

Borneo - Sabah (BB)

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 - 30 August 2010

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe



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Day 1

Saturday 21st August

Outbound to Kuala Lumpur

Our Malaysian Airlines flight to Kuala Lumpur left Heathrow a little late at 13.35 but we soon settled down for a smooth eleven-and-a-half hour journey to the Malaysian capital.

Day 2

Sunday 22nd August

Outbound to Sepilok via Kuala Lumpur and Sandakan

Weather: wet on arrival in Sandakan but dry by the time we finished dinner

With favourable tail winds along most of our route we made up much of the lost time and arrived in Kuala Lumpur just 35 minutes behind schedule at 08.00 (local). With the onward flight to Borneo not until mid-afternoon we had several hours to kill at the airport before boarding the flight to Sandakan which left on time at 15.20 and arrived on schedule at 18.05. Having collected (most of) our bags we met Hamit outside and 30 minutes later reached our first base at Sepilok Jungle Resort where we had a few minutes to settle in before assembling for dinner. After a long journey, and with a busy day ahead, we soon retired to bed for some rest.

Day 3

Monday 23rd August

Sepilok Rainforest Discover Centre (RDC); en route Sukau via Gomantong

Weather: Hot and sticky, dry

Our birding programme began with a dawn visit to nearby Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre where we gathered on the impressive canopy walkway for three hours of excellent birding. First up this morning was a pair of impressive Rhinoceros Hornbills that put on a good show. A fruiting tree nearby attracted a selection of commoner Bulbuls and Sunbirds with Red-throated Sunbird a good find and spectacular Black-and-yellow Broadbills an obvious favourite. A dead snag opposite attracted a huge White-bellied Woodpecker while the fruiting tree then produced a Banded Woodpecker. We barely moved at all during our stay, just letting the birds (and a few mammals in the shape of Prevost's and Plain Pigmy Squirrels, Long-tailed and Pig-tailed Macaques) come to us. Raffles Malkohas appeared in the foliage below and a Gold-whiskered Barbet was spotted calling above. As we made our way back a couple of Black Magpies showed briefly but well.

Back at the lodge it was time for breakfast after which some opted to visit nearby Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre for the 10am feeding while the rest of us birded in and around the lodge seeing Van Hasselt's Sunbirds, Little Spiderhunters, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and our first Silver-rumped Needletails amongst others.

A short road journey delivered us to a roadside eatery for a leisurely lunch during the heat of the day before we continued our journey towards the next base on the Lower Kinabatangan River at Sukau. Diverting to Gomantong Caves we spent three hours birding along the road there, visiting the caves themselves and watching the dusk exodus of millions of Wrinkle-lipped Bats. A pair of Chestnut-winged Babblers feeding, and a juvenile Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo was a highlight along the road where some had a fleeting view of an Orang-utan. At the car park a perched Bat Hawk showed well (with another five or more later appearing to feast on the bats), Wreathed and Bushy-crested Hornbills were seen and three White-fronted Falconets perched on a distant dead snag but gave acceptable scope views.

From here 30 minutes by road and 10 minutes by boat delivered us to Sukau Rainforest Lodge for a two night stay. Having settled in and donned the customary sarongs for dinner we enjoyed a short respite from birding but were soon setting off on a 90 minutes night cruise to the nearby Menangol Tributary. Undoubted highlights caught in the spotlight tonight were a couple of very obliging Buffy Fish Owls but the supporting cast included both Blue-eared and Stork-billed Kingfishers and a little huddle of Black-and-red Broadbills plus a couple of Water Monitors.

Day 4

Tuesday 24th August

Sukau

Weather: hot and sticky, some heavy rain around lunchtime

After hot drinks and toast at 05.45 we were on our way back to the Menangol Tributary for a three hour cruise along this quiet backwater. A calling Red-naped Trogon proved a little elusive but noisy White-chested Babblers

and delightful Malaysian Blue Flycatchers were much more obliging. Deeper into the tributary the calls of Hooded Pittas could be heard and with a little encouragement one soon popped into view.

Back at the lodge we ate our breakfast as Lesser Adjutants and Crested Serpent Eagles were soaring on the first thermals.

The rest of the morning was free to relax or explore the boardwalk behind the lodge where both *Philentoma* species, Horsefield's Babbler and Fluffy-backed Tit Babblers were the main highlights amongst the various species found.

After lunch some returned to the boardwalk for a while where a Bornean Gibbon put on a show, before we gathered for our evening cruise at 15.00. In the trees on the opposite the jetty a White-bellied Sea Eagle sat prominently and a troop of Proboscis Monkeys were in evidence; once in the boats we approached these impressive primates closely for some great views before heading off upstream in pursuit of Storm's Stork. More Proboscis Monkeys were found in riverside trees as we chugged upstream, and after an hour or so a single Storm's Stork came winging past at close range but settled in an awkward position for viewing. Pressing on we found a small group of Dusky Broadbills at our turning around point while the return journey was enlivened by excellent views of a perched Storm's Stork and a pair of Bat Hawks that repeatedly buzzed an unidentified Hawk-eagle in a large tree.

Day 5

Wednesday 25th August

Sukau; Gomantong; Lahad Datu

Weather: hot and sticky, a light shower at lunchtime

A calling Bornean Gibbon above our rooms gave some nice silhouette views as we sipped coffee at dawn before embarking on a final morning cruise along the Menangol Tributary. Some similar species to yesterday were found plus a couple of very uncommon Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeons, a skittish Black-throated Babbler, a couple of Scarlet-rumped Trogons and a Lesser Fish Eagle. Hooded Pittas were even more obliging today with a pair carrying food giving prolonged views and a Wrinkled Hornbill flew over. After breakfast we had more time to explore the boardwalk behind the lodge where highlights included Grey-and-buff Woodpecker, Chestnut-rumped Babbler and Dusky Broadbill.

After lunch a short boat transfer delivered us to our waiting bus at Sukau Village and half an hour later we were back at Gomantong Caves where the rest of the afternoon was spent exploring the forest along the road there. White-fronted Falconets put on a rather better show today and we were soon watching a fine Scarlet-rumped Trogon, both Fiery and Scarlet Minivets, Green Ioras and our first perched Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots after several flying birds previously. A little further on a Rufous Piculet gave some fleeting views before the calls of a close Black-crowned Pitta demanded our attention. After much peering into the dense roadside vegetation some people got a view or two of the Pitta but while we lingered in the area we saw a couple of Wallace's Hawk-eagles, a Plaintive Cuckoo and a Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker. As dusk grew near we completed the 90 minute journey to the metropolis of Lahad Datu where we checked in for a one night transit stop at the Executive Hotel where dinner was accompanied by a Frank Sinatra impersonator!

Day 6

Thursday 26th August

Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Weather: hot and sticky, a few spots of rain early afternoon - otherwise dry

After a bit of a lie-in today we assembled for a 07.00 breakfast before boarding two minibuses for the 90 minute journey to Tabin Wildlife Reserve, our home for the final four nights of the tour. On arrival there were some quick formalities to be completed before we settled into our rooms and met to do some pre-lunch birding near the restaurant building. The obvious highlight this morning was a female Blue-banded Kingfisher on the river below our rooms but also seen were a couple of showy Black-and-red Broadbills and a family group of Bornean Gibbons.

