier bird was heard only at Gomantong Caves

Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus vulneratus* e

Three were seen during our first morning at Kinabalu Park

DICRURIDAE

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops* e

Up to 10 per day were seen at Kinabalu Park

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*

Singles were at Gomantong Caves and Tabin

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis* e

Two or three were seen at Kinabalu Park. Also known as Spangled Drongo though that name is now usually reserved for birds from east of the Wallace line which many (including IOC) regard as a separate species, *D. bracteatus*

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus* e

Six were at Sepilok and a few more at Tabin

RHIPDURIDAE

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu* e

Fairly common at Kinabalu Park where up to 10 per day were recorded

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica longicauda*

Recorded daily in small numbers

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*

Singles were seen twice around the lodge at Tabin

MONARCHIDAE

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea prophata*

About 12 were recorded after the first at Gomantong Caves

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi borneensis* e

Two were at Sukau and one at Tabin

CORVIDAE

Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus* NT e

Two or three were at Sepilok during our second visit there. Split by Myers (2009) as the endemic Bornean Black Magpie *P. aterrimus*

Short-tailed Magpie *Cissa thalassina jeffreyi* e

A good haul at Kinabalu Park resulted in daily sightings and up to 25 birds in total; away from Borneo this spectacular species occurs only on Java

Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens* E

Up to 10 per day were noted in Kinabalu Park

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca compilator*

Small numbers were seen on six dates, mostly in flight

STENOSTRIDAE

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha*

One was seen at Kinabalu Park (n/1)

PYCNONOTIDAE

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus a. atriceps*

Two were seen on the Menangol Tributary at Sukau and another at Tabin

Puff-backed bulbul *Pycnonotus entilotus* NT

One was seen briefly along the entrance road to Gomantong Caves

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini* e

Fairly common in disturbed habitat at Sepilok with a few elsewhere including Kota Belud

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus butzi* e

Small numbers were identified on five dates; some of the unidentified Bulbuls encountered will probably have been this common species too

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus s. simplex*

Ones and twos were seen on three occasions at Sepilok and Tabin

Asian Red-eyed bulbul *Pycnonotus b. brunneus*

Small numbers were seen most days, several more unidentified dark bulbuls were seen, some of which were presumably this species. Simply called Red-eyed Bulbul by Myers (2009) but there is an African species with the same name

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythroptalmos*

Common and widespread, the most frequently seen and heard Bulbul species, recorded daily

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus ruficrissus* e

A handful were seen daily at Kinabalu Park

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres gutturalis* e

Three were at Sukau, one at Gomantong and three or four at Tabin

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens* e

About six were seen in the Sukau area with a couple more at Tabin

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger viridis* e

About six were seen at Sukau and a couple more were at Tabin

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea charlottae* NT

One or two were seen during our first visit to Sepilok and another was at Gomantong Caves

Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis* NT

Two showed briefly but well during our first visit to Sepilok, another was at Tabin

HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

Quite common over oil palm plantations with a few more elsewhere; recorded on six dates. The literature indicates that only subspecies *gutturalis* occurs (presumably due to museum specimens being attributable to this race) but it seems highly likely that some birds belong to other races, e.g. *tytleri* or *saturata*

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tabitica javanica*

Quite common and widespread, seen almost daily. Renamed House Swallow in Myers (2009) without explanation. Birds of the *javanica* group from the northern and western parts of the range (including Borneo) are sometimes split from the nominate group from the southwest Pacific with the latter being called House Swallow (amongst other things) but Myers retention of the specific name *tabitica* and reference to the 'SW Pacific' in the range indicates that her name change is not related to a taxonomic change

CETTIDAE

Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi* E

Two showed briefly but quite well along the Kiau View Trail at Kinabalu Park one afternoon

Sunda Bush-warbler *Cettia vulcania oreophila* e

Frequently heard and occasionally seen well at higher elevations at Kinabalu Park with one near the Silau Silau Trail unusually low

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus cinereicollis* e

One or two were seen on two occasions at Kinabalu Park. As its position in the list indicates this is not a true Tailorbird

PHYLLOSCOPIDAE

Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis* e

Up to 15 per day were found at Kinabalu Park Birds on Mt. Kinabalu show a striking range of plumage colours with some being distinctly green above and yellow below while others completely lack these colours and appear very grey by comparison, all appear to sing and call similarly however and birds of intermediate appearance also occur

