Any tour to Borneo is, by definition, special, and this one was no exception. It was a pleasure to lead such a delightful group of participants who enjoyed and made the very most of whatever came their way, whether it be spectacular storms; electrically-colored millipedes; spiders of every size and shape; an amazing 32 species of mammals including numerous encounters with wonderfully confiding orangutans; and, of course, some absolutely stunning birds. As if all that weren't enough, there were huge pitcher plants, ferns, fungi, and some exquisite orchids. Add to this some magnificent landscapes including vast primeval forests that are literally soul-rejuvenating; delicious food—and some good wine; and a charming, gracious, and genuinely friendly people, and you have all the ingredients of a very special tour.

It was an unusually wet tour and at times extremely humid; many birds were breeding, either on nests or attending young, and this undoubtedly contributed to the paucity of song and infrequency of tape-playback-response. However, this is all part of the natural tropical forest biological rhythm and was interesting in its own right, if at times a little frustrating. I think it safe to say that everyone enjoyed a magnificent tour with some truly outstanding highlights.

Thanks to the absence of hunting in areas such as the Danum Valley, primates and many other mammals and large birds were notably common and easy to see including numerous hornbills such as the incomparable Rhinoceros. Proboscis monkeys seemed at times almost de rigueur and Bornean gibbons accompanied us with their evocative calls almost constantly. Sadly, such a situation is becoming a rarity rather than the norm in Southeast Asia, and I always relish my annual return to Danum.

VENT's tours of Borneo are among the finest natural history experiences anywhere on our planet. This is largely because Borneo is one of the most exciting, vibrant, and biologically diverse places on earth. The combination of immense forests replete with a fabulous array of towering trees, plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates serviced by some of the most comfortable and attractive accommodations anywhere in the Tropics, together with some truly sumptuous meals, guarantees an unforgettable experience.

Recent genetic studies have underscored, more than ever, just how distinctive Borneo is. For example, new studies now indicate that the Bornean pygmy elephant is indeed a very distinct taxon; the Borneo population of orangutan should be treated as a separate species; and, most recently, studies of the clouded leopard show that it too is a separate species from mainland Asia. And so it is with birds, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates too. Clearly Borneo exhibits more than its share of weird and wonderful creatures, and our experiences exemplify what a fantastic tour this is. Merely listing our totals of 269 birds; 32 species of mammals; a plethora of neat reptiles and frogs; numerous gorgeous butterflies; and a wonderful collection of other unusual invertebrates; not to mention some fascinating flowering and non-flowering plants, barely does justice to what was a truly delightful experience.
It was a real joy to share a place I love so much with such an appreciative group. My aim, as always, is for each and every client to see each and every species well and ideally on more than one occasion, and in this I believe we were very successful. Possessing an intimate knowledge of the calls of the birds and where to find them is a key to our success and has been built upon over many years of studying the birds of Borneo and the surrounding regions of Asia. I cannot wait until my next trip!

Thanks to you all: Peter and Nancy, Carmen, Nancy, Al, Ian, and Mary for helping to make this tour such a great success! Thanks too, especially, to my wonderful colleague Adrian, as well as all our various boatmen, drivers, local guides, and the many other people who helped make our stay in Borneo so safe, friendly, and fulfilling. It was a pleasure traveling and birding with you and I look forward to traveling with you again soon.

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Diary

Daily Itinerary - July 2012

Tues. 3 July  
An early morning drive up into the Crocker Range and, thanks to Adrian, we immediately found a productive site located a few hundred metres above the Rafflesia Centre. Unfortunately the birding was not as good here as it was last year at about the same time. Nevertheless we found several good species including a pair of Mountain Serpent-Eagles, unusually large numbers of Mountain Imperial Pigeons, great 'scope views of both Mountain and Gold-naped barbets, the only Sunda Cuckooshrikes of the tour, three gorgeous Short-tailed (Green) Magpies, the first of what were to be numerous Bornean Treepies, great close encounters with Sunda Bush-warbler, Bornean Black-crested Bulbul, fine views of Indigo Flycatcher, for Nancy a female Fruithunter, literally hundreds of Chestnut-crested Yuhinas, four very dapper looking Bornean Leafbirds, and our first Temminck's Sunbirds that literally glowed in the morning sun. Descending the western flanks of this important dividing range we pulled into the village of Tambunan for a very tasty lunch at a local café before driving to Mahua Waterfall at ca. 1,000m elevation. Although the birding here was a little disappointing the magnificent primeval forest along the stream is absolutely glorious. An we did manage to find en route a couple of Buff-banded Rails as well as nice views of Cinnamon Bittern and handful of other open country species were would not find elsewhere. Continuing on to Mt Kinabalu Park we were lucky enough to spy a group of Pygmy White-eyes before heading into the township of Ranau and onto our hotel for the night. ON Fairy Garden Hotel.

Wed. 4 July  
Drove to Mesilau at 1900m in Kinabalu Park arriving just before dawn. Here we birded some superb albeit almost unnaturally bird-quiet Montane Forest edge adjacent to the facilities. After a good breakfast we continued birding near the lodge finding our first Velvet-fronted Nuthatches - such neat birds; very confiding Bornean Whistling-thrushes; the first of many Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes, and a couple of endemic Black-sided Flowerpeckers. We then walked up a narrow, gated track that took us steeply up through scrub literally overgrown with orchids and pitcher-plants plus some very neat birds. Returned for lunch at the restaurant. PM Birded the area around Timphon Gate and then back down the road. ON Fairy Garden Hotel.

Thus. 5 July  
Early morning we drove up to the Timphon Gate and birded back down the road before breakfast where a Dark Hawk-Cuckoo eventually showed itself to everyone. Fully replete we birded along the trails that were typically rather slow. It seemed this year that Kinabalu was to be harder
work than usual although we did find a rarely seen Kinabalu Squirrel, a pair of Maroon Woodpeckers, Bornean Whistler, White-throated Fantail, excellent views of Eye-browed Jungle-flycatcher, a male Snowy-browed Flycatcher, a pair of endearing Mountain Wren-Babblers, and a male White-browed Shrike-Babbler. Undoubtedly best of all were the amazing views we all enjoyed of the teeny Bornean Stubtail. Absolutely amazing!

Learning that there was some Rafflesia in full bloom near Poring Hot Springs we decided that instead of taking lunch at the Kinabalu Park we would drive down to Poring and have lunch there. What a good decision that turned out to be. Barely had we turned the corner when Peter spotted a Black Eagle soaring low overhead that gave everyone wonderful, close views. Rafflesia keithii was indeed in full bloom and we were able to witness several stages of this peculiar plant’s lifecycle. Continuing on to Poring we were just entering the gates when again Peter spotted another raptor, this time an adult Blyth’s Hawk-Eagle. The remainder of the day was spent birding the Poring Hot Springs area and produced several good birds including Rufous Piculet, three Black-and-yellow Broadbills, Common Iora, our only Grey-chinned Minivets of the tour, a pair of Rufous-tailed Tailorbirds and a surprise in the form of an immature White-tailed Flycatcher. ON Fairy Garden Hotel.