After lunch and a little more birding near the lodge we jumped on the lodge truck and were delivered 25 minutes later, via a short stop to view two Little Bronze Cuckoos, to a point on the Tomangong Road from which we slowly made our way back towards the lodge. An early highlight for some was an obliging Black-crowned Pitta singing from roadside vegetation while a Great Argus called evocatively in the distance. A little flurry of activity then involved three Grey-capped Pigmy Woodpeckers and a few perched Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots and Blue-throated Bee-eaters in the same tree. Nearby, Whiskered Treeswifts and a couple of Buff-rumped Woodpeckers were seen before the vehicle collected us and returned us to the lodge.

Taking advantage of the dry weather we set off on a night drive after dinner and by the time we returned 90 minutes or so later we'd amassed an excellent list of nocturnal species: of the birds seen the three Brown Wood Owls were the obvious highlights but it was mammals that were at the fore with three Leopard Cats and a Colugo all showing well, also seen were a few Thomas's Flying Squirrels and a more fleeting Common Palm Civet

Day 7

Friday 27th August

Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Weather: hot and sticky, dry

Hot drinks and a slice of toast gave us energy for our pre-breakfast excursion. Driving back along the Tomangong Road we divided into two groups with half setting off along the 700m Mud Volcano Trail while the rest concentrated with Jason along the road itself. Trail birding in tropical Asia is notoriously difficult but with patience we found Diard's Trogon and Olive-backed Woodpeckers, most managed some views of Black-capped Babblers and a Green Broadbill and one person got a glimpse of a Blue-headed Pitta. Once at the mud volcano, a 30 minute scan of the treetops failed to produce the hoped-for pigeon bonanza but several White-bellied Munias were about and a few hornbills came and went. Those birding along the road were rewarded with Rufous Piculets, Crimson-winged Woodpecker, Black-and-crimson Pitta and others...We were back at the lodge for breakfast at 09.30 after which there was time for further exploration of the immediate area before lunch with a fruiting tree near our rooms attracting a good selection of Bulbuls including the scarce Streaked Bulbul, a couple of Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, a Lesser Cuckooshrike and a Maroon-breasted Philentoma.

Evening birding consisted of a repeat of the morning programme with the groups reversed. The trail to the mud volcano proved rather quiet, apart from calling but predictably invisible Giant Pitta near the end, but the volcano area itself yielded us excellent views of up to 15 rare Large Green Pigeons and good views of Wrinkled Hornbills. Along the road the obvious highlights were a Chestnut-necklaced Partridge that Hamit coaxed into view and Short-tailed Babbler and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha.

After dinner, a second night drive produced a similar range and number of species to last night, including Leopard Cats and a Colugo but tonight the Palm Civet was a Banded, the Flying Squirrels were Red Giant and the Owl a Buffy Fish Owl.

Day 8

Saturday 28th August

Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Weather: hot and sticky, dry

Our programme today was very much as yesterday though with those who had been on the road in the morning now visiting there in the afternoon, and vice versa, to ensure everyone had an equal chance of visiting the main sites at all times of day. The trek to the mud volcano gave us some rather unsatisfactory views of a noisy Crested Jay and a Black-capped Babbler but Buff-necked Woodpeckers showed well while the Large Green Pigeons at the mud volcano were now joined by a small flock of Thick-billed Green Pigeons which posed nicely in the early morning sun. The return walk along the trail was largely uneventful until we had virtually reached the road where a pair of Striped Wren Babblers put on a good show and even better a fine male Blue-headed Pitta disgraced itself by bouncing around in the open for a while. Those on the road enjoyed Maroon Woodpecker, Verditer Flycatcher and a flowering tree that attracted Little, Long-billed and Thick-billed Spiderhunters.

Either side of lunch attention was focussed once more on the fruiting tree near our rooms where a succession of Bulbuls were seen along with a Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker and an Asian Fairy Bluebird while a pair of Rufous-bellied Eagles were overhead.

Back at the Mud Volcano Trail in the evening Olive-winged Woodpeckers were again in evidence while the volcano itself finally yielded up a couple of Large Green Pigeons for those who hadn't yet seen them. The return walk produced a responsive Green Broadbill. Along the road a Banded Broadbill but was highlight amongst the various species seen. Those who opted to take part in a night walk after dinner saw a couple of Buffy Fish Owls and various invertebrates.

Day 9

Sunday 29th August

Tabin Wildlife Reserve, en route to Kota Kinabalu

Weather: hot and sticky, dry

Our final morning at Tabin was spent in the vicinity of the lodge where an Asian Fairy Bluebird, a brief Black-and-white Bulbul and various other species were in the fruiting tree and the family of Gibbons put on a good show behind our rooms.

After an early lunch we set off towards Lahad Datu at noon and arrived there in ample time to catch our 14.40 flight to Kota Kinabalu which left on time and arrived 50 minutes later. Half of the group were travelling home today and caught an onward flight to Kuala Lumpur followed later in the evening by an onward flight to the UK. The remainder stayed on for an extension, details of which follow.

Mount Kinabalu extension

Tour Leader: Chris Kehoe (Naturetrek Leader)
Osman Assan (Local Guide)

Participants: William Nicoll
Johni Paakkonen
David Holman
Christine Stean
David Garnett
Adrian Jaques

Day 9 (continued)

Sunday 29th August

Mt. Kinabalu extension

Having said our goodbyes at Kota Kinabalu the rest of us then collected our bags and met Osman and Danny before embarking on the two hour drive to our base at the Fairy Garden Hotel just outside Kinabalu Park where we soon settled in and sat down for the first of several excellent Chinese banquets. Outside, the hotel wall attracted a good selection of spectacular and not so spectacular moths, and mothing subsequently became a nightly ritual after dinner.

Day 10

Monday 30th August

Kinabalu Park

Weather: dry and bright in the morning but overcast in the afternoon with some mist and steady light rain

Our first day on the mountain dawned, still and dry, so we made a pre-dawn visit to the Timpohon Gate, the highest drivable point on this part of the mountain at 1860m. En route we were treated to brief views of two Bornean Forktails on the road and better views of the much rarer Orange-headed Thrush. On arrival at the Timpohon Gate the first upland specialities were soon in evidence with a Bornean Whistling Thrush bouncing along near our parking place and Ashy Drongos lining the fence of the power station to collect the night's cache of moths attracted to the lights there. As we slowly made our way towards the outer gate a fruiting tree proved productive with a good number of Chestnut-capped and Sunda Laughingthrushes in evidence and, best of all, several Mountain Blackeyes were attracted to the fruits along with a few Grey-chinned Minivets and our first Bornean Treepies. At the viewing platform above the outer gate a Little Cuckoo Dove showed uncharacteristically well on the path below as Indigo Flycatchers and Bornean Whistlers came and went and Bornean Swiftlets fluttered by as Mountain Leaf Warblers called nearby. Having exhausted the early rush of activity we slowly made our way down the road where Bornean Ground Squirrels showed well and we soon coaxed a Sunda Bush Warbler into view.