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus m. montis* e

Small numbers were seen daily at Kinabalu Park

MEGALURIDAE

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris forbesi*

About six were seen at Kota Belud. This is a recent colonist from the Philippines, first recorded in Sabah as recently as 1982 but now well established

CISTICOLIDAE

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris latrunculus* e

One was at Sepilok and a couple more were at Tabin

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus s. sericeus*

Small numbers were seen on four dates after the first at Sepilok

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis* e

Common and widespread, recorded daily

TIMALIIDAE

Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys canicapillus* e

One showed quite well at Kinabalu Park one morning. The illustration of this species in Myers (2009) is actually an Abbot's Babbler!

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli* e

One gave good views at Sukau and a couple more were heard at Tabin

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum macropterum* NT e

One was at Sepilok, several along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau and another at the lodge at Sukau

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*

The boardwalk at Sukau gave us good views of a handful of birds and a few more were heard or seen briefly along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiaria barterti* e

One or two were seen on successive days at Sukau

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis poliogenys* NT e

Singles were seen briefly on two occasions at Tabin

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine phoeniceum* NT e

Regularly seen along the boardwalk at Sukau with a few more at Tabin where others were heard

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron c. cinereum*

Small groups were occasionally seen at Sukau and Tabin, recorded on four dates

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum saba* NT e

One at Sukau was the only record (n/1)

Mountain Wren-babbler *Napothera crassa* E

A group of five or six gave repeated good views along the Silau Silau Trail at Kinabalu Park and a couple more were on the Bukit Ular Trail there

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps borneensis* e

Fairly common at Kinabalu Park where small flocks were seen daily

Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris m. maculata* NT

Two showed well along the boardwalk at Sukau on one date

Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis* NT

At least six were along the boardwalk at Sukau one morning; a couple more were heard at Gomantong Caves

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor* e

Small numbers were seen and heard regularly at Sukau and Tabin, recorded on six dates

Bold-Striped Tit-babbler *Macronus b. bornensis* e

Although heard regularly throughout, the only sightings were on two dates at Tabin. Formerly considered a subspecies of Striped Tit-babbler *M. gularis* (with Pin-striped Tit-babbler the new name for birds elsewhere); Bold-striped is largely confined to Borneo and western Java

Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus schistochlamys* e

Up to 20 per day were noted at Kinabalu Park

Bare-headed Laughingthrush *Garrulax cabvus* E

Eight were seen in two groups on our first day at Kinabalu Park; formerly considered a subspecies of Black Laughingthrush *G. lugubris*

Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Garrulax t. treacheri* E

Recorded daily in good numbers at Kinabalu Park where it is one of the commonest birds. Formerly considered a subspecies of Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *G. mitratus*

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda* NT

About eight were seen at Tabin over two dates

Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti* E

Bustling flocks of up to 20 were seen daily at Kinabalu Park

ZOSTEROPIDAE

Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops a. atricapilla*

Up to 10 per day were seen on three dates at Kinabalu Park

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti tabanensis*

Groups of up to five were seen on three occasions at Tabin

Mountain Black-eye *Chlorocharis e. emiliae* E

Successive morning visits to the Timponon Gate at Kinabalu Park, the lowest elevation usually reached by this species, produced 10 and four birds respectively

IRENIDAE

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella crinigera*

Three singles were seen at Tabin

SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis corallipes* e

Singles were seen twice at Tabin

STURNIDAE

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis eustathis* e

Fairly common in disturbed habitats and urban contexts; Myers (2009) regards all Bornean birds as belonging to the widespread subspecies *strigata*

[Crested Myna *Acridotheres c. cristatellus*] (I)

Small numbers of this introduced or escaped species were seen along roadsides near Sandakan and Sepilok

TURDIDAE

Bornean Whistling Thrush *Myophonus borneensis* E

Up to eight showed well at Kinabalu Park; formerly included in Sunda Whistling Thrush *M. glaucinus* but now split as a Bornean endemic; placed in Muscicapidae by Myers (2009)

[Everett's Thrush *Zoothera everetti*] NT E

Heard but not seen along the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu Park