Fri. 6 July After a final walk through some lovely forest albeit very quiet bird-wise we drove down to KK, stopping for a couple of waterbirds at the sadly very overgrown Likas Bay marsh and a quick visit to the bookstore. The latter enabling us ‘scope a roost of Lesser Sheath-tailed Bats. Flying east across Borneo to Sandakan over at times some surprisingly good looking forest. It was only as descended to the flat lowlands that we encountered the depressing sight of seemingly millions and millions of acres oil palm plantations. Happily we arrived in time for some late afternoon birding highlighted by a pair of White-breasted Waterhens well spotted by Al. ON Sepilok Rainforest Resort

Sat. 7 July An early breakfast had us on the spell-binding Sepilok canopy walkway shortly after dawn and we remained there throughout the morning enjoying some amazing birding in the sheer comfort of a very stable and safe-feeling two metre wide canopy walkway. As anyone will tell you I love this place as it enables you to see birds (and mammals, and reptiles and insects!) supremely well without in anyway feeling nervous. It really is quite unlike any other tropical canopy walkway. Some of the birds and mammals we saw included: our first Crested Serpent-Eagle, large numbers of Green Imperial Pigeons including several exhibiting a display flight;
several Long-tailed Parakeets, 3 Raffles's Malkohas, a handsome Red-billed Malkoha, thanks to Nancy unbelievably close and prolonged views of a Red-bearded Bee-eater, a pair of Banded Woodpeckers, a male Buff-necked Woodpecker, Fiery Minivets, a pair of Greater Racket-tailed Drongos constantly harassed by their two young; several Black-naped Monarchs, another group, this time four, Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, our first Chestnut-winged Babblers, a large group of Hill Mynas, and Long-billed Spiderhunter - the canopy walkway seems to be a very good spot for this elusive and hard to observe canopy species. Typically there were several species of squirrel present including the impressive Pale Giant Squirrel. Just a handful of the wonderful elements of our first morning in lowland Bornean tropical forest. Typically the afternoon was hotter and slower and sadly a huge storm arrived just as we hoped to see the resident Giant Red Flying-Squirrel but not before we 'scope a Brown Hawk-Owl. ON Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

Sun. 8 July

Needless to say we were champing at the bit to get back to the canopy walkway. During the few hours we had before departing for Sandakan we again enjoyed some fine views of Blue-throated Bee-eaters, an exceptional encounter with a pair of Grey-and-buff woodpeckers, prolonged studies of Black-and-yellow broadbills, 3 Green Ioras, a good selection of Pycnonotus bulbuls, and to wrap it all up a Black-capped Babbler walked all around as we descended from the walkway!

A Silver-rumped Needletail over the pond at the rainforest lodge provided a fine farewell. Sadly taking our leave of Sepilok we headed in to town to visit the Sandakan Memorial. A memorial to those who lost their lives on the deplorably inhumane Sandakan Death March and to those brave souls who tried to help the prisoners. A quick visit to the very attractive Chinese Temple provided an informative view over the equally impressive Sanadakan harbour before retiring to a very good luncheon in the Sabah Hotel. BUT not before we found a Bornean Keeled Green Pit-Viper in a nearby garden and fruiting fig alive with barbets, bulbuls and hanging-parrots.

In a very comfortably and powerfully appointed boat we headed across the bay and then through a number of mangrove back waters to the Kinabatangan River. Several stops along the way produced any number of new sightings best of all undoubtedly being the pugnacious male Proboscis Monkey guarding his harem. And then it was up river, occasionally screeching to a halt as something of interest hove into view such as the imposing White-bellied Sea-Eagles which were notably numerous. But the
real prize was a flock of 8+ Cinnamon-headed Pigeons. We even arrived into the very attractive Abi Lodge in time for an initial exploration along the boardwalk and our first Buffy Fish-Owl and an adult an immature Wallace’s Hawk-Eagle. ON Abai Lodge.

Mon. 9 July

Just as dawn was breaking we slipped into the river and wended our way up to the Abai Oxbow. What could be better then hearing the dawn chorus in a Bornean lowland rainforest. More Proboscis Monkey, our first snake in the form of a Mangrove Snake and a host of wonderful birds. However, pride of place must surely go to the adult female Orang utan and her young that we observed stirring from their sleep on their overnight nest. Such a privilege. It was good morning for Columbiformes and we enjoyed diagnostic views of Little, Pink-necked, Cinnamon-headed and Thick-billed green pigeons. However, THE bird of the morning was the pair of Straw-headed Bulbul. These endangered virtuosos put on a wonderful show for us all. Returning to the lodge for an *al fresco* b’fast on the boardwalk we spent the rest of the morning birding through the nearby swamp forests. THE highlights here was undoubtedly the Black-and-crimson Pitta which most of us saw after a tremendous dual. After lunch we headed further up the Kinabatangan River (the largest in Sabah) to the recently and very attractively renovated Sukau Rainforest Lodge. Just as it was looking to be a fairly quiet boat trip a shout from Adrian drew our attention to a group of three Rhinoceros Hornbills feeding low over the river. We arrived just in time to settle into our rooms and dinner. ON Sukau Rainforest Lodge.

Tues. 10 July

Early AM Birded along the lovely Menanggal River where we enjoyed a very fine morning of birding. Some of the birds we encountered included: Oriental Darter, a flock of seven Storm’s Storks soaring low over our heads; two Lesser Fish-Eagles, Emerald Dove in flight, a remarkably responsible and visible (yes we saw it reasonably well for a change) Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, superb views of Blue-eared kingfishers, two huge Strok-billed kingfishers, Oriental Pied, Black, and Bushy-crested hornbills, Black-and-red, Black-and-yellow and four Dusky broadbills, Malaysian Blue Flycatcher and an enormous Bearded Pig. We returned to our lodge for lunch before heading up the river to another tributary. Sadly here we had to share the river with other tourists AND a vast Oli Palm Plantation. Notwithstanding we managed to find some ‘good ‘stuff’ including a very photogenic large male Orang utan; our only Brown-backed Needletail of the tour; Grey-headed Fish-Eagle, a displaying Crested
Goshawk and more exquisite Blue-eared Kingfishers. ON Sukau Rainforest Lodge.

Wed. 11 July

It was always likely to be difficult to compete with the previous morning nevertheless we set out at our customary pre-dawn time and once again headed up the Menanngal River. We had barely gone a few hundred metres before we encountered superb views of a Buffy Fish-Owl just sitting there. And so it went .... Some of the highlights we enjoyed on this morning included: brief views of a pair of Chestnut-necklaced Partridges, another Storm’s Stork, fine views of a Red-throated Barbet, White-bellied Woodpecker, our first Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, and a striking male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker. Reluctantly we returned to our lodge - but not before a Bat Hawk circled over us - in the middle of the days! What next! We packed up and headed to the Goamantong Caves where Adrian led us on a fascinating tour of the huge cave and its various inhabitants. From there we continued to the township of Lahad Data for a late lunch. Here we said our goodbyes to my colleague Adrian and transferred over to our comfortable four-wheel-drive vehicles for the drive into the Danum Valley and the superb Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

This is always a fascinating drive, almost entirely through primary and selectively logged lowland forest and thus full of promise. As the late afternoon started to dip behind the trees views of the forest became increasingly magical. And so it was on to the BRL. My single most favourite lodge anywhere in the world.

As always we were greeted like long-lost friends and efficiently settled into our lovely rooms. And then it was dinner and arguably THE most sumptuous buffet you will ever see anywhere in the world especially in the midst of the rainforest!! ON Borneo Rainforest Lodge

Thurs to Sun
12 – 15 July

Borneo Rainforest Lodge and the incomparable Danum Valley are my single most favourite place on the planet. We had four full days in which to explore the magnificent lowland forests of this very important protected area. Unfortunately this year it was exceptionally wet and unusually humid making things a little uncomfortable at times. Coupled with the fact that many birds were breeding, especially such groups as trogons - which were conspicuously quiet and unseen and babblers, despite that we had some fabulous encounters with such highly sought after species as Bornean and Striped wren-babblers. But we had a great group that were a lot of fun and to my delight enjoyed all aspects of the rainforest. And they persisted and this resulted in some very memorable encounters.
Our perambulations ranged from forest walks along some of the excellent trails that have been established in the vicinity of the lodge. We spent some early mornings and late afternoons working the platforms on the canopy walkway to great effect – for some time I have tended to think of these constructions as something largely for tourists BUT it appears that the forest and its creatures have now absorbed these structures and as a result many birds and mammals are much easier to see right up near where they normally live rather than from 200 feet below! The platforms are decidedly strong and stable and permit at least 5-6 people to confidently and comfortably use them at one time. The amazing close-up views we had of such species as Banded and Black-and-yellow broadbills, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, a family group of Orange-backed and Grey-and-buff woodpeckers, displaying male Asian Paradise Flycatcher, and leafbirds to mention but a few was simply staggering.

