

BEST OF BORNEO

JULY 23 - AUGUST 5, 2010



Banded Pitta © Susan Myers

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Borneo is without doubt one of the best and most enjoyable birding destinations in the world, and this tour again lived up to high expectations. There were many, many birding, wildlife, and natural history highlights, of course, but there was also the pleasure of experiencing this wonderful island.

Borneo is quite rightly regarded as one of the great storehouses of our planet's incredible biological diversity. Charles Darwin called Borneo, "one great, wild, untidy, luxuriant hothouse made by nature herself." What a fabulous summation of this remarkable place! It succinctly conjures an image of a Henri Rousseau jungle painting. In reality, much of the rich and verdant rainforest of Borneo has been lost forever, given up to our greed for fuel and comfort. This third largest island in the world is rapidly being taken over by oil palm plantations and timber companies. The Malaysian state of Sabah in the north harbors the largest remaining tracts of lowland and montane rainforest in Borneo. From here the towering spinal mountain range dominated by Mount Kinabalu emanates, and the teeming, complex rainforests still fan out below to the lowlands and ultimately to the coast. The wildlife of this remarkable island is incomparable. With a host of enticing birds (including 51 endemics), a charismatic mammal fauna, many strange and unusual reptiles, the world's largest flower—the rafflesia, and the largest collection of carnivorous pitcher plants, it's not surprising that naturalists are irresistibly drawn to the island.

We visited the three major birding and wildlife sites of Borneo: Mount Kinabalu, the Kinabatangan River, and the Danum Valley. Mount Kinabalu is one of those truly memorable mountains that seem to burst from the ground. It dominates the west coast and is pivotal to the identity of the local people. The cool montane forests on the slopes of Kinabalu and the surrounding Crocker Ranges are home to most of Borneo's endemic species. By contrast, the meandering passage of the lazy Kinabatangan River feeds the low-lying swamp forests that harbor rambunctious troops of the unlikely proboscis monkey, and a vast array of wonderful birds including eight species of hornbill. At Gomantong Caves we had a couple of sightings of the amazing red ape, the orangutan. To complete the picture, we traveled to the remote Danum Valley, one of the largest remaining stands of primary forest in Borneo, where luxuriant forests host a dazzling cast of pittas, babblers, trogons, barbets, broadbills, and many other exciting birds!

We started our birding at Tambunan in the Crocker Ranges before heading to the spectacular Mount Kinabalu. We spent the next few days tracking down some of the very special Bornean montane endemics. Of special note on Mount Kinabalu and at Tambunan were great views of Mountain Wren-Babbler, Bornean Stubtail, Fruit-hunter, Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher, and more.

At Sukau, we took it easy as we boated around the Kinabatangan River and its tributaries. In this magical area we had more wonderful sightings including Lesser Fish-Eagles, seven species of hornbills, Stork-billed Kingfishers, and that improbable endemic primate, the proboscis monkey. We had a great afternoon birding at the Gomantong Caves as well, despite the torrential downpour that soaked us to the skin!

Danum Valley is one of the premier birding and wildlife destinations in Asia, so our stay here offered a rare opportunity to experience the intricacies of this most complex of ecosystems—the Sundaic tropical lowland rainforests. Every day here brings new discoveries. There were too many amazing birds, mammals, reptiles, butterflies, and other insects to detail them all, even in our full list of sightings, but some of the more memorable moments included a couple of great sightings of brilliant

Blue-headed and Banded pitas; a stunning Jambu Fruit-Dove; a seemingly almost tame male Great Argus; and a host of hornbills, spiderhunters, and babblers, as well as remarkably close Bornean orangutans and red leaf monkeys. A couple of excellent night drives were rewarded with some great mammals including the improbable Malayan colugo and a gorgeous flat-headed cat. The backdrop to all this was, of course, the simply amazing and beautiful forest itself.

I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead this wonderful tour. As always I'd like to thank my good friends Osman, Vivian, Wan, and others for all their efforts. Lastly and most importantly, thanks again to you all for your great company and lots of laughs! I hope to see you again sometime soon.