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana erythrogyne* e

Two were seen and a few more heard at Kinabalu Park; placed in Muscicapidae by Myers (2009)

MUSCICAPIDAE

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis adamsi* e

Fairly common in disturbed habitats but absent from primary forest and the mature secondary forest at Tabin. The black-bellied races, *adamsi* and *pluto*, from eastern Borneo are sometimes mooted as a potential split from white-bellied birds from west Borneo and elsewhere but more work is required to clarify exactly what is happening where the different forms come into contact

White-crowned Shama *Copsychus s. stricklandii* E

Small numbers were seen and heard everywhere

Rufous-tailed Shama *Trichixos pyrropyga* NT

One was seen along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin (n/1)

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis* e

A pair were seen along the Silau Silau Trail at Kinabalu Park on three occasions; Myers (2009) and others split this long-tailed montane form (that actually lacks and white on the crown) as the endemic Bornean Forktail *E. borneensis*; IOC currently list Bornean Forktail as a proposed split but seem likely to accept it in future

Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias gularis* E

A total of about eight were found at Kinabalu Park

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra sumatrana*

Four or five were seen at Kinabalu Park

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula w. westermanni*

Five or six were seen at Kinabalu Park

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina thalassoides*

One was seen at Tabin

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo cerviniventris* e

Up to 10 per day were seen at Kinabalu Park

Pale Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor barterti*

Two were seen at Tabin one morning

Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis t. turcosus* NT e

Three or four were seen along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau and a couple of pairs were around the lodge at Tabin

CHLOROPSEIDAE

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops*

A male at Tabin was followed by an obliging group of females or immatures near the lodge there just before we set off for Lahad Datu

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis c. cyanopogon* NT

Quite common at Sepilok, Gomantong Caves and Tabin, about 50 were seen in total

DICAEIDAE

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus m. maculatus*

A couple at Sepilok and Sukau were followed by a few more at Tabin

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius* E

Two at Gomantong Caves were followed by a handful more at Tabin

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum* e

Ones and twos were at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin

Black-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticulum* E

Regularly heard and occasionally seen well at Kinabalu Park, several more were seen in flight there

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum nigrimentum* e

Only seen at and near our hotel at Sepilok where two or three were noted

NECTARINIIDAE

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis borneana* e

Ones and twos at Sepilok and Gomantong Caves were followed by up to 10 per day at Tabin

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*

Up to four per day were seen around the lodge at Tabin

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis bornensis* e

Fairly common at Sepilok with another at Sukau

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema* NT

One was noted at Sukau (n/1)

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma h. hypogrammicum*

Three at Sukau were followed by a couple more at Tabin

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*

After one at our lunch stop en route to Gomantong Caves small numbers were seen at Lahad Datu airport; a few were around our hotel near Kinabalu Park and one just inside the park there

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga s. siparaja*

Ones and twos were recorded on six dates after the first at Sepilok

Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*

Up to six per day were seen at Kinabalu Park

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi* e

Up to 10 per day were recorded throughout

Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*

One, perhaps a juvenile due to the weak face pattern, came repeatedly to a flowering tree in the car park of our hotel at Sepilok

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera r. robusta*

A couple were seen briefly during our first visit to Gomantong Caves.

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*

One posed for the scope briefly along the Gomantong Caves entrance road

PASSERIDAE

[Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus malaccensis*] (1)

Occasionally seen in disturbed habitats and the few urban contexts visited

ESTRILLIDAE

[Red Avadavat *Amandava amandava*] (1)

A couple were seen at Kota Belud (n/1)

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans* E

Regularly seen in small numbers, a pair were nesting in the car park of our hotel at Sepilok; recorded daily. Many were at Kota Belud; occurs on one small island that is technically part of the Philippines but is essentially a Bornean endemic

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata cabanisi*

A few were at Kota Belud; a recent colonist from the Philippines

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra palawana*

About 10 were seen at Tabin over two dates

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla jagori* e

Fairly common in disturbed habitats, recorded on five dates. Sometimes known as Black-headed Munia

MOTACILLIDAE

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis* ssp.