Down on the ground we enjoyed memorable encounters with a pair of very territorial Bornean Wren-Babblers; a most responsive Striped Wren-Babbler and a family group of Crested Fireback Pheasants that regularly foraged in the grounds of the lodge and for Carmen walkaway views of a male Great Argus. At Danum the possibilities are seemingly endless and despite the huge list of things seen we still left with the feeling that another few days at this wonderful lodge would not go amiss. ON Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Mon. 16 July A final full morning’s birding that was as good as it gets and then just to round things off a female Blue-headed Pitta demanded our attention and hoped through the perfectly sited shaft of sunlight for the perfect ending to our tour of Borneo. So it was lunch and then the drive back to Lahad Datu for our flight back to Kota Kinabalu. This most special of tours was rounded off with a very pleasant farewell get together in the very attractive bar and dining room.
Annotated List of Birds

NON-PASSERINES

1. **(H) Red-breasted Partridge** *Arborophila hyperythra*
   Heard a number of times in the Crocker Range and on Mt Kinabalu.

2. Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii* **NT**
   A pair seen briefly along the Menanngal River.

3. **(H) Crimson-headed Partridge** *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*
   Heard in the Crocker Range and on Mt Kinabalu.

4. Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita* **NT**
   A group of 3-5 was regularly seen foraging near BRL.

5. **Great Argus** *Argusianus argus* **NT**
   Seen by Carmen on the BRL nature trail but heard only on two days in the Danum Valley!

6. **Oriental Darter** *Anhinga melanogaster* **NT**
   We saw three of this globally Near Threatened species on an oxbow lake near along Abai
Lodge; along the Kinabatangan River between Abai and Sukau Rainforest Lodge; a maxima of four along the Menanngol River and two along the Keningau River.

7. Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
   One in rice-fields near Tambunan.

8. Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatran* **NT**
   Two along the Kinabatangan River.

9. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
   One along the Kinabatangan River and two along the Keningau River.

10. Great Egret *Casmerodius alba*
    Widespread and locally common with a gathering of circa 40 along the Kinabatangan River between Abai and Sukau.

11. Intermediate Egret *Mesopoyx intermedia*
    Small numbers along the Kinabatangan River.

12. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
    Widespread and moderately.

13. Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta sacra*
    One dark morph bird perched on a boat in Likas Bay. NOTE: Previously placed in *Demigretta*. Also known as Eastern Reef-Egret.

14. Cattle Egret *Bulbulcus ibis*
    Amazingly just one in rice-fields near Tambunan. NOTE: Recently some authors have suggested that differences between *B. ibis* and *B. coromandus* are consistently represented in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalisations and thus indicate they are better treated as two species. However, given how well this 'species' colonises and has colonised different parts of the world it is hard to envisage that gene flow is not continuous.

15. Little (Striated) Heron *Butorides striatus*
    One along the Kinabatangan River as we made our way through mangroves to Abai Lodge. NOTE: The A.O.U. separates North American populations of this widespread species from all other populations. Thus, birds in North America become *B. virescens* Green or Green-backed Heron. Observers would be advised to note wherever they see this species in their travels worldwide as this species is likely to be further divided into a number of allospecies. Also known as Mangrove, Striated or Green-backed Heron.

16. Storm’s Stork *Ciconia stormi* **EN**
    A flock of seven soaring low over our heads along the Menanngol River. This species is globally endangered and recent assessments put the worldwide population at under 1,000 individuals.

17. Lesser Adjutant *Leptotilus javanicus*
    One soaring over the oxbow near Abai Lodge and one over the Menanngal River.
18. Jerdon’s Bazar *Aviceda jerdoni*
   One seen superbly in low flight along the Kinabatangan River and a pair and two days later a single seen superbly in the Danum Valley.

19. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
   One dark morph seen nicely one afternoon from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

20. Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*
   One flew over us as we returned from our first morning along the Menangal River.

21. Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus aeruleus*
   One near Tambunan.

22. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
   One immature near KK; eight between Sandakan and Abai Lodge and small numbers elsewhere along the Kinabatangan River and adjacent areas.

23. White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
   One or two seen daily from the Sepilok Canopy Walkway and along the Kinabatangan River.

24. Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*  **NT**
   At least one pair appears to be resident on the middle reaches of the Menangal River and we enjoyed several very nice looks at this bird including an immature.

25. Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*  **NT**
   Just one adult along the Keningau River.

26. Mountain Serpent Eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis*
   Good but all too brief views of a pair soaring over the Crocker Range.

27. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
   One or two seen on many days in the lowlands of Sabah.

28. Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
   One displaying along the Kinabatangan River and then superb 'scope views of a perched bird in the Danum Valley.

29. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
   One hunting near Ranau thanks to some good spotting by Peter; one high over the Danum Valley.

30. Blyth’s Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus alboniger*
   One adult seen superbly again thanks to some good spotting by Peter outside the entrance to Poring, Kinabalu Park.

31. Wallace’s Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nanus*  **VU**
   Reportedly an increasingly rare raptor, however, we enjoyed superb 'scope views of two birds at Abai Lodge and a pair in the Danum Valley.

32. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus*
   One adult over the Sepilok canopy walkway.
33. **White-breasted Waterhen Amaurornis phoenicurus**  
Ten seen in open scrubby country near Tambunan and two spotted by Al at our lovely Sepilok lodge.

34. **Buff-banded Rail Gallirallus philippensis**  
At least one of this distinctive species was seen very nicely in scrubby rice-fields near Tambunan. Until very recently this species was thought to be a vagrant to Borneo but now appears to be resident in the wetlands of the Tempasuk Plain and now near Tambunan.

35. **Common Moorhen Gallinula chloropus**  
Three near Tambunan.

36. **Common Sandpiper Actitis hypoleucos**  
One along the Kinabatangan.

37. **Whiskered Tern Chlidonias hybridus**  
Circa 9 along the Kinabatangan River.

38. **Rock Dove Columba livia FERAL**  
Small numbers around Kota Kinabalu, Tambunan, Sandakan and Lahad Datu.

39. **Spotted Turtle-Dove Streptopelia chinensis**  
Widespread and moderately common in the lightly wooded lowlands.

40. **Little Cuckoo-Dove Macropygia ruficeps**  
Common in the Crocker Range and on Mt Kinabalu, where seen daily.

41. **Emerald Ground-Dove Chalcophaps indica**  
Seen and heard widely in the.

42. **Zebra Dove Geopelia striata Introduced**  
Several in and around KK, Sandakan and Goamantong.

43. **Little Green Pigeon Treron olax**  
Several along the Kinabatangan River.

44. **Pink-necked Pigeon Treron vernans**  
Six at the Abai oxbow and two along the Menangal River.

45. **Cinnamon-headed Pigeon Treron fulvicollis**  
A flock of eight along the Kinabatangan River below Abai Lodge and six on two days along the Menangal River. This nomad is an infrequently encountered species anywhere in its rather circumscribed range.

46. **Thick-billed Pigeon Treron curvirostra**  
Two along the Keningau River and six along the Menangal River.

47. **Jambu Fruit-Dove Ptilinopus jambu**  
One female seen briefly in flight in Kinabalu Park.
48. **Green Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula aenea*
   Notably widespread and common (maxima 20 per day), seen and heard daily throughout the forested lowlands and in the coastal areas of KK.

49. **Mountain Imperial-Pigeon** *Ducula badia*
   Notably common this year with as many as 20 seen in the Crocker Range.

