

Borneo's Mammals - Deramakot Forest Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

20th August – 2nd September 2025



Bornean Orangutan



Black-and-yellow Broadbill



Marbled Cat



Rhinoceros Hornbill

Tour report by Randall Lieschke



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Tour participants: Henry Sapinggi (leader) with seven Naturetrek clients

Day 1

Wednesday 20th August

In flight to Kuala Lumpur.

Day 2

Thursday 21st August

Seven excited clients and guide extraordinaire, Henry, arrived at Sepilok Nature Lodge mid-afternoon. We had a couple hours free to wander the grounds of this stunning resort. Blue-eared Kingfisher, Spectacled Spiderhunter and our first Orangutan (with a baby) kept our cameras busy. As the light faded, we headed to the nearby Rainforest Discovery Centre to witness flying squirrels emerging from their boxes and gliding off to a distant tree. But the highlight of the evening was, without question, a Horsfield's Tarsier, only about six metres from the path: you couldn't get any cuter.

Day 3

Friday 22nd August

We headed off to the Sepilok Orangutan Centre, where we saw several females with babies, some juveniles, and a large dominant male enjoying a fruit platter. They are free to wander off through the reserve, having been rehabilitated, but they still enjoy the odd handout. Across at the Sun Bear Conservation Centre, we were able to see about five of these endangered creatures.

A five-hour drive (the second half in 4WD vehicles, along old logging tracks) took us through oil palm plantations, and then into the Deramakot Forest Reserve. Heading out at 8.00pm, we had our first of seven nights spotlighting trips, and despite the light drizzle, we had a very close (although brief) view of the gorgeous Leopard Cat.

Days 4 – 9

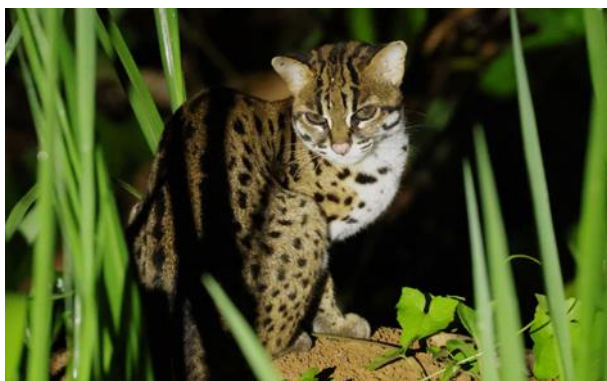
Saturday 23rd – Thursday 28th August

We spent most of the tour in the Deramakot Reserve. We were up early, heading out along the tracks, sometimes on foot, sometimes in our truck. We were mainly on the lookout for primates and birds, but insects, frogs, butterflies, lizards and many others of Borneo's amazing species also vied for our attention. A Black-and-yellow Broadbill was certainly a particular highlight (looking like it had come straight out of a comic book). Several species of Bee-eater, Kingfisher, Bulbul and Hornbill all kept us busy. The hornbills in particular were not very co-operative and seemed very camera shy. But the Red-bearded Bee-eater and Rhinoceros Hornbill were certainly standouts.

We were lucky enough to see four truly wild Orangutans. The first was a dominant male, which, like the hornbills, did not want his photo taken. Then we saw a mother with a juvenile, followed by another solitary juvenile. He was busy enjoying his breakfast of bark and seemed to be as interested in us as we were in him, allowing us to take some good photos and video.

A Northern Gray Gibbon, a Pygmy Squirrel, a Variable Sticky Frog and a stunning Rajah Brooke's Birdwing Butterfly all stopped us in our tracks. We usually got back for "breakfast" at about 11.00am, and then took it easy

during the heat of the day. Some went for short walks near the lodge trails, others had a snooze, and others got prepared for the long nights ahead.