Susan Myers
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Annotated Bird List

Bold = endemic
Near Endemic = (NE)

I have classified near endemics as species that occur in Borneo and otherwise only on Sumatra, the Malay Peninsula or the Philippines. Additionally there were many Sundaic specialities, in other words those species found only on the Thai-Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Java and Borneo. Of course, on top of this we saw a number of species that are rare or difficult to find elsewhere, for example Crested Fireback, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, Bat Hawk, Helmeted Hornbill and so on. Where the trinomial is given, this is an endemic subspecies.

NON-PASSERINES

1. **Red-breasted Partridge** *Arborophila hyperythra*
heard at Mount Kinabalu and Tambunan.
2. Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii*
heard in the Sukau area and in the Danum Valley.
3. **Crimson-headed Partridge** *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*
heard on Mount Kinabalu.
4. Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita ignita*
a male was seen well along the Menanggol River.
5. Great Argus *Argusianus argus grayi*
amazing close looks at a male on his dancing ground, heard almost daily in Danum Valley.
6. Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi* (NE – Sumatra, now gone from the Thai-Malay Peninsula)
a few individuals of this rare and declining stork were seen on the Kinabatangan River on different occasions. This species is globally endangered; recent assessments put the worldwide population at under 1,000 individuals.
7. Lesser Adjutant *Leptopilos javanicus*
one bird was seen very well in flight over the Kinabatangan.
8. Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*
we saw two of this rather spectacular bittern in flight near Tambunan.

9. Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
one immature was recorded on the Kinabatangan River.
10. Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*
a few in rural areas around Tambunan.
11. Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*
great looks at a bird in the Danum River en route to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.
12. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
quite common on the Kinabatangan.
13. Great Egret *Ardea alba*
common on the Kinabatangan River.
14. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
a few on the Kinabatangan River.
15. Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*
common and seen daily on the Kinabatangan River; a few seen on the Segama River in the Danum Valley.
16. **White-fronted Falconet** *Microhierax latifrons*
we had two sightings, the first at Tambunan and then two more along the Kinabatangan.
17. Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*
one seen hunting bats over the Gomantong Caves.
18. Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni borneensis*
a pair were seen on the entrance road at BRL in Danum Valley.
19. Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*
one sighting of this migratory species at Danum Valley.
20. Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus*
we watched a pair perched in their favourite tree at the Gomantong Caves. Truly an amazing bird!
21. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
one seen en route to Lahad Datu.
22. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
a common bird along the Kinabatangan River.
23. Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*
we enjoyed some very nice looks of this bird on a couple of occasions during our stay at Sukau.
24. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus*
a few of this sensational raptor were recorded at Sukau and in the Danum Valley.
25. Mountain Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis*
great looks at a perched bird near Tambunan.
26. Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
good looks at this impressive raptor in flight at Tambunan and Danum.
27. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus*
a couple of sightings of dark phase birds, which predominate in Borneo, at Danum Valley.
28. Wallace's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus nanus*
we had a number of excellent sightings along the Kinabatangan. This species has a small, rapidly declining population due to habitat loss.
29. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Aquila (Hieraetus) kienerii*
one seen in flight at Tambunan, another at Danum Valley.
30. Rock Dove *Columba livia*

31. Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps nana*
seen and heard daily on Mount Kinabalu, also at Tambunan.
32. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis* (intro)
very common in all lowland rural areas, especially in the oil palm plantations.
33. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
one or two looks at Gomantong Caves.
34. Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* (intro)
in the grounds of Tanjung Aru.
35. Jambu Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus jambu*
fabulous looks at a this fabulous bird! We were lucky this year as this species is usually very tricky in Borneo, or anywhere for that matter.
36. Little Green-Pigeon *Treron olax*
a few seen along the Kinabatangan.
37. Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
one seen feeding in a fruiting tree on the Kinabatangan.
38. Large Green Pigeon *Treron capellei*
one bird was seen feeding in a fruiting tree on the Tennigang River.
39. Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
seen daily around Sukau and Danum.
40. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*
seen daily at Mount Kinabalu and Tambunan.
41. Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*
we had many fly over looks of this diminutive parrot at Sukau and Danum.
42. Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*
fly over and perched views of a few at Sukau.
43. Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans*
typically this bird is heard often but never even glimpsed and that was our experience at Danum this year.
44. Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus*
heard on Mount Kinabalu.
45. Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
heard a couple of times on the Kinabatangan and one seen in flight.
46. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
great views of a female on the Menanggol River.
47. Bornean Ground Cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiatus*
heard a few times in the Sukau area but not responsive.
48. Black-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus diardi borneensis*
great looks at a pair in the Danum Valley.
49. Chestnut-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*
one seen at BRL along the entrance road.
50. Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*
this excellent bird was seen a few times on the Menanggol River.
51. Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*
we record at total of three and to had some excellent views especially of one at Gomantong.
52. Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
a couple seen on the Menanggol River.

53. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
up to five seen and many heard throughout.
54. Oriental Bay Owl *Phodius badius*
heard on the Menanggol River.
55. Buffy Fish-Owl *Ketupa ketupu*
stunning views of two birds on the Menanggol River.
56. Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica*
fabulous looks at a single bird on the Menanggol River.
57. Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
seen almost daily at all sites.
58. Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus salangana*
Gomantong Caves.
59. Black-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus maxima*
Gomantong Caves.
60. Edible-nest Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphaga*
Gomantong Caves.

NOTE: The above three species are impossible to differentiate in the field. All three occur in the Gomantong Caves and can be identified on the nests, which are distinctive.

61. Asian Palm Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
a few seen around Tambunan.
62. Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
this very attractive swift was seen regularly at BRL.
63. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*
three seen at BRL.
64. Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*
a few seen at Tambunan and in the Danum Valley.
65. Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*
this excellent and rather strange bird was seen many times at BRL in Danum, often allowing excellent close range views.
66. Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba impavodus*
two birds were seen very well in the Danum Valley.
67. Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii diardii*
a super flyover view of a male on the Menanggol River.
68. Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*
this beauty was seen well on the Menanggol River at Sukau heard at BRL.
69. Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelli*
one bird heard briefly at Tambunan.
70. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
quite common along the Kinabatangan River.
71. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*
a truly magnificent bird – that bill is certainly a standout! One or two daily on the Kinabatangan.
72. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*
common in all lowland areas, one of the few birds that seems to thrive in the oil palm plantations.
73. Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*
heard at BRL where it was scarce this year.

74. Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*
we had close looks at a couple along the tributaries of the Kinabatangan River.
75. Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctornis amictus*
one was seen along the entrance road at Danum Valley.
76. Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*
common and gorgeous along the Kinabatangan, and at BRL, Danum Valley.
77. Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*
this species is often seen in largish, raucous flocks; we saw them a number of times in the Sukau area and in the Danum Valley.
78. Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*
very common on the Kinabatangan River.
79. Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*
we saw this great bird many times along the Kinabatangan River.
80. Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis*
one of the world's most spectacular birds, we were fortunate to see this species a number of times (and exceptionally well) on the Kinabatangan and in the Danum Valley.
81. Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*
we were fortunate to see this incredible and often scarce bird at a couple of times at BRL. This is the only hornbill with a solid "ivory" casque.
82. White-crowned Hornbill *Aceros cornatus*
we saw a female very well on the Menanggol River.
83. Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*
another spectacular hornbill, this one is declining but we them almost daily on the Kinabatangan and at Danum.
84. Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*
many great views on a number of occasions at Sukau and at Danum – this was really a standout tour for hornbills this year!
85. Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis*
frequently heard at Poring, Tambunan and Danum Valley, we had great looks at a pair on the entrance road at Danum.
86. Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos*
seen very well on the Menanggol River at Sukau.
87. **Mountain Barbet *Megalaima monticola***
while this is not Borneo's most attractive endemic, it has until recently been one of the most difficult to actually see. Although it is occasionally heard at Mount Kinabalu, it is rarely seen there but now that we visit Tambunan it has become a regular feature on our Borneo list. We scored spectacularly with excellent views of this scarce endemic at Tamabunan, one of our main targets there.
88. Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii brachyrhyncha*
although heard frequently this is always one of the most difficult barbets to actually see, we saw one only in Danum Valley, it was a brief but good look.
89. **Golden-naped Barbet *Megalaima pulcherrima***
we had a number of excellent sightings of this attractive endemic on Mount Kinabalu, where it is quite common.
90. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*
heard daily at Sukau and Danum Valley, we had great looks at a bird in a nest on the Menanggol River.
91. Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius*
this unusual barbet was seen very well at Tambunan, Sukau, and Danum Valley. It differs from other barbets in being highly sociable with rather dull plumage.

92. Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*
this tiny and cute woodpecker was seen very well at the Gomantong caves.
93. Banded Woodpecker *Picus mineaceus*
heard in the Danum Valley.
94. Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*
seen once on Mount Kinabalu.
95. Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*
one seen in the Danum Valley.
96. Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*
great looks at a male excavating a nest on the Jacuzzi Trail at Danum.
97. Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
one or two responsive but frisky birds along the road on Mount Kinabalu.
98. Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*
two seen on the Menanggol River.
99. Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*
seen very well by all along the Kinabatangan.
100. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*
this incredible, reptilian-looking woodpecker with its braying vocalisations and sociable habits was watched at length along the road at Danum.

PASSERINES

101. Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*
unfortunately only heard in the Danum Valley.
102. **Whitehead's Broadbill** *Calyptomena whiteheadi*
one improbably green bird was seen at Mount Kinabalu.
103. Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus brunnescens*
four of this remarkable bird were seen on the Kinabatangan.
104. Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*
we saw one of these birds in a stream near Tambunan, and later on the Kinabatangan.
105. Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei*
three birds (male, female and immature) were seen well in the Danum Valley.
106. Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*
this simply gorgeous bird is happily common along the Kinabatangan River and in the Danum Valley.
107. Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*
all pittas are a special treat but what a treat to see a pair building a nest on the Menanggol River.
108. **Blue-headed Pitta** *Pitta baudii*
a truly wonderful bird, we saw it a couple of times in the Danum Valley. Definitely a contender for the most beautiful bird in Borneo.
109. **Blue-banded Pitta** *Pitta arcuata*
sadly, only heard at Danum despite our best efforts.
110. **Black-and-crimson (Black-headed) Pitta** *Pitta ussheri*
another trip highlight with one amazing bird calling from a perch just off the entrance road at Danum Valley.
111. Giant Pitta *Pitta caerulea*
heard on the Menanggol River.

112. Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana*
another stand out was this amazingly beautiful bird that put on such a wonderful show in the Danum Valley.
113. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis robinsoni*
heard at Tambunan.

NOTE: Recent molecular studies suggest that this species should be placed in the family Vireonidae (Vireos and allies).

114. Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala hypoxantha*
seen daily at Tambunan and Mount Kinabalu.
115. Lesser Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina fimbriata*
a pair were seen well in the Danum Valley.
116. Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*
some lovely birds seen very well from the entrance road at Danum.
117. Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus vulneratus*
a pair seen very well at Tambunan, also on Mount Kinabalu.
118. Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus*
seen a couple of times in the Danum Valley.
119. Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*
a couple seen along the Menanggol River.
120. Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhopterum*
one sighting in the Danum Valley.
121. Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velatum*
we had good looks at one at Danum.
122. White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*
very common in lowland, open areas.
123. Common lora *Aegithina tiphia viridus*
seen at Sukau.
124. Green lora *Aegithina viridissima*
a couple of sightings in the Danum Valley, from the canopy walkway.
125. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu*
seen daily on Mount Kinabalu and at Tambunan. This replaces the following species at higher altitudes.
126. Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*
Sukau; Danum Valley.
127. Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*
one seen at Danum Valley, this species favours thick forest.
128. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
seen well at Gomantong.
129. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*
we had some great looks at a white morph male with his shimmering tail at the Gomantong Caves. The rufous morph is very rare in Borneo.
130. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops*
very common on Mount Kinabalu, also seen at Tambunan.
131. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
just one seen along the BRL entrance road, Danum Valley.
132. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*
a few seen on Mount Kinabalu.

133. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
some great views of this rather scarce endemic subspecies at Danum Valley.
134. Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*
common in all lowland areas.
135. Short-tailed Green Magpie *Cissa thalassina jefferyi*
for such a spectacular and brightly coloured bird, this magpie can be surprisingly difficult to see. Heard and seen daily on Mount Kinabalu.
136. **Bornean Treepie** *Dendrocitta cinerascens*
seen and heard daily on Mount Kinabalu.

NOTE: Now treated as a separate species from Sumatran Treepie *D. occipitalis*.

137. Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*
brief but good views of two birds between Tambunan and Mount Kinabalu.
138. Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach*
one very handsome bird seen hunting from the powerlines near Mesilau on Mount Kinabalu.
139. Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*
a couple of sightings in Danum Valley.
140. Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*
this scarce Near Threatened species was seen once from the canopy walkway at Danum Valley.
141. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis borneana*
a couple were seen on the Menanggol River.
142. Olive-backed (Yellow-bellied Sunbird) *Cinnyris jugularis*
Tanjung Aru.
143. Eastern Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*
one or two seen in the Sukau area.
144. Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*
this diminutive but spectacular gem was seen a few times at Tambunan.
145. Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*
two seen well in the Danum Valley.
146. Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis everetti* (NE - Java)
seen daily at Danum Valley.

NOTE: The name *A. affinis* was based on birds from Java and subsequently used for all streaked, grey-breasted spiderhunters in Borneo. However, recent work has shown that the Javan birds are the same as the montane Bornean birds *A. affinis* and that the smaller, less streaked birds of the Bornean lowlands represent a separate species *A. modesta*. The name Bornean Spiderhunter *A. everetti* has been incorrectly applied. See The Birds of Borneo by Smythies and Davison, 1999.

147. Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi*
ones or twos seen almost daily on the Kinabatangan and in Danum Valley.
148. Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera robusta*
one seen in the Danum Valley.
149. Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*
seen well in the gardens of our lodge at Danum Valley.
150. Whitehead's Spiderhunter *Arachnothera*
two birds were seen briefly at Tambunan.
151. Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus*
seen daily in the Danum Valley.
152. **Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker** *Prionochilus xanthopygius*
one seen in the Danum Valley.

153. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum*
recorded in Danum Valley, especially around the lodge gardens.
154. **Black-sided Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum monticulum*
after many stratospheric flyovers we eventually connected with a bird that perched at Tambunan.
155. Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*
a few seen in the Danum Valley.
156. Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*
Danum Valley.
157. **Bornean Leafbird** *Chloropsis kinabaluensis*
four of this subtly beautiful bird seen very well at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.
- NOTE:** Recently split from Blue-winged Leafbird *C. cochinchinensis*
158. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*
seen and heard in the Danum Valley.
159. **Dusky Munia** *Lonchura fuscans*
common in open areas around Tambunan and in Danum Valley.
160. Chestnut Munia *Lonchura Malacca*
Tambunan.
161. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
throughout except in the Danum Valley.
162. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
a few seen at Sukau and Danum Valley.
163. Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*
common around Lahad Datu.
164. Javan Myna *Acridotheres*
a few at Sandakan.
165. Orange-headed Thrush *Zoothera citrina*
brilliant looks at this attractive bird on Mount Kinabalu.
166. **Fruit-hunter** *Chlamydochaera jefferyi*
this is not a bird we see on every trip so I was really glad that we found two in fruiting trees at Tambunan.
A very interesting endemic.
167. **Bornean Whistling-Thrush** *Myiophonus borneensis*
super views of this endemic along the trails and roads on Mount Kinabalu.
168. White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx Montana erythrogyna*
heard only at Mount Kinabalu; this subspecies is typically very shy and skulking.
169. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis adamsi*
Tanjung Aru; Sukau.
170. **White-crowned Shama** *Copsychus stricklandii*
this lovely songster is very common in lowland tropical rainforest, seen or heard daily on the Kinabatangan
River and in Danum Valley.
171. Ruous-tailed Shama *Trichixos pyrropyga*
heard only at Danum Valley.
172. White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*
seen very well in the Danum Valley.
173. **Bornean Forktail** *Enicurus borneensis*
a very shy bird but we enjoyed super views of a few birds at Tambunan and along the trails on Mount
Kinabalu.

NOTE: *E. borneensis* is found in the uplands (but sometimes down to 200 m) whilst the lowland *E. frontalis* occasionally extends as high as 1050 m. The former species is larger, with a proportionally much longer tail. Molecular studies have now shown that two species are involved.

174. Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus turcosus*
a few seen on the Menanggol River.
175. **Bornean Blue-Flycatcher** *Cyornis superbus*
great looks at two birds at Danum Valley.
176. Large-billed Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis caerulatus caerulatus* (NE – Sumatra)
one male was seen well at Danum.
177. Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo cerviniventris*
surprisingly scarce on Mount Kinabalu this year.
178. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
this very cute bird was seen on Mount Kinabalu.
179. **Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias gularis*
a total of three were seen on Mount Kinabalu.
180. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
just one seen in the Danum Valley.
181. Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
many were seen daily in the Danum Valley, also on the Kinabatangan.
182. **Bornean Bulbul** *Pycnonotus montis*
many seen at Tambunan. This is a split from Black-crested Bulbul. Features include the dark eye, yellow throat and different shaped crest.
183. Black-and-white Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanoleucus*
amazingly we saw a total of five birds at Danum this year, but always fleetingly.
184. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini*
very common in open areas throughout Sabah.
185. Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*
Danum Valley.
186. Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*
Danum Valley.
187. Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*
very common at Sukau and Danum Valley.
188. Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*
a few seen well at Danum.
189. Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea*
seen a few times on the Menanggol.
190. Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*
two or three in the Danum Valley.
191. Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*
just one seen on Mount Kinabalu.
192. Cinereous Bulbul *Hemixos cinereus*
many seen at Tambunan.
193. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
almost daily throughout.
194. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*
heard much more often than seen (we saw one or two a day) on Mount Kinabalu.

195. **Bornean Stubtail** *Urosphena whiteheadi*
amazing close views of this diminutive endemic as it showed in full view along the trails on Mount Kinabalu. The exceptionally high-pitched bird was heard many times.
196. Sunda Bush-Warbler *Cettia vulcanian oreophila*
amazingly responsive and seen many times on the higher reaches of the Power Station Road on Mount Kinabalu.
197. Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*
seen in a mixed feeding flock on Mount Kinabalu.
198. Mountain Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis*
common and seen or heard many times on Mount Kinabalu.
199. Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*
seen a few times in the Danum Valley.
200. **Chestnut-crested Yuhina** *Yuhina everetti*
one of the commonest birds at higher altitudes, we saw many large and mobile flocks on Mount Kinabalu and at Tambunan.
201. Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapillus*
recorded daily on Mount Kinabalu.
202. **Mountain Blackeye** *Chlorocharis emiliae*
a total of six seen on Mount Kinabalu.
203. Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*
heard on the Tennigang River.
204. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps borneensis*
seen daily on Mount Kinabalu.
205. Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor*
one of the most common and conspicuous birds on the lowland rainforest of Borneo, its distinctive vocalisations were heard constantly and we had sightings almost daily.
206. Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*
this is a highly social babbler that is always very responsive albeit relatively scarce, we had sightings at Sukau and on the trails at Danum Valley.
207. Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*
heard a couple of times in Danum Valley.
208. Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*
heard only.
209. Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous bornensis montanus* (NE - Java)
seen or heard daily on the Kinabatangan, Gomantong and in the Danum Valley.

NOTE: Bornean birds bear little resemblance to South-East Asian Striped Tit Babblers *M. gularis* and are now split as **Bornean Tit-Babbler**.

210. Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus*
what a great name for a bird and a great bird! Fantastic looks at this excellent bird on the Kinabatangan and along the entrance road, Danum Valley.
211. Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys canicapillus* (NE – Java)
heard on Mount Kinabalu.
212. Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morelli*
although heard frequently in Danum Valley, this very attractive, ground-dwelling babbler is harder to see. We found a few along the trails at various times that were responsive and showed briefly.
213. Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine phoeniceum*
recorded daily, Danum Valley and on the tributaries of the Kinabatangan River.

214. Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*
often associating with mixed feeding flocks, recorded in Danum Valley.
215. **Bornean Ground-Babbler** *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*
a very sneaky bird heard only at Danum Valley.
216. White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum*
a common riparian bird along the Kinabatangan River and its tributaries in particular; also recorded in the Danum Valley.
217. Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*
heard and seen in small numbers in the Danum Valley.
218. Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis poliogenys*
a total of three birds seen in Danum Valley but heard frequently.
219. Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*
a very responsive bird studied at length on the Hornbill Trail, Danum Valley.
220. **Black-throated Wren-Babbler** *Napothera atrigularis*
four birds gave brief views as they flew across the entrance road at BRL.
221. **Mountain Wren-Babbler** *Napothera crassa*
we enjoyed some very special close studies of this wonderful endemic as they cavorted around us on the trails of Mount Kinabalu.
222. Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliates schistochlamys* (NE - Sumatra)
common and conspicuous in mixed flocks on Mount Kinabalu.
223. **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush** *Rhinocichla treacheri*
very common on Mount Kinabalu, where they form large and raucous mixed flocks with other laughingthrushes as well as various other species. Also seen at Tambunan in the Crocker Ranges.
- NOTE:** Previously treated as a subspecies of Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush.
224. Bare-headed Laughingthrush *Melanocichla calva*
frustratingly brief looks at this rather elusive species on Mount Kinabalu.
225. Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis*
a common bird of lowland areas, often near water.
226. Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*
we saw this attractive species many times at Sukau and at Danum Valley.
227. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis humphreysi*
seen very well a couple of times in the Danum Valley.
228. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris latrunculus*
the Bornean race of this species is confusingly plain! Common and seen or heard a number of times in lowland areas –Sukau, Danum Valley.