50. **Blue-rumped Parrot** *Psittinus cyanurus*
   As many as six seen over the Danum Valley.

51. **Blue-naped Parrot** *Tanygnathus lucionensis*
   As many as seven in the trees surrounding the Tanjung Aru Beach Resort. NOTE: There is some question as to whether or not this species is introduced to Sabah, Borneo.

52. **Long-tailed Parakeet** *Psittacula longicauda* **NT**
   Quite common this year with as many as 20 seen in flight over the Sepiok Canopy Walkway.

53. **Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot** *Loriculus galgulus*
   Heard and seen in flight frequently throughout the lowlands of Sabah with several seen well in the Danum Valley.

54. **Dark Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx bocki*
   One seen superbly as we ate breakfast in Kinabalu Park. NOTE: The resident SE Asian population of Large Hawk-Cuckoo *H. sparverioides* is now treated as a full species.

55. **Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx vagans* **NT**
   A bit of perseverance produced several good very close flight views along the Menanggol River. NOTE: Retained in *Cuculus* by some authorities.

56. (H) **Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo** *Hierococcyx fugax*
   Heard at the Abai oxbow. NOTE: Retained in *Cuculus* by some authorities.

57. (H) **Sunda Lesser Cuckoo** *Cuculus lepidus*
   Heard just once in Kinabalu Park. NOTE: This taxon was previously treated as a resident population of Oriental Cuckoo *C. saturatus*, which also occurs as a migrant in Borneo.

58. **Banded Bay Cuckoo** *Cacomantis sonneratii*
   One seen very nicely at Abai.

59. (H) **Plaintive Cuckoo** *Cacomantis merulinus*
   Heard in the lowlands. NOTE: Treated by some authorities as sub-species of Brush Cuckoo *C. variolosus*.

60. (H) **Little Bronze-Cuckoo** *Chryscoccyx minutillus*
   Heard along the Menanggol River.

61. **Violet Cuckoo** *Chryscoccyx xanthorhynchus*
   Superb views of a confiding male along the Sepilok canopy walkway and an even better one from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.
62. **Asian Drongo-Cuckoo** *Surniculus lugubris*
   One came in nicely to our tape in the Danum Valley.

63. **Raffles’s Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*
   Two male of this attractive species was seen nicely from the Sepilok Canopy Walkway thereafter we saw one almost daily in the Danum Valley.

64. **Red-billed Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*
   Fabulous close encounter with one bird from the Sepilok canopy walkway and one from the BRL canopy walkway.

65. **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha** *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
   Our first was seen along the Menangal River and then daily in the Danum Valley including five on one morning.

66. **(H) Short-toed Coucal** *Centropus rectunguis* **VU**
   Heard most days in the Danum Valley.

67. **Greater Coucal** *Centropus sinensis*
   One seen at Sepilok; two along the Menanngol River and singles most days in the Danum Valley.

68. **(H) Sunda Scops-Owl** *Otus lempiji*
   Several heard near Abai Lodge.

69. **(H) Barred Eagle Owl** *Bubo sumatranus*
   One heard persistently shortly after dawn from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

70. **Buffy Fish-Owl** *Ketupa ketupu*
   Stunning views of one at Abai Lodge.

71. **Brown Wood-Owl** *Strix leptogrammica*
   Fabulous views of this large and striking owl on two evenings at BRL.

72. **Brown Hawk-Owl** *Ninox scutulata*
   Nice ‘scope views from the canopy walkway at Sepilok.

73. **(H) Large Frogmouth** *Batrachostomus auritus* **NT**
   Heard at very close quarters along the Menangal River but just would not emerge from the forest. Surely this is one of THE great night birds of the world!

74. **Large-tailed Nightjar** *Caprimulgus macrurus*
   One flushed by the front vehicle at dusk as we drove into the Danum Valley.

75. **Silver-rumped Needletail** *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
   One of these very attractive swifts constantly fed over the lake at our Sepilok lodge and 2-4 virtually daily in the Danum River at BRL affording us wonderful in-flight views.

76. **Brown-backed Needletail** *Hirundapus giganteus*
   Just one along the Keningau River.
77. **Glossy Swiftlet** *Collocalia esculenta*
   Nesting in our lovely KK hotel and then most days in the Danum Valley. NOTE: 'Glossy' Swiftlets on Mt Kinabalu, of which we saw many, are often treated as a separate species viz Linchi Swiftlet *Collocalia linchii*. Smythies and Davison (1999) regarded the taxon *linchii* to be at best a subspecies of Glossy Swiftlet but other authors contest this. Also known as White-bellied Swiftlet.

78. **Bornean Swiftlet** *Collocalia*
   Many authors now regard the birds nesting on Mt Kinabalu as a separate species from Glossy Swiftlet.

79. **Mossy-nest Swiftlet** *Aerodramus salangana*
   Only identified with confidence on the nest in Goamantong Caves.

80. **Black-nest Swiftlet** *Aerodramus maxima*
   Only identified with confidence on the nest in Goamantong Caves. NOTE: Robson (2000 – FG to Birds of SE Asia) splits Germain's Swiftlet including *A. g. germari* and *A. g. amechana* of S Mynmar, C, S Thailand, Peninsular Malaysia, Singapore, E Tonkin, C, S Annam, Cochinchina, N, C Laos and possibly elsewhere, from White-nest (Edible-nest) Swiftlet. The latter's global range is thus restricted to Andaman and Nicobar Is., small islands off S Myanmar, Sundas (We are unsure what Robson means by this term??), and Tanahjampea (Flores Sea Is., Indonesia). The status of birds in N Borneo and the southern Philippines is ambiguous and for the time being we retain populations at the latter two sites in White-nest Swiftlet (see Smythies & Davison 1999).

   The taxonomy and field identification of swiftlets represents some of the most challenging and most complex taxonomic problems in the Oriental region. For a helpful and up to date discussion of the situation, see Smythies and Davison (1999 Birds of Borneo).

   **Edible-nest Swiftlet** *Aerodramus fuciphaga*
   The nests of this species were too far and inaccessible for us to see in the Goamantong Caves, however, it is almost certain that some of the swiftlets we saw throughout the lowlands belonged to this species. NOTE: The above three species are impossible to differentiate in the field but can be safely identified on the nest. All three occur in the Goamantong Caves and a visit here provides a great opportunity to study the differences between the nests and thus identify the little blighters! We observed all dark swiftlets daily from 16 Sept.

81. **House (Little) Swift** *Apus nipalensis*
   Several nesting around Sandakan. NOTE: Considered by some authorities to be a separate species *Apus nipalensis*, however, Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) note that there is currently insufficient evidence for allowing this split.

82. **Grey-rumped Treeswift** *Hemiprocne longipennis*
   Notably uncommon this year with just 1-2 seen on three days in the Danum Valley.
83. Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*
   One to three seen daily in the Danum Valley. This was a favourite bird and it is not hard to see why. From watching a pair sallying in the rain from our verandah at BRL to close-up and personal views of the Fu-Manchu facial plumage of this bird we really had some wonderful encounters with this darling bird.

84. (H) Diard’s Trogon *Harpactes diardi* **NT**
   Heard from the Sepilok canopy walkway and in the Danum Valley.

85. Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelli* **NT**
   One male seen briefly at Abai Lodge then fine views of a pair and three days later another male in the Danum Valley.

86. Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*
   Seen commonly along the narrower tributaries of the Kinabatangan River especially along the Menanngal River. One at BRL. What a stunner.

87. Blue-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo euryzona*
   One of this infrequently seen species seen nicely along the Segama River near BRL.

88. Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca*
   One at Abai Lodge.

89. Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa* merous
   One at BRL.

90. (H) Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella*
   Amazingly just one heard just once in the Danum Valley.

91. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*
   A truly magnificent bird; we saw 2-3 daily along the Kinabatangan River and its tributaries and heard in the Danum Valley.