Two or three were seen and a couple more heard at Kota Belud; East Asian birds are now generally accepted to be a different species to those found from Central Asia westwards; the races occurring in Borneo are believed to be mainly *simillima* (often synonymised with nominate *tschutschensis*) and the relatively scarcer *taivana*

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea robusta* / *melanope*

A few were at and around Kinabalu Park. Myers (2009) lists Bornean birds as subspecies *cinerea*, presumably regarding the subtle races *robusta* and *melanope* better merged with the nominate race

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus malayensis* / *lugubris*

Four or five were at Lahad Datu airport. Myers (2009) considers Bornean birds to belong to the subspecies *malayensis* but this species is often believed to be a possibly recent colonist from the Philippines where birds are generally regarded as subspecies *lugubris*

MAMMALS

Species order, taxonomy and nomenclature follow Payne and Francis (2005) A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo unless otherwise stated

Lesser Gymnure *Hylomys suillus dorsalis*

One was seen on the Silau Silau Trail at Kinabalu Park (n/l)

Mountain Treeshrew *Tupaia montana baluensis*

A handful of Treeshrews seen at Kinabalu Park were thought most likely to be this species; no similar looking Treeshrews regularly occur so high up

Bat species

Unidentified bats of various sizes were recorded most evenings; over 70 species are found in Borneo

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida p. plicata*

Hundreds of thousands (or more) left Gomantong Caves in the evening

Maroon Langur *Presbytis r. rubicunda*

A troop of about six were along the entrance road to Gomantong Caves during our first visit; aka Red Leaf Monkey

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata ultima*

A handful were along the Kinabatangan River at Sukau and a couple at Tabin

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*

In total about 50 were seen during our cruises at Sukau, some gave excellent views

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca f. fascicularis*

Small numbers were recorded on five dates; aka Crab-eating Macaque

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca n. nemestrina*

Small numbers were seen at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin

Bornean Gibbon *Hylobates muelleri funereus*

One sleepy individual was seen during our first morning cruise at Sukau but a group of three or four around the lodge at Tabin gave good views every day

Bornean Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus* ssp.

Three, a mother with her young baby and a five year old toddler, gave superb views in a sparsely vegetated, but fig rich, tree along the Tomangong Road at Tabin on our first afternoon there. Sumatran Orang-utans are now recognised as a separate species *Pongo abelii*

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis sandakanensis*

Singles were seen twice at Tabin

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevosti pluto*

The most widespread and frequently seen Squirrel species, recorded everywhere except Mt. Kinabalu

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus dilutus*

A few were at Sepilok

Ear-spot Squirrel *Callosciurus adamsi*

A couple were identified at Kinabalu Park

Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus l. lowii*

One was identified on Mt. Kinabalu (n/l)

Jentinck's Squirrel *Sundasciurus j. jentincki*

A couple at Kinabalu Park were the only ones recorded

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti*

Up to eight were near the Timpohon Gate at Kinabalu Park on successive mornings

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus e. exilis*

These excellent little animals were seen at Sepilok and Tabin on two dates

Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi*

One was seen at Kinabalu Park (n/l)

Rat species *Rattus sp.*

A couple were around the lodge at Tabin; perhaps Polynesian Rats *Rattus exulans* but there are a dozen or so very similar species

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxorus hermaphroditus sabanus*

One was seen during the night cruise at Sukau and another during the night drive at Tabin

Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis borneensis*

Up to four were found during the night drive at Tabin

Bornean Pygmy Elephant *Elephus (maximus) borneensis*

One group member had a brief view of a youngster at the Tabin mud volcano (n/l)

Bearded Pig *Sus b. barbatus*

Half a dozen were seen on two occasions at Tabin

Lesser Mouse Deer *Tragulid javanicus*

Three were seen at Tabin

Muntjac species *Muntiacus sp.*

One was seen briefly at Tabin

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor brookei*

A couple were seen at Tabin

OTHER FAUNA

Reptiles were represented by fairly numerous Geckos, Lizards (including flying lizards) and Skinks; Water Monitors were seen on several occasions and snakes seen included two Wagler's Pit Vipers, a Hog-nosed Leaf Viper and a dead Sabah Pit Viper. An unidentified Tortoise was watched at Tabin. Colourful butterflies are a feature of Bornean forests and include enormous Birdwings of which a rare Rajah Brooke's Birdwing at Kinabalu Park was the best find.