

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS



The Birds and Mammals recorded on the Malay Peninsula Tour 2006

compiled by
Susan Myers



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Malay Peninsula 2006

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Our comprehensive tour of the Malay Peninsula has been designed to cover a variety of habitats, thus allowing us to observe and enjoy a range of the Sundaic avifauna and other wildlife. Malaysia is one of the most pleasant, hassle-free countries to visit in Southeast Asia. It is buoyant and wealthy, and has moved towards a pluralist culture based on a vibrant and interesting fusion of Malay, Chinese, Indian, and indigenous cultures and customs. The rainforests of the Sunda region—Peninsular Malaysia, Borneo, and Sumatra—are the oldest in the world. They are also the densest and most humid, meaning that birding here can be a real challenge! Despite this, the rewards make it all worthwhile, with some of the most beautiful and exotic birds on earth found in the region, and many of them seen well on our tour.

Other highlights of any trip to Southeast Asia should be the fabulous food, varied and exotic cultures, terrific people, and general atmosphere; I think we sampled all of these aspects very well (you will note I am avoiding any mention of leeches). The remarkable diversity of the forests of this part of the world is simply astounding, and new discoveries await us on each trip. After many years of regular travel to Malaysia, I still find many new and wonderful discoveries on every visit. Even little things like beetle larvae or two-foot-long gliding lizards beguile me such that I find this one of the most exciting places on earth. And what a privilege for a Malaysian Rail-babbler to let us glimpse him as he goes about his secretive business!

We started off at Kuala Selangor Nature Park, an important remnant of mangrove and coastal forests on the west coast north of Kuala Lumpur. We had great views of Gray Heron, the amazing Stork-billed Kingfisher, Coppersmith Barbet, and Laced Woodpecker amongst others, and a super Rufous Woodpecker was a highlight. This is where we first encountered Yellow-vented Bulbul—a bird that I promised you would get sick of by the end of the trip! We also enjoyed some close-up looks of the silvered leaf-monkeys with their beautiful, bright orange babies. The afternoon at Ulu Gombak, a forested hilly area near Kuala Lumpur, provided a terrific introduction to the very exciting forest birding of Malaysia; we savored some really fun experiences here including a James Brown fan in the form of a thumping Rhinoceros Hornbill. "I Feel Good!"

A rather long and windy road trip took us to the jetty for our boat trip up the Sungai Tembeling to Taman Negara, Malaysia's largest national park. The next few days saw us searching this spectacular lowland rainforest and its waterways for glimpses of its secretive and marvelous wildlife. An afternoon sampan trip up the Sungai Tahan was one of the high points of our trip. Not only did we enjoy the stunningly beautiful riparian rainforest, but we had some great looks at a number of sought-after species including Blue-eared Kingfisher, Lesser Fish-Eagle, Black-and-Red Broadbill, the endangered Straw-headed Bulbul, and the gorgeous Chestnut-naped Forktail. The Swamp Loop near our accommodations repaid numerous visits with great views of the nomadic and scarce Crested Wood Partridge, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Rufous-winged Philentoma, and Banded Pitta amongst others. More trudging along various trails in the area rewarded us with outstanding views of Malaysian Rail-babbler; Red-naped Trogon; Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher; Buff-rumped, Buff-necked, and Great Slaty woodpeckers; and—a particular favorite—Garnet Pitta. Some fruiting trees in the vicinity of the resort and along trails also provided plenty of entertainment with lots of pigeons, hornbills, barbets, and bulbuls. Taman Negara can be pretty hard work, but we weren't complaining!

Next we proceeded to the beautiful montane forests of Fraser's Hill where we came to grips with some of the high altitude species including the bizarre Fire-tufted Barbet, the elegant Red-headed Trogon, and the cheeky Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush. During the colonial era the British would go to Fraser's Hill in order to escape the heat of the lowlands. The atmosphere is still one of laid-back relaxation and the pace of life is much more sedate than down in the lowlands. The climate is considerably cooler and less humid; in the evening you may even need a jumper! What a contrast to steamy Taman Negara. The altitude here is 1,300 meters (4,265 feet), so the avifauna differs markedly from that at Taman Negara. This is where we first encountered the bewildering but exciting mixed feeding flocks that characterize the Asian region—mixed flocks of Golden Babbler, Blue-winged Minla, Mountain Fulvetta, Bronzed Drongo, and others are often accompanied by Black-and-crimson Oriole, Blue Nuthatch, and other goodies. In the gullies we found Lesser Shortwing and Streaked Wren-Babbler. A short walk along the Bishop's Trail turned up Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler, and this year the simply fabulous

