



A [Tropical Birding](#) CUSTOM tour

BORNEO
(Sabah, Malaysia)
25th June – 9th July 2016



Borneo boasts more than 50 endemic bird species, 5 of which are *barbets*;
Golden-naped Barbet, Mount Kinabalu

Tour Leader: Sam Woods

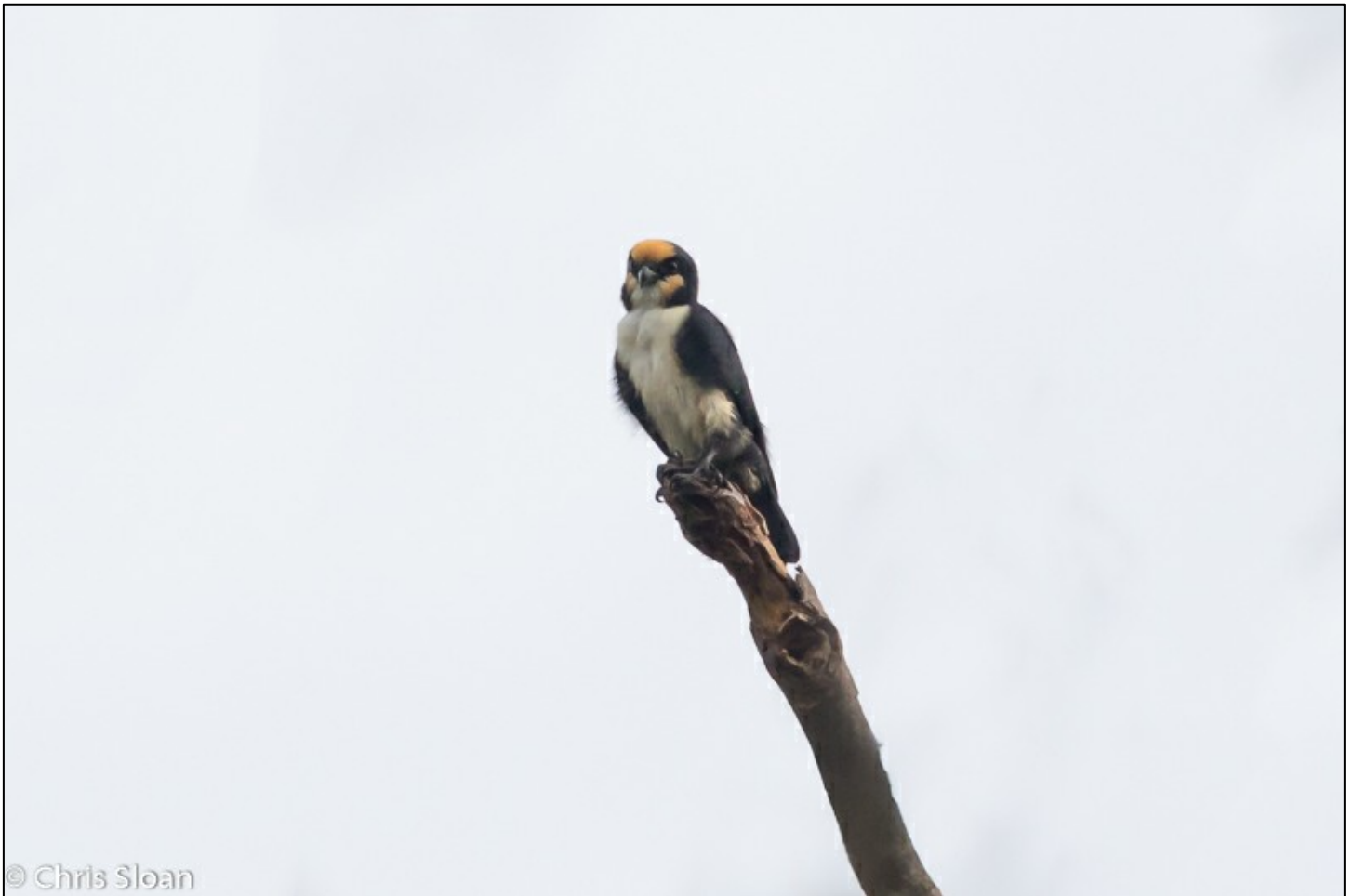
(with Azmil in Danum and Remy at Sukau)

All of the photos in this report were taken on this tour.

*Thanks to participants **Chris Sloan** and **Michael Todd** for their photo contributions; (individually indicated).*

INTRODUCTION

*The small Malaysian state of **Sabah**, in the north of the island of Borneo, is rightly one of the most popular Asian birding destinations. Its appeal is obvious: Sabah contains all but a few of the 50+ endemic bird species on the island; possesses an impressive mammal list too, including a number of Bornean specialties like Bornean Orangutan and Proboscis Monkey; is small enough to require relatively little travel to cover from one side of the state to the other to include both lowland and highland sites; and boasts some of the best, nature, and birder, -focused infrastructure in the region. The number of bird species that are endemic to the island varies greatly depending on taxonomy followed, reaching 59 at the most liberal, upper level; and most agreeing there are over 50 of them. Importantly, on top of this there is a single monotypic (one species) bird family only found there, the enigmatic **Bornean Bristlehead**, which clearly won the bird of the tour vote. We managed to record 50 endemics, and see 48 of them in two weeks of birding.*



White-fronted Falconet Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum

While any Borneo tour inevitably focuses on endemic birds, it should also be pointed out that this list contains some of Asia's (and arguably the World's), most stunning birds; we managed to find many of these, including the dashing **Blue-banded Pitta**, similarly spectacular **Blue-headed Pitta**; **Whitehead's Broadbill and Trogon**, (part of the infamous "**Whitehead's Three**", which we completed with the



spiderhunter too); a quartet of **White-fronted Falconet** sightings; "**Bornean**" **Banded Kingfisher** (**Black-faced Kingfisher**); **Golden-naped Barbet**, and **Bornean Green-Magpie**. However, aside from the endemic species, there are plentiful spectacular species that are not confined to the island, like **Rhinoceros** and **Wrinkled Hornbills**; **Black-and-yellow** and **Black-and-red Broadbills**; **Checker-throated Woodpecker**, and **Rufous-collared Kingfisher**. Seeing 3 frogmouths in 3 nights (**Blyth's**, **Large** and **Gould's Frogmouths**), was also special and a rare event in Borneo. The final bird list measured 308 species, with 290 of them seen by the group.

While endemic bird species, and an endemic bird family, were clear motivations among the group; many came to Borneo to see orangutan alone, and so were particularly pleased with the mother and baby **Bornean Orangutan** we watched feeding in a large fruiting fig tree, as we gently drifted below them in a canoe, just off the Kinabatangan

*River. We did well for mammals, with 39 species identified (plus a few more unidentified bats besides!), which included some stellar species like **Western Tarsier**, **Proboscis Monkey** (photo page 3), **North Borneo Gibbon**, **Bornean Pigmy Elephant**, **Leopard Cat**, and **Red Langur**. Aside from the birds and mammals we also got to see Borneo's largest flower, the striking **Rafflesia keithii**, which blooms for just five days.*

*The tour started off in the state capital, **Kota Kinabalu (KK)**, from where we flew into eastern Sabah, and visited one of the best birding lodges in the world, **Borneo Rainforest Lodge**, (set within the rich lowland rainforest of the **Danum Valley Conservation Area**); a fantastic luxury venue that was a highlight all of its own. We remained in the lowlands for our next stop, at the state-of-the-art canopy walkway at the **Rainforest Discovery Centre in Sepilok**. Continuing our exploration of lowland Borneo, we transferred by boat to a lodge in **Sukau**, alongside the **Kinabatangan River**, the state's longest river, at a total length of 560km/350miles. After also visiting the nearby bat caves of **Gomantong**, we took a flight back to KK, and then visited two sites in the highlands, **Tambunan (in the Crocker Range)**, and **Mount Kinabalu**, where the majority of the endemic birds were found, as well as a myriad of squirrels! We were lucky this year to encounter very little rain, except for one afternoon at Gomantong, and very few leeches at all at Danum, which even led some to go birding in the forest in shorts!*

TOP 5 BIRDS OF THE TOUR:

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 | Bornean Bristlehead | Danum Valley |
| 2 | Blue-banded Pitta | Danum Valley |
| 3 | Whitehead's Broadbill | Mount Kinabalu |
| 4 | Whitehead's Trogon | Mount Kinabalu |
| 5 | White-fronted Falconet | Danum Valley, Sukau (Kinabatangan River), and Gomantong |

TOP 5 MAMMALS OF THE TOUR:

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Bornean Orangutan | Danum Valley, Gomantong and Sukau (Kinabatangan River) |
| 2 | Western Tarsier | Danum Valley |
| 3 | Proboscis Monkey | Sukau (Kinabatangan River) |
| 4 | Bornean Pigmy Elephant | Sukau (Kinabatangan River) |
| 5 | North Borneo Gibbon | Danum Valley and Sukau (Kinabatangan River) |

TOUR SUMMARY

DAY ONE – of birding - (26th June): **KOTA KINABALU to BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE (DANUM VALLEY)**

The group flew in from a long international flight late the night before, but were soon back at the airport, as we flew into Lahad Datu, in eastern Sabah, where we then drove into the *Danum Valley Conservation Area*, and the wonderful surrounds of the *Borneo Rainforest Lodge*. In spite of the weariness of recent travels getting to Borneo, the group was excited to be entering this premier birding area, which quickly showed its worth on the drive into the lodge. Frequent stops were made along the way for **Bushy-crested Hornbill**, **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, the near endemic **Dusky Munia**, and both **Greater and Lesser Green Leafbirds**. Scott Watson, another Tropical Birding guide, had given us info on a tree recently in the area that had been packed with flowerpeckers just the week before, and he had even recorded the rare *Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker* among them. We stopped at the designated area, and found at least 3 male **Scarlet-breasted Flowerpeckers** there, along with **Yellow-rumped**, **Yellow-breasted**, **Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers**, and **Purple-naped Spiderhunter** in attendance too!



Blyth's Frogmouth near Borneo Rainforest Lodge

One of the drivers also spotted a **White-crowned Hornbill** along the entrance road. After a series of roadside stops – including for a close **Changeable Hawk-Eagle** perched close to the road, and the world's largest woodpecker, when four **Great Slaty Woodpeckers** were observed flapping excitedly on the side of a dead tree - we rolled into *Borneo Rainforest Lodge* for lunchtime, where we enjoyed an endemic over our first fantastic buffet spread: **Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker** feeding right in the lodge garden. We also managed to get 3 **Straw-headed Bulbuls** over lunch too, a fast declining and attractive bulbul. Post lunch, and settling into our amazing surrounds, we took a walk into the surrounding rainforest. Straight off, we targeted the priority bird of the trip, *Bornean Bristlehead*. However, that bird would have to wait for later, but we did track the scarce **Gray-chested Jungle-Flycatcher**, and also saw a pair of glowing **Black-and-crimson Pittas**. In spite of the jetlag, the entire group assembled post dinner for a *night drive*, to search for both birds and other animals. We had barely pulled out of the lodge when our first mammal was seen clasped to the side of a large rainforest tree – **Bornean Colugo** (sometimes referred to, misleadingly, as “Flying Lemur”), and a **Malay Civet** walking nearby. This was followed up with a large and ugly **Bearded Pig**, **Thomas's Flying Squirrel**, and even a roosting **Rhinoceros Hornbill**. We also specifically targeted night birds too, and came away with a pair of Barred Eagle Owls sitting about their favored feeding haunt, and, after some time, a well-whiskered **Blyth's Frogmouth**, (*photo page 5*). We may have only just got there, and just got started within the Danum Valley Conservation Area, but already the group were made aware of what a special place we were staying in.