MAMMALS

1. Pentail Treeshrew *Ptilocercus lowii*
one on Mount Kinabalu.
2. Common Treeshrew *Tupaia glis*
one seen in the Danum Valley.
3. **Mountain Treeshrew** *Tupaia montana*
Mount Kinabalu.
4. Malayan Colugo *Cynocephalus variegates*
one seen well on our night drive at BRL.

5. **Maroon Leaf-Monkey** *Presbytis rubicunda*
this very attractive primate was seen regularly in Danum Valley.
6. Silvered Leaf-Monkey *Presbytis cristata*
Kinabatangan River.
7. **Proboscis Monkey** *Nasalis larvatus*
one of the most remarkable mammals of Borneo, this strictly riparian species is very common on the Kinabatangan River.
8. Long-tailed (Crab-eating) Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*
Kinabatangan River; Danum Valley.
9. **Bornean Gibbon** *Hylobates muelleri*
a highly charismatic animal whose calls are one of the most evocative of the Sundaic rainforests. Seen or heard daily in Danum. We had fantastic looks at this beautiful animal.
10. **Bornean Orang Utan** *Pongo pygmaeus*
wonderful sightings of totally wild animals along the Kinabatangan and in Danum Valley; we recorded a total of eight individuals! Sumatran Orangutans are now considered to be a separate species *P. abelii*
11. Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii*
Sukau; Danum Valley. This species is also quite common on Peninsular Malaysia but it differs markedly in pelage from the all black Bornean race.
12. **Kinabalu Squirrel** *Callosciurus baluensis*
not surprisingly, seen a few times on Mount Kinabalu!
13. Plain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*
seen a couple of times at Sukau.
14. **Horse-tailed Squirrel** *Sundasciurus hippurus*
seen a few times in the Danum Valley.
15. Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowi*
Mount Kinabalu.
16. Jentink's Squirrel *Sundasciurus jentinki*
one on Mount Kinabalu.
17. Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti*
seen daily raiding the rubbish bin on Mount Kinabalu.
18. Plain Pigmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis*
recorded regularly in Danum Valley. This must be one of the world's cutest animals!
19. Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi*
one spotlight in Danum Valley.
20. Malay Civet *Viverra zibetha*
one spotlight at Danum Valley.
21. Small-toothed Palm Civet
one at BRL.
22. Flat-headed Cat *Felis planiceps*
a great look of one walking in the river bed at BRL.
23. Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis*
this very handsome cat is only as big as domestic cat, the pelage is beautiful though and he is always a big hit!
24. Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*
seen a few times in Danum Valley.
25. Lesser Mouse Deer *Tragulus javanicus*
Danum Valley.

HERPS & others

Estuarine Crocodile *Crocodylus porosus*

House Gekko *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Salvator's Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*

Draco flying lizard sp.

Rafflesia flower *Rafflesia keithi*

Nepenthes

Lantern bug

Some of the butterflies we noted included:

Common Bluebottle, Tailed Jay, Mottled Emigrant, Island Rustic, Malayan Eggfly, Great Mormon, Grey Pansy, Palm King, Village Archduke, Big Cruiser, Striped Blue Crow, Tree Nymph, Clipper, Admiral, Rajah Brooke's Birdwing.

(if you would like more information on any of these species please visit my website

<http://picasaweb.google.com/birdtourleader> where you'll find an album with many of my butterfly photos or just drop me a line).