Returning to the hotel for breakfast there was time there to admire the remaining moths from the night before before we returned to the park and embarked on a two hour gentle paced stroll along the Mempoeng Trail.

Birding along the Kinabalu Park Trails is generally slow but we had nice views of a nest building pair of Yellow-breasted Warblers and a Checker-throated Woodpecker plus a few stops for botanising. A Whitehead's Spiderhunter frustrated by calling nearby but remaining out of view in the canopy but just before we reached the Silau Silau Trail and began to descend towards our lunch spot a pair of much sought-after Whitehead's Broadbills announced their presence with chattering calls and most people got some reasonable views as they moved past. Soon afterwards a small feeding flock contained the usual suspects of Mountain Leaf and Yellow-breasted Warblers plus Temminck's Sunbirds, White-throated Fantails and Bornean Whistlers.

Back on the road the walk towards the Balsam Cafe was enlivened by our first Ochraceous Bulbuls and Black-sided Flowepeckers. After a leisurely buffet lunch we regrouped at the Liwagu Restaurant before driving back to the Timpohon Gate. With wet and murky conditions it was not worth exploring the Bukit Ular Trail so we concentrated instead on the road where Golden-naped Barbet and Grey-throated Babblers in the gloom were the highlights. Back at the hotel there was time for a shower before dinner, the checklist and nothing.

Day 11

Tuesday 31st August

Kinabalu Park, Kota Belud

Weather: dry and bright in the morning and at Kota Belud (when raining all afternoon at Kinabalu Park)

Our objective before breakfast was to concentrate on lower elevations than yesterday and to try to catch the early morning rush around the Liwagu Restaurant. However, before settling in there we drove about a third of the way to the Timpohon Gate at first light and then made our way slowly back down looking for any birds feeding along the roadside at dawn, this proved an excellent strategy for not only did we see another Orange-headed Thrush but also an even rarer Everett's Thrush that gave some good views on the verge and in an adjacent ditch. Otherwise it was a case of quality rather than quantity before breakfast with Sunda Cuckooshrikes showing well and a Fruithunter seen quite briefly but well by some at the Liwagu Restaurant, and a strange succession of flyover Whitehead's Spiderhunters at the nearby chalets where Mountain Imperial Pigeons, Mountain Tailorbird and Bar-winged Flycatcher Shrikes were also new.

After breakfast we drove back to the Timpohon Gate and had a 90 minute stroll along the Bukit Ular Trail - activity was low but most managed views of Snowy-browed Flycatchers and some had a chance encounter with a fleeting Bornean Stubtail that bounced across the trail while others saw a White-browed Shortwing.

For a change of scene we set off back to the lowlands after lunch and arrived an hour later at the extensive ricefields of Kota Belud. Small numbers of migrant waders such as Wood Sandpipers and Long-toed Stints were present plus a small group of Oriental Pratincoles. Amongst the Egrets present were several Intermediate and also up to 15 Javan Pond Herons. At least eight Cinnamon Bitterns and a couple of Yellow Bitterns were seen during the afternoon but the star of the show was a Buff-banded Rail that posed nicely for the scope; also seen before we drove back into the rain on the mountain were a Pied Triller and some distant flying Wandering Whistling Ducks.

Day 12

Wednesday 1st September

Weather: fine and dry apart from some thundery rain during the lunch break and intermittent misty conditions late afternoon

Our final full day commenced with a return to the Liwagu Restaurant area at dawn where a good selection of species included Bornean Forktails, Temminck's Babbler and the now familiar array of commoner mountain species such as Indigo and Little Pied Flycatchers and Chestnut-crested Yuhinas.

After breakfast we set off once more on the Mempening Trail where a Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel entertained and a feeding flock contained Grey-throated Babblers and our first White-browed Shrike-babbler. Osman called in a small group of Mountain Wren-babblers for some excellent views and a couple of Hair-crested Drongos were seen by some.

After lunch at the Balsam Cafe we made our way back to the Liwagu Restaurant but a heavy shower forced us to seek refuge in one of the shelters en route where a Temminck's Babbler decided to put on an uncharacteristically good show. With the rain now stopped we returned to the Timpohon Gate at 15.00 and most of us set off along the Bukit Ular Trail. Within the space of five minutes both Red-breasted and Crimson-headed Partridges appeared on the trail and as we neared the road the call of a Whitehead Trogon attracted attention and we eventually located it sitting out in the open where it gave some good views for a few minutes. Those who opted to walk along the road rather than the trail also saw a Red-breasted Partridge and later also caught up with the Trogon, now joined by its mate, which appeared on the roadside near the trail exit. Rather misty conditions led to birds roosting early tonight so we made our way back to the hotel soon after 17.00.

Day 13

Thursday 2nd September

Kinabalu Park; Lok Kawi Beach; inbound to UK via Kuala Lumpur

Weather: fine and dry at Kinabalu Park, a heavy thunderstorm as we passed through Kota Kinabalu

With the flight to Kuala Lumpur not until late afternoon we had time for a pre-breakfast visit to the Timpohon Gate where we were successful in seeing Flavescent Bulbuls and, for some, Short-tailed Green Magpie. A slow walk down the road gave us final views of several Kinabalu specialities but the undoubted highlights were a showy Bornean Stubtail that sang its ultra high-pitched song from roadside shrubbery and even better a pair of very obliging Fruithunters near the Bukit Ular exit.

After breakfast there was time for some packing before lunch. At 13.00 we said our goodbyes to Dave and Adrian who were staying on for a couple of nights and made our way back to Kota Kinabalu. A very heavy thunderstorm cleared away just as we arrived at Lok Kawi beach where an hour of final birding boosted the tour list with Chinese Egret, Grey-tailed Tattler, Terek Sandpiper and Malaysian Plover amongst others.

Twenty minutes later we were at the airport where check-in was quick and easy and the long journey back to Pittiless Britain (arriving at Heathrow early the next morning) was underway.

Systematic Lists

BIRDS

Species order, nomenclature and taxonomy follows the list of the birds of the world produced by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC), v2.4

Subspecies generally follow the Handbook of the Birds of the World when available or Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World. When the particular subspecies is unclear the range of options is given.

Key:

E = Bornean endemic species

e = Bornean endemic subspecies

= seen on the Mt. Kinabalu extension

conservation status codes (after Birdlife International/ IUCN):

NT = near-threatened

VU = vulnerable

EN = endangered

species that were either heard only or only seen by the tour leader or guides are placed in square brackets, any species not seen by the tour leader or guides are marked (n/l)

PHASIANIDAE - Pheasants, Fowl & Allies

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra erythrophrys* E

Two were seen on the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu Park with another on the roadside near there, several more were heard in the park

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni* e

Heard but not seen at Sepilok RDC and Sukau and one was seen by some along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR

Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* E

Two were seen along the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu Park, several others were heard in the park

[Crested Partridge *Rollulus rouloul*]

One was heard but not seen at Tabin WR

[Great Argus *Argusianus argus grayi* e NT]

A couple were heard but not seen at Tabin WR

ANATIDAE - Ducks, Geese & Swans

Wandering Whistling Duck *Dendrocygna a. arcuata*

Up to 20 were seen disatntly at Kota Belud

CICONIIDAE - Storks

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi* NT

Two singles were seen well at Sukau and flying birds were seen on three dates at Tabin WR