Black-crowned Pitta Danum (Michael Todd)



Bornean Bristlehead *Danum* (above); and **Bornean Spiderhunter** *Danum* (below Michael Todd)



DAY TWO (27th June): **BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE (DANUM VALLEY)**

The first full day in the Danum Valley Conservation Area is always an exciting one, as birds come thick and fast, and so it proved on this day. However, there were plenty of frustrations too, with birds like *Bornean Ground-Cuckoo*, and *Giant, Bornean Banded*, and *Blue-headed Pittas*, all heard but unseen, despite considerable effort and patience from the group. Early success did come, for most of the group anyway, with a roadside **Hooded Pitta** that hopped onto a branch for a short time. The usual flurry of babblers was also encountered, with **Chestnut-winged**, **Sooty-capped**, **Scaly-crowned**, **Rufous-crowned**, and **Ferruginous Babblers** all seen. A great endemic find on the first morning, was a confiding **Bornean Wren-Babbler** (**Ground Babbler**), which responded well to playback giving some crisp, close up views. Along the roadside we also found some calling **Blue-eared Barbets**, and the endemic **Gold-faced Barbet** too. Other morning finds included a **North Borneo Gibbon** hanging out by the road; several **Rufous-winged Philentomas**; a pair of very popular **Crested Jays** (an odd forest species that may not actually be a jay at all); and a cooperative **Striped Wren-Babbler**. However, the morning closed with the best sighting of all, and arguably the group's most wanted bird. Our superb local guide, Azmil, had heard over the radio that other people had spotted a small group of **Bornean Bristleheads** on the

Segama Trail (*photo page before*), and so, just before lunch we set off in hot pursuit, not daring to leave this much-wanted bird until later in the afternoon. On arrival at the stated spot, we split up, and it was not long before Azmil had tracked down the birds by call, and gathered us all there, when we all got views of these odd, red-headed canopy birds, which represent an endemic family to the island. There may have been plentiful non-cooperative birds that morning, but their memories were soon washed away once we got the bristleheads under the belt in time for lunch. On the way back to the lodge we also added **Asian Fairy-Bluebird** and **Red-naped Trogon** to the trip list.

Over lunch, we spotted **Lesser Fish-Eagle**, **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**, (*photo next page*), **Buff-rumped Woodpecker**, and **Gray-bellied Bulbul** all from the lodge balcony, before we set off for an afternoon walk along one of the forest trails. Again, we were frustrated by calling "megs" like *Giant, Bornean Banded* and *Blue-*

headed Pittas, which all refused to show, as well as a **Black-throated Wren-Babbler** that was glimpsed by Michael only. However, we did score another possible endemic, in the form of a superb male **Banded Kingfisher**, which has recently been touted as a possible split, and new island endemic. A bit of road birding produced our first **Orange-backed Woodpeckers**, and our only **Green Broadbill** of the tour. We lingered at a designated spot inside the forest for dusk, and soon heard our target calling in the waning light – **Large Frogmouth** (*photo page 7*) – it took a little time to come in how we wanted, but finally it dropped on to a low branch, which pleased birders and photographers alike. On the return to the lodge for dinner, we were also showed a roosting pair of **Malaysian Blue Flycatchers**, and noted a **Buffy Fish-Owl** calmly sitting on a soccer goal post, to finish off the day.



© Chris Sloan

Bornean Wren-Babbler Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum

DAY THREE (28th June): BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE (DANUM VALLEY)

For our second full day in Danum, we set off up the road by truck, to bird further from the lodge. Our intended target, **White-fronted Falconet**, was not at its hoped for perch, but within a few hours we had located one somewhere else, much to our relief. While this can be a bird that the guides sweat on, it did not turn out to be tricky on this tour, with four different sightings by the trip end. We finally tracked down **Diard's Trogon**, with an early pair on this day, following some close calling birds in previous days that refused to show. Distant **Fiery Minivets** and **Thick-billed Pigeon** were seen by the roadside too, as was our first, distant, **Bornean Orangutan** that merely left us craving more. Inside the forest we managed to get several perched views of the energetic **Rufous-backed Kingfisher**, another **Spotted Fantail**, a **Rufous-chested Flycatcher**, and also a pair of **Banded Broadbills**. We also scored our first looks at a male **Blue-headed Pitta**, which remained frustratingly distant, and elusive, and so left some still without views, or without fully satisfactory ones. Lunch at the lodge was again noteworthy, for scope looks at **Rhinoceros Hornbill**, and **Silver-rumped Needletails** gliding over the river by the lodge, while in the afternoon we managed to see both **Large-billed (Long-billed) Blue Flycatcher** and **Bornean Blue Flycatcher** along a forest trail that was largely otherwise quiet.





Gould's Frogmouth *Danum*

At night some returned to do a night drive, a roosting **Black-crowned Pitta** and good looks at a **Leopard Cat** being the highlights, while Sam and Chris searched around the lodge grounds for birds, tracking down the regular **Brown Wood-Owl** sitting quietly on a power pole, and an absurdly confiding **Leopard Cat** (*photo page 9*) of their own. After Chris retired for the day, Sam went off scouting for night birds for the next night, and eventually tracked down a magnificent **Gould's Frogmouth**, (*photo page 10*), the third frogmouth species in as many days. On returning to the lodge at a late hour, and surprisingly finding Gail and Gary's cabin lights still on, proposed returning for the frogmouth, if they were still game, which they were. Amazingly, just fifteen minutes later we returned to find the bird still sat on the same convenient perch alongside the trail, for further great views.



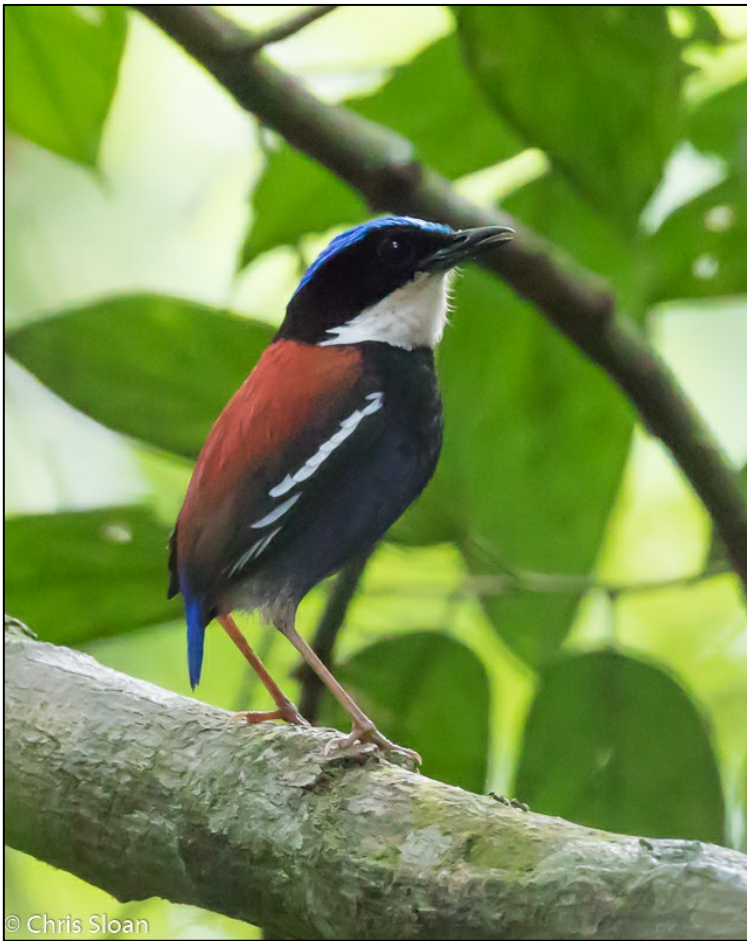
© Chris Sloan

Blue-banded Pitta *Danum*

DAY FOUR (29th June): **BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE (DANUM VALLEY)**

Our final, full, day at Danum was a true red-letter day, even by the heady standards at this site. We decided, to undergo the significant trek up to *Fairy Falls*, to try and see the rare, but beautiful *Blue-banded Pitta*. This involved a steep upward climb of around 2km (1.2 miles) *each way*, which may not sound like much, but in the considerable heat and humidity of Danum, it felt like quite an undertaking. As we left the lodge we found a roosting **Barred Eagle-Owl**, which was seen much better in the same area at the end of the day. On the way up the trail we stopped for **Horsfield's Babbler**, and a **Rufous-collared Kingfisher** at a stakeout, where it performed with aplomb; and a pair of **White-necked Babblers**, and both **Chestnut-naped** and **White-crowned Forktails** were also seen nearby. Quite the start to the day! From then on our focus was to reach the Blue-banded Pitta area, so we had ample time to try for this difficult to see species, for some time. On arriving at the area, there was no

evidence of the bird, by sight or sound, and so Sam set off to play at various locations higher up the trail, while the group and the local guide stayed put, in case one began calling in a delayed reaction to Sam's tape. On returning to the group 30 minutes later, the group had mistakenly thought they had heard Sam playing the call, but had actually heard the bird itself, as Sam had been some way off at the time. The group waited excitedly as Sam tried playback again, with no answer. We switched position, and suddenly, heard the soft whistle of a Blue-banded Pitta close by. Just a short time later Sam spotted a scarlet patch in the understory – the **Blue-banded Pitta** (*photo page 11*), was sitting in nearly full view! Soon after, the scope was trained on the bird for all to watch for some five minutes or so, and it was again seen on a better perch still, when the blue band seemed to beam out from the dark forest understory. While we still had plenty of the morning to go, the walk down, and the remaining part of the morning was largely quiet from then on (aside from a **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**), but it mattered little. We enjoyed a great view over the rainforest, and the lodge from our lofty trail, when we even managed to scope Shannon, who had opted for a more leisurely morning, sitting at the lodge!



Typically for this trip, our lunch at Borneo Rainforest Lodge was again interrupted by birds, this time the gigantic **Great-billed Heron** that took off from the river, and was located feeding in a quiet shoal a short time later. In the afternoon, we opened with a group of **Bornean Bristleheads** over the Hornbill Trail, which took some time to find, having been heard for some time, but eventually allowed prolonged scope views to the delight of the group, who enjoyed this upgraded look very much indeed! We also stopped again in the same area for **Black-throated Wren-Babbler**, but this time got views for all but one of the group, including some 'scope looks too. News of a mother and baby *Bornean Orangutan* near the lodge had us swiftly walking back towards the lodge along the same Hornbill Trail in readiness for seeing this animal better. However, a crazy few minutes then unfolded, as we bumped into another group who had enjoyed superb looks at a trail hopping **Blue-headed Pitta** minutes earlier, (*photo above*). With one or two people still needing looks at this stunning bird, and most desiring better looks, we simply had to try for it. On playing the call, the bird could not have

responded better, hopping around us in full view on the trail on several occasions and also hopping on to a vine at eye level, to ensure we all got cracker looks at this marvelous bird. Then, the guide's radio crackled into life again, and now informed us of a *Bornean Crested Fireback* walking around the staff quarters, and a pair of *Helmeted Hornbills* perched by the roadside. We had some risky decisions to make and so opted to try for the most difficult of our three options, the *hornbills*. As we raced as fast as we could along the slippery forest trail towards them, we soon heard the hornbills fall silent, and the radio confirmed again that they had flown off in the

direction of where the fireback had been seen. We continued in the same direction, and were soon informed the **Helmeted Hornbills** had landed in a large fruiting tree beside the staff quarters. A few breathless minutes later we were at the quarters, and surveying the tree for the hornbills, which were scoped for a short time, before they took off revealing their long, unique tails as they did so. The firebacks had sadly moved on, but more than a little compensation was provided when we stumbled into a foraging **Bornean Orangutan** in the area, to close out our day.



Great views of the rainforest at **Danum**

We had requested that the local rangers go in search of *Western Tarsier* for us that night, as they had found one the night before, which had slipped out of sight before we could get summoned to the spot. Over dinner, the request came to fruition. Just as we sat down with our food, which had yet to be touched, Azmil came to our table to confirm the ranger was watching a *Western Tarsier*, and so advised we go straight there and abandon our dinner, which we did! While the food went cold on the table, we sweated our way along a trail for around 400m to where a ranger was still quietly nearby, with a superb **Western Tarsier** sitting calmly in his spotlight, one of the mammal moments of the tour (*photo below*)! Dinner was completely forgotten as we all enjoyed this special moment, before returning to the lodge to polish off our remaining dinner, and amend our completed checklists to add the tarsier. After dinner, most of the group went out in pursuit of the **Gould's Frogmouth** that Sam, Gary

and Gail had managed to see the night before. Before we set off though, Azmil showed us a roosting **Bornean Crested Fireback** that had chosen to sleep near our cabins. On this occasion, the frogmouth proved much more difficult than the evening before, and some off trail work was required so that we could all get it in our optics, where it remained until we left it be.



