

MALAYSIA: BORNEO, CUSTOM SABAH BIRDING TOUR REPORT

29 SEPTEMBER - 11 OCTOBER 2022

By Chris Lotz



We enjoyed seeing Whitehead's Trogon during this tour (this photo is from a previous trip).



Overview

This was another spectacular birding tour of <u>Borneo</u> which, as usual, also featured other incredible animals. These included several **Bornean Orangutans**, **Northern** (North Bornean) **Grey Gibbons**, **Proboscis Monkeys**, a 10-foot (3-meter) long **Reticulated Python** and many others.

Bird-wise, we saw all eight expected hornbills including the truly massive, Critically Endangered (BirdLife International) Helmeted Hornbill and the almost equally impressive Rhinoceros Hornbill. We also saw five different pitta species including Giant Pitta and three Bornean endemic pittas. Whitehead's Trogon and three other trogon species and Whitehead's Broadbill plus several other beautiful broadbill species also showed well. Whitehead's Spiderhunter was "heard only" on this tour, although seen well on the preceding Sarawak restricted range species birding tour (click here for the trip report for that tour). We also saw the world's largest extant woodpecker, Great Slaty Woodpecker, along with a bunch of other spectacular woodpeckers of all shapes and sizes down to the tiny Rufous Piculet. The unique and charismatic Bornean Bristlehead was seen very well and was one of many Bornean endemic birds seen during this custom version of our Sabah birding tour. We saw a similar range of incredible birds and wildlife on our 2022 Sabah set departure tour, click here to see that trip report.



We enjoyed seeing a wild male **Bornean Orangutan** like this coming right up to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge on our last morning of the tour, though this photo is from our visit to the Orangutan Center earlier in the trip!



Detailed Report

Day 1, 30th September 2022. Kota Kinabalu

Folks arrived the afternoon before and rested this morning. After lunch, we headed for some great birding sites around the city. The first was the Kingfisher Oxidation Park where we found Wandering Whistling Duck, Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker, Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Malaysian Pied Fantail, Ashy Tailorbird, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Asian Glossy Starling, Crimson Sunbird, Olive-backed Sunbird, Brown-throated Sunbird, and a number of other species. We then headed to a heronry where we saw Nankeen Night Heron, as well as the widespread Black-crowned Night Heron and various egrets.

Tanjung Aru Beach, our last stop of the afternoon, was productive as usual. **Blue-naped Parrot** showed well, and beautiful **Long-tailed Parakeets** flew over. **Green Imperial Pigeon** and **Pink-necked Green Pigeon** showed well through the scope, as did **Pied Triller**. **Oriental Dollarbird** and a pair of **Collared Kingfishers** were also scoped. Beautiful **White-breasted Woodswallows** were much in evidence. **Scaly-breasted** and **Dusky Munias** put in appearances, as did a good number of other species.



Pink-necked Green Pigeon is a common bird of the lowlands, yet very attractive and a joy to see. Despite the colors they can be tough to locate unless out on a clear perch.

Day 2, 1st October 2022. Kota Kinabalu to Mount Kinabalu via birding sites in the Crocker Range

An early start found us in the <u>Crocker Range</u> highlands for breakfast. Birding near the <u>Rafflesia</u> <u>Information Centre</u> before and after breakfast was productive. We saw many great species



including Black-capped White-eye, Pygmy White-eye, Bornean Leafbird, Mountain Barbet, Grey-chinned Minivet, Sunda Cuckooshrike, Blyth's Shrike-babbler, Ashy Drongo, White-throated Fantail, Bornean Treepie, Bornean Bulbul, Black-headed Bulbul, Cinereous Bulbul, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, Grey-streaked Flycatcher, Asian Brown Flycatcher, beautiful Little Pied Flycatcher, Black-sided Flowerpecker, dazzling Temminck's Sunbird, and Bornean Spiderhunter.

Raptors were prevalent in the area, and we saw overflying **Crested Honey Buzzard**, **Mountain** (Kinabalu) **Serpent Eagle** and **Blyth's Hawk-Eagle**. We also saw five **Wreathed Hornbills** flying over.



The Bornean subspecies of Ashy Drongo is rather distinctive.

After breakfast, we had a session at the <u>Gunung Alab Substation</u>. At the blind (hide) here we got ridiculously close views of **Crimson-headed Partridge**, **Red-breasted Partridge**, **Orange-headed Thrush**, and **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**. We also saw **Sunda Laughingthrush** and **Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush**. At and around the nearby bird feeders, we enjoyed seeing **Grey Wagtail**, **Sunda Bush Warbler**, **Mountain Leaf Warbler**, **Golden-naped Barbet** and various other birds. We found two massive beetles, a stag beetle and a long-horned beetle, we then transferred to Mount Kinabalu where we were to spend the next three nights.