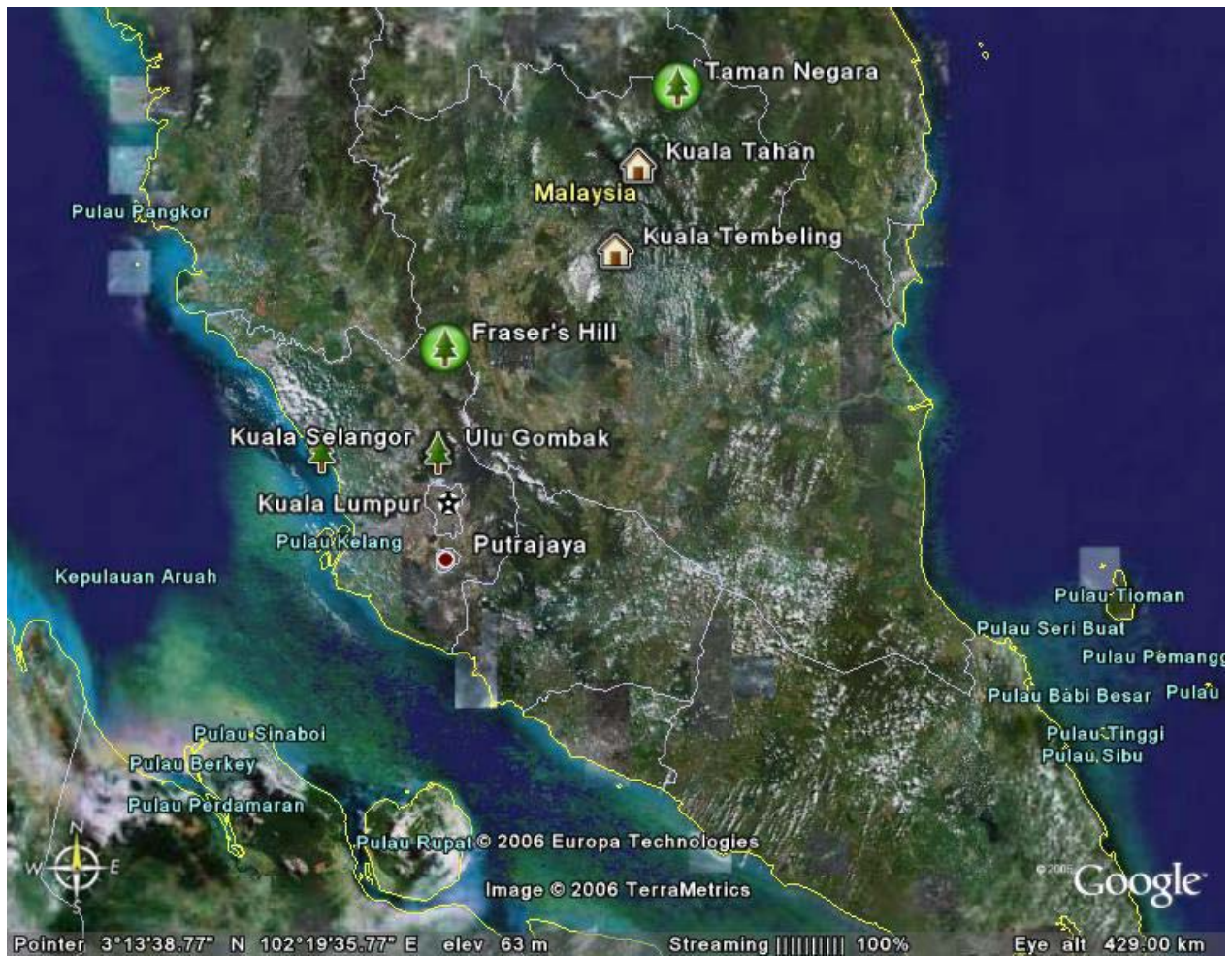
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Sultan Tit was much in evidence. Parties of the incomparable siamang put in a couple of appearances; undoubtedly, an encounter with these amazing creatures, the largest of the gibbons, is one of life's great experiences.

I'd especially like to thank David for leading this tour with me in such a successful manner. Also, thanks to Mano and Dennis for their good company and very able assistance with logistics. Above all, thank you Romney, Gus, Halina, Roc, Beverly, John, Alice Lee, Doug, Chris, Phil, Judy, and Tom for your cheerful and fun company—we certainly had lots of laughs and I am very much looking forward to traveling with you again in the not-too-distant future!

Susan Myers

David Bishop



Diary

Daily Itinerary

- 14 July** An early morning departure from Kuala Lumpur saw us arriving at dawn at Kuala Selangor. We spent the morning exploring the trails and forests before the heat set in and we returned to KL for lunch. In the afternoon we went out again, birding the hill forests along the Ulu Gombak road.
- 15 July** From Kuala Lumpur we travelled via Jerantut, where we had a tasty Chinese lunch, to Kuala Tembeling on the Tembeling River. From here we loaded up our considerable luggage and boarded our river boat or sampan for the exciting journey upriver to Taman Negara National Park. We birded in the resort gardens before dinner.
- 16 July** This morning we split into two groups and birded the Tahan Trail and the Swamp Loop Trail. In the afternoon we found ourselves on the Swamp Loop Trail and at the Tahan hide.
- 17 July** The same as yesterday morning but in reverse. In the afternoon we took sampans up the lovely Tahan River as far as the cataracts Lata Berkoh. A memorable experience!
- 18 July** After some fun and games with boats, we travelled down the Tembeling River by boat for 20 or so minutes to be dropped off at the Blau Trail where we went in two different directions to the Blau and Yong hides before meeting up to look for wren-babblers and rail-babblers, followed by a later lunch. In the afternoon we took it easy at the Tahan hide near the resort where our patience was rewarded with some excellent sightings.
- 19 July** While some took the Jenet Muda trail and others Bunbun Tabing trail, the birding was all good without exception!
- 20 July** From Taman Negara we again took the boat down the river to Kuala Tembeling and, after pausing for lunch and owls at Jerantut, drove up to Fraser's Hill.
- 21 July** Birded along Telekom Loop in the morning before variously visiting the Jeriau Waterfall and the New Road in the afternoon.
- 22 July** More birding on various trails including the Telekom Loop and the Old (Down) Road in the morning and Bishop's and Hemmant Trail and the New Road in the afternoon.
- 23 July** In order to look for some different birds we went down the hill to the lower end of the Down Road and to the Gap Road. In the afternoon we looked again at the Bishop's Trail and Telekom Loop.
- 24 July** Departed for Kuala Lumpur and the airport from where we all sadly went our separate ways.