Western Tarsier *Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum*

DAY FIVE (30th June): BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE (DANUM VALLEY) to SEPILOK

We had just a final morning to enjoy the considerable avian riches of Danum Valley, and so spent a full morning there, before returning to the lodge to pack up, check out, and take a final lunch before our four and a half hour drive to Sepilok. By this point our final targets for Danum were abundantly clear, as we had only a small list of possible additions remaining. Standing high among them was the *Bornean Banded Pitta*, which we had heard close on at least five occasions, but had yet to see. Similarly, *Giant Pitta*. And so we visited a trail near the gate, which offered both. The *Giant Pitta* was not heard at all that morning and so remained as a heard only on our trip list from the days before. However, a **Bornean Banded Pitta** was heard, and replied repeatedly to our playback. The bird took a lot of time to show though, but when it did, we all got to see it well, our fourth pitta seen well by the entire group. Returning to the road, (via a **Short-tailed Babbler** on the way back), we decided to spend the last part of our time at this wonderful place along there, as our trail focus had left us missing plentiful birds possible on the forest edge. This was proven quickly, when we got fantastic looks at both perched **Wreathed and Rhinoceros Hornbills** along the road, and then added **Red-billed Malkoha** and **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle**, swiftly afterwards. Other additions along the road were **Banded Woodpecker**, **Thick-billed Spiderhunter**, **Large Woodshrike**, **Bronzed Drongo**, **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**, and **Gray-rumped Treeswift**. We also got our best looks to date of **Whiskered Treeswift**, (*photo page 17*), leading to reels of photos to be taken, and got further looks at **White-fronted Falconet**. Back at the lodge, while packing up, Chris and Shannon had a run in with one of the local **Pig-tailed Macaques**, one of which slammed against Shannon's window, while she sat inside!

After lunch, we headed out to *Sepilok*, making few stops along the way, but did see a number of **Collared Kingfishers** on roadside wires en-route, and the introduced **Javan Myna**, as well as **Orange-bellied and Yellow-rumped Flowerpeckers**. After dinner at our resort in *Sepilok*, we went out in search of owls, and were shown a roosting **Blue-eared Kingfisher**, the first of the tour, but were frustrated by a continuously calling *Oriental Bay Owl*, and *Sunda Scops-Owl*, both of which failed to show up.



Whiskered Treeswift near Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum (Michael Todd)

DAY SIX (1st July): **SEPILOK to SUKAU (KINABATANGAN RIVER)**

We started the day with a post-dawn meet up at our hotel at 6am, which quickly led to our first **Black-and-red Broadbills** of the trip in the resort's parking lot. We then took our packed lunch at our morning's destination, the *Rainforest Discovery Centre* in *Sepilok*, a mere 5 minutes drive from our hotel. The reason for our visit to this site was the state-of-the-art, steel canopy walkway. We spent the first part of the morning there, racking up great looks at the often-frustrating **Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot**, in a tree that also hosted a handful of **Spectacled Spiderhunters**, a couple of male **Red-throated Sunbirds**, several **Lesser Green Leafbirds**, a **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** crawling along its limbs, and a pair of **Gray-and-buff Woodpeckers**. The walkway also produced sitting **Black Hornbills**, singles of both **Red-naped** and **Diard's Trogons**, a perched **Plaintive Cuckoo**, two **White-bellied Erpornis** (our only sighting of the entire tour), and a wonderful look at a male **Blue-naped Monarch**, which shone electric blue while sitting in a shaft of sunlight. After this, we spent a little time down on several forest trails, where we added two attractive babblers-**Black-throated Babbler**, and **Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler**, and had good long looks at a female **Raffle's Malkoha**. We also surveyed an area of orange blooms in the parking lot, which hosted a bright male **Crimson Sunbird**, which shared the flowers with a striking male **Copper-throated Sunbird**.



*The beautiful, mammal-rich, rainforest along the **Kinabatangan River**;
home to orangutans, Proboscis Monkeys, and Bornean Pigmy Elephants*

Before lunch, we returned to our nearby resort, packed up our things, and headed to a dock in *Sandakan*, where a boat took us along the mighty *Kinabatangan River* to our next lodge in *Sukau*. This is Sabah's longest river at 560km/350 miles, and is also home to the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, an amazing area for both birds and animals, and one of few areas in the world that can lay claim to 10 species of primate! We stopped off on the way for lunch overlooking the river, but soon continued on with the hope of *elephants* high in our minds. The journey in produced a handful of new birds, including **Great Crested Tern**, multiple **White-bellied Sea-Eagles**, and half a dozen **Lesser Adjutants** riding thermals on the wing. Once we reached the lodge by mid-afternoon, we made swift work of checking in, knowing that if we did this fast we could spend more time looking for *elephants*, which had been sighted upriver the evening before, and which represented our best chance at seeing them. As the elephants had been generally making their upriver, and away from our base at Sukau, we were informed that our best chance to see them would be sooner rather than later, as they would soon move too far upriver to find them for some time. On arriving at the section of the *Tenengang River* (a large tributary of the Kinabatangan River), where they had been seen in recent days, a boat ahead of us gave us the signal that **Bornean Pigmy Elephants** were in view. Before we knew it a siege of boats stormed into the area as news spread, creating a wild scene not only for seeing the elephants, but observing the desperation of the tourists trying to get a view of the herd, which

were moving within thick forest on the bank. We were patient, bided our time, and soon enough the crowds dwindled to just a few boats, and we got repeated looks of the elephants as they walked along the banks, including a tusker male, and at least 27 different individuals, (*although more likely closer to 40*). While our first afternoon on board our private canoe had been largely about seeing a mammal, we also took time out to take in a calling male **White-crowned Hornbill**, which landed right above us in full view, and provided a major upgrade to our earlier views at Danum. We also enjoyed superb looks at a super confiding **Blue-eared Kingfisher**, which allowed us to drift up beside it. The afternoon will also be remembered for looks at another fearsome giant-**Estuarine (Saltwater) Crocodile**, a large individual of which was shown to us loafing on the riverbank.



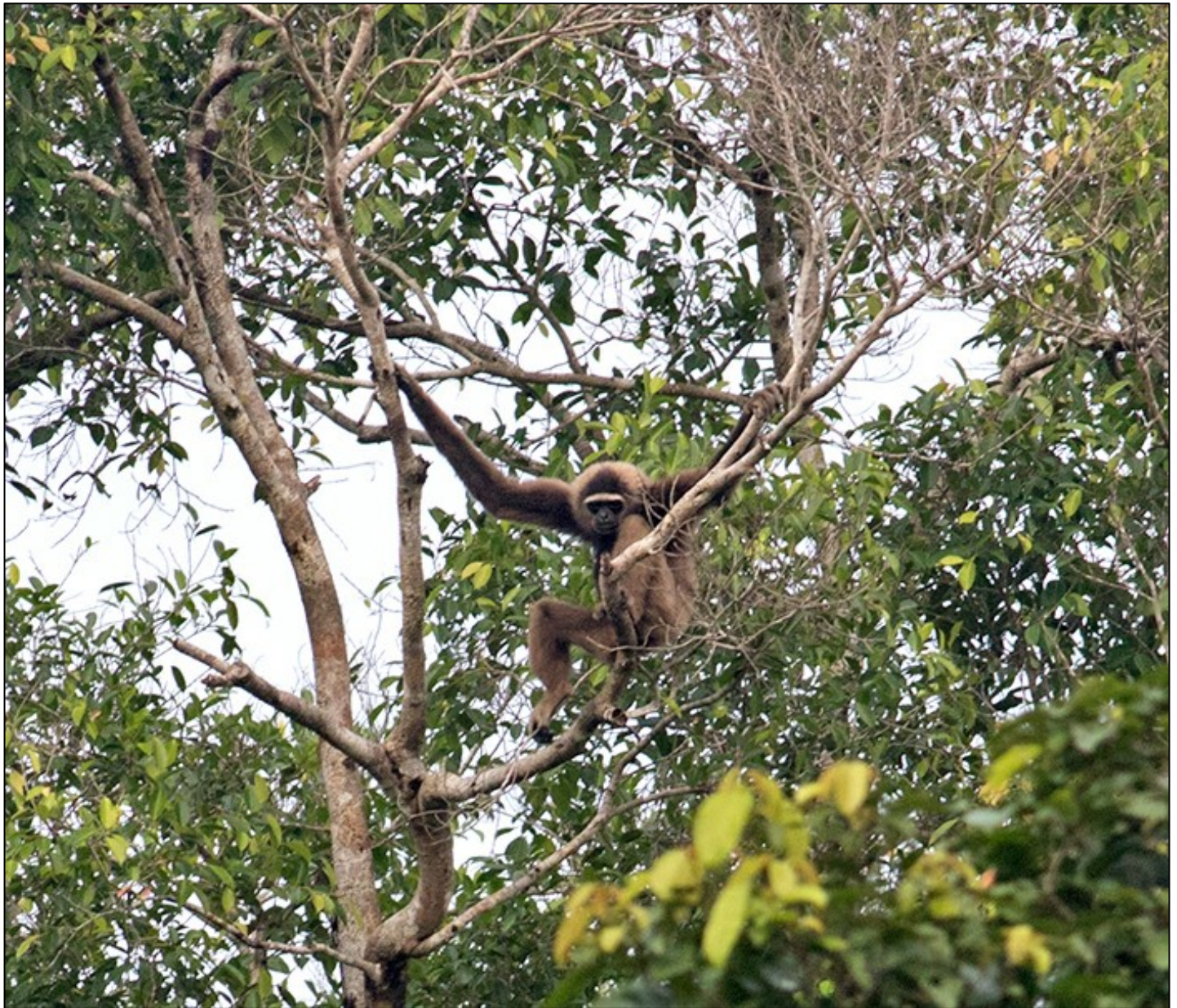
The endangered **Storm's Stork**, which numbers less than 300 adults; seen near Sukau on the Kinabatangan River

DAY SEVEN (2nd July): SUKAU (KINABATANGAN RIVER) & GOMANTONG CAVES

The morning was spent cruising various areas in and around the *Kinabatangan River*, in the vicinity of the village of *Sukau*, and then in the afternoon we visited the infamous *Gomantong Caves*, a short, 20-minute drive from our riverside lodge. We started out along the famous *Menanggol* tributary; famous for the long-time hang out of the rare *Bornean Ground-Cuckoo*, which in spite of much effort there, was never even heard. We spent most of the time birding from our boat, and even enjoyed an extensive breakfast on the canoe, including hot tea and coffee, fruit and sandwiches, while a tame **Oriental Darter** stood sentry nearby. **Long-tailed Parakeets** were highly visible that morning along the narrow creek, regularly darting overhead in small groups. One of the most vocal Sukau birds, the **White-chested Babbler** also performed along the banks on several occasions. Aside from a popular pair of creek side **White-fronted (Bornean) Falconets**, and a pair of **Orange-backed Woodpeckers**, birding was generally quiet along there, where we were also frustrated by a calling **Chestnut-necklaced Partridge**, which gave only the briefest of views to some. With one of our key target birds-*Storm's Stork*-still missing from our trip list, we decided to head back to the *mina river*, and return to the *Tenegang tributary*. This paid off, as the *Kinabatangan River* produced several raptor species, which contributed to a 10-raptor day, like 4 **Jerdon's Baza**s, 3 **Crested Serpent-Eagles**, 1 **Rufous-bellied Eagle**, 1 dark morph **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, and 1 **Gray-headed Fish-Eagle**; while our visit into the tributary led us to great looks at a **Black-capped Babbler**, and excellent looks, both in flight and perched, of a pair of **Storm's Storks**, a species that numbers under 300 adult birds left in the wild (*photo, page before*)! We also managed to get our only perched view of a **Lesser Adjutant** on the return journey to the lodge too.