92. (H) Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*
   This year sadly only heard in Swamp Forest near Abai Lodge.

93. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*
   Common in all coastal areas; in the lower sections of the Kinabatangan River.

94. Sacred Kingfisher *Todiramphus sancta*
   One of these Austral migrants near Lahad Datu.

95. (H) Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus* **NT**
   Heard daily just at dawn from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

96. Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*
   Thanks to some fine spotting by Nancy we all enjoyed a spectacular close and personal encounter with a male of this glorious species along the Sepilok canopy walkway.
97. Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*
   This attractive SE Asia migrant was observed in good numbers (10-20) daily throughout the forested and partially forested lowlands.

98. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
   2-4 daily from around Abai Lodge up the Kinabatangan River to Sukau.

99. Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
   Fairly common this year with four observed every field session from Abai Lodge along the Kinabatangan and Menanngol Rivers to Goamantong Caves. Also heard at Sepilok.

100. Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*  NT
   One of the more common of the many hornbill species we encountered. We saw a pair of these great birds from the canopy walkway at Sepilok and at the oxbow near Abai Lodge; along the Kinabatangan and Menanngol Rivers and in the Danum Valley.

101. Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*  NT
   Sabah's faunal emblem and one of the world's most spectacular birds, we were fortunate to see this species frequently including a pair with a recently fledged young along the Kinabatangan River; two along the Keningau and Menanngol rivers and 2-4 daily in the Danum Valley.

102. (H) Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*  NT
   Heard just on one day in the Danum Valley.

103. Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*
   A flock of seven seen nicely from the canopy walkway at Sepilok and a flock of six the following day; a flock of seven along the Menanngal River and as many as ten in the Danum Valley.

104. Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*
   Two seen flying very high over the Danum Valley before plunging like a pair of Stuka Dive-bombers into the forest canopy and then another pair the following day.

105. Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon*
   One seen superbly in the 'scope in the Danum Valley and heard there daily.

106. Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos*  NT
   One taped in along the Menanngal River eventually provided some very fine views as did another on the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley. Heard widely elsewhere.

107. Mountain Barbet *Megalaima monticola*
   While this is not Borneo's most attractive endemic, it has until recently been one of the more difficult species to actually see. We, however, had good views of two at a fruiting tree near in the Crocker Range.

108. Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii*  NT
   Superb views of one from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley and heard there daily.
109. **Golden-naped Barbet** *Megalaima pulcherrima*
   One or two seen very nicely in the Crocker Range and in Kinabalu Park.

110. **Blue-eared Barbet** *Megalaima australis*
   Typically heard and seen commonly throughout the forested lowlands and hills and two seen well from the canopy walkway at Sepilok and in the Danum Valley.

111. **(H) Bornean Barbet** *Megalaima eximia*
   Several heard in the Crocker Range.

112. **Brown Barbet** *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*
   Two of this unusual looking and sounding barbet seen well from the canopy walkway at Sepilok; six at Abai Lodge and several most days along the Menanngal River and in the Danum Valley.

113. **Rufous Piculet** *Sasia abnormis*
   One at Poring and one along the Menanngal River.

114. **Brown-capped Pygmy Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos moluccensis*
   Heard in the Swamp Forest near Abai Lodge and seen by some in the grounds of our lovely hotel in KK.

115. **Grey-capped (Pygmy) Woodpecker** *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
   One seen on two days in the Danum Valley.

116. **White-bellied Woodpecker** *Dryocopus javensis*
   Superb views of a group of three at the Abai oxbow; three along the Menanngal River and another two in the Danum Valley.

117. **Banded Woodpecker** *Picus miniaceus*
   One pair at the Sepilok canopy walkway put on a great show.

118. **Crimson-winged Woodpecker** *Picus puniceus*
   Two with a mixed species flock in the Danum Valley.

119. **Maroon Woodpecker** *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
   One seen superbly in Kinabalu Park.

120. **Buff-rumped Woodpecker** *Meiglyptes tristis*
   Fine views of a pair along the Menanngal River and heard with mixed flocks in the Danum Valley.

121. **Buff-necked Woodpecker** *Meiglyptes tukki*  **NT**
   One seen at close range form the Sepilok canopy walkway; a pair attending a nest along the Kinabatangan River; one along the Menanngal River; and one with a mixed species flock in the Danum Valley.

122. **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker** *Hemicircus concretus*
   One very confiding pair put on a great show on the Sepilok canopy walkway and then another seen in the Danum Valley.
123. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*
   A group of four seen all too briefly from the Sepilok canopy walkway. This is Asia’s largest woodpecker.

124. (H) Green Broadbill *Calyptomena virdis* NT
   Heard just once in a mixed species flock in the Danum Valley.

125. (H) Whitehead’s Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi*
   Heard with a mixed flock in Kinabalu Park

126. Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*
   One pair bathing at the Sepilok Rainforest Lodge thereafter seen daily along the Kinabatangan River and its tributaries but only heard this year in the Dnum Valley.

127. (H) Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*
   Heard in the Crocker Range; a very unusual record.

128. Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*
   Heard and seen daily in the Danum Valley including some fabulously close views.
129. Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus* **NT**
   Seen and heard most days in lowland and hill forest. This is one of the most endearing of Asia's many attractive broadbills.

130. Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus*
   A group of four seen along the Menanngal River and groups of 3-4 seen daily in the Danum Valley.

131. **Blue-headed Pitta** *Pitta baudii* **T**
   Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the entire tour! An unbelievably responsive female hopped around in front of our group in the Danum Valley just as we were about to wrap the tour up! What a finale!

132. **Black-and-crimson Pitta** *Pitta ussheri* **T**
   Another trip highlight with exceptional views of one in Swamp Forest near Abai Lodge. Also heard in the Danum Valley.

133. **Golden-bellied Gerygone (Flyeater)** *Gerygone sulphurea*
   Common in the Crocker Range.

134. **Large Woodshrike** *Tephrodornis gularis*
   A pair seen from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

135. **Rufous-winged Philentoma** *Philentoma pyrrhopterus*
   1-2 seen on three days gave everyone fine views of this infrequently seen species in the Danum Valley.

136. **Maroon-chested Philentoma** *Philentoma velatum*
   Fine views of a male with a mixed flock thanks to Al and then another also from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

137. **White-breasted Woodswallow** *Artamus leucorhynchus*
   Common in open country.

138. **(H) Bornean Bristlehead** *Pityriasis gymnocephala* **NT**
   Heard distantly in the Danum Valley.

139. **Common Iora** *Aegithina tiphia*
   Small numbers seen well at several sites in secondary lowland woodland and mangroves.

140. **Green Iora** *Aegithina viridissima* **NT**
   Three seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway; two along the Menanngal River and two in the Danum Valley. This noisy, active species appears to function as a nucleus species for mixed canopy flocks.

141. **Sunda Cuckoo-shrike** *Coracina larvata*
   Three in the Crocker Range.
142. **Lesser Cuckoo-shrike** Coracina fimbriata
   One female seen nicely from the Sepilok canopy walkway and then 1-2 (probably a pair) seen
   and heard daily in the Danum Valley.

143. **Pied Triller** Lalage nigra
   Seen by some around our lovely resort in KK.

144. **Fiery Minivet** Pericrocotus igneus  NT
   Widespread and seen or heard daily in the lowlands.

145. **Scarlet Minivet** Pericrocotus speciosus
   One male in the Crocker range. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) show that southern
   India populations should be treated as a separate species, consequently northern populations
   adopt the specific name speciosus.

146. **Grey-chinned Minivet**  Pericrocotus solaris
   A pair seen in Kinabalu Park.

147. **Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike** Hemipus picatus
   Four seen nicely in the Crocker Range.

148. **Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike** Hemipus hirundinaceus
   Widespread and common seen daily throughout the lowlands.