BIRDS

NON-PASSERINES

1. Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
very common at Kuala Selangor.
2. Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
common at Kuala Selangor where we also observed a nesting colony.
3. Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
a total of six were seen at Kuala Selangor.
4. Great Egret *Ardea alba*
very common at Kuala Selangor.
5. Eastern Cattle Egret *Ardea (ibis) coromandus*
a few en route to Kuala Lumpur from Fraser's Hill.
6. Little Heron *Butorides striatus*
ten recorded at Kuala Selangor.
7. Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*
one at Kuala Selangor.
8. Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*
one seen at Kuala Selangor.
9. Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*
very common at Kuala Selangor.
10. White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
one at Kuala Selangor.
11. Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*
three on the Sungai Tahan at Taman Negara – one seen with a rather large fish in its talons.
12. Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
one or two at Taman Negara; two seen on the down road at Fraser's Hill.
13. Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraaetus kienerii*
one lovely male seen on the down road from Fraser's Hill was one of the last birds of the trip.
14. Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
a dark morph bird seen a few times over the resort and at the Bunbun Tahan hide in Taman Negara;
one at Fraser's Hill.
15. Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus alboniger*
two were seen at Fraser's Hill.
16. Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius*
probably the same two or three birds were seen almost daily around the resort and the Bunbun Tahan
hide at Taman Negara; another two birds saw us off from town opposite the jetty at Taman Negara.
17. Long-billed Partridge *Rhizothera longirostris*
heard at Taman Negara.
18. Malayan Partridge *Arborophila campbelli*
heard on a couple of occasions on Fraser's Hill.
19. Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltoni*
heard at Taman Negara.

20. Crested Partridge *Rollulus rouloul*
one of the best birds of the trip! Small groups were seen on three or four mornings wandering around the Swamp Loop trail.
21. Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*
heard at Kuala Selangor and Taman Negara.
22. Malaysian Peacock-Pheasant *Polyplectron malacense*
this very elusive pheasant was heard tantalisingly closely on a few occasions at Taman Negara.
23. Great Argus *Argusianus argus*
for some reason very stand-offish this year and unfortunately only heard.
24. White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*
one seen at Kuala Selangor.
25. Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*
six were seen on sandbanks along the river on our trip into Taman Negara.
26. Rock Dove *Columba livia*
27. Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
a few seen almost daily.
28. Barred Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia unchall*
a few sightings on Fraser's Hill.
29. Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps*
common on Fraser's Hill.
30. Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
up to two were seen almost daily in throughout the tour except on Fraser's Hill.
31. Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*
common at Kuala Selangor; one seen at Taman Negara.
32. Little Green-Pigeon *Treron olax*
six seen on two days at Taman Negara.
33. Pink-necked Pigeon *Treron vernans*
great views of this pretty bird that is quite common at Kuala Selangor.
34. Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
quite common at Taman Negara where we recorded a high count of 20 birds on one day.
35. Large Green-Pigeon *Treron capellei*
after seeing a small flock of 10 birds fly over we relocated them perched on a dead snag.
36. Jambu Fruit-Dove *Ptilinopus jambu*
one male bird seen on two days near Lubuk Simpon, feeding in a fruiting tree, at Taman Negara.
37. Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*
many sightings at Taman Negara and Fraser's Hill.
38. Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*
seen in good numbers this year albeit nearly always as fly-overs.
39. Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*
seen daily at all low to mid elevation sites.
40. Large Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus sparverioides*
just one seen at Fraser's Hill.
41. Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*
three immature birds seen on three successive days at Taman Negara. One studied at length as it perched in a tree near the Bunbun Tahan hide.

42. Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*
one super male bird seen in scrub at a rest stop en route to Taman Negara.
43. Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
a couple of flyover birds recorded on our first day at Ulu Gombak.
44. Asian Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*
one responsive bird seen very nicely at Ulu Gombak, thereafter heard almost daily at Taman Negara.
45. Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea*
heard in the early morning at Kuala Selangor.
46. Black-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus diardi*
seen almost daily in the lowland and mid elevation forests, including along the Gap Road.
47. Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
a couple of observations from Fraser's Hill.
48. Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*
this super and distinctly dimorphic bird was seen daily at Taman Negara.
49. Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*
lovely views of one bird along the down road from Fraser's Hill.
50. Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
arguably the most common of the malkohas on the penins Ulu, seen daily in the lowlands.
51. Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*
heard at Kuala Selangor; two seen in Taman Negara.
52. Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus*
heard nightly at Fraser's Hill; notoriously difficult to see.
53. Sunda (Collared) Scops Owl *Otus lempiji*
heard near the cabins one night in the resort at Taman Negara.
54. Spotted Wood Owl *Strix seloputo*
thanks to Dennis for this fabulous bird which we got to see and study so well as it roosted in a huge tree in a busy shopping area of Jerantut (near Taman Negara).
55. Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei*
two birds seen really well along the Telekom Loop road at Fraser's Hill, also heard daily there.
56. Malaysian Nightjar *Eurostopodus temminckii*
nice flight views of this increasingly scarce bird at dusk over the Tahan River at Taman Negara.
57. Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
recorded daily at Fraser's Hill.
58. Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
recorded almost daily.
59. Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*
a few were seen most days at Taman Negara including some great views of feeding birds along the tahan River; also seen by David's group one day along the Gap Road at Fraser's Hill.
60. Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis*
nice looks at birds feeding amongst their eponymous palms at Jerantut.
61. Little Swift *Apus affinis*
very common near all human habitation.
62. Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*
recorded daily at Taman Negara.
63. Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*
a few seen at Ulu Gombak where we enjoyed great scope views; also seen in Taman Negara.

64. Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba*
super looks at two very handsome male birds on separate days at Taman Negara.
65. Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*
heard on two occasions at Taman Negara.
66. Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*
one female and two male birds observed on different days in Taman Negara.
67. Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios*
one female seen by David's group on the Gap Road at Fraser's Hill.
68. Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus*
very nice views of this excellent bird for everyone at Fraser's Hill.
69. Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*
one seen along the Tembeling River at Taman Negara.
70. Blue-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo euryzona*
brief views of two birds on separate occasions along the Tahan River at Taman Negara.
71. Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*
this diminutive gem was seen on a couple of occasions at Taman Negara, thanks to some generous advice from a fellow birder from Canada we were able to see one coming to its nest at a bridge along the Tahan trail.
72. Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*
this amazing bird was seen on most days in Taman Negara; one was seen briefly at Kuala Selangor. With that bill, how does it stay upright?!
73. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*
many sightings at Kuala Selangor and in Taman Negara.
74. Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*
very common and vocal on the coastal plains, we saw many at Kuala Selangor.
75. Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*
everyone saw the immature bird on the Swamp Loop trail at Taman Negara; we then saw and heard other birds on the road down from Fraser's Hill.
76. Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*
many sightings of this really attractive bird along the Tembeling River into Taman Negara.
77. Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
seen in ones or twos at Kuala Selangor and along the waterways of Taman Negara.
78. Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*
just one was seen this year in Taman Negara.
79. Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*
some brilliant sightings of this very exciting bird starting with a fly over at Ulu Gombak (dig that James Brown!); thereafter we saw or heard a number of birds in Taman Negara. Great stuff!
80. Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*
although we heard this bird frequently, sightings were less easy to come by. We saw a couple in Taman Negara and David's group had three on the Gap Road at Fraser's Hill.
81. Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulates*
four were seen at Taman Negara and we had a lovely flyover pair at Fraser's Hill. They are notably dimorphic with the males being larger with a big, yellow gular pouch while the females are more delicate with a blue gular pouch – easily seen in flight.
82. Fire-tufted Barbet *Psilopogon pyrolophus*
surely one of the most unusual and exciting birds in the world! One of the treats of a visit to Fraser's Hill is to see this peculiar species in all its glory – we had great views of many birds daily.

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83. Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon*
heard almost daily throughout.
 84. Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos*
heard almost daily but surprisingly only seen on the New Road at Fraser's Hill by David's group. This is probably an altitudinal record for this species.
 85. Black-browed Barbet *Megalaima oorti*
seen and heard daily on Fraser's Hill – "big fat buddha"
 86. Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii*
heard daily almost throughout – "someone took my braaaa"
 87. Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*
heard almost daily with one seen on the last day on the Gap Road at Fraser's Hill.
 88. Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*
one was seen in the half light of the morning at Kuala Selangor; one saw us off from the pier at Taman Negara; one on the Old Road at Fraser's Hill.
 89. Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*
one seen at Taman Negara; David had one on the last day at Fraser's Hill.
 90. Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*
one was seen well on Fraser's Hill.
 91. Sunda Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*
one seen by Susan's group at Kuala Selangor.
 92. Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*
one seen and scopes by Susan's group at Kuala Selangor.
 93. Banded Woodpecker *Picus mineaceus malaccensis*
a super view of a single bird for a couple of people on the Jenet Muda trail at Taman Negara, the race in the peninsula is quite different to that of north Borneo.
 94. Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*
very nice views for all at Taman Negara of this very smart representative of those perennial favourites, the woodpeckers.
 95. Greater Yellownappe *Picus flavinucha*
a total of four birds were seen on separate days at Taman Negara.
 96. Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*
one was seen on the Bunbun Tabing trail in Taman Negara.
 97. Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*
both males and females of this coastal species was seen brilliantly at Kuala Selangor.
 98. Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*
delightful scope views of a male and female in the mangrove forests of the Kuala Selangor.
 99. Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*
great looks at a male bird at Kuala Selangor – the split malar stripe, larger size and white iris distinguish this from the previous species.
 100. Bamboo Woodpecker *Gecinulus viridis*
one was seen by David on the last day along the Gap Road at Fraser's Hill.
 101. Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
a total of three were recorded from Taman Negara.
 102. Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*
three recorded on different days at Taman Negara including a great scope view of one at the Tahan hide.

103. Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*
the most common woodpecker in Taman Negara, where we recorded it daily often in scrubby habitat.
104. Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*
heard more often than seen but this astounding creature, one of the largest woodpeckers in the world, was seen on a few occasions at Taman Negara.

PASSERINES

105. Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana*
this simply gorgeous bird was seen by almost everyone either on the Swamp Loop trail or the Jenut Muda trail; the pittas used to be known as jewel-thrushes – a very appropriate moniker!
106. Garnet Pitta *Pitta granatina*
this very vocal species often requires a fair bit of scrubbing around in the undergrowth to track down, which we did a few times in order for everyone to see this little beauty. On each occasion we found the pitta perched up in the mid storey singing its lungs out.
107. Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus*
a small group of this remarkable species was seen almost daily around the Swamp Loop and Tahan hide; they were seen feeding a fledgling bird on a couple of occasions.
108. Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*
another spectacular and happily not uncommon species seen mostly along watercourses but also at the head of the Swamp Loop at Taman Negara.
109. Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*
this is one of the most elusive of the broadbills and as usual was heard more often than seen, we did see two adults feeding a juvenile bird at the head of the Tahan trail (near the campground).
110. Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*
a perennial favourite – the clown-like appearance of this small broadbill is very appealing – we enjoyed a number of great looks during our stay in Taman Negara.
111. Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*
stunning looks at a very responsive pair on the Ulu Gombak road; we then found up to 12 birds feeding in fruiting trees near the Lubuk Simpon swimming hole at Taman Negara. Interestingly, the birds at the fruiting tree were very aggressive, seeing off a number of other species (including a Jambu Fruit Dove; sob!) that tried to take advantage of the feeding bonanza. The incomparable green of this species is memorable indeed.
112. Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
seen daily throughout.
113. Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata badia*
one bird of the distinctive red-bellied *badia* race was seen doing a circuit over the Gap Resthouse below Fraser's Hill.
114. Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
one or two along the road below The Gap.
115. Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*
one or two were seen or heard daily at Taman Negara.
116. Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*
although a common garden bird in Malaysia, we only saw this species at Kuala Selangor.
117. Black-hooded Oriole *Oriolus xanthornus*
one bird seen very well by Phil at the Tahan hide in Taman Negara and may represent an unusual record for the park.

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118. Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus*
up to four were seen daily on Fraser's Hill.
 119. Javan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina javensis*
up to four were seen daily on Fraser's Hill. One sighting almost led to Doug's demise – unfortunately for Phil he was rescued from the edge of the precipice and got to keep his scope!
 120. Lesser Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina fimbriata*
one female was seen along the Old Road.
 121. Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris montanus*
not uncommon on Fraser's Hill. The male of the *montanus* race of Peninsula Malaysia has a dark throat, while the female has a yellow throat, which can lead to some confusion.
 122. Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
a few seen in Taman Negara and at lower elevations below Fraser's Hill.
 123. Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*
a number were seen along the lower reaches of the Old Road at Fraser's Hill.
 124. Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*
a total of 8 seen at Taman Negara, mostly around the campground.
 125. Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhopterum*
Taman Negara.
 126. Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velatum*
great looks at one very responsive male at the beginning of the Swamp Loop.
 127. Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*
up to 8 were seen in a neck-breaking gathering in a tree over the Tahan River at Taman Negara.
 128. Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus*
this large, riparian bulbul is quite attractive but its most remarkable feature is its simply beautiful, liquid song. Unfortunately, this has led to a great demand for the species as a cage-bird both locally and internationally. As a result the Straw-headed Bulbul has declined markedly throughout its range to the extent that Peninsula Malaysia, and Taman Negara, in particular remains the only place where one can realistically expect to see this wonderful bird. We saw it almost daily during our stay at Taman Negara with a high count of eight on our boat trip down the Tahan.
 129. Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus melanicterus*
one at Ulu Gombak; seen daily at Fraser's Hill.
 130. Scaly-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus squamatus*
one seen briefly at Ulu Gombak; up to 20 on the road down from The Gap.
 131. Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*
very common at Taman Negara where seen daily and one found nesting next to one of the cabins; also a couple of records from Fraser's Hill.
 132. Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*
Beverly's bird! Seen at most disturbed and garden sites.
 133. Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*
a few seen at Taman Negara.
 134. Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*
Kuala Selangor; Taman Negara.
 135. Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*
Taman Negara.
 136. Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*
quite common in the forests of Fraser's Hill; often associating with mixed flocks.

137. Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*
two at Taman Negara; two Fraser's Hill.
138. Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*
a few seen on one day at Taman Negara.
139. Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*
seen almost daily in Taman Negara.
140. Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala*
a total of four at Fraser's Hill.
141. Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii*
seen almost daily at Fraser's Hill.
142. Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*
seen or heard almost daily throughout.
143. Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*
one female on the Jenut Muda trail.
144. Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
good views of males and females at Taman Negara and below The Gap at Fraser's Hill.
145. Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii*
super looks at this very smart bird for everyone at Fraser's Hill.
146. Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*
Kuala Selangor.
147. Green Iora *Aegithina viridissima*
good looks at few along the Tahan trail, Taman Negara.
148. Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys*
amazing views of a male and female along the Telekom Loop at Fraser's Hill. A gorgeous songster and really cute!
149. Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*
Phil's bird! Seen daily throughout. OK, so it's all over the place but it really is a lovely bird and surely an ornament to any garden!
150. White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
although commonly heard, this pretty bird is a little harder to see. That said, we enjoyed nice looks almost daily at Taman Negara.
151. Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus*
all-too-brief looks at a very fast bird zipping along a narrow creek-line on the Ulu Gombak road; one seen crossing the Tahan River – this bird is very fast when it wants to be.
152. Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus*
on one rainy afternoon we saw 6 birds along the road down to the waterfall at Fraser's Hill, eventually one even let us see him through the scope. Also seen on the Down Road to The Gap.
153. Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*
seen daily on Fraser's Hill.
154. Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*
seen daily in the resort gardens of Taman Negara.
155. Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*
heard at The Gap.
156. Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*
Kuala Selangor; en route to Fraser's Hill.
157. Mountain Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*
Fraser's Hill.

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158. Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps*
in small numbers in mixed flocks at Fraser's Hill.
 159. Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris*
three seen really well in response to playback on the Ulu Gombak road; common on the Down Road at Fraser's Hill.
 160. Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens*
two seen very well in scrubby grass on the Ulu Gombak road; one or two on The Gap road.
 161. Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*
great views of a couple of responsive birds at Kuala Selangor.
 162. Rufous-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula solitaries*
super looks at a very handsome bird, Fraser's Hill; a total of four birds recorded on the Telekom Loop over two days.
 163. Rufous-chested Flycatcher *Ficedula dumetoria*
a number of sightings of this excellent flycatcher at Taman Negara.
 164. Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*
just one female and one male seen on Fraser's Hill.
 165. Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*
a total of four recorded on Fraser's Hill.
 166. Large Niltava *Niltava grandis*
a male seen in thick forest along the Down Road at Fraser's Hill; then a superb female admired at the start of the Telekom Loop near our hotel at Fraser's Hill.
 167. Hill Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas*
one adult and one immature seen on different days on the Down Road at Fraser's Hill.
 168. Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*
one female seen on the Tahan trail at Taman Negara.
 169. Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
three birds recorded at Taman Negara; seen almost daily on Fraser's Hill.
 170. White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*
daily at Fraser's Hill.
 171. Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*
very common at Kuala Selangor.
 172. Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*
just one seen at Taman Negara; heard on the Jenut Muda trail.
 173. Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
seen or heard daily at Taman Negara.
 174. Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradise*
seen or heard most days at Taman Negara.
 175. White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum*
quite common along waterways in Taman Negara.
 176. Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolour*
three at Taman Negara.
 177. Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*
Doug's bird! Seen well at Kuala Selangor; recorded daily in Taman Negara where the "three beers for me" song is a distinctive sound of the rainforest.
 178. Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*
best differentiated from the above species by its very different vocalisations, we saw this well along the Tahan trail past Lubuk Simpon.

179. Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis*
a few seen almost daily in Taman Negara.
180. Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*
although heard daily in Taman Negara, this species is quite secretive and was only seen once on the Tahan trail.
181. Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*
seen daily in Taman Negara.
182. Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*
one or two sightings in Taman Negara.
183. Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*
Taman Negara.
184. Large Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus hypoleucos*
two seen through a hole through thick undergrowth on the Telekom Loop at Fraser's Hill. Heard in the same location subsequently.
185. Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*
one was seen along the Down Road at Fraser's Hill.
186. Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*
seen very well on the Jenut Muda trail in Taman Negara.
187. Large Wren-Babbler *Napothera macrodactyla*
two birds were seen on the Yong trail in Taman Negara; one seen by Beverly on the Swamp Loop.
188. Streaked Wren-Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata*
a number of excellent sightings over three days at Fraser's Hill. Great bird!
189. Eyebrowed Wren-Babbler *Napothera epilepidota*
two very active birds put in a fabulous appearance on the Bishop's Trail at Fraser's Hill but inexpicably failed to put in all but the briefest appearance the following day!
190. Pygmy Wren-Babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla*
heard daily on Fraser's Hill.
191. Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*
heard on Fraser's Hill.
192. Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*
one of the main constituents of mixed flocks on Fraser's Hill, with close looks this is a rather glamorous bird!
193. Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*
this rather skulking species seen on two occasions on Fraser's Hill.
194. Grey-headed Babbler *Stachyris poliocephala*
one in Taman Negara.
195. Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*
seen on a couple of occasions in Taman Negara.
196. Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera*
seen and heard daily in Taman Negara.
197. Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*
Kuala Selangor; Taman Negara; The Gap.
198. Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus*
great looks at this very entertaining babbler along the Blau trail, Taman Negara.
199. Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argentauris*
such a fabulous bird and fortunately quite common in mixed flocks on Fraser's Hill.