After lunch back at base (where we saw a pair of **Common Ioras**), we took to the road, to drive 20-minutes to *Gomantong Caves*, a series of caves that host *swiftlets* and *bats*. On the journey in we made one short stop for a couple of roadside **Long-tailed Shrikes**, a very local species in Sabah. The swiftlets, and in particular, the *White-nest Swiftlets*, are crucial, as their white nests, 100% of which is comprised of the bird's saliva, are harvested to produce the edible nest soup that is so highly prized, and highly priced, in Asia. (A kilogram of the nest can fetch up to \$US2000). The caves are also surrounded by lowland forest, which is home to many birds too, and also orangutans, making it a must-see site on the tour. Before we had even got out of the vehicle, our keen-eyed local guide Remy, had noticed a **Bat Hawk** sitting inconspicuously nearby. On closer examination in the telescope, it was revealed there were actually two birds, the back bird being largely obscured by the front one. Rain dogged much of our time in the afternoon, and so we moved into the sanctuary of the 300ft/92m-high cave itself earlier than planned. Once inside the cave we escaped the rain, but were greeted with the odor of plentiful bat guano piled up on the cave floor alongside, constantly attended by hordes of rust-colored cockroaches. While this may not be to everyone's tastes, it is an ecological fascination, how a cave such as this supports a whole community of animals, many of which we saw. At the entrance to the cave an adult **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle** stood in wait, no doubt waiting for a later hour when hundreds of thousands of bats would be due to exit for the night. While we had seen many echolocating swiftlet species in the previous days, they are essentially unidentifiable without seeing them at their nests, and so this provided us with our first chance to put them on our lists. One by one we lined up the relevant nests, holding their namesake species: **White-nest**, **Black-nest**, and **Mossy-nest Swiftlets** were all seen on their nests, while plentiful **Glossy Swiftlets** (a *non* echo-locating species), were also present. Other creatures were seen in the dark recess too, like plentiful **Wrinkle-lipped Bats** (a 2012 population estimate counted 275,000 of these bats), creepy **Long-tailed Centipedes** and a single **Müller's Rat**, a known cave dweller. On leaving the cave the rain eased for a while, and we quickly added **White-bellied Munia**,

Green Iora, and **Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** to our trip list, before the rain began falling more heavily again. We also saw a troop of **Red Langurs** around the forest edge, and were coaxed back towards the cave, when a pair of tourists came back with tales of a recent orangutan sighting. On returning there, we were shocked to find a mother and baby **Bornean Orangutan** sitting on the wooden railing of one of the nest harvester's building's, wolfing down Jackfruit, which they had recently plundered from a nearby tree! Rain largely curtailed the afternoon's birding from then on, and although we all got to see a calling **Brush (Rusty-breasted) Cuckoo**, we saw little else, and sadly this may have been the reason the usual spiral of bats (and attendant *Bat Hawks*) did not appear near dusk as hoped. A night cruise from our Sukau-based lodge was planned to see **Oriental Bay Owl**, which only let us hear them on this occasion, with a single **Buffy Fish-Owl** providing scant compensation for this!



North Borneo Gibbon, Sukau

DAY EIGHT (3rd July): SUKAU (KINABATANGAN RIVER)

A full day was spent in the animal and bird-rich *Sukau* area of the *Kinabatangan River*; taking both extended (and private), morning and afternoon canoe rides. We made another concerted effort for the *ground-cuckoo* in the morning, but heard nothing at all. We did manage to find a wonderful male **Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker** singing above the channel, get some much-desired perched views of **Long-tailed Parakeets**, see our only **Black-headed Bulbuls** of the entire tour, get good looks at a pair of **White-bellied Woodpeckers**, and admire a **Mangrove Cat Snake** that was well found by our boatman. We were also lucky to have a second sighting of a **North Borneo Gibbon** on the tour (*photo page 20*), as we sidled quietly along the channel. Back at the lodge in late morning, we enjoyed some cool birds too; Gail pointed out a female **Jambu Fruit-Dove** to us-sharing a fruiting tree with 6 species of bulbul – *photo below* – (*Finsch's, Cream-vented, Red-eyed, Spectacled, Buff-vented, and Olive-winged Bulbuls* all in attendance at various times). The few that walked in the forest close by were rewarded with good views of a pair of **Van Hasselt's Sunbirds**, two **Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds**, and a **Slender Treeshrew**.



*This rare and nomadic **Jambu Fruit-Dove** was found by Gail in our lodge garden at Sukau, attending a fruiting tree with 6 species of bulbul*



The odd **Proboscis Monkey** is endemic to Borneo; photographed on the Kinabatangan River, near Sukau

The day will perhaps be remembered best for the many animals seen, and many great photo opps, typified by our afternoon boat ride along the main *Kinabatangan River* and a side channel, the *Resang River*. By the day's end we had scored **6 different species of primate**, and photographed them all. One of the most famous of the regular Kinabatangan mammals is undoubtedly the endemic, and odd, *Proboscis Monkey*. While we had seen some by this time, we were still waiting for that full-on view of the bulbous-nosed male, and it was left to our final afternoon, and final boat ride, to provide this. However, first we stopped in a channel, where a large fig tree hosted many **Blue-eared Barbets**, and also attracted a mother and baby **Bornean Orangutan** (*photo next page*), which provided us with our best views of the tour, as the baby left the mother and dangled for photos overhead. A Banded Bay Cuckoo-the only one seen on the tour-also appeared in the fig tree too for short time. Further down the channel, along with now expected daily encounters with **Long-tailed Macaques**, was a close-feeding troop

of **Pig-tailed Macaques**, which sent the cameras into overdrive. With no sign of a male **Proboscis Monkey**, we returned to the main river, and were then treated to views of three separate, big-nosed males (*photo page 22*), to the satisfaction of all. The afternoon also contributed to the day total of **5 hornbill species**, and we were given great looks at some perched **Wrinkled Hornbills**, which allowed us to drift right under them. There was one rather gaping hole in the list of regular mammals that we had not seen in the area—**Silvered Langur**, which regularly roost alongside the main river, as proven when we tracked one down shortly before dusk fell. Another highlight that afternoon included several more sightings of **Wallace's Hawk-Eagles**. In the evening, we made one more final attempt at seeing some calling **Oriental Bay Owls**, but came up empty-handed at the third attempt. Our night cruise did run into a **Bornean Colugo** and our only **Island Palm Civet** of the tour though.



*This adorable baby **Bornean Orangutan** near Sukau was very popular among the group, winning best mammal of the tour*

DAY NINE (4th July): **GOMANTONG to SANDAKAN and KOTA KINABALU**

For American Independence Day we checked out of our Sukau lodge early, and drove again to *Gomantong Caves* (picking up a **Striated Grassbird** on a roadside cable en-route). As this was to be our final session of birding in the lowland forests of Sabah we spent most of the morning there, trying to find the species we were still lacking. We started out well, with smashing views for all, of a calling **Chestnut-necklaced Partridge (Bornean Necklaced Partridge)**, *photo below*. However, things were rather quiet and frustrating thereafter; a calling **Red-crowned Barbet** showed in flight only, and a close calling **Great Argus** was obscured behind a wall of impenetrable vegetation. We did see both **Bat Hawk** and **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle** for the final time, and also lucked into a **Yellow-throated Marten** as it froze and stared at us on the road. Further looks at Maroon and Buff-necked Woodpeckers were also had, and we also had our final group of **Red Langurs**. We also got our fourth and final **White-fronted (Bornean) Falconet** of the tour, which arguably gave us our best views of all, and we were all relieved to get a perched view of a **Violet Cuckoo**, albeit a female. On the way to *Sandakan* our first roadside stop failed to find *Wandering Whistling-Duck* in an empty roadside pond, but did find a male **Baya Weaver** attending its half-built nest, a recent colonizer to Borneo.



Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Gomantong*

In the afternoon, we flew back west to Sabah's capital, *Kota Kinabalu*, and birded for a short time at *Tanjung Aru*, where the beachside trees held **Blue-naped Parrot**, the beach itself held a dark morph **Pacific Reef-Heron**, and several **Little Terns** passed by offshore. A male **Pied Triller** was also scoped there, and a largish flock of **Germain's Swiftlets** flew low over the area. By the day's end we also got our first distant looks at the uneven peak of *Mount Kinabalu*, after which the city was named, and where we were to be headed for, the next day. We ate at the capital's finest Italian restaurant, and retired early, with the earliest start of the tour looming the next day, for our first foray into the endemic-rich highlands of Borneo...

DAY TEN (5th July): **TAMBUNAN (CROCKER RANGE)**

The vast majority of Borneo's endemic birds are restricted to the highlands, and so oddly our final days of the tour were also set to bring us the highest number of key species on the tour. Our first stop in the mountains was near to the *Rafflesia Centre at Tambunan*, in the *Crocker Range*. This area is famed, especially, for fruit-eating birds, as there are plentiful fruit-bearing tree species in the area, which often makes this a great site for multiple species of *barbets*, for example, three of which are endemic to Borneo's highlands. However, the unpredictable nature of tropical fruiting means, there is no certainty, in any season, that some of the trees will be bearing fruit during a visit. We set off from our hotel at 4am, snuck in a quick fast food breakfast (there is precious little choice at this hour after all!), and were on the road by 4:30am, arriving on site 90 minutes later, just after sunrise. Having heard there had been a distinct lack of both fruit, and *barbets* singing, in a recent visit by another group, we arrived with some trepidation. However, soon after sunrise, the distinctive calls of Bornean and Mountain Barbets were both heard, and some fruiting trees soon located, clearly showing there had been a very recent change in local conditions. Chris quickly put us on to a **Sunda Cuckooshrike**, which was quickly followed by 'scope looks at both **Mountain and Bornean Barbets**! We waited in this area for some time, hoping perhaps a *Fruit-hunter* might be seen/heard with the conditions of the fruit in the area, but none were in evidence, and so we moved on. Nearby, a spritely pair of **Yellow-bellied Warblers** put on a show, and our first well-named **Ashy Drongo** appeared. As we steadily walked down the road, we heard the calls of several **Bornean Bulbuls**, which were soon located. We also heard our third and final endemic barbet target of the morning, and traditionally the easiest of the three mountain species, **Golden-naped Barbet**. And so it turned out, as it needed only a little encouragement to land in a nearby tree, where we scoped our third new endemic barbet of the morning. Then it was time for a nice surprise, a male **Orange-breasted Trogon**, arguably the scarcest of the Bornean species. Moving further down still, we found a noisy single **Ashy (Cinereous) Bulbul**, and finally tracked down our first **Bornean Leafbirds**, which gave themselves up with their bold songs; in the end there appeared to be at least ten within this boisterous group. This being our first time in the highlands, we enjoyed a flurry of new montane species, some of which would become familiar to us in the coming days, like **Black-capped White-eye**, **Chestnut-crested Yuhina**, **Blyth's Shrike-Babbler**, **Black-and-crimson Oriole**, **Temminck's Sunbird**, **Yellow-breasted Warbler**, and **Bornean Whistler**. Just before lunch Mike got a glimpse of a calling **Whitehead's Spiderhunter**, which soon disappeared, leaving the rest of us feeling rather bereft. After re-energizing over lunch, adding some **Bornean Swiftlets** to the list in a higher part of the *Crocker Range*, and watching a juvenile **Rufous-bellied Eagle** overfly our local restaurant; we returned to the spiderhunter zone (via a gliding **Blyth's Hawk-Eagle** on the way down), where we spent some time, until finally we found a **Whitehead's Spiderhunter** preening quietly in the same tree it had been before (which allowed us to 'scope it doing so), liberally scattered with red flowers within the canopy vines, which were surely why it was there. After further **Bornean and Ashy (Cinereous) Bulbuls**, and a perched **Bornean Forktail**, we also added a **Dark**

Hawk-Cuckoo to the list, had a few brief Bornean Treepies, and got looks at both Sunda and Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes, to burgeon our endemic bird list further. Two new mammals were also added in the form of Bornean Black-banded and Brooke's Squirrels. We lingered on in the area for one final endemic, and the smallest of them all, Pygmy White-eye (Bornean Ibon), which after a few brief views finally showed close to all. With the day wearing down, and still a coupe of hours to our guesthouse, we set off, enjoying ever better looks at Mount Kinabalu as we moved forwards, but not enjoying a last minute breakdown, when we were just 6 kilometers from our resort! Still, we had experienced an endemic-packed day, and now retired ready for yet more montane specialties and endemics to follow the next day on Mount Kinabalu itself...