149. **Mangrove Whistler** Pachycephala grisola
   Two seen very well in Swamp Forest on the Abai Lodge boardwalk.

150. **Bornean Whistler** Pachycephala hypoxantha
   Notably quiet and uncommon this year in Kinabalu Park. This is an unobtrusive endemic of the
   montane forest mid-storey.

151. **Dark-throated Oriole** Oriolus xanthonotus
   Two and then one on two days in the Danum Valley.

152. **Ashy Drongo** Dicrurus leucophaeus
   Common in the Crocker Range and in Kinabalu Park.

153. **Bronzed Drongo** Dicrurus aeneus
   Six along the BRL entrance road, at the same place they have been for 15 years in the
   Danum Valley.

154. **Hair-crested Drongo** Dicrurus hottentotus
   Just one in the Danum Valley.

155. **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo** Dicrurus paradiseus
   An adult with two very demanding fledglings seen daily from the Sepilok canopy walkway; one
   at the Abai oxbow; seen and heard commonly in the Danum Valley including a pair feeding two
   young.

156. **White-throated Fantail** Rhipidura albicollis
   Common in Kinabalu Park. This replaces the following two species at higher altitudes.
157. Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*
   Widespread and common in the lowlands but outside areas of contiguous forest. Note, it has
   now been recorded right at BRL! One adult sitting on a nest at the Abai oxbow.

158. Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*
   Seen regularly, often with mixed flocks in the Danum Valley.

159. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
   Fairly regularly encountered with 1-2 seen and/or heard daily in lowland forest. One pair
   seen attending two young from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

160. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
   Absolutely fantastic views of a silver male along the Menanggal River and heard or seen daily
   in the Danum Valley.

161. (H) Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*  NT
   One heard in the Danum Valley.

162. Bornean Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus*  NT
   This is a great bird, not least because it possesses an extraordinarily beautiful song. A pair
   was seen at very close quarters from the Sepilok canopy walkway and then several in the
   Danum Valley. NOTE: This is a distinctive Bornean taxon with no white in the wings and a
   short crest, which is increasingly being regarded as a separate endemic species.

163. Short-tailed Magpie *Cissa thalassina*
   For such a spectacular and brightly coloured bird, this magpie is surprisingly difficult to see,
   however, this year we were treated to several superb views of this species in the Crocker
   Range and Kinabalu Park.

164. Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens*
   Seen and heard commonly, daily on Mt Kinabalu and in the Crocker Range. NOTE: Treated as
   a separate species from Sumatran Treepie *D. occipitalis*.

165. Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*
   Common throughout lowland forest areas.

166. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
   Several, sometimes many seen daily throughout the entire trip. Observed attending young in
   the Danum Valley.

167. (H) Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
   Astonishingly heard just twice in the Danum Valley.

168. Bornean Stubtail *Urosphena whiteheadi*
   Sensational views of this difficult to observed endemic in Kinabalu Park.

169. Sunda Bush-Warbler *Cettia vulcania*
   One seen in the Crocker Range and heard daily on Mt Kinabalu.
170. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*
   Seen superbly in the Crocker Range and Kinabalu Park. NOTE: No longer regarded as a Tailorbird!

171. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
   Unbelievably close views of this gorgeous bird from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley. Also seen at Kinabalu Park, from the Sepilok canopy walkway and Danum Valley.

172. Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*
   One pair seen very nicely near the Abai oxbow and again in the Danum Valley. This attractive species has been virtually extirpated throughout much of its entire range thanks to the despicable bird-trappers.

173. Black-and-white Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanoleucus*
   One female seen in the Danum Valley.

174. Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
   One in the Danum Valley.

175. Bornean Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus montis*
   Two of these handsome birds were seen in the Crocker Range. NOTE: The Black-crested Bulbul group is better treated as a superspecies consisting probably of five allopatric species: *P. melanicteris* - Sri Lanka; *P. gularis* Western Ghats, South India; *P. flaviventris* - Himalayas and Central India eastwards to Vietnam and south to Peninsula Malaysia; *P. dispar* - Sumatra; and *P. montis* - Borneo. (Rasmussen & Anderton 2005).

176. Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus*
   One behind the Chinese temple above Sandakan and two in the Danum Valley.

177. Pale-faced (Flavescent) Bulbul *Pycnonotus leucops*
   Six at Mesilau in Kinabalu Park. NOTE: Split from Flavescent Bulbul *P. flavescens*.

178. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*
   Very common in open and semi-open areas throughout Sabah and Sarawak; surprisingly one or two were recorded in the grounds of BRL.

179. Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*
   One at the Abai oxbow and two along the Menanngol River.

180. Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*
   One from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

181. Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*
   Widespread and common in the lowland forests.

182. Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythropthalmos*
   One seen very nicely from the Sepilok canopy walkway and one or two seen in the Danum Valley.
183. Finsch's Bulbul *Alophoixus finschii* **NT**  
Two of these rarely encountered bulbuls seen from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

184. Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*  
One in the Mahua Waterfall forest and several seen in Kinabalu Park.

185. Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus brisei*  
Two seen in the Danum Valley.

186. Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*  
Just one of these rather quiet, mid-storey bulbuls was seen in the Danum Valley.

187. Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*  
One of these rather 'starry-eyed' bulbuls were seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway; one  
on the Menangol River and then two were seen very nicely from the canopy walkway in  
the Danum Valley. NOTE: Previously placed in *Hypsipetes*.

188. Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea* **NT**  
Singles seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway one in the Danum Valley.

189. Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis* **NT**  
One seen from the canopy walkway at Sepilok.

190. Mountain Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*  
Common on Mt Kinabalu.

191. Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*  
Common on Mt Kinabalu and one seen in the Crocker Range.

192. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*  
One seen in the Danum Valley.

193. Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*  
A pair seen at Poring and then common in the Abai area.

194. Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*  
A common bird of lowland areas, often near water. Two adults with young in The Danum  
Valley.

195. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*  
The Bornean subspecies of this species is confusingly plain, seemingly lacking any yellow! We  
scattered 1s and 2s adjacent to the Kinabatangan River in the Danum Valley.

196. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*  
This striking and quintessentially lovely Oriental bird was seen in fairly commonly in the  
Danum Valley and along the Menanngal River.

197. Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias umbratilis*  
Superlative views of one obliging songster in the Danum Valley.
198. **Eye-browed Jungle-Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias gularis*
   We all enjoyed fine views of this endemic in Kinabalu Park where it was notably common this year.

199. **Asian Brown Flycatcher** *Muscicapa dauurica*
   An adult and an immature seen on two days from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley. It would appear that this bird belonged to the little known resident sub-species *M. d. umbrosa*.

200. **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra*
   A single male and female seen in Kinabalu Park.

201. **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*
   Several seen in the Crocker Range and Kinabalu Park where a very speckled immature was also seen.

202. **Verditer Flycatcher** *Eumyias thalassina*
   Not quite as scarce this year as last; one female seen in the Crocker range; a total of four seen at Poring and small number seen daily from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

203. **Indigo Flycatcher** *Eumyias indigo*
   Several seen most days on Mt Kinabalu and also in the Crocker Range.

204. **White-tailed Flycatcher** *Cyornis concretus*
   One immature seen at Poring.

205. **Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis turcosus* **NT**
   Several seen well along the Kinabatangan and Menanngol Rivers.

206. **Bornean Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis superbus*
   Fabulous views of a very responsive male in the Danum Valley.

207. **Oriental Magpie-Robin** *Copsychus saularis*
   Widespread and common throughout the lowlands and hills of Sabah. Quite a contrast to neighbouring Indonesia where this species is being trapped out of existence.

208. **White-crowned Shama** *Copsychus stricklandii*
   This lovely songster is common in lowland tropical rainforest in Malaysian Borneo. NOTE: The specific status of this species is still hotly debated and on present evidence it would seem there is a possibility that the taxon is in reality only a distinctive subspecies of the widespread White-rumped Shama *C. malabaricus*.