200. White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*
some great sightings of a cracking bird on a number of occasions on Fraser's Hill.
201. Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*
another great babbler seen in mixed flocks throughout our stay at Fraser's Hill.
202. Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*
if you squint and look sideways you might be able to see some blue in the wings of this *sordidior* Peninsula Malaysia race! This rather plain-looking babbler was seen in high numbers on all days during our stay at Fraser's Hill, sometimes in surprisingly large and active flocks.
203. Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*
two or three on the Jenut Muda trail, Taman Negara.
204. Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis*
very common in mixed flocks on Fraser's Hill down to the lower end of the Old Road.
205. Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides*
one of the commonest birds around the Fraser's Hill village.
206. White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*
a few seen at the lower end of the Old Road and along the Gap Road.

NOTE: As I mentioned to some during our travels, it is highly likely that the babblers are not one homogeneous group and in fact consist of a number of disparate families (see Cibois, A. *The Auk* 120(1):35–54, 2003). Recent work on this species even suggests that it is not related to any of the other groups treated as babblers in the current taxonomy. Most surprisingly initial studies suggest that White-bellied Yuhina should be placed with the corvids! Therefore, it must be removed from the *Yuhina* genus and the original genus *Erpornis* has been reinstated. (Cibois, A., *et al.* 2002. Molecular phylogenetics of babblers (Timaliidae): revaluation of the genera *Yuhina* and *Stachyris*. – *J. Avian Biol.* 33: 380–390.)

207. Black Laughingthrush *Garrulax lugubris*
one was seen on the lower stretches of the Old Road at Fraser's Hill.
208. Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus*
common and confiding, seen daily on Fraser's Hill.
209. Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*
usually scarcer than the preceding species, seen in good numbers on our first day only along the beginning of the Telekom Loop.
210. Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala grisola*
seen very well along the mangrove boardwalk at Kuala Selangor, where adults were observed feeding young.
211. Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*
a few seen well at Kuala Selangor.
212. Malaysian Rail-babbler *Eupetes macrocerus*
arguably bird of the trip! Amazing looks at this scarce and secretive bird off the Yong trail at Taman Negara. This species is variously classified with the Babblers (Timalidae) or the Quail-thrushes and Jewel-babblers (Cinclostomidae) but it would seem that opinion is leaning more towards the latter in recent literature (Schodde, R. & I. J. Mason. 1999. *The Directory of Australian Birds: Passerines*. CSIRO Publishing).
213. Great Tit *Parus major*
common at Kuala Selangor. Interestingly, this species seems to be restricted to mangrove and coastal forests on Peninsula Malaysia.
214. Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*
four were seen briefly on the Yong trail at Taman Negara; we then found them to be quite confiding on Fraser's Hill and we enjoyed great looks at this striking black and yellow bird.
215. Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*
two were seen well on the lower section of the Old Road at Fraser's Hill.

216. Blue Nuthatch *Sitta azurea*
yet another fabulous FH gem! Never in high numbers here, we nevertheless got some great views over three days – a personal favourite.
217. Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*
Kuala Selangor; Taman Negara.
218. Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*
a handsome and unusual-looking sunbird, seen a couple of times in Taman Negara.
219. Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*
a number of sightings from Taman Negara, mostly along the Tahan trail. Another unusual sunbird somewhat reminiscent of a spiderhunter.
220. Yellow-bellied Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis*
Kuala Selangor.
221. Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturate*
delightfully common on Fraser's Hill.
222. Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*
one or two in Taman Negara; not uncommon but hard to pin down on Fraser's Hill.
223. Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*
up to three around The Gap.
224. Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera modesta*
one seen on the Tahan River. Good spotting, Roc!

NOTE: The name *A. affinis* was based on birds from Java and subsequently used for all streaked, grey-breasted spiderhunters for all of the Greater Sundas. 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, Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula 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.) Very confusing as a number of the field guides persist with the old taxonomy!

225. Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*
a truly remarkable bird seen daily, and very well, on Fraser's Hill.
226. Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculates*
a couple were seen in Taman Negara but seen best at the jetty at Kuala Tembeling.
227. Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*
Taman Negara; The Gap.
228. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
two at Kuala Selangor.
229. Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*
seen daily on Fraser's Hill.
230. Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*
Kuala Selangor.
231. Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*
very common on Fraser's Hill – we watched fascinated as about 60 birds mobbed a pair of Collared Owlets along the Telekom Loop.
232. Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocercus*
one en route to Kuala Selangor.
233. Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*
Taman Negara.
234. Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*
Taman Negara; Fraser's Hill.

235. Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*
possibly one minus rackets was seen on the Telekom Loop (with squared off tail).
236. Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*
Taman Negara.
237. Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
common in Taman Negara; one on the lower section of the Old Road at Fraser's Hill.
238. Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*
after much nail-biting tension we all eventually got super looks at this outstanding bird with its unlikely crest and machine-gun rattle, Taman Negara.
239. Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus*
four were seen very well along the Blau trail, Taman Negara. Great vocalisations!
240. Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*
one excellent bird on Fraser's Hill for Beverly and Alice Lee.
241. House Crow *Corvus splendens*
Kuala Lumpur.
242. Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*
Taman Negara.
243. Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*
common in Taman Negara especially around the town.
244. Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*
Kuala Selangor; Taman Negara.
245. Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*
Kuala Selangor; Taman Negara; various towns.
246. Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*
a flock of six flew over the river on our trip back down to Kuala Tembeling, not far from the town.
247. Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*
very common at Kuala Selangor.
248. Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
one at Kuala Selangor; heard at Taman Negara.
249. Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
throughout the lowland areas.
250. White-rumped Munia *Lonchura striata*
Kuala Selangor; many along the New Road at Fraser's Hill.
251. Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*
Kuala Selangor.
252. White-headed Munia *Lonchura maja*
one seen briefly but well flying across the path at Kuala Selangor.