© Chris Sloan

Whitehead's Broadbill was a major highlight on our first morning at Mount Kinabalu; we saw all of the "Whitehead's Three" on this tour (Spiderhunter, Broadbill and Trogon; in that order)

DAY ELEVEN (6th July): MOUNT KINABALU

The first day on Mount Kinabalu, home to many Bornean endemic birds, is always a thrilling affair. As we left the hotel, with the skies just lightening, clear skies could already allow us to see the distinctive jagged peak on the horizon. We left before dawn had fully risen, so that we could slowly drive the summit road, searching for birds feeding along the verges in the early morning. We had early success with this, when one of the two different **Orange-headed Thrushes** lingered on the road for all to stare at, lit up by Sam's spotlight. Not long after, the first of several roadside **Bornean Whistling-Thrushes** were also seen. A litter bin near the road's end was also

alive with rodents, with **Bornean Black-banded Squirrel**, **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel**, and **Mountain Treeshrew** were all in attendance. Once we reached the end of the road, we birded around the small power station, often a good place for birds a short time after dawn. **Bornean Treepie** and **Gray-chinned Minivet** were found there, and in a flowering tree overhead we found a group of eight **Mountain Black-eyes**. Moving a little down the road from there, we called up a **Flavescent (Pale-faced) Bulbul** onto a dead snag, and had point blank views of a calling **Sunda Bush-Warbler**. We birded one of the bottom end of one of the trails in the area, hoping for an *Everett's Thrush*, but not getting a sniff of one, but were well rewarded for our short walk. Shortly after getting there we taped up a stunted little **Bornean Stubtail** on to a perch, and then saw both of the endemic partridges on the mountain in quick succession; first a very confiding **Crimson-headed Partridge**, which walked in front of us at close range, then a pair of **Red-breasted Partridges**, one of which was seen well by some as it hopped on to a fallen log to call back at us. Walking further in to the forest, in order to try and improve on the *Red-breasted Partridge* views for some, Sam walked in to a small party of **Whitehead's Broadbills**, (*photo page before*), and so quickly alerted the group to follow him in. A few tense moments passed, when the three birds shifted their position several times, but in the end all of us got good looks at this shimmering green bird as it sat in the understory. This was a good early score on the mountain, which left us with but one more Whitehead's special to go-the trogon.



This **Rafflesia keithii** at Poring measured 78cm/30.7 inches across;
this species produces the largest flowers in Borneo, and some of the largest in the world

Switching this trail for the considerably steeper *Liwagu Trail*, we again heard *Red-breasted Partridge*, but did much better with a small group of **Mountain Wren-Babblers**, one of which came to within five feet of us, leading it to be nominated above many other more colorful birds in one person's top five birds of the tour! This completed the hatrick of endemic wren-babblers, along with the *Bornean and Black-throated Wren-Babblers* seen earlier in Danum. The trail may have been steep but it came with ample compensation; in addition to the ultra-confiding wren-babbler, we got some cracking looks at the breathtaking **Bornean Green-Magpie** and **Sunda Laughingthrush** in a passing flock, and (thanks to Gary's sharp vision), a look at a perched **Sunda Cuckoo** that had been vocally taunting us from the treetops.

By now it was sunny and bright, and so we headed further down the road to the area around the Liwagu Restaurant, where we soon found a calling male **Black-sided Flowerpecker** as it sang from an open perch. After enjoying lunch at the same restaurant, we decided to check with the headquarters if there were any *rafflesias* in bloom at the time. The plant species in this genus produce some of the largest flowers in the world, and so we were rightly keen to see one. The catch to this is that they flower unpredictably, and even then for only 5 days per flower. As that is not enough, the flower is only in prime condition for around 3 of the days, after which, they begin to wither and blacken, making them really only worthwhile seeing for a beautiful and brief, 3-day period. Luckily though this is usually a good season in which to see them, and nearby Poring represents one of the better places to find them, as private landowners quickly advertise them when they are in bloom, to make a quick killing! We got the news that two plants were currently in bloom in *Poring*, a 30-minute drive away, one of which was in the second day of its cycle. We raced over there, and were soon admiring the largest flower in Borneo-*Rafflesia keithii*, (photo page before), which measured an incredible 78cm/c.30½ inches across! In the late afternoon we returned again to the park on *Mount Kinabalu*, and quickly heard another endemic target-**Bare-headed Laughingthrush**. A bit of a wild goose chase then ensued as we pursued the one we could hear, only to bump into a birder who'd seen one minutes earlier elsewhere, and so set off for that one instead. On finding the spot, and no laughingthrush, we returned to our original individual, and original position, and soon found three of them in a large feeding flock with **Sunda Laughingthrushes** and a couple more showy **Bornean Green Magpies**. Hearing from one of the other visiting birders that he had seen a pair of the much-wanted *Whitehead's Trogon* just the day before on a particular section of the *Silau-Silau Trail*, we decided to spend the late afternoon on that trail, hunting it down. We had neither sight nor sound of this notoriously tricky trogon, but did get great looks at three separate **White-browed Shortwings**, a male and two females. The same trail also hosted a super male **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, which posed on an open rock near the first of the three *shortwings*. Emerging back on to the road at the trailhead, we 'scoped an endemic mammal found by Shannon, the unglamorous **Kinabalu Rat**, which is confined to the mountain. On the stroll back towards the restaurant for dinner, we stumbled into a juvenile **Brown Wood-Owl**, which still showed a fluffy white head. The adult sat out of sight nearby. After dinner, we set off for the first in a series of frustrating searches for one of the local **Mountain Scops-Owl**, which called fairly close, but never did show during any of our attempts.

DAY TWELVE (7th July): MOUNT KINABALU

A second full day was spent on the mountain. While the Lion's share of the endemics by now had been seen, there were a few large gaping holes still remaining on our lists, namely the *Whitehead's Trogon*, the last of the "*Whitehead's Three*" remaining for us to see; the enigmatic *Fruit-hunter*, a supposed thrush species that has confused taxonomists for years; and the rare and shy *Everett's Thrush*. We had tried for the latter at a regular area for it the morning before but had failed to either see or hear one, and so left our mountain resort early again, and

drove the road in half light, in the off chance that one might be feeding on a road verge, a rare occurrence for this species, but one that had been known to occur in recent weeks. Knowing this, and knowing where this had occurred, we concentrated on getting to the spot where this had happened, by a damp roadside gully, as early as we could, shamelessly ignoring another roadside **Orange-headed Thrush** on the way up! Amazingly, as we arrived at the spot, a thrush was lined up in Sam's spotlight, which hopped on to the open road and revealed itself to be none other than one of a pair of **Everett's Thrushes**, (*photo below*)! The two birds seemed content to continue to feed as the light improved, and even allowed us to all get out of the van and watch them for at least 10 minutes; at one time one individual even hopped out into the middle, and best lit, part of the road. This could not have been a better start to the day.



© Chris Sloan

*Getting point blank views of a pair of the shy endemic **Everett's Thrush**
on an open road on Mount Kinabalu was most unexpected!*

In truth, the rest of the day following this was not only a let down, but also quite quiet for much of the day. With the trogon now at the forefront of our minds, we tried several recent known spots for the bird, but came up empty-handed. During our morning search, we managed to add another missing endemic though, in the form of an **Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher** along a forest trail, a bird, which was seen several times by the end of the day. Chris also found a spanking male **Little Pied Flycatcher** at the nearby restaurant, and we also tracked down a calling **Mountain Tailorbird** nearby. During the morning and afternoon we enjoyed many avian repeats, like **Sunda Laughingthrush**, and the abundant **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush**, Bornean

Green-Magpie, Hair-crested Drongo, Sunda Cuckooshrike, Bornean Treepie, Black-capped White-eye, and Temminck's Sunbird. We also enjoyed adding the very smart **Checker-throated Woodpecker** to our trip list, although the wind was taken out of our sails somewhat when we returned from this sighting to find out we had narrowly missed the area where a family party of *Whitehead's Trogons* were seen that afternoon! The afternoon also produced the first of several sightings of the magnificent **Rajah Brooke's Birdwing** butterfly, patterned with a slash of emerald green across its large black wings, with a scarlet-colored head.



*We were lucky to experience little rain on this tour, and often clear weather affording good views of the magnificent **Mount Kinabalu**, the highest mountain between the Himalayas and New Guinea, at 4096m/13,430ft*

DAY THIRTEEN (8th July): **MOUNT KINABALU**

A third and final full day on the mountain opened with one clear target species in mind; the family party of *Whitehead's Trogons* spotted the day before by the local park ranger. However, we were also still missing the *Fruit-hunter*, so, knowing trogons can be chanced upon at *any* time of day, we opted to start out again at the power station, where some fruiting trees had been noted (and a Fruit-hunter been noted in recent days). The evidence of good fruiting trees in the area, could not have been more striking, as we watched SEVEN Golden-naped Barbets

gather in one tree, giving spectacular views, with another one in a fruit-bearing tree nearby. However, *still no Fruit-hunter*. On the power station fence alongside, an **Indigo Flycatcher** dared us to take its portrait (*photo below*), and a male **Blyth's Shrike-Babbler** descended from its high perch and came in very close to us, while a small flock of **Gray-chinned Minivets** fluttered in the trees above. We also got our only sighting of **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** on the mountain there too. We managed to add two final mammals to the trip list while there; the oddball **Hylomys** (formerly known as *Lesser Gymnure*) came scampering in for food scraps, although a **Masked Palm Civet** foraging at close range in the open was far less expected!



The **Indigo Flycatchers** around the power station on Mount Kinabalu were very approachable

With no sign of the hoped-for *Fruit-hunter*, (but some extra **Mountain Black-eyes** for the list), and the first of a long line of hikers beginning to appear, we decided to head off in pursuit of the *Whitehead's Trogon*, again. We had already tried at least three times so far, but this time were heading off to an area where a family of four had been seen the afternoon before, which lifted our hopes somewhat. However, after reaching the area, and spending several hours there, we saw precious little birds at all let alone a trogon. Getting twitchy remaining in one stretch of trail, Gail, Gary, Sam and Mike decided to walk a wider loop, and stumbled into a pair of **Whitehead's Trogons**! Chris and Shannon, who had opted to remain in the area it had been seen were soon

alerted, but we were fairly sure the birds had descended towards them. Thankfully, after some very nervous moments, a couple of females, and then a vivid scarlet male, were soon seen by all, to much relief all round. The remainder of the day was very quiet on the mountain, with another **Bornean Forktail** seen, and some good 'scope looks at **Little Cuckoo-Dove** achieved, but not much else.

DAY FOURTEEN (9th July): **MOUNT KINABALU**

This was to be our final day of birding (with all of us flying out that night), so we kept with the same plan as the previous few days; leaving with a packed breakfast from the hotel just before first light, entering the park, then slowly making our way up the road to the summit gate, as dawn broke. Once again, we drove up to an **Orange-headed Thrush** feeding on the road, before we reached the gate, and arrived at the top of the road, before the first hiker crowds of the day. Just moments after arriving, and before we had even had a chance to tuck into our field breakfast, Sam heard some short high-pitched notes reminiscent of South American *Fruiteaters*, which simply had to come from a **Fruit-hunter**, and seemed to emanate from the tree immediately above us (*photo below*).



Fruit-hunter was the final endemic seen by the group on Mount Kinabalu

Our list of possible additions on the mountain was by now very slim; we tried for but never heard, *Collared Owlet* at several spots, then drove down to an area of the road where we might find a *Temminck's Babbler*. After breakfast and a bit of playback, we swiftly received a reply from the babbler, although the bird only gave the merest of looks, before we were all distracted by a familiar figure along the road – *Tropical Birding guide Ken Behrens*, more typically expected in Africa, where he is based! After this shock sighting, we went further down the road, and tried another spot for the babbler, and this time a very responsive **Temminck's Babbler** quickly replied and hopped on to an open perch for us all to see! A large feeding flock also came through, which held our final **Bornean Green-Magpies**, **Hair-crested Drongos**, **Checker-throated Woodpeckers**, **Sunda Laughingthrushes**, and **Maroon Woodpecker** of the tour. The deep notes of a nearby **Mountain Imperial-Pigeon** provided further frustration for some including Chris, who had missed this species not only in recent days, but also previously on a birding trip in southern India. With a little patience we wore down the pigeon, and it flew into a nearby perch, where we all managed to see it at length in the telescope.