Sunda Leopard Cat



Binturong



Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher

*Paratoxodera gigliotosi*

Unfortunately our second night drive was cut short by a torrential thunderstorm. This dampened our spirits somewhat, but not before we had added two Bornean Elephants and a Bornean Flying Lemur (or Colugo) to our list. Over the following five evenings we headed out in search of Borneo's creatures of the night. Henry kept amazing us: he spotted all sorts of creatures that none of us could see. Some of these we had never even heard of, like the Sunda Stink-badger. Palm Civets, flying lemurs and various species of squirrel were regulars, while three sightings of the gorgeous Bornean Slow Loris left a smile on our faces.

We had two more good sightings of Bornean Elephant, and the striking Malay Civet and several more gorgeous Leopard Cats kept us on our toes. At times, it was very quiet. We might go for an hour seeing very little. But then, something would turn up: a Wallace's Flying Frog, a Sunda Tree Mouse, a Barred Eagle-Owl, or a Buffy Fish Owl. On night eight, we hit the jackpot, when somehow Henry spotted a Marbled Cat. It seemed to have some prey lodged in the fork of a tree, and kept guard, giving us quite some time to appreciate its wonderful coat.

On our last night drive, we came across a large logging truck stuck in the middle of the road, with no way around it. Its load of logs had moved, and were holding on by a fingernail. We had to retrace our steps and take another track. A Slow Loris, Colugo, Malay Civet and Barred Eagle-Owl all displayed nicely for us. But our biggest reward for having to turn around was a Binturong, which we would never have seen otherwise.

Days 10 – 12

Friday 29th – Sunday 31st August

We departed Deramakot for the long drive to the Kinabatangan River, stopping in at the Gomantong Caves along the way. These can only be described as disgustingly amazing: they were full of bats and bat guano, swiftlets and millions of cockroaches. A boat cruise along the river took us to Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort, where we enjoyed the next three nights. It was a stunning resort with beautiful rooms and surroundings. The meals were delicious, and the staff were friendly and helpful. A one-hour night walk along the lodge's boardwalks on our first night found us a roosting Rhinoceros Hornbill and a Lesser Mouse-Deer.

Five boat cruises (both morning and evening) along the Nypo Palm-lined channels found us many Proboscis Monkeys, Long-tailed Macaque, Silvered Leaf-monkey, and numerous birds, plus crocodiles. On one evening cruise, we stayed out well after dark, and spotted three elusive Stork-billed Kingfishers, and a Blue-eared Kingfisher at roost. During the day, we were kept busy exploring the lodge's walkways. A Rufous-backed (formerly Oriental) Dwarf Kingfisher gave us a special moment, when it dispatched a cicada for its breakfast.

Various snakes and lizards kept our reptile enthusiasts happy, and an incredible Praying Mantis (*Paratoxodera gigliotosi*), disguised as a dead twig, complete with "rose thorns" and "fungi" astounded us. A sleeping Colugo, only a few metres up a tree along the boardwalk, gave us a great photo opportunity of this unusual creature.



Horsfield's Tarsier



Bornean Slow Loris

Day 13

Monday 1st September

It was time to head back to Sandakan by boat, and onward to our various destinations. This had been a rather exhausting tour, with many hours out at night spotlighting; but the rewards were certainly there. We had seen so many very unusual creatures, leaving us with some great memories, and photos!

Day 14

Tuesday 2nd September

We arrived safely home after a long flight from Kuala Lumpur.