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus* VU

Up to four were seen at Sukau over two dates

ARDEIDAE - Herons, Bitterns

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*

Two were seen in flight at Kota Belud

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*

Up to eight were at Kota Belud where two juveniles and a single adult gave good views on the ground

Striated Heron *Butorides striata javanica / amurensis*

One was seen near Sukau

Javan Pond Heron *Ardeola s. speciosa*

Up to 15 breeding plumage birds were at Kota Belud

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

One or two were seen along roadsides as we travelled

About 30 were at Kota belud

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Singles were seen on two dates at Sukau

At least four were at Kota Belud

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

Small numbers were seen daily at Sukau with a couple more at Tabin WR or as we travelled

Several were at Kota Belud

Intermediate Egret *Egretta i. intermedia*

At least 20 were at Kota Belud

Little Egret *Egretta g. garzetta*

A couple were seen as we travelled

Several were at Kota Belud

Chinese Egret *Egretta enophotes* VU

One, possibly two, were at Lok Kawi Beach

ANHINGIDAE - Anhingas, darters

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* NT

Up to 10 were at Sukau with another at Tabin WR

ACCIPITRIDAE - Kites, Hawks & Eagles

Bat Hawk *Machaeramphus a. alcinus*

Up to six were at Gomantong Caves with birds seen on both of our visits; two buzzed a Hawk-eagle species in a tree at Sukau one evening

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus hypoleucos*

Four or five were seen at Kota Belud

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus intermedius*

Small numbers were seen on six dates

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One over the road at Gomantong Caves was followed by a couple at Sukau and another during the first night drive at Tabin WR

One was seen at Kota Belud

Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga b. humilis* NT

One was along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau one morning and another was seen a couple of times near our rooms at Tabin WR

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus e*

A total of ten were seen over six dates

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus microstictus e*

A young bird gave some good but rather brief perched views at Tabin WR

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus m. malayensis*

Singles were seen twice at Tabin WR.

One was seen from our hotel near Kinabalu Park during breakfast one morning

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus*

One, possibly two were seen soaring at Tabin WR one morning after breakfast

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

A total of eight were seen over four dates after the first near Gomantong Caves

FALCONIDAE - Caracaras, Falcons

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* E NT

Up to three perched birds were seen during each of our visits to Gomantong Caves

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ernesti*

One hunted bats at Gomantong Caves

one was over the ricefields at Kota Belud

Suspecies *ernesti* is a rare resident race, although generally depicted as being barred black on white below birds in Sabah typically have a distinct rufous wash

RALLIDAE - Rails, Crakes & Coots

Buff-banded Rail *Gallirallus p. philippensis*

One gave some good scope views at Kota Belud, a very recent apparent colonist of the area where it was first recorded in 2007

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis p. phoenicurus*

One at Sukau was followed by several more at Tabin WR where a family group was seen

a couple were at Kota Belud

Watercock *Gallicrex cinerea*

One was seen briefly in flight at Kota Belud

Common Moorhen *Gallinula c. chloropus / orientalis*

One or two were at Kota Belud

RECURVIROSTRIDAE - Stilts, Avocets

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

Up to 30 were at Kota Belud

White-headed Stilt *Himantopus leucocephalus*

One bird at Kota Belud showed the requisite features of this recently split Australasian species that moves north during the austral winter

CHARADRIIDAE - Plovers

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*

About 30 were at Kota Belud with a few more at Lok Kawi

Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

One was at Lok Kawi

Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula tundrae*

One at Lok Kawi was presumably the regularly returning adult that has wintered there for at least three years

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius d. dubius / curonicus*

Two or three were at Kota Belud

Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii* NT

A single adult gave some nice views at Lok Kawi

Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius m. mongolus, stegmanni / atrifrons / schaeferi*

At least one was at Lok Kawi, others may have been present but we didn't have time to scrutinise all birds closely; at least the majority of birds in Sabah are presumably eastern *mongolus* and *stegmanni* (the 'mongolus group', sometimes regarded as a separate species called Mongolian Plover) though there are reportedly specimens of other races

Greater Sandplover *Charadrius l. leschenaulti*

At least the large majority of the 40 or so Sandpipers at Lok Kawi were clearly this species

SCOLOPACIDAE - Sandpipers, Snipes

[# Snipe species *Gallinago sp.*]

A couple of snipe seen in flight at Kota Belud were either Pintail Snipe *G. stenura* or Swinhoe's Snipe *G. megala*

Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*

Up to 20 distant birds were at Kota Belud

[# Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*]

Heard but not seen at Kota Belud

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

The commonest wader at Kota Belud where around 100 were noted

Grey-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes*

Two were at Lok Kawi beach

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinerea*

One was at Lok Kawi beach

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Ones and twos were at widespread sites throughout

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria i. interpres*

About 10 were at Lok Kawi beach

Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis*
About five were on Lok Kawi beach

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta*
Up to 20 were at Kota Belud

GLAREOLIDAE - Coursers, Pratincoles

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*
About 15 perched birds were at Kota Belud

LARIDAE - Gulls, Terns & Skimmers

Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*
One was at Kota Belud, a rare bird in Sabah with records normally from November onwards

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons sinensis* / *pusilla*
About eight were offshore at Lok Kawi beach

Whiskered Tern *Chilodnius hybridus javanicus* / *swinhoei* / *fluviatilis*
About 20 were at Kota Belud

COLUMBIDAE - Pigeons, Doves

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis tigrina*
Small numbers were along roadsides as we travelled.
Large numbers were at Kota Belud

Little Cuckoo-dove *Macropygia ruficeps nana e*
One gave great views at the Timpohon Gate during our first excursion inside Kinabalu Park, thereafter small numbers were occasionally seen in flight and several were heard calling there

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps i. indica*
A couple were seen on the ground at Tabin WR where several more were heard calling and a couple seen in flight

[# Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* (I)]
ones and twos were seen at Kota Belud and in Kota Kinabalu, this species is presumed to be introduced in Borneo

Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon *Treron fulvicollis baramensis e* NT
A pair posed in a bare treetop along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau one morning

Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax*

About 30 were seen in total with records at Sepilok RDC, Sukau and Tabin WR

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

A handful were seen from the moving minivan as we travelled through Kota Kinabalu en route to Mount Kinabalu

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

Up to eight were at the mud volcano at Tabin one morning and another was near the lodge there the next day

Large Green Pigeon *Treron capellei* VU

Up to 15 were seen at the Tabin mud volcano with birds present during three of our four visits there

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula a. aeneas*

Small numbers were regularly seen at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula b. badia*

A total of eight flying birds were noted at Kinabalu Park

PSITTACIDAE - Parrots

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula l. longicauda* NT

Small numbers of flying birds were seen at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR with a single perched bird one morning along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

CUCULIDAE - Cuckoos

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis bubutus*

A couple at Sepilok and Sukau were followed by one at Tabin WR where a few more were heard calling

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis javanensis*

One was at Tabin WR.