A little patch of rain then came through, so we retired to a nearby restaurant for a brew (tea, not beer!), and saw **Temminck's Sunbirds** and **Black-sided Flowerpecker** in the garden, along with the by now daily **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush**. Once the rain cleared we set about trying to get further looks at the *trogons*, in the same area as the day before, but saw virtually nothing at all. On returning to the restaurant, near the end of the morning, some of us lingered outside in the hope of a flyover serpent-eagle. However, Terri, emerged from the restroom to see a large bird-of-prey go over, which was confirmed as the **Mountain Serpent-Eagle**, when it repeatedly called back to our tape, but was unfortunately never seen again, aside from that all too brief look. We stayed as long as we could, but with our late hotel checkout being pushed further back still, we simply needed to return to our hotel, shower for our journey home and check out. A late lunch was taken in the park, where the final checklist was done, and a discussion on the best birds of the trip was undertaken, while we had one eye on the skies above for any passing eagles. All too soon, we needed to push on and head back to *Kota Kinabalu*. By this point, the clouds had lifted and a cerulean blue sky lay over the impressive peak of **Mount Kinabalu**, with just some fine wisps of white cloud now peppering it. A fine view to end our time there! On the journey back, we made just a couple more stops, with time on our side, in a wetland area around *Tuaran*. This proved very worthwhile, for although all the new additions (some 6 species), were all widespread Asian birds, everyone in the group got at least one new bird out of it! Highlights were a singing **Striated Grassbird**, several smart breeding plumage **Javan Pond-Herons**, a **Black-shouldered Kite** standing sentry, a number of conspicuous **Wandering Whistling-Ducks**, and a few much less conspicuous **Yellow Bitterns** seen by some of the group in flight.

On the last part of the journey back we reflected on what a great trip we had all experienced with a long, long list of highlights. In addition to



© Chris Sloan

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Borneo Rainforest Lodge and Proboscis Monkey Sukau*





Pig-tailed Macaque, near Sukau

BIRD LIST

The taxonomy of the bird list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. *The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World*. Cornell, 2007.

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2015.

- Bornean endemic species/subspecies are indicated in **RED** and by the code **BE**.
- (H) Indicates a species that was HEARD only.
- (GO) Indicates a species that was seen by the GUIDE ONLY.

Numbers:

308 species recorded, (15 heard only; 4 guide only; 290 seen as a group)
50 endemic species/subspecies recorded, (48 endemic species/subspecies seen).

DUCKS, GEESE & WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna arcuata*: Half a dozen birds were seen near Tuaran.

PHEASANTS, GROUSE AND ALLIES: Phasianidae

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra* BE: Seen a couple of times at Mount Kinabalu.

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni* BE: Great views were had for the entire group at Gomantong. PLEASE NOTE: Phillipps (2014) follows HBW in splitting this as an endemic species, **Bornean Necklaced Partridge** *A. graydoni*.

Great Argus *Argusianus argus* (H): Heard a number of times in the lowlands, but no males had display grounds during our visit, making this a very difficult bird to find.

Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* BE: Seen well twice at Mount Kinabalu.

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis* BE: A male was seen roosting near our cabins at Borneo Rainforest Lodge; another was seen briefly on the road out of Danum. PLEASE NOTE: This endemic race is frequently (e.g. HBW, Phillipps), split off as an endemic species, **Bornean Crested Fireback**, *L. ignita*.

STORKS: Ciconiidae

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*: This endangered species numbers under 300 adult birds worldwide. We saw 2 very well along the Tenegang River, near Sukau.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*: 7 different birds were seen at Sukau, including 1 perched.

ANHINGAS: Anhingidae

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*: Seen regularly around Sukau.

HERONS, EGRETS AND BITTERNS: Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern *Ixobrychus sinensis*: 2–3 were seen in flight over rice paddies near Tuaran.

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*: 1 was seen over lunch at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*: Recorded regularly around Sukau, and also seen near Tuaran.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Seen a few times on the tour, including near Sukau.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia*: Seen regularly around Sukau.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*: Regularly recorded around Sukau.

Pacific Reef-Heron *Egretta sacra*: A dark morph bird was seen at Tanjung Aru on Kota Kinabalu.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Scattered sightings throughout.

Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola speciosa*: 3 birds were seen near Tuaran.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata*: 1 near Lahad Datu, and another on the Kinabatangan River.

Night-Heron sp. *Nycticorax sp.*: 1 was seen in poor light at Kota Kinabalu airport.

HAWKS, EAGLES AND KITES: Accipitridae

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*: 1 was seen near Tuaran on our final afternoon.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*: 1 was seen at Danum Valley.

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*: 4 birds were seen along the Kinabatangan River, near Sukau.

Mountain Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis* BE: Terri had a brief view at Mount Kinabalu, which then called, but remained unseen.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*: Seen on 7 days, at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*: A wonderful pair of these birds were found perched near Gomantong Caves by our local guide Remy.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus limnaetus*: Recorded 3 times; at Danum, and near Sukau.
Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus alboniger*: An adult was seen in flight at Tambunan.
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus nanus*: Seen on 4 days, at Danum, Sukau and Gomantong.
Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*: Seen 3 times, at Sukau, Gomantong and Tambunan.
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*: Only Gary saw this, from his cabin at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*: 3 singles were seen in the Sukau area.
Besra *Accipiter virgatus* (GO): A juvenile was seen by Sam at Kinabalu, and heard by the group.
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*: Seen in Lahad Datu, around Sukau, Gomantong, and Kota Kinabalu.
White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*: Recorded on 3 days in the Sukau area.
Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*: Seen from Borneo Rainforest Lodge, and around Sukau.
Gray-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*: 1 was seen along the Kinabatangan River.

RAILS, GALLINULES AND COOTS: Rallidae

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*: 3 were seen on the journey into Sukau.

GULLS, TERNS AND SKIMMERS: Laridae

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons*: 2 were at Tanjung Aru.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida*: A few were seen en-route to Sukau.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii*: 3 were seen from our boat en-route to Sukau.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Recorded sporadically on the tour in urban areas.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*: Common around Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu.

Ruddy Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia emiliana*: A handful of birds were seen at Tambunan, all in flight.

Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps*: Seen regularly at Mt. Kinabalu; several seen perched.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*: 2 were seen at Gomantong and 2 at Mt. Kinabalu.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*: Seen around Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu.

Little Green-Pigeon *Treron olax*: Seen on three days around Sukau, mostly in flight.

Pink-necked Pigeon *Treron vernans*: 2 in Lahad Datu, another near Sukau, and a few at Tuaran.

Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*: 1 at Danum; and others at Sukau and Tambunan.

Jambu Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus jambu*: A female was found by Gail in our lodge grounds in Sukau.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*: Recorded regularly at the lowland sites throughout.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*: Seen twice at Mt. Kinabalu, with 1 seen perched well.

CUCKOOS: Cuculidae

Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx sparverioides bocki*: One responsive bird was seen well in the Crocker Range. PLEASE NOTE: This form (which also occurs in the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra) is often (e.g. IOC, HBW, Phillipps) split as **Dark Hawk-Cuckoo, *H. bocki***.

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans* (H): Heard distantly several times in Danum.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* (H): A close calling bird was heard at Gomantong Caves.

Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus*: Gary found us one perched at Mt. Kinabalu.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*: One was seen from our boat near Sukau.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*: 1 showed well in Sepilok.

Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus sepulcralis*: 1 was seen at Danum, and another at Gomantong. PLEASE NOTE: This form is split off as **Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *C. sepulcralis*** by IOC.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*: After getting flight views at Danum, we were pleased to get one (a female) perched at Gomantong.

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris* (H): Heard once on the way into Danum.

Raffle's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*: Seen at Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau.

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*: Seen once at Danum and again at Gomantong.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*: Seen twice at Danum Valley.

Bornean Ground-Cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiceus* BE (H): Heard at Danum; not heard at all at Sukau.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*: Seen at Danum and Sukau.

BARN OWLS: Tytonidae

Oriental Bay-Owl *Phodilus badius* (H): One of the major dissappointments was hearing this close at Sepilok and Sukau, and not managing to see it, in spite of considerable effort.

OWLS: Strigidae

Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus* (H): Gave us a torrid time, heard close at Kinabalu.

Sunda Scops-Owl *Otus lempiji* (H): Two birds were heard at Sepilok.

Barred Eagle-Owl *Bubo sumatranus*: Seen twice at Danum, a pair at night and 1 in the daytime.

Buffy Fishy-Owl *Ketupa ketupu*: 1 was seen at Danum, and seen 4 times at Sukau.

Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica*: 1 was seen at Borneo Rainforest Lodge by Sam and Chris; a juvenile was found on Mount Kinabalu, which was a very popular bird.

FROGMOUTHS: Podargidae

Large Frogmouth *Batrachostomus auritus*: This massive frogmouth was seen well in Danum.

Gould's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus stellatus*: A single was seen on 2 nights at Danum.

Short-tailed Frogmouth *Batrachostomus poliophus mixtus* BE (H): Heard on Mt. Kinabalu.

PLEASE NOTE: This form is regularly (Phillipps, IOC, HBW), split off as **Bornean Frogmouth** *B. mixtus*.

Blyth's Frogmouth *Batrachostomus affinis*: A calling bird was seen on a Danum night drive.

SWIFTS: Apodidae

Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*: Seen regularly hawking insects near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* (GO): Just seen by Sam near Sukau.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*: Regularly recorded throughout.

Bornean Swiftlet *Collocalia dodgei* BE: Seen high up in the Crocker Range.

Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus salangana*: Identified on their nests at Gomantong Caves.

Black-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus maximus*: Identified on their nests at Gomantong Caves.

White-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus*: Identified on their nests at Gomantong Caves. Also known as *Edible-nest Swiftlet*.

Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*: Seen only at Tanjung Aru in Kota Kinabalu.

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*: Seen in Kota Kinabalu.

TREESWIFTS: Hemiprocnidae

Gray-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*: Just seen the once at Danum.

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*: Seen well along the road near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

TROGONS: Trogonidae

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba*: A pair was seen at Danum, and another at Sepilok.

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*: A pair was seen at Danum, and 1 from the walkway at Sepilok.

Whitehead's Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi* BE: 3 were seen on Mt. Kinabalu (male, female & juv.).

VOTED BY THE GROUP AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*: Seen twice in the Danum area.

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*: A male was seen in the Crocker Range.

HORNBILLS: Bucerotidae

White-crowned Hornbill *Berenicornis comatus*: 1 was seen on the way into Danum, then a male showed well above our boat near Sukau.

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*: A pair was seen near the lodge at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*: Seen at least 7 times on the tour, at Danum and Sukau.

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*: Recorded 5 times on the tour (in Danum & Sukau).

Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*: Recorded on 6 days, in Danum, Sukau, and Gomantong.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*: Recorded regularly around Sukau and Danum.

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulates*: A group of 8 birds showed well at Danum.

Wrinkled Hornbill *Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus*: 3 birds were seen by some at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, but all of us got good, long, perched views, from our boat, near Sukau.

KINGFISHERS: Alcedinidae

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*: 1 roosting at Sepilok was followed by more in Sukau.

Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*: 2 different birds were seen perched in Danum.

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* BE: 1 male was seen along the Hornbill Trail at Danum.

PLEASE NOTE: This form has been split as **Bornean Banded Kingfisher *L. melanops*** by Phillipps, or as **Black-faced Kingfisher *L. melanops*** by HBW.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*: Seen a handful of times around Sukau.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*: Good numbers seen on the way in and out of Danum.

Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus*: A female showed well in Danum.

BEE-EATERS: Meropidae

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus* (H): Heard twice at Danum. A frustrating miss.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*: Seen a number of times at Danum and Sukau.

ROLLERS: Coraciidae

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*: Seen repeatedly in the Sukau area.

ASIAN BARBETS: Megalaimidae

Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus* BE: Recorded on 5 days of the tour, at Danum, Sepilok, Sukau, and Tambunan.

Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon duvaucelii*: Seen in both Danum and Sukau.