209. **White-crowned Forktail** *Enicurus leschenaulti*
   One seen in the Danum Valley.

210. **Bornean Forktail** *Enicurus sinensis*
   One seen in Kinabalu Park. NOTE: This taxon has recently been split from White-crowned Forktail.
211. Bornean Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus borneensis*
   Super views of this endemic in Kinabalu Park including an adult feeding an immature. NOTE: Recently split from Sunda Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus glaucinus*.

212. Fruithunter *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*
   One female well spotted by Nancy in the Crocker Range.

213. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montanus*
   Not very co-operative this year. We had very brief views of one and heard several others in Kinabalu Park.

214. Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus*
   Several large groups in mixed flocks in Kinabalu Park.

215. Bare-headed Laughingthrush *Melanocichla calva*
   Fabulous views of three with a mixed flock in Kinabalu Park. NOTE: Split from Black Laughingthrush *Garrulax lugubris*.

216. Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Rhinocichla treacheri*
   Common in the Crocker Range and in Kinabalu Park, where they form large and raucous mixed flocks with other laughingthrushes as well as various other species. NOTE: What was previously known as Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus* is now split into two species: Spectacled Laughingthrush *Rhinocichla mitrata* of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula and *R. treacheri* of Borneo.

217. White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum* NT
   A common and conspicuous songster in riparian habitat along the shores of the Abai oxbow and the Menanngol River.

218. Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*
   Two and three seen on two days in the Danum Valley.

219. Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis* NT
   One seen nicely and several others heard in the Danum Valley.

220. (H) Temminck’s Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys*
   Heard only in Kinabalu Park.

221. Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*
   Exceptional views of a very responsive individual at Sepilok and seen and heard on most days in the Danum Valley.

222. Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre*
   Singles seen on two days in the Danum Valley.

223. Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine* NT
   Common along the Menanngal River and in the Danum Valley.

224. Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*
   One seen in the Danum Valley.
225. Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*   **NT**
   Common in the Danum Valley.

226. Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*
   Several seen superbly in the Danum Valley.

227. Bornean Ground-Babbler *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*
   Undoubtedly one of THE highlights of the tour with a pair on one day and a single bird on
   another putting on a tremendous show in the Danum Valley.

228. Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*   **NT**
   One seen superbly in the Danum Valley.

229. Mountain Wren-Babbler *Napothera crassa*
   A juvenile and a pair the following day put on a great show on Mt Kinabalu.

230. Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyridopsis rufifrons*
   Fine, close views of a very responsive pair from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.
   **NOTE:** Formerly placed in *Stachyris*.

231. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*
   Just two seen in Kinabalu Park.

232. Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculate*   **NT**
   This is a highly social babbler that is often highly responsive, albeit relatively scarce. We
   had a fine sightings of a group of three in the Danum Valley.

233. Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera*
   One of the most common and conspicuous birds in the lowland rainforests of Borneo, its
   distinctive vocalisations were heard constantly and we had a great sighting of a pair from
   the Sepilok canopy walkway where a pair were observed attending two young.

234. Bold Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous (gularis) bornensis*
   Widespread and common throughout the Bornean lowlands and hills. **NOTE:** Following the
   recent publication of the Handbook of Birds of the World the Bornean population of Striped
   Tit-Babbler *M. gularis*, from which it differs strikingly in both voice and appearance, is
   treated as a separate species.

235. Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus*   **NT**
   What a great name for a bird! Fantastic looks at one of these great birds in the Danum
   Valley.

236. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
   Yet another superb babbler seen very nicely in Kinabalu Park.

237. Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*   **NT**
   Seen or heard on several days in the Danum Valley.
238. Chestnut-crested Yuhina Yuhina everetti
   One of the commonest birds at higher altitudes, we saw many large and mobile flocks in the
   Crocker Range and on Mt Kinabalu.

239. Black-capped White-eye Zosterops atricapillus
   Just two seen in Crocker Range.

240. Pygmy White-eye Oculocincta squamifrons
   Five of these undistinguished endemics seen well in degraded woodland between Mahua and
   Ranau.

241. Mountain Blackeye Chlorocharis emiliae
   A poor year for this rather interesting endemic with just brief glimpses of single birds in
   the Crocker Range and in Kinabalu Park.

242. Asian Glossy Starling Aplonis panayensis
   Very common around all the cities and towns we passed through and in open country along the
   coast - Kota Kinabalu, Tambunan, Sandakan, Lahad Datu and Kuching.

243. Common Hill Myna Gracula religiosa
   Five seen at Sepilok; a pair attending what appeared to be a nest hole at the Abai oxbow; 2-4
   daily along the Mennangol River.

244. Common Myna Acridotheres tristis Introduced
   Small numbers around Sandakan and Lahad Datu.

245. Javan Myna Acridotheres javanicus Introduced
   As many as 25 seen foraging along the roadside near Sandakan.

246. Greater Green Leafbird Chloropsis sonnerati
   Fine views of pairs along the Menanggal River and from the canopy walkway in the Danum
   Valley.

247. Lesser Green Leafbird Chloropsis cyanopogon NT
   One seen at Poring and several males and pairs seen on three days in the Danum Valley.

248. Bornean Leafbird Chloropsis kinabaluensis
   Fabulous views of four of these handsome birds in the Crocker Range. NOTE: The higher
   elevation of the two subspecies of Blue-winged Leafbird that occur in Borneo has recently
   been split as a separate species.

249. Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker Prionochilus maculatus
   One seen in the Danum Valley.

250. Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker Prionochilus xanthopygius
   One male seen at Abai Lodge and one male in the Danum Valley.

251. Yellow-vented Flowerpecker Dicaeum chrysorheum
   One seen in the Danum Valley.
252. **Orange-bellied Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
   Scattered ones and twos at several lowland forest sites.

253. **Black-sided Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum monticolum*
   Superb looks at the handsome male in Kinabablu Park and a female feeding young.

254. **Ruby-cheeked Sunbird** *Chalcoparia singalensis*
   Several great looks at this lovely bird along the Sepilok canopy walkway; the Menanngol River and in the Danum Valley.

255. **Plain Sunbird** *Anthreptes simplex*
   One seen at Poring and several seen well along the Menanngal River and in the Danum Valley.

256. **Plain-throated Sunbird** *Anthreptes malacensis*
   Several seen at Poring and in the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Resort and the Abai oxbow.

257. **Red-throated Sunbird** *Anthreptes rhodolaema* **NT**
   One female seen from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

258. **Purple-naped Sunbird** *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*
   1-2 seen on three days in the Danum Valley.

259. **Copper-throated Sunbird** *Leptocoma calcostetha*
   Fine views of a pair along the Keningau River and immature male was seen at Abai Lodge.

260. **Olive-backed Sunbird** *Cinnyris jugularis*
   Several around the Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

261. **Eastern Crimson Sunbird** *Aethopyga siparaja*
   Great looks at single males at Sepilok and near Abai Lodge.

262. **Temminck’s Sunbird** *Aethopyga temminckii*
   Fabulous and multiple views of this diminutive but spectacular gem daily in the Crocker Range and in Kinabalu Park.

263. **Thick-billed Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera crassirostris*
   Exceptional views of one that sat long enough so that we could all enjoyed prolonged views of this rarely seen spiderhunter in the ’scope, from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

264. **Long-billed Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera robusta*
   Exceptional views of a single bird from the Sepilok canopy walkway and two in the Danum Valley.

265. **Little Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera longirostra*
   Ones and twos seen almost daily throughout the forested lowlands.

266. **Yellow-eared Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera chrysogenys*
   Fine views of one bird at Poring and another from the Sepilok canopy walkway.
267. **Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter* Arachnothera affinis**
   Singles seen on three days in the Danum Valley.

268. **Eurasian Tree Sparrow* Passer montanus  Introduced**
   Recorded widely except in the Danum Valley.