Three were at Kota Belud

Raffles's Malkoha *Rhinortha c. chlorophaeus*

At least nine were seen over five dates at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus*

A total of five were seen at Sukau, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx x. xanthorhynchus*

Calling birds were seen in flight at Sepilok RDC, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR with a briefly perched bird seen at the latter

Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus cleis*

Two showed well in bushes near the ford at Tabin WR

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus threnodes*

One posed for the scope at Gomantong Caves with others heard there and at Tabin WR

Square-tailed Drongo-cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris brachyurus*

A juvenile was fed by Chestnut-winged Babblers at Gomantong Caves. Drongo-cuckoo has been split into two species, both of which are believed to occur in Borneo but only *brachyurus* is believed to breed

[Moustached Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans*]

Heard but not seen along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

[# Dark Hawk-cuckoo *Hierococcyx bocki*]

Heard but not seen from our hotel near Kinabalu Park with another heard from the Mempoening Trail inside the park

STRIGIDAE - Owls

Buffy Fish-owl *Ketupa k. ketupu*

Our night cruise at Sukau produced great views of probably two individuals seen twice; three more were found at Tabin WR

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica vaga e*

Three were seen very well during our first night drive at Tabin WR

CAPRIMULGIDAE - Nightjars

[Malaysian Eared Nightjar *Eurostopodus temminckii*]

Heard but not seen by Jason and Hamit at Tabin WR one evening

HEMIPROCNIDAE - Treeswifts

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*

A couple at Sepilok and Sukau were followed by 10 or more at Tabin WR

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne c. comata*

A handful gave some fine views along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR on a couple of occasions

APODIDAE - Swifts

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila*

Common and widespread

Bornean Swiftlet *Collocalia dodgei* E

Only seen inside Kinabalu Park where slightly matt and green glossed birds were particularly evident around the Timpohon Gate. A recent split from Cave Swiftlet *C. linchi* which itself was formerly considered part of Glossy Swiftlet

[Aerodromus swiftlet species *Aerodramus* sp.]

Large numbers of unidentified swiftlets were seen throughout; the following species are all considered abundant in Sabah: Mossy-nest Swiftlet *A. salangana natunae*; Black-nest Swiftlet *A. maximus lowi*; and Edible-nest Swiftlet *A. fuciphagus vestitus*

Silver-rumped Spinetail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

Up to 10 at Sepilok were followed by regular small numbers at Sukau, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus g. giganteus*

A couple at Sepilok were followed by a handful more at Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR

Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus*

Up to 10 were around the car park of Sepilok RDC

one was at Kota Belud

House Swift *Apus nipalensis subfurcatus*

A few were at Kuala Lumpur Airport as we waited in transit.

One was at Kota Belud

TROGONIDAE - Trogons

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba impavidus* e NT

A female gave some reasonable but rather brief views at Sukau; heard but not seen at Tabin WR

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes d. diardii* NT

One gave some brief views at Tabin WR

Whiteheads Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi* E NT

A pair gave some nice views at and near the Bukit Ular Trail in Kinabalu Park

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvanelii* NT

Four were at Sukau and Gomantong with another at Tabin WR

CORACIIDAE - Rollers

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus o. orientalis* / *calonyx*

A total of 10 at Sukau were followed by a few singles at Tabin WR

ALCEDINIDAE - Kingfishers

Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus borneanus* e NT

Two were along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR one evening

[Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella melanops*]

Heard distantly but not seen along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR one morning

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis cyanopteryx*

A total of four singles were seen at Sukau and Tabin WR

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda major / minor*

Irvin and Rella saw one near our rooms at Tabin WR one morning

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris laubmannianus*

One was on roadside wires near Gomantong with a couple more en route to and from Tabin WR.

One was at Lok Kawi beach

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca motleyi*

Singles were seen on four occasions at Sukau and Tabin WR though most were very brief encounters. Some authors now regard *motleyi* as a race of the split Rufous-backed Kingfisher *C. rufidorsa*

Blue-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo euryzona peninsulae*

A single female gave some excellent views behind our rooms at Tabin WR on the morning of our arrival there

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii*

A total of eight were found at Sukau and Tabin WR

One was at Kota Belud

MEROPIDAE - Bee-eaters

[Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*]

One near the restaurant at Tabin WR was only seen briefly by Hamit

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

A total of about 20 were seen after the first at Sepilok

BUCEROTIDAE - Hornbills

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*

Three at Gomantong Caves were followed by five in one flock at Sukau and a couple of singles were noted at Tabin WR

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*

Quite common at Sukau, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR; about 40 were seen in total

Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus* NT

Up to four per day were seen after the first at Sepilok

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis* e

A pair gave some great views from the canopy walkway at Sepilok RDC and a flying bird was seen at Sukau; several more were heard at Gomantong and Tabin WR

Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil*

A close calling bird along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR teased us by remaining out of sight except when flying off above the canopy

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*

Up to 10 were at Gomantong Caves with a few more at Tabin WR

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus*

Two were seen on both visits to Gomantong Caves and three more were noted at Tabin WR

MEGALAIMIDAE - Asian Barbets

Golden-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis* e

Singles were seen at Sepilok RDC and along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR with a few more heard at Tabin

heard but not seen behind our hotel near Kinabalu Park

[Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima m. mystacophanos* NT]

Hamit saw one at Gomantong Caves and several were heard there and at Tabin WR

Golden-naped Barbet *Megalaima pulcherrima* E

Singles were seen twice at Kinabalu Park, several more were heard there

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis duvauceli*

Singles were seen at Sepilok and Tabin WR with several more heard throughout

Brown Barbet *Caloramphus fuliginosus tertius* e

One was seen at Sukau

PICIDAE - Woodpeckers

Rufous Piculet *Sasia a. abnormis*

Two at Gomantong Caves were followed by another four at Tabin WR

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos m. moluccensis*

One was at Gomantong Caves

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus aurantiventris* e

Up to five were noted at Tabin WR over three dates

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus j. javensis*

Three were at Sepilok RDC and one at Sukau

Banded Woodpecker *Chrysophlegma miniaceum malaccensis*

One showed well at Sepilok

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Chrysophlegma mentale observandus*

One was at Gomantong and a couple more were at Tabin WR

Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis humii*

Singles were seen twice at Kinabalu Park

Olive-backed Woodpecker *Dinopium rafflesii dulitense* e NT

A pair was seen on two occasions along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*

One or two were seen on a couple of occasions at Sukau with another at Tabin WR.