Bornean Barbet *Psilopogon eximius* BE: 2 showed well at Tambunan, where they were very vocal.

Red-crowned Barbet *Psilopogon rafflesii*: 1 was heard at Gomantong, and seen in flight only.

Red-throated Barbet *Psilopogon mystacophanos*: Regularly heard, and seen once, at Danum.

Golden-naped Barbet *Psilopogon pulcherrimus* BE: 1 at Tambunan & 7 in 1 tree at Mt. Kinabalu.

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Psilopogon henricii*: 1 was seen at Danum, and another near Sukau.

Mountain Barbet *Psilopogon monticola* BE: 4 birds were seen at Tambunan.

Gold-faced Barbet *Psilopogon chrysopsis* BE: 2 singles were seen at Danum.

WOODPECKERS: Picidae

Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*: 1 was seen by some at Sukau, while watching elephants.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*: A pair was seen near Sukau.

Banded Woodpecker *Picus miniaceus*: 1 was seen along the road at Danum.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus* (H): Heard once near the canopy walkway at Danum.

Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*: Seen on 2 days on Mt. Kinabalu.

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*: 2 were seen at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*: 1 was seen at Sepilok and another at Gomantong.

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*: Seen at Sepilok, Gomantong, and Tambunan.

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus*: A pair was seen at both Danum and Sukau.

Gray-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus*: A pair was seen at Sepilok.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*: Groups of 4 were seen twice at Danum, *the world's largest woodpecker*.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: Falconidae

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* BE: Also known as *Bornean Falconet*. The world's smallest raptor. Recorded on 4 days, (Danum, Sukau and Gomantong).

VOTED BY THE GROUP AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR

OLD WORLD PARROTS: Psittaculidae

Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus* (GO): Sam saw a pair flyover on the way into Danum.

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*: Seen daily in the Sukau area, including a few perched.

Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus lucionensis*: 6 birds were seen at Tanjung Aru in Kota Kinabalu.

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*: We got great looks at several males at Sepilok.

AFRICAN & GREEN BROADBILLS: Calyptomenidae

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*: A female was seen on the road to Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi* BE: 3 were seen on the Bukit Ular trail at Kinabalu.

VOTED BY THE GROUP AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR

ASIAN AND GRAUER'S BROADBILLS: Eurylaimidae

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*: Seen in Sepilok, and then in Sukau.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*: A pair was seen in Danum Valley.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*: A wonderful pair was seen over lunch at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus* (H): Several were heard along the entrance road to Danum.

PITTAS: Pittidae

Black-crowned Pitta *Erythropitta ussheri* BE: Also known as *Black-headed* or *Black-and-crimson Pitta*. A pair was seen late one afternoon at Danum.

Blue-banded Pitta *Erythropitta arquata* BE: This stunning pitta was seen well at Danum.

VOTED BY THE GROUP AS ONE OF THE TOP FIVE BIRDS OF THE TOUR

Giant Pitta *Hydrornis caeruleus* (H): Heard very close at Danum.

Bornean Banded Pitta *Hydrornis schwaneri* BE: We got good views on our final morning at Danum.

Blue-headed Pitta *Hydrornis baudii* BE: It took some time to finally get good looks, but in the end we all got amazing views of a male near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*: 2 were seen briefly at Danum, but we all got good looks near Sukau.

THORNBILLS AND ALLIES: Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea* (H): A single was heard along the road at Danum.

VANGAS, HELMETSHRIKES AND ALLIES: Vangidae

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*: A pair was seen on the road into Danum.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*: One small group was seen in the Crocker Range.

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*: 3 were seen near Gomantong Caves.

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhoptera*: 3 were seen along the road at Danum.

Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velata*: A female was seen at Danum.

WOODSWALLOWS: Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*: Recorded on five days of the tour.

BRISTLEHEAD: Pityriaseidae

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* BE: Two parties were seen near Borneo Rainforest Lodge, with some great 'scope looks at our second sighting. An endemic species, *and family*, to Borneo. *VOTED BY THE GROUP AS THE TOP BIRD OF THE TOUR*.

IORAS: Aegithinidae

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*: 2 were seen near our Sukau lodge.

Green Iora *Aegithina viridissima*: A pair was seen at Gomantong.

CUCKOOSHRIKES: Campephagidae

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*: 2 birds were 'scoped distantly at Danum.

Gray-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*: Seen twice at Mount Kinabalu.

Sunda Cuckooshrike *Coracina larvata*: Seen once at Tambunan, and twice at Mount Kinabalu.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*: A male was seen at Tanjung Aru in Kota Kinabalu.

Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata*: Seen on 2 days at Danum.

WHISTLERS AND ALLIES: Pachycephalidae

Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala hypoxantha* BE: Recorded on all 5 days in the highlands, at Tambunan and Kinabalu.

SHRIKES: Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*: 2 birds were seen between Sukau and Gomantong.

VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS, AND ERPORNIS: Vireonidae

Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus*: Seen at Tambunan and also on Mt. Kinabalu.

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*: 2 were seen at Sepilok.

OLD WORLD ORIOLES: Oriolidae

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*: Seen en-route to Danum, and at Gomantong.

Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus*: 3 were seen in the Crocker Range.

DRONGOS: Dicruridae

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*: 6 were seen at Tambunan, and seen regularly at Mt. Kinabalu.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*: 2 were seen along the road in Danum, and another in Sukau.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus*: Recorded on 4 days at Mt. Kinabalu.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*: Recorded at Danum, Sepilok and Sukau.

FANTAILS: Rhipiduridae

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*: Seen 3 times at Danum.

Malaysian Pied-Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*: Recorded on 9 days, especially around Danum.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*: Recorded on all 5 days in the highlands.

MONARCH FLYCATCHERS: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*: A male in the sunshine at Sepilok was our best view.

Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis*: A recent split from *Asian Paradise-Flycatcher*. A couple of females were seen at Danum.

CROWS, JAYS AND MAGPIES: Corvidae

Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*: A pair was seen near Borneo Rainforest Lodge. PLEASE NOTE: Genetic affinities unclear with this species; some authors have proposed a monotypic family, for this species, Shrike-jay (*Platylophidae*).

Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus* BE: 1 was seen on the way into Danum, with another seen later at that site. PLEASE NOTE: Often (e.g. Phillipps 2014) proposed as a split to an endemic species, **Bornean Black Magpie, *P. aterrimus***.

Bornean Green-Magpie *Cissa jefferyi* BE: Recorded on 4 days out of 5 in the highlands.

Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens* BE: Seen daily in the highlands.

House Crow *Corvus splendens*: One was seen in Kota Kinabalu.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*: Recorded regularly at both Danum and Sukau.

SWALLOWS: Hirundinidae

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*: One of the most regularly seen birds; recorded daily.

FAIRY-FLYCATCHERS: Stenostiridae

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*: 1 was seen in Danum.

NUTHATCHES: Sittidae

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*: Seen once at Sepilok and then at Mt. Kinabalu.

BULBULS: Pycnonotidae

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*: 3 birds were seen on a boat ride near Sukau.

Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*: This endangered, fast-declining, species was seen at Danum, from the veranda and cabins at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Bornean Bulbul *Pycnonotus montis* BE: 6 birds were seen during our day in the Crocker Range.

Gray-bellied Bulbul *Pycnonotus cyaniventris*: 2 were seen at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescent leucops* BE: 1 seen near Timpohon Gate at Mt. Kinabalu. PLEASE NOTE: Geographically, morphologically and vocally distinct from other races, and therefore widely (e.g. Myers, Phillipps) touted as a split as an endemic species, **Pale-faced Bulbul, *P. leucops*.**

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*: Seen in Lahd Datu, Danum, Sukau, and Kota Kinabalu.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*: Recorded in both Danum and Sukau.

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*: Seen in Danum, Sukau, and Gomantong.

Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*: The most regularly recorded lowland bulbul.

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*: Recorded 4 times in the lowlands.

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*: Seen on 4 occasions in Danum and once at Gomantong.

Finsch's Bulbul *Alophoixus finschii*: A single bird visited a fruiting tree in our lodge grounds in Sukau. This same fruiting tree attracted 5 other bulbul species and Jambu Fruit-Dove!

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*: Recorded on 3 days, at Tambunan and Mt. Kinabalu.

Gray-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*: Seen on 2 days in the Danum area.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*: Seen once at Danum and again at Gomantong.

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea*: Recorded at Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flava connectens*: 2 singles were seen at Tambunan in the Crocker Range. PLEASE NOTE: Many authors split this form (shared with Malay Peninsula and Sumatra) as **Cinereous Bulbul, *H. connectans*.** There is also a proposal to split this further, as an endemic species.

Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis*: 1 was seen briefly near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

BUSH-WARBLERS AND ALLIES: Cettiidae

Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi* BE: This tiny, hard-to-hear bird, was seen on Kinabalu.

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*: 2 birds were seen well in the Crocker Range.

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus*: Heard regularly on Mt. Kinabalu, where 1 seen well.

Sunda Bush-Warbler *Horornis vulcanius*: Easily seen several times on Mt. Kinabalu.

LEAF WARBLERS: Phylloscopidae

Mountain Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis*: A common bird on Mt. Kinabalu; up to 30 in one day. PLEASE NOTE: This is a dull, endemic race confined to Mt. Kinabalu, future split?

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*: A daily bird for us in the highlands.

GRASSBIRDS AND ALLIES Locustellidae:

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*: 1 was seen near Gomantong, and 1 near Tuaran.

CISTICOLAS AND ALLIES: Cisticolidae

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*: Seen a few times in Danum, then at Gomantong.

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*: Recorded at Danum and Sukau.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*: Seen at least twice in Danum.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*: Seen on a night drive at Danum, and also near Sandakan.

WHITE-EYES, YUHINAS, & ALLIES: Zosteropidae

Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti* BE: A common highland species, recorded daily there.

Pygmy White-eye *Oculocincta squamifrons* BE: At least 1 was seen at Tambunan, by all. Also known as *Bornean Ibon*.

Mountain Black-eye *Chlorocharis emiliae* BE: Groups of 8 and 2 were seen by Timpohon Gate.

Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapilla*: Recorded at Mt. Kinabalu and Tambunan.
Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*: A flock of 10 or so were seen on the way into Danum.

TREE-BABBLERS, SCIMITAR-BABBLERS & ALLIES: Timaliidae

Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis bornensis*: Recorded at both Danum and Sukau.
Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronus ptilosus*: A pair was seen at Sepilok.
Chestnut-winged Babbler *Cyanoderma erythropterum*: Recorded at both Danum and Sukau.
Rufous-fronted Babbler *Cyanoderma rufifrons* (H): Heard on one occasion at Danum.
Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*: 1 was seen at Danum.
Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*: 2 showed well at the Rainforest Discovery Centre.
Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*: A pair was seen at Danum.
Gray-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*: Recorded on 2 days in the highlands.
Gray-headed Babbler *Stachyris poliocephala* (H): Heard close, but never seen, at Danum.
White-necked Babbler *Stachyris leucotis*: A pair showed well at Danum.

GROUND BABBLERS & ALLIES: Pellorneidae

Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre*: Just the one was seen at Danum.
Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*: Recorded 4-5 times in the lowlands.
Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*: Seen on 3 occasions in Danum.
Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*: Seen at least twice in Danum.
Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*: One was seen near Sukau.
Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys*: 1 very responsive bird was seen on Mt. Kinabalu.
Short-tailed Babbler *Pellorneum malaccense*: Seen twice at Danum.
White-chested Babbler *Pellorneum rostratum*: This noisy babbler was seen regularly at Sukau.
Ferruginous Babbler *Pellorneum bicolor*: Just one was seen, at Danum.
Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*: 1 performed very well at Danum, showing to all.
Bornean Wren-Babbler *Ptilocichla leucogrammica* BE: We all got amazing close views of this endemic at Danum.
Horsfield's Babbler *Turdinus sepiarius*: 1 was seen during our ascent to the *Blue-banded Pitta*.
Black-throated Wren-Babbler *Turdinus atrigularis* BE: After only Mike saw the first one (at Danum), we returned to the spot the next day, where almost everyone got a view, some even through a 'scope.
Mountain Wren-Babbler *Turdinus crassus* BE: These energetic birds were seen at extremely close range on Mt. Kinabalu, leading it to be nominated in the top five birds for one of the group.