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Species lists

Mammals

E=Endemic, N=Near endemic		August-September 2025										
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>				✓	✓		✓				
Moonrat	<i>Echinosorex gymnura</i>						✓					
Marbled Cat	<i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>							✓				
Sunda Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus javanensis</i>		✓			✓						
Binturong	<i>Arctictis binturong</i>							✓				
Bornean Small-toothed Palm Civet - N	<i>Arctogalidia stigmatica</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Bornean Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus philippinensis</i>		✓		✓			✓				
Malay Civet	<i>Viverra zangalunga</i>				✓	✓		✓				
Short-tailed Mongoose	<i>Urva brachyura</i>							✓				
Sun Bear	<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>		✓									
Sunda Stink-badger - N	<i>Mydaus javanensis</i>						✓					
Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>					✓			✓			
Lesser Mouse Deer	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>								✓			
Sambar Deer	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>		✓					✓				
Large Flying-fox	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>	✓										
Bornean Flying Lemur	<i>Galeopterus variegatus</i>				✓	✓		✓		✓		
Bornean Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus menagensis</i>				✓			✓				
Horsfield's Tarsier - N	<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>	✓										
Crab-eating Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>		✓			✓	✓	✓				
Proboscis Monkey - N	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>								✓	✓	✓	
Silvered Leaf-monkey	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>								✓	✓	✓	
Northern Gray Gibbon - N	<i>Hylobates funereus</i>						✓					
Bornean Orangutan - N	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓			
Black Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys tephromelas</i>				✓			✓	✓			
Thomas's Flying Squirrel - N	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	
Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>				✓					✓	✓	
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel - N	<i>Dremomys everetti</i>	✓				✓				✓	✓	
Least Pygmy Squirrel - N	<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>						✓					
Common Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Birds

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		August-September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Blyth's Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus affinis</i>		✓								
Sunda Frogmouth - N	<i>Batrachostomus cornutus</i>								✓		
Grey-rumped Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>			✓			✓				
Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Mossy-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus salangana</i>								✓		
Black-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>			✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Silver-rumped Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>			✓			✓				
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Red-billed Malkoha	<i>Zanclostomus javanicus</i>									✓	
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>					✓					
Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>					✓				✓	

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		August-September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Violet Cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus</i>									✓	
Banded Bay Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis sonneratii</i>										✓
Feral Pigeon - I	<i>Columba livia</i>	✓									
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	✓									
Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>									✓	
Zebra Dove - I	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	✓									
Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron fulvicollis</i>									✓	
Little Green Pigeon	<i>Treron olax</i>									✓	✓
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>										✓
Thick-billed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron curvirostra</i>	✓	✓								
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>									✓	✓
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amauornis phoenicurus</i>										✓
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>										✓
Whiskered Tern	<i>Chlidonias hybrida</i>									✓	
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>								✓		✓
Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>								✓		
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>								✓	✓	✓
Nankeen Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>									✓	
Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>									✓	✓
Little Heron	<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>	✓									
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>									✓	
Medium Egret	<i>Ardea intermedia</i>	✓							✓	✓	✓
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>									✓	✓
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>				✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus nanus</i>									✓	
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirratus</i>				✓					✓	
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>					✓					
Crested Goshawk	<i>Lophospiza trivirgata</i>					✓			✓		
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>								✓	✓	✓
Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>							✓		✓	
Barred Eagle-Owl	<i>Ketupa sumatrana</i>				✓			✓			
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>						✓	✓			
Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>		✓			✓	✓		✓		
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	✓							✓	✓	
Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>	✓		✓		✓	✓				
Bushy-crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>						✓				
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>						✓				
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus</i>										✓
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>									✓	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>		✓						✓	✓	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>									✓	✓
Malaysian Blue-banded Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo peninsulae</i>				✓	✓	✓				
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	✓								✓	
Common Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>										✓
Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>									✓	
Red-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis amictus</i>			✓			✓		✓		✓
Brown Barbet - E	<i>Caloramphus fuliginosus</i>	✓									✓
Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus moluccensis</i>					✓					
Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>			✓							
White-fronted Falconet - E	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>			✓		✓					
Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>										✓