Two singles were seen at Kinabalu Park

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax*

A total of six were seen at Tabin WR over three dates

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes t. tukei*

A noisy pair were along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR on successive days

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus sordidus*

A total of four were at Sukau and Gomantong Caves with a couple more at Tabin WR

EURYLAIMIDAE - Broadbills

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena v. viridis*

Singles were seen twice along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR

Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi* E

A noisy pair gave some reasonable but rather brief views along the Mempening Trail at Kinabalu Park

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

About 14 were seen in total over seven dates after the first during our night cruise at Sukau

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei* e

One was seen along the Tomangong Trail at Tabin WR

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*

Frequently heard and occasionally seen after the first couple of obliging individuals at Sepilok RDC

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus orientalis* e

Three or four were in a riverside tree upstream at Sukau and a couple more were seen from the boardwalk behind Sukau Rainforest Lodge

PITTIDAE - Pittas

[Giant Pitta *Hydrornis caeruleus bosei* e]

Heard only, though briefly glimpsed by Jason, along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR

Blue-headed Pitta *Hydrornis baudii* E

One was glimpsed during our first morning excursion along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR but next morning a male showed very well there

[Banded Pitta *Hydrornis guajanus schwaneri* e]

Heard briefly but not seen along the Mud Volcano trail at Tabin WR

Black-crowned Pitta *Erythropitta ussleri* E

One was seen by some at Gomantong Caves and a total of four were seen, and others heard, at Tabin WR, including one roosting at the roadside during the second night drive there. Also known as Black-and-crimson and Black-headed Pitta

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida mulleri*

One was seen well during our first morning cruise along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau and next morning a pair carrying food gave some excellent views there; several more were heard at Sukau

TEPHRODORNITHIDAE - Woodshrikes and allies

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus intermedius*

Two were seen near the Liwagu Restaurant at Kinabalu Park one morning

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

A total of six were seen over four dates after the first couple at Sepilok

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma p. pyrboptera*

One gave good views along the boardwalk behind Sukau Rainforest Lodge one morning

Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velata caesia*

Singles were behind the lodge at Sukau and near our rooms at Tabin WR

ARTAMIDAE - Woodswallows

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus l. leucorhynchus*

Ones and twos were seen on three dates at Sukau and Gomantong Caves

Common at Kota Belud

AEGITHINIDAE - Ioras

Green Iora *Aegithinia v. viridissima*

After the first three at Sukau and Gomantong a small handful were seen on three dates at Tabin WR

CAMPEPHAGIDAE - Cuckooshrikes

Sunda Cuckooshrike *Coracina larvata normani e*

Two, possibly as many as four showed well at the Liwagu Restaurant at Kinabalu Park on two mornings

Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata schierbrandii*

One was seen on a couple of occasions in a fruiting tree near our rooms at Tabin WR

Pied Triller *Lalage n. nigra*

A single female was found at Kota Belud

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus i. Igneus*

Eight at Sepilok were followed by smaller numbers at Sukau, Gomantong and Tabin WR on four dates

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula e*

Seen daily at Kinabalu Park where groups of up to six were fairly regularly encountered

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus insulanus e*

Only seen at Gomantong Caves during our second visit when three or four were noted

PACHYCEPHALIDAE - Whistlers and allies

Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala b. hypoxantha E*

Quite common at Kinabalu Park where up to 10 were seen or heard each day

VIREONIDAE - Vireos, Greenlets

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca brunnescens e*

A couple were at Sepilok RDC; formerly known as White-bellied Yuhina

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

One or two were seen during our second walk along the Mempening Trail at Kinabalu Park

ORNIOLIDAE - Figbirds, Orioles

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus e*

Three at Gomantong Caves over both visits were followed by several more at Tabin WR

DICRURIDAE - Drongos

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops e*

Up to 10 per day were noted at Kinabalu Park, especially around the Timpohon Gate area

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*

One or two were along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis e*

A total of four were seen on our penultimate day at Kinabalu Park

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus e*

Singles were seen on three occasions at Sepilok and Sukau/Gomantong with a few more at Tabin WR

RHIPDURIDAE - Fantails

#White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu e*

Common at Kinabalu Park where up to 10 per day were seen and several more heard

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica longicauda*

Small numbers were recorded daily at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR

MONARCHIDAE - Monarchs

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea prophata*

Singles were at Sepilok, Sukau and Gomantong Caves with a couple more at Tabin WR

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi borneensis e*

Singles were seen on both visits to Gomantong Caves

CORVIDAE - Crows, Jays

Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus lemprieri e*

A single noisy individual gave some rather poor views along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR one morning

Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus e*

Two gave good but rather brief views at Sepilok RDC and another was along the boardwalk behind our lodge at Sukau. This all black Bornean race is a potential future split from mainland races which have much white in the wing

Short-tailed Magpie *Cissa thalassina jeffreyi* e

Rather elusive this year with a couple seen near the Liwagu Restaurant and another at the Timpohon Gate at Kinabalu Park; several more were heard but remained hidden

Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens* E

Regularly heard at Kinabalu Park where up to three per day were seen

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca compiler*

Up to 10 per day were noted at all lowland sites; a real forest species

PYCNONOTIDAE - Bulbuls

Black and White Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanoleucus*

Adrian saw one briefly in the fruiting tree near our rooms at Tabin WR (n/l)

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus a. atriceps*

One at Sukau was followed by a couple more at Tabin WR

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens leucops* E

Two were seen well during our final visit to the Timpohon Gate at Kinabalu Park; this distinctive taxon is treated as a separate endemic species, Pale-faced Bulbul *P. leucops*, by some authors

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini*

Small numbers were recorded daily in disturbed habitats, especially around lodges

a few were near our hotel at Kinabalu Park

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus insularis / butzi* e

Quite common, especially around our lodges and at all fruiting trees encountered, recorded daily in the lowlands

Asian Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus b. brunneus*

Less common than the last species and more tied to forests contexts but still seen almost daily in small numbers

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*

Frequently heard and fairly regularly seen at all lowland sites

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus ruficrissus* e

Up to six per day were found at Kinabalu Park

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres gutturalis* e

Two or three were seen on two dates in the fruiting tree near our rooms at Tabin WR

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens* e

Three at Gomantong Caves and Sukau were followed by daily encounters with up to four at Tabin WR

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger viridis e*

Up to three were seen on each visit to Gomantong Caves and a few were seen each day at Tabin WR

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea charlottae*

One was seen during our first visit to Gomantong Caves and a couple were near our rooms at Tabin WR one lunchtime

Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis*

Singles were seen on two occasions in the fruiting tree near our rooms at Tabin WR

HIRUNDINIDAE - Swallows, martins

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

Small numbers were seen almost daily, especially in and around oil palm plantations

a few migrants were seen heading south along the coast at Lok Kawi and at Kota Belud and a few were around the hotel near Kinabalu Park some days

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tabitica javanica*

Small numbers were recorded daily at all sites visited

often around our hotel at Kinabalu Park

CETTIDAE - Cettia bush warblers and allies

Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi E*

One along the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu Park was only seen briefly by Nick and Osman but another at the roadside near there gave some good views as it sang its ultra high-pitched song during our final morning

Sunda Bush-warbler *Cettia vulcania oreophila e*

Frequently heard on the upper reaches we visited at Kinabalu Park where a handful showed well; birds calling near the Liwagu Restaurant and near our hotel just outside the park were rather low down

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus cinereicollis e*

One or two were seen on two occasions at Kinabalu Park

PHYLLOSCOPIDAE - Leaf warblers and allies

Mountain Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis e*

Common at Kinabalu Park where between 10 and 20 were seen each day and many more heard; both greyish and yellow-breasted types were noted

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus m. montis e*

Fairly common at Kinabalu Park where up to 10 were seen each day

MEGALURIDAE - Grassbirds and allies

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris forbesi*

Three or four were found at Kota Belud

CISTICOLIDAE - Cisticolas and allies

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris latrunculus e*

Singles at Gomantong and Sukau were followed by almost daily encounters with one or two at Tabin WR.