LAUGHINGTHRUSHES & ALLIES: Leiothrichidae

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*: Recorded on most days in Danum.
Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus*: Seen daily - in small numbers - in the mountains.
Bare-headed Laughingthrush *Garrulax calvus* BE: 3 were seen near the restaurant at Mt. Kinabalu.
Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Lanthocincla treacheri* BE: An abundant mountain bird; daily.

FAIRY-BLUEBIRDS: Irenidae

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*: Recorded once at both Danum (including a male), and Sepilok.

OLD WORLD FLYCATCHERS: Muscicapidae

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*: A few were seen in the Danum area, also at Poring.

Rufous-tailed Shama *Copsychus pyrrropygus*: 1 showed for a short time by the road at Danum.
White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii* BE: Seen on 7 days of the tour.

PLEASE NOTE: This endemic form is often (IOC, Phillipps, Myers) split as an endemic species, **White-crowned Shama *C. stricklandii***.

Pale Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor* (H): Heard singing in Danum.

Long-billed Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis caeruleus*: Also known as *Large-billed Blue Flycatcher*.
A male showed at Danum.

Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*: A pair was seen at Danum, and another at Sukau.

Bornean Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus* BE: 2 males were seen during our time in Danum.

Gray-chested Jungle-Flycatcher *Cyornis umbratilis*: This scarcity was seen at Danum, thanks to Azmil.

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*: Seen in small numbers daily on Mount Kinabalu.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*: Recorded twice at Danum, and then also at Tambunan.

Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher *Vauriella gularis* BE: 4 birds were seen on Mt. Kinabalu.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana*: 3 were seen well one afternoon on Kinabalu.

Bornean Whistling-Thrush *Myophonus borneensis* BE: Seen each day on Mount Kinabalu.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultia*: Some good looks were had at Danum.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis* BE: Seen once at Tambunan, and then again on Mt. Kinabalu. Often (IOC, Phillipps, Myers) split as **Bornean Forktail, *E. borneensis***.

Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus*: Seen well once at Danum.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*: Just one male was seen well on Mount Kinabalu.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*: A handful was seen on Mt. Kinabalu.

Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria*: 1 female type bird was seen at Danum.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: Turdidae

Chestnut-capped Thrush *Geokichla interpres* (GO): Azmil saw 1 briefly at Danum.

Orange-headed Thrush *Geokichla citrina*: Seen 4 times on the road at Mount Kinabalu, with 1 view being very good.

Everett's Thrush *Zoothera everetti* BE: An obliging pair was watched on the road at Mt. Kinabalu for around 15 mins. at dawn. A lucky sighting.

Fruit-hunter *Chlamydochaera jefferyi* BE: A super bird was seen near Timpohon Gate on our final morning on Mount Kinabalu.

STARLINGS: Sturnidae

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*: Commonly seen in lowland urban areas.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*: Seen twice in the Sukau area.

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*: This introduced species was common in the Lahad Datu area.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*: This introduced species was seen in Kota Kinabalu.

LEAFBIRDS: Chloropseidae

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*: Seen several times in Danum, and again in Sepilok.

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*: Recorded 4 times; at Danum and Sepilok.

Bornean Leafbird *Chloropsis kinabaluensis* BE: 10 birds were seen in one flock at Tambunan.

FLOWERPECKERS: Dicaeidae

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus*: 1 was seen at Danum and Gomantong.

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius* BE: Seen very well in the garden of Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus thoracicus*: Another TB guide, Scott Watson found a great tree filled with flowerpeckers the week before, on the road into Danum. On checking the tree we saw at least 3 males in there, thanks Scott!

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*: 1 was seen in a tree filled with flowerpeckers, sunbirds, and spiderhunters on the way into Danum, which also held the rare *Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker*.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*: Recorded several times in Danum.

Black-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticulum* BE: Also known as *Bornean Flowerpecker*. We had some good views around the restaurant on Mount Kinabalu.

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*: A male was seen above our boat at Sukau.

SUNBIRDS AND SPIDERHUNTERS: Nectariniidae

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*: Seen 3 times, at Danum, Sepilok, and Sukau.

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*: 1 was seen at Danum, and another at Sepilok.

Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*: Also known as *Brown-throated Sunbird*. Recorded around Danum and Sepilok.

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaemus*: At least 1 male was seen at the Sepilok walkway.

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana*: 1 was seen in Danum, and a pair was seen very well behind our Sukau lodge.

Copper-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma calcostetha*: A super male showed well at Sepilok.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*: Several were seen around our Sukau lodge.

Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*: Seen in small numbers daily in the highlands.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*: 1 was seen en-route to Danum, and another in Sepilok.

Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*: Seen once each at Danum and Sepilok.

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera robusta*: 1 was seen at Sepilok.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*: Seen a couple of times at Danum, and also at Sukau.

Purple-naped Spiderhunter *Arachnothera hypogrammicum*: Also known as *Purple-naped Sunbird*. Seen 4 times, at Danum, Sepilok, and Gomantong.

Whitehead's Spiderhunter *Arachnothera juliae* BE: This tricky endemic was eventually tracked down during the afternoon of our day at Tambunan, where we managed to 'scope a single bird for some time as it preened, while perched in some canopy vines. Its distinctive, buzzy call led us to it.

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys*: Just 1 sighting, on the way into Danum.

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*: 3 were seen in one tree at Sepilok.

Bornean Spiderhunter *Arachnothera everetti* BE: Seen in the Borneo Rainforest Lodge garden, but better, by all, at Tambunan.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*: Commonly recorded in urban areas.

WEAVERS AND ALLIES: Ploceidae

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*: This recent colonizer was seen at a nest near Sandakan.

WAXBILLS AND ALLIES: Estrildidae

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans* BE: The most widespread endemic, recorded on 7 days of the tour.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata*: Also known as *Nutmeg Mannikin*. 1 near Tuaran.

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra*: 2 were seen at Gomantong.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla*: Also known as *Black-headed Munia*. Recorded on the way into Danum, at Sukau and in Sandakan.

MAMMAL LIST

The taxonomy of the mammal list follows: Philipps, Quentin, and Philipps Karen. *Philipps Field Guide to Mammals of Borneo and their Ecology*. Princeton University Press, 2016.

Numbers: 39 species seen; 16 endemic species seen.

Large Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus*: The world's largest bat; seen at night near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Acuminate Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus acuminatus*: The larger bats seen inside Gomantong Cave.

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida plicata*: Thousands were huddled inside Gomantong Caves.

Hylomys *Hylomys suillus*: Also known as *Lesser Gymnure*. One was seen by Timpohon Gate in Kinabalu NP.

Slender Treeshrew *Tupaia gracilis* BE: 1 was seen behind our lodge at Sukau.

Mountain Treeshrew *Tupaia montana* BE: Seen daily up in Mount Kinabalu.

Bornean Colugo *Galeopterus borneanus* BE: 1 was seen at night at Danum, and another at night near Sukau.

Western Tarsier *Cephalopachus bancanus*: One of the mammalian highlights; seen very well near Borneo Rainforest Lodge. A big thank you to the local rangers for finding it, and interrupting our dinner!

Red Langur *Presbytis rubicunda* BE: Also known as *Maroon Langur* or *Leaf-monkey*. Seen twice at Danum and twice again at Gomantong Cave.

Silvered Langur *Trachypithecus cristatus*: A single was seen late on our final afternoon near Sukau, a day that yielded 6 primate species, including Orangutan and Proboscis Monkey too.

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus* BE: Seen on 3–4 occasions at Sukau, including at least 3 males.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*: Also known as *Crab-eating Macaque*. The most abundant Sabah primate, seen many times in the lowlands.

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*: Shannon had an aggressive male crash against her cabin window at Danum, while the rest of us more placid groups from our boat near Sukau, and at Gomantong Cave.

North Borneo Gibbon *Hylobates funereus* BE: A single was seen at both Danum and Sukau.

Bornean Orangutan *Pongo pygmaeus* BE: Two females were seen near Borneo Rainforest Lodge, although the most appreciated were a mother and baby seen feeding in a large fruiting fig tree near Sukau.

Kinabalu Squirrel *Callosciurus baluensis* BE: Seen several times on Mount Kinabalu.

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii*: Recorded regularly in the lowlands.

Brooke's Squirrel *Sundasciurus brookei* BE: Seen at both Tambunan and Mount Kinabalu.

Jentink's Squirrel *Sundasciurus jentinki* BE: Recorded regularly up on Mount Kinabalu.

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notanus*: Seen a few times around the Sukau area.

Bornean Black-banded Squirrel *Callosciurus orestes* BE: Seen regularly up on Mount Kinabalu.

Bornean Pigmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis* BE: Also known as *Plain Pigmy Squirrel*. This ridiculously small squirrel was seen 4 times in total, at both Danum and Sukau.

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis*: Seen once each at Sepilok, Sukau and Kinabalu NP.

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti* BE: Recorded daily up on Mount Kinabalu.

Four-striped Ground Squirrel *Lariscus hosei* BE: One was seen by Gary at Danum.

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi* BE: Seen on several night drives out of Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista*: 1 was seen at Gomantong.
Müller's Rat *Sundamys muelleri*: 1 was seen inside the bat cave at Gomantong.
Kinabalu Rat *Rattus baluensis* BE: 1 was scoped alongside the road at Mount Kinabalu.
Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula*: 1 was seen on the road at Mount Kinabalu.
Island Palm Civet *Paradoxurus philippinensis*: A split from *Common Palm Civet*; seen at night near Sukau.
Malay Civet *Viverra zibetha*: 1 of these handsome cat-like civets was seen at night in Danum.
Masked Palm Civet *Paguma larvata*: Seen twice in broad daylight on Mount Kinabalu.
Leopard Cat *Prionailurus bengalensis*: Seen three times at Danum, with some great looks involved.
Bornean Pigmy Elephant *Elephas maximus borneensis*: A large herd was seen along the Tenegang River, near Sukau. At least 25 animals were involved, and perhaps as many as 40, including a tusker male.
Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*: Seen a few times at night near Borneo Rainforest Lodge.
Lesser Mousedeer *Tragulus kanchil*: 1 was seen on one of the night drives at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.
Greater Mousedeer *Tragulus napu*: 1 was seen on our first night drive at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.
Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor*: Seen several times around the lodge at Danum.

OTHER WILDLIFE

Butterflies and Moths:

Giant Uraniid Moth *Lyssa menoetius*: This giant brown, swallowtail moth was seen at Gomantong.
Rajah Brooke's Birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana*: Several of these magnificent butterflies were seen on Mount Kinabalu.
Golden Birdwing *Troides amphrysus*: A few were seen in Danum.

Other Insects:

Cave Centipede *Thereuopoda longicornis*: Also known as *Long-legged Centipede*. 6 were seen inside Gomantong Caves.
Cockroach sp.: Plentiful inside Gomantong Caves, where they forage on the piles of bat guano.
Giant Pill Millipede: A number of these were seen at Danum.
Lantern Bug *Pyrops sultana*: A few of these handsome insects were seen at Danum.

Reptiles:

Saltwater Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*: Also known as *Estuarine Crocodile*. A few were seen around Sukau.
Painted Terrapin *Batagur borneoensis*: 1 was seen at Sepilok.
Crested Green Lizard *Bronchocela cristatella*: Singles seen at Danum and Sepilok.
Common Flying Lizard *Draco sumatranus*: A couple of these odd reptiles were seen at Danum.
Yoshi's Bent-toed Gecko *Cryptodactylus yoshii*: Seen at Danum and Sukau.
Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*: Regularly recorded throughout.
Water Monitor Lizard *Varanus salvator*: Seen in Danum, Sepilok and Sukau.
Dog-toothed Cat Snake *Boiga cynodon*: 1 was seen around Borneo Rainforest Lodge.
Mangrove Cat Snake *Boiga dendrophila*: 1 was seen along the Menanggol River.

Plants:

Rafflesia keithii: This species produces the largest flowers in Borneo, and some of the largest on Earth, (there is one larger *rafflesia* species in Indonesia). The one we saw near Poring measured 78cm/30.7 inches across, and was in its prime, at 2-days old. These flowers last just 5 days, and typically wither and blacken during the final two days.