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		August-September 2025										
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos</i>	✓				✓				✓		
Black-and-yellow Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>			✓								
Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus hirundinaceus</i>								✓			
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>										✓	
Green Iora	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>							✓				
Scarlet Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus speciosus</i>						✓					
Lesser Cuckooshrike	<i>Lalage fimbriata</i>					✓						
Dark-throated Oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>							✓				
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>			✓		✓						
Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>			✓		✓	✓	✓				
Spotted Fantail	<i>Rhipidura perlata</i>							✓				
Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone affinis</i>				✓							
Bornean Black Magpie - E	<i>Platysmurus aterrimus</i>						✓					
Sunda Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>		✓				✓	✓				
Hairy-backed Bulbul	<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>			✓								
Grey-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus tephrogenys</i>							✓				
Finsch's Bulbul	<i>Iole finschii</i>					✓						
Streaked Bulbul	<i>Ixos malaccensis</i>						✓					
Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Brachypodius melanocephalos</i>					✓		✓				
Spectacled Bulbul	<i>Ixodia erythrophthalmos</i>				✓							
Grey-bellied Bulbul	<i>Ixodia cyaniventris</i>				✓		✓					
Scaly-breasted Bulbul	<i>Ixodia squamata</i>				✓							
Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>				✓							
Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>				✓		✓					
Cream-eyed Bulbul - N	<i>Pycnonotus pseudosimplex</i>				✓			✓				
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo javanica</i>		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>		✓		✓		✓	✓				
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>							✓				
Bold-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Mixornis bornensis</i>			✓								
Grey-hooded Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma bicolor</i>				✓					✓		
Sooty-capped Babbler	<i>Malacopteron affine</i>					✓						
Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>						✓					
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>								✓			
Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>										✓	
Javan Myna - I	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>			✓		✓						
White-crowned Shama - E	<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>		✓					✓				
Asian Brown Flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa dauurica</i>						✓					
Malaysian Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis turcosus</i>					✓						
Mangrove Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis rufigastra</i>									✓		
White-crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>					✓						
Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>			✓								
Lesser Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>	✓	✓				✓					
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker - E	<i>Prionochilus xanthopygius</i>			✓		✓						
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	✓	✓									
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>						✓					
Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	✓										
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	✓										
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	✓				✓	✓					
Spectacled Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera flavigaster</i>	✓										
Yellow-eared Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera chrysogenys</i>			✓								
Bornean Spiderhunter - E	<i>Arachnothera everetti</i>		✓		✓							

E=Endemic, N=Near-endemic, I=Introduced		August-September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Dusky Munia	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			

Reptiles & amphibians

E = Endemic		August-September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>								✓	✓	✓
Malayan Box Turtle	<i>Cuora amboinensis</i>								✓	✓	
Flying lizard species	<i>Draco</i> sp.			✓			✓				
Bornean Anglehead Lizard - E	<i>Gonocephalus bornensis</i>		✓								
Barking (Green-eyed) Gecko	<i>Gekko smithii</i>								✓		
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>		✓	✓	✓	✓					
Striped Bornean Tree Skink - E	<i>Apterygodon vittatus</i>								✓		
Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>		✓			✓			✓	✓	✓
Mangrove Snake	<i>Boiga dendrophila</i>									✓	
Keel-bellied Whip (Vine) Snake	<i>Dryophiops rubescens</i>		✓								
Bornean Keeled Green Pit Viper	<i>Tropidolaemus subannulatus</i>		✓								
Giant River Frog	<i>Limnonectes leporinus</i>	✓									
Rough-sided Frog	<i>Pulchrana glandulosa</i>								✓		
Four-lined Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>		✓								
Dark-eared Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates macrotis</i>		✓								
File-eared Frog	<i>Polypedates ottilophus</i>		✓								
Wallace's Flying Frog	<i>Rhacophorus nigropalmatus</i>				✓						
Variable Sticky Frog	<i>Kalophrynus heterochirus</i>						✓				

Others

		August-September 2025									
Common name	Scientific name	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Rajah Brooke's Birdwing	<i>Trogonoptera brookiana</i>						✓				
a praying mantis	<i>Paratoxodera gigliotosi</i>										✓