A couple were at Kota Belud

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus s. sericeus*

Up to four per day were recorded on six dates

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis e*

Up to 10 per day were seen or heard at all sites

a few were at our hotel near Kinabalu Park

TIMALIIDAE - Babblers, Parrotbills

Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys canicapillus e*

One or two were seen on two occasions at Kinabalu Park

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli e*

Singles gave some brief views on two occasions along the Mud Volcano trail at Tabin WR; heard from the canopy walkway at Sepilok RDC

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum macropterum e*

Several gave some nice views along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau, another was along the boardwalk behind our lodge at Sukau and a final bird was at Tabin WR

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*

One was seen along the Tomnagong Road at Tabin WR

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiaria harterti e*

A couple gave some excellent views along the boardwalk behind Sukau Rainforest Lodge one morning

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis e*

One was found along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine phoeniceum e*

Heard daily and up to four per day were seen on five dates, especially at Sukau and Tabin WR

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron c. cinereum*

One was seen along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau one morning with a few more heard at Tabin WR; surprisingly scarce

Striped Wren-babbler *Kenopia striata*

A pair of these little skulkers gave some good views during our final morning excursion along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR

[Black-throated Wren-babbler *Napothera atrigularis* E]

Heard rather distantly but not seen along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin one morning

Mountain Wren-babbler *Napothera crassa* E

A couple gave some great views on the Silau Silau Trail at Kinabalu Park one morning, heard once elsewhere in the park

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps borneensis* e

Groups of up to six were seen on a couple of occasions at Kinabalu Park

Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris m. maculata*

One or two were seen behind our lodge at Sukau one morning

Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*

A rather unobliging individual was seen during our second morning cruise along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor* e

Fairly commonly heard and occasionally seen in all rainforest contexts; a pair were feeding a fledgling Drongo Cuckoo at Gomantong Caves

Bold-Striped Tit-babbler *Macronus b. bornensis / montanus* (both e)

Commonly heard and occasionally seen at all sites

heard and briefly seen at our hotel near Kinabalu Park

Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler *Macronus ptilosus reclusus* e

A group of six were seen on a couple of occasions along the boardwalk behind Sukau Rainforest Lodge and a couple more were seen at the Mud Volcano trail at Tabin WR one morning

Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus schistochlamys* e

Small numbers were seen on a few occasions at Kinabalu Park

Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Garrulax t. treacheri* E

Common at Kinabalu Park with groups of 10 or more frequently seen, a few more were behind our hotel near there

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*

One was seen along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR

Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti* E

Groups of up to 20 were seen fairly regularly at Kinabalu Park

ZOSTEROPIDAE - White-eyes

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

Common at Kinabalu Park where 20 or more were seen each day

Mountain Black-eye *Chlorocharis e. emiliae* E

Up to 30 were seen on each of our early morning visits to the Timpohon Gate in Kinabalu Park; this can be an elusive species but a fruiting tree helped our cause...

IRENIDAE - Fairy-bluebirds

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella crinigera*

Singles were seen on two occasions in the fruiting tree near our rooms at Tabin WR

SITTIDAE - Nuthatches

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis corallipes e*

Two or three were seen on a couple of occasions near our rooms at Tabin WR

STURNIDAE - Starlings, Rhabdornis

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis eustathis e*

Common in the few urbanised contexts visited with a few more at Tabin WR

Common Hill Myna *Gracula r. religiosa*

Up to 10 were at Sepilok RDC with a handful more at Sukau and Tabin WR

[White-vented Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* (I)]

All of the mynas around the Sepilok area now appear to be this species (also known as Javan Myna); this is rather mysterious as a few years ago they were all Crested Mynas *A. cristatellus*

[Common Myna *Acridotheres t. tristis* (I)]

Several were around Kuala Lumpur Airport

TURDIDAE - Thrushes

Bornean Whistling Thrush *Myophonus borneensis* E

Up to five were seen daily at Kinabalu Park

Orange-headed Thrush *Zosterops citrina aurata* e

Two during our first drive up to the Timpohon Gate at Kinabalu Park and one in the same area the next morning were good finds as this is a very scarce species in the Bornean mountains

Everett's Thrush *Zosterops everetti* E

One gave good views as it foraged on the roadside opposite the Silau Silau Trail at dawn on our second morning in Kinabalu Park

Fruithunter *Chlamydochaera jefferyi* E

A male gave some reasonable but very brief views at the Liwagu Restaurant in Kinabalu Park on our second morning there but a wonderful pair gave extended views at close range on the roadside near the Bukit Ular Trail exit on our final morning

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana erythrogyna* e

Although several were heard in various parts of Kinabalu Park only one, a female, seen was seen by Dave H along the Bukit Ular Trail

MUSCICAPIDAE - Chats, Old World Flycatchers

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis adamsi* e

Fairly common in disturbed habitats; recorded on six dates

White-crowned Shama *Copsychus s. stricklandii* E

Ones and twos were regularly seen, and several more heard, after the first at Gomantong Caves

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis* / *borneensis* e

One was glimpsed by Jason and Daniel along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR

a pair were seen each morning between the park entrance and Liwagu Restaurant at Kinabalu Park; several authors now treat these upland birds as a separate endemic species: Bornean Forktail *E. borneensis*

Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher *Rhinomyias gularis* E

A total of about eight were recorded in Kinabalu Park

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica umbrosa* e

A rather dark and streaky breasted but noticeably short-winged *Muscicapa* Flycatcher at Sepilok RDC was presumed to be an individual of the poorly known endemic race of this species. In plumage pattern it closely resembled a Dark-sided Flycatcher *M. sibirica* but was much too short-winged for that species. Whether *M. d. umbrosa* really belongs within Asian Brown Flycatcher is debatable....

Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria muelleri*

Daniel saw one briefly along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR (n/l)

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra sumatrana*

Singles were seen on four occasions at Kinabalu Park

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula n. westermanni*

A total of five were noted at Kinabalu Park

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina thalassoides*

A pair were near our rooms at Tabin WR one morning

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo cerviniventris e*

Three or four per day were noted at Kinabalu Park

Pale Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor barterti*

One was seen along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR one morning; a blue flycatcher at Sepilok RDC was also probably this species but didn't linger long enough for confirmation

Sunda Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis c. caerulatus e*

A male seen by some of the group and photographed by Hamit along the Sukau boardwalk was identified at the time as a Bornean Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus* but later examination of the photos shows it to be this dark-chinned species; formerly known as Large-billed Blue Flycatcher

Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis t. turcosus e*

Up to three were seen during each of our cruises at Sukau and a couple more were near the lodge at Tabin WR

CHLOROPSEIDAE - Chloropseidae

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis c. cyanopogon*

Up to six per day were seen on seven dates

DICAIEIDAE - Flowerpeckers

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius* E

Ones and twos were seen on five dates at Sukau, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum e*

A couple at Sepilok were followed by one at Tabin WR

Black-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticulum* E

Quite common at Kinabalu Park, most were seen calling in flight but several showed well at close range in trees and shrubs