MAMMALS

1. Common Tree-shrew *Tupaia glis*
a couple of sightings at Taman Negara.
2. Lesser Treeshrew *Tupaia minor*
Ulu Gombak.

3. Spectacled or Dusky Leaf Monkey *Presbytis obscurus*
Fraser's Hill.
4. Silvered Leaf Monkey *Presbytis cristata*
Kuala Selangor.
5. **Note:** sorry for some of the confusion here – the taxonomy of leaf-monkeys is in a constant state of flux. The Silvered Leaf Monkey is the common one at Kuala Selangor (note: Dusky Leaf Monkey is not found at KS) but there was some confusion on my part with the poorly named Dusky and Banded leaf monkeys – I much prefer the name Spectacled Leaf Monkey for Dusky as it is much more aptly descriptive. This is what we were seeing in Fraser's Hill.
6. Long-tailed (Crab-eating) Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*
Kuala Selangor; Ulu Gombak; Taman Negara.
7. White-handed Gibbon *Hylobates agilis*
Heard daily at Taman Negara, usually over the other side of the river.
8. Siamang *Hylobates syndactylus*
close views of a pair at Fraser's Hill along the Old Road.
9. Giant Pied Squirrel *Ratuffa bicolor*
some good looks at a pair on the Ulu Gombak road; two also seen at Fraser's Hill.
10. Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii*
a very handsome subspecies in Peninsula Malaysia seen on the Yong Trail at Taman Negara.
11. Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*
Kuala Selangor; one at Taman Negara.
12. Black-banded Squirrel *Callosciurus nigrovittatus*
Taman Negara.
13. Grey-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus caniceps*
Taman Negara.
14. Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus*
Taman Negara.
15. Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowi*
a number of sightings at Ulu Gombak and Taman Negara.
16. Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandi*
Common at Fraser's Hill.
17. Smooth-coated Otter *Lutra perspicillata*
up to 20 were seen exceptionally well at Kuala Selangor.
18. Eurasian Wild Pig *Sus scrofa*
Taman Negara (where disturbingly tame!) and Fraser's Hill.
19. Lesser Mouse-Deer *Tragulus javanicus*
a number of very good sightings especially on the Swamp Loop at Taman Negara.
20. Sambar *Cervus unicolor*
common in the grounds of the resort at Taman Negara where they come out to graze overnight.

REPTILES & Others

1. Green Crested Lizard *Bronchocela cristatella*
this beauty was spotted by sharp-eyed Halina on the Ulu Gombak road.
2. Five-banded Gliding Lizard *Draco quinquefasciatus*
probably this species seen very well at the Tahan hide at Taman Negara.
3. Blandford's Gliding Lizard *Draco blandfordi*
almost certainly this species seen gliding into a tree and then scoped near the Bishop's Trail at Fraser's Hill – we estimated that the total length was 14 inches (36 cm) and indeed this is the largest of the Draco's and is known to reach 38 cm (15 inches). It occurs at least up to 1200 metres.
4. Northern House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*
Widespread.
5. Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*
seen at Kuala Selangor and along the Tahan River at Taman Negara.
6. Clouded Monitor *Varanus bengalensis*
one seen along the Jenut Muda trail.
7. Paradise Tree Snake *Chrysopelea paradise*
a real treat to see this gorgeously coloured snake on a visit to the resort restaurant. Very aptly named!

BUTTERFLIES

1. Archduke *Lexias pardalis*
2. Blue Glassy Tiger *Ideopsis vulgaris*
3. Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita*
4. Chocolate Tiger *Parantica melaneus*
5. Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*
6. Common Birdwing *Troides helena*
7. Common Bush Brown *Mycalesis janardana*
8. Common Four-ring *Ypthima ceylonica*
9. Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra*
10. Common Posy *Drupadia ravindra*
11. Common Sailor *Neptis hylas*
12. Common Three-ring *Ypthima pandocus*
13. Cruiser *Vindula dejone*
14. Cycad Blue *Chilades pandava*
15. Forest Nymph *Idea stollii*
16. Great Egg Fly *Hypolimnas bolina*
17. Great Mormon *Papilio memnon*
18. Great Orangetip *Hebomoia glaucippe*
19. Intricate Jester *Symbrenthia hypatia*
20. Lemon Emigrant *Catopsilia pomona*
21. Swallow-tailed Moth *Lyssa zampa*
22. Magpie Crow *Euploea diocletianus*

23. Malay Barron *Euthalia monina*
24. Malay Red Harlequin *Paralaxita damajanti*
25. Malayan Bush Brown *Mycalesis fusca*
26. Palm King *Amathusia phidippus*
27. Purple Bush Brown *Mycalesis orseis*
28. Rajah Brooke's Birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana*
29. Six-line Blue *Nacaduba beroe*
30. Small Orange Mapwing *Chersonesia intermedia*
31. Straight Pierrot *Caleta roxus*
32. Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber*
33. Tailed Jay *Graphium agamemnon*

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