269. **Dusky Munia* Lonchura fuscans**
   Widespread and common except at the highest elevations.

270. **Chestnut Munia* Lonchura malacca**
   Common to abundant in the lowlands and hills in open areas.

271. **Paddyfield Pipit* Anthus rufulus**
   Two at Lahad Datu airport.
MAMMALS

1. **Mountain Treeshrew** *Tupaia montana*
   Several on Mt Kinabalu.

2. **Lesser Tree-Shrew** *Tupaia minor*
   One found by Nancy at Poring.

3. **Slender Tree Shrew** *Tupaia gracilis*
   One in Kinabalu Park.

4. **Large Tree Shrew** *Tupaia tana*
   One along the BRL nature trail.

5. **Greater Short-nosed/Horsfield’s Fruit-Bat** *Cyanopterus sphinx/horsfieldi*
   A group of six photographed roosting under the eves of one of the chalets at Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

6. **Lesser Sheath-tailed Bat** *Emballonura monticola*
   Lesser Sheath-tailed Bats were photographed roosting under the awning of the multi-storey car park alongside the Hyatt Hotel in downtown Kota Kinabalu.

7. **Wrinkle-lipped Bat** *Taderida plicata*
   Thousands were observed roosting within and flying from the Goamantong Caves.

8. **Maroon Langur** *Presbytis rubicunda*
   This very attractive primate was seen regularly from the Sepilok canopy walkway; along the Menanggol River and in the Danum Valley.

9. **Sunda Silvered Leaf-Monkey** *Prsbytis cristata*
   Six along the Kinabatangan River.

10. **Proboscis Monkey** *Nasalis larvatus*
    One of the most remarkable mammals of Borneo, this strictly riparian species is very common along the Kinabatangan River and its tributaries and we were treated to exceptional views of many groups, including one very pugnacious male.

11. **Long-tailed (Crab-eating) Macaque** *Macaca fascicularis*
    Widespread.

12. **Southern Pig-tailed Macaque** *Macaca nemistrina*
    Several along the Menanggol River and in the Danum Valley including a male that made a very impressive mock charge at us!

13. **Bornean Gibbon** *Hylobates muelleri*
    A wonderfully charismatic animal whose calls are one of the most evocative sounds of the Bornean rainforests. A pair seen very nicely in the Danum Valley.

14. **Bornean Orang-Utan** *Pongo pygmaeus*
    This was a notably great trip for this very special species. Our first observation
was of a female and her youngster emerging from a their night nest at the entrance to the Abai oxbow; an adult male along the Kinabatangan put on a great show for the photographers; and the Danum Valley Abu the huge alpha male of the area presented himself on our first morning in the Danum Valley and there after we saw 2-3 of these magnificent apes every day. **NOTE:** The Bornean population is now treated as a separate species from that in Sumatra.

15. **Pale Giant Squirrel** *Ratufa affinis*  
One seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway and one in the Danum Valley.

16. **Prevost's Squirrel** *Callosciurus prevostii*  
We found the all black Bornean subspecies *C. pluto* to be notably widespread and common in Sabah.

17. **Kinabalu Squirrel** *Callosciurus baluensis*  
One of these superb animals seen in Kinabalu Park.

18. **Plantain Squirrel** *Callosciurus notatus*  
Recorded in the Crocker Range and at Sepilok.

19. **Ear-spot Squirrel** *Callosciurus adamsi*  
Two at Sepilok.

20. **Bornean Black-banded Squirrel** *Callosciurus orestes*  
Several in the Crocker Range and Kinabalu Park.

21. **Jentink's Squirrel** *Sundasciurus jentinki*  
Very common in the Crocker Range and Kinabalu Park.

22. **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel** *Dremomys everetti*  
Common, especially around the garbage pits, on Mt Kinabalu.

23. **Plain Pygmy Squirrel** *Exilisciurus exilis*  
Widespread, common and seen almost daily throughout the lowlands of Sabah.

24. **Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel** *Exilisciurus whiteheadi*  
Fabulous views of this superb endemic on Mt Kinabalu thanks to some great spotting by Adrian.

25. **Giant Red Flying-Squirrel** *Petaurista petaurista*  
Fantastic close views of one of these spectacular animals in the Danum Valley - it even glided for us!

26. **Thomas’s Flying Squirrel** *Aeromys thomasi*  
One seen in the Danum Valley.

27. **Malay Weasel** *Martes nudipes*  
One seen in forest in the Danum Valley.

28. **Binturong** *Arctictis binturong*  
One at a fruiting tree in the Danum Valley.
29. Small-toothed Palm Civet *Arctogalidia trivirgata*
   One seen in the Danum Valley.

30. Bornean Pygmy Elephant *Elaphas borneensis*
    We heard them, we smelt them we caught glimpses of their hide but thanks to some irresponsible behaviour on the part of the parts that preceded us they just would not show themselves. Time for a little discipline to be exerted methinks before 'ecotourism' gets a bad name.

31. Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*
    Scattered individuals seen at Abai Lodge and along the Menanngal River.

32. (H) Barking Deer *Muntiacus muntjac*
    Heard in the Danum Valley.

33. Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolour*
    Several at dusk in the Danum Valley.

## REPTILES

My special thanks to Professor Indraneil Das for producing his magnificent new Field Guide to the Reptiles of SE Asia. The latter together with the advent of digital photography has greatly improved our ability and increased our enthusiasm for seeking out and identifying these fascinating creatures – as the following list suggests! My thanks to Jay Pruett for generously sharing his images and for everyone in sharing my enthusiasm for this new project!

1. Salvator's Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*
   Several seen and photographed along the Kinabatangan, Menanngal and Danum rivers.

2. Green Crested Lizard *Bronchocela cristatella*
   Danum Valley.

3. Common Four-clawed (House) Gecko *Gehra mutilata*
   Widespread and common.

4. Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
   Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

5. Common Flying Lizard *Draco sumatranus*
   Sepilok Canopy Walkway

6. Striped Bornean Tree Skink *Apterygodon vittatum*
   Grounds of Sepilok Rainforest Resort.
7. Common Sun Skink *Eutropis multifasciatus*
   Danum Valley

8. Black-banded Ground Skink *Eutropis (Mabuya) rudis*
   Several seen in lowland forest from Abai swamp forests to the Danum Valley.

9. Mangrove Cat Snake *Boiga dendrophila*
   One photographed asleep over the waterway leading to the Abai oxbow.

10. Bornean Keeled Green Pit Viper *Tropidolaemus subannulatus*
    A resident's garden next to the Chinese temple above Sandakan.

11. Dusky Wolf Snake *Lycodon albofuscus*
    One along the Menanngal River.

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**BUTTERFLIES**

- Great Mormon *Papilio memnon*
- Blue Glassy Tiger *Ideopsis vulgaris*
- Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*
- Common Birdwing *Troides Helena*
- Common Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon*
- Common Bush Brown *Mycalesis janardana*
- Common Four-ring *Ypthima ceylonica*
- Common Three-ring *Ypthima pandocus*
- Common Lancer *Neptis duryodana*
- Common Tiger *Anosia genutia*
- Cruiser *Vindula dejone*
- Great Orangetip *Hebomoia glaucippe*
- Harlequin *Taxila haquinus*
- Island Rustic *Cupha arias*
- Lemon Emigrant *Catopsilia pomona*
- Rajah Brooke’s Birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana*
- Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber*
- White Eggfly *Hypolimnas misippus*
- Malayan Lacewing *Cethosia hypsea*
- Club Beak *Libythea myrrha*
- Mottled Emmigrant *Catopsilia pyranthe*
- Common Mormon
- Grey Pansey *Junonia atlites*
- Common Grass Yellow *Eurema hecabe*
- Common Small Orange Mapwing *Chersonesia rahria*
- Tree (Wood) Nymph *Idea stolli*