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum nigrimentum e*

A couple near our lodge at Sepilok were followed by another at Sukau

NECTARINIIDAE - Sunbirds

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis borneana* e

A handful at Sepilok RDC were followed by a couple more at Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*

Three or four were at Sepilok RDC

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis bornensis* e

Small numbers were in disturbed habitats at Sepilok and Sukau

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*

Males were at Sepilok RDC and near the restaurant at Tabin WR, a couple of females might have escaped identification

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma h. hypogrammicum*

Two singles were seen along the boardwalk at Sukau and a couple more were at Tabin WR

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma sperata brasiliana*

A pair were near our lodge at Sepilok and a male was at the restaurant at Tabin WR on one date

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*

Ones and twos were at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR

A couple were at our hotel near Kinabalu Park

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga s. siparaja*

Ones and twos were at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR

Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*

Fairly common at Kinabalu Park where up to 10 per day were seen or heard

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi* e

Small numbers were seen almost daily at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR

Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*

One showed well in a flowering tree along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR after an earlier bird had been seen by a couple of people at the lodge in Sepilok

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera r. robusta*

One was seen along the Tomangong Road at Tabin WR

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*

A brief individual was seen at the mud volcano at Tabin (n/l)

Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis everetti* e

Singles were seen twice at Tabin WR. Formerly known as Bornean Spiderhunter when mistakenly thought to be endemic to Borneo

Whitehead's Spiderhunter *Arachnothera juliae*

Birds were heard singing on two occasions at Kinabalu Park where a remarkable succession of flight views were had of up to four birds (or perhaps one confused individual) during a 20 minute period at the Liwagu Restaurant one morning

PASSERIDAE - Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches

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

Fairly common in urban contexts and oil palm plantations

ESTRILLIDAE - Waxbills, Munias & Allies

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans*

Small numbers were seen regularly at Tabin WR after a few earlier birds at Sukau

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata cabanisi*

A handful were noted at Kota Belud, these are now assumed to be colonists from the Philippines rather than escaped cage birds

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra palawana*

Groups of up to 10 were seen on a couple of occasions at the mud volcano at Tabin WR

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla jagori*

Fairly common and widespread, at least in disturbed habitats

MOTACILLIDAE - Wagtails, Pipits

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla t. tschutschensis* / *taivana* / *simillima*

A handful were at Kota Belud

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea robusta*

Up to four were seen each day at Kinabalu Park

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus malayensis* / *lugubris*

Three or four were at Lahad Datu Airport

MAMMALS

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

Order Scandentia

Tupaïidae - Treeshrews

Mountain Treeshrew *Tupaia montana baluensis* E

Two were noted in Kinabalu Park

Lesser Treeshrew *Tupaia minor caedis*

A treeshrew seen well at Gomantong Caves seemed a perfect match for this widespread species

Order Dermoptera

Cynocephalidae - Colugo

Colugo *Cynocephalus variegatus natunae*

Singles were seen very well during night drives at Tabin WR

Order Chiroptera

Pteropodidae - Fruit Bats

[Fruit Bat species]

Unidentified Fruit Bats were seen at Sukau and Tabin WR; seven species occur in Sabah

Molossidae - Free-tailed Bats

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida p. plicata*

At least the majority of the roosting bats that exit Gomantong Caves each evening are known to be this highly gregarious species

Order Primates

Tarsidae - Tarsiers

[Western Tarsier *Tarsius bancanus borneanus*]

One glimpsed during the second night drive at Tabin WR was only seen by Maldin the spotter

Cercopithecidae - Monkeys

Maroon Langur *Presbytis r. rubicunda* E

Three or four were scoped rather distantly at Gomantong Caves

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata ultima*

Up to 10 spent each night in trees near the restaurant at Sukau Rainforest Lodge

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus* E

We had several good encounters with these characterful primates at Sukau where about 50 were noted in total

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca f. fascicularis*

Small numbers were seen at all lowland sites visited

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca n. nemestrina*

Status and distribution were much as for the previous species

Hylobatidae - Gibbons

Bornean Gibbon *Hylobates muelleri funereus* E

Heard but not seen at Sepilok, one gave a couple of reasonable views near our rooms at Sukau and a family group of three put in occasional appearances near the lodge at Tabin WR

Pongidae - Great Apes

Bornean Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus* ssp. E

Those who opted to visit Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre saw a handful appear for their morning handout; one was seen briefly by some of the group along the Gomantong Caves approach road and a male was heard a couple of times along the Mud Volcano Trail at Tabin WR

Order Rodentia

Sciuridae - Squirrels

Sciurinae - Tree Squirrels and Ground Squirrels

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis sandakanensis*

Singles were seen twice at Tabin WR

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevosti pluto*

Small numbers of these attractive squirrels were seen at all lowland sites

[Kinabalu Squirrel *Callosciurus b. baluensis* E]

A probable was seen near the Timpohon Gate at Kinabalu Park

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus d. dilutus*

At least most of the brown, flank striped squirrels seen in the lowlands were presumably this common species

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti* E

Quite common at Kinabalu Park, especially around the rubbish bin at the Timpohon Gate!

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus e. exilis*

Singles were seen on four occasions at Sepilok, Sukau and Tabin WR

Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi* E

Two singles were found in Kinabalu Park

subfamily Petauristinae - Flying Squirrels

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi* E

Our first night drive at Tabin WR produced reasonable views of up to four in one large tree

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista rajab / nigricens*

This species was seen well during the second night drive at Tabin WR

Mustelidae - Martens, Weasels, Badgers and Otters

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula saba*

Those who visited the Core Area Road during our final morning at Tabin WR saw this species

Viveridae - Civets and Mongooses

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxoxorus hermaphroditus sabanus*

One was seen quite briefly during their first night drive at Tabin WR

Banded Palm Civet *Hemigalus derbyanus boiei*

One was seen during the second night drive at Tabin WR

Felidae - Cats

Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis borneoensis*

Both night drives at Tabin WR produced wonderful views of these delightful little cats with seven seen in total

Order Proboscidea

Elephantidae- Elephants

[Asian Elephant *Elephus maximus sumatranus*]

Heard but not seen at Tabin WR where deposits on the Tomangong Road suggested recent presence there

Order Artiodactyla - Even-toed Ungulates

Suidae - Pigs

[Bearded Pig *Sus b. barbatus*]

A half-eaten crocodile victim at Sukau was the only encounter

Tragulidae - Mouse-deer

[Mouse-deer sp *Tragulus sp.*]

A couple of unidentified Mouse-deer were seen at Tabin WR

Cervidae - Deer

[Muntjac sp. *Muntiacus sp.*]

An unidentified Muntjac was seen at Tabin WR

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor brookei*

One was seen briefly at Tabin WR

OTHER FAUNA

A few smallish Saltwater Crocodiles and several Water Monitor Lizards were seen, mainly at Sukau. Various unidentified skinks and Geckos were present throughout with Giant Gecko and Barking Gecko noted at Sukau. Spectacular Butterflies were a particular feature with a couple of the more widespread Birdwing species seen and Rajah Brooke's Birdwing was seen twice at Kinabalu Park where our hotel was attractive to a dazzling array of moths with several Hawk Moth species present and also an impressively huge Atlas Moth.

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