Day 3, 2nd October 2022. Birding Mount Kinabalu National Park

What a great day! After an early breakfast, we headed to <u>Kinabalu Park</u>, getting magnificent views of the high peak (13,435 feet or 4,095 meters above sea level). Our first birding stop was at the park headquarters where we found our first **Bornean Forktail**, **Mountain Leaf** and **Yellow-**



breasted Warblers. Here we also saw Black-capped White-eye, Pygmy Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher, Indigo Flycatcher, beautiful Black-sided Flowerpecker, and dazzlingly bright Temminck's Sunbird (we'd see a good number of these later, too). White-throated Fantail was also around.



The impressive peaks of Mount Kinabalu dominate the landscape.

Ascending upwards into the forest, we got great views of a couple of **Everett's Thrushes** on the roadside and some **Mountain Tailorbirds** with their Wood Thrush like calls (such a loud song for a tiny bird). A **Bornean Stubtail** was then seen close-up. A couple of **Temminck's Babblers** showed well. Luminous-colored **Bornean Green Magpies** also showed well but **Bornean Treepies** kept just giving brief views. Yellow **Bornean Whistlers** proved quite numerous. A **Sunda Cuckooshrike** provided good views, but a **Sunda Owlet** was heard only. Dazzlingly bright red **Grey-chinned Minivets** put on a show, and we also found a few **Blyth's Shrike-babblers**.

At the top gate where people start the long hike to the summit, we saw **Bornean Swiftlet**, a **Mountain Blackeye**, and several pretty, close-up **Golden-naped Barbets**.

Arguably the best bird of the morning was a male **Whitehead's Trogon**, which we found as we descended through the forest towards our lunch restaurant. Also on the way down, we saw **Penan Bulbul** along with brief views of **Pale-faced Bulbul**.

Mammal-wise on the way up we saw **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel** and **Jentink's Squirrel** and at the top we found a **Borneo Black-banded Squirrel**. On the way down we were



delighted to see an attractive **Kinabalu Squirrel**, and we also had brief views of a **Pale Giant Squirrel**.

After a delicious lunch, we again ascended into the forest and the first new trip bird was **Mountain Wren-Babbler**. Things went quiet for a while but this came to an abrupt end when we found an incredible mixed flock including all three laughingthrush species, **Bare-headed**, **Chestnut-hooded**, and **Sunda Laughingthrushes**, all of them very attractive birds. Suddenly a **Whitehead's Broadbill** was located and we got good scope views of this unbelievably stunning bird. Also moving with the mixed flock were **Black-and-crimson Oriole**, **Checker-throated Woodpecker**, **Sunda Cuckooshrike**, **Grey-throated Babbler**, and other goodies we had seen already. We ended the day off with good views of a **White-browed Shortwing**.



The attractive *Indigo Flycatcher* found at high elevations in Borneo.

Day 4, 3rd October 2022. Second full day of birding Mount Kinabalu National Park

We headed back into the park for a morning and an afternoon birding session. It was a relatively slow day birdwatching compared to the previous day, but we did add one or two species to our growing list, such as the endemic and shy **Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher**. We also saw another **Whitehead's Trogon**, a female this time. At the end of the day, we did manage to see six **Mountain Wren-Babblers** on the road, quite bizarre!

We also got close-up views of a **Tufted** (Whitehead's) **Pygmy Squirrel** in addition to other good mammals we had already seen previously. Butterflies abounded and included **Raja Brooke's Birdwing** and **Borneo** (Kinabalu) **Birdwing**.





We enjoyed good sightings of the Bornean endemic **Mountain Wren-Babbler** at Mount Kinabalu.

Day 5, 4th October 2022. Birding the Poring Hot Springs and transfer to Sepilok

After another early breakfast, we headed to the other side of Kinabalu National Park, birding the Poring Hot Springs and adjacent areas. A beautiful Long-tailed Shrike was the first bird of the day. We found three new barbet species at Poring Hot Springs, Red-throated, Blue-eared, and Golden-whiskered Barbets. Apart from these, other green birds seen included Lesser Green Leafbird and Green Iora. A couple of brilliantly colorful Black-and-yellow Broadbills showed well. Beautiful sunbirds abounded in the form of Crimson, Ruby-cheeked, Purple-naped, and Brown-throated Sunbirds, as well as the less colorful Plain Sunbird. Orange-bellied Flowerpecker and two spiderhunter species, Little and Bornean Spiderhunter, gave us nice views. A Greater Coucal sunned itself at one point, and a pair of restless Raffles's Malkohas entertained us. A stunning Crested Serpent Eagle gave good flight views here. Malaysian Pied Fantail, Ashy Tailorbird, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, and Yellow-bellied Warbler all showed well.

Bulbuls were abundant here, and included **Streaked**, **Black-headed**, **Olive-winged**, **Asian Redeyed**, and stunning **Scaly-breasted Bulbuls**. A **Sunda Scimitar Babbler** was a true highlight for everyone as was an **Asian Fairy-bluebird** albeit a female. **Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher** was more subtly beautiful. A couple of **Dusky Munias** were also good to see.

Mammal-wise, we found an extremely cute **Least Pygmy Squirrel**, a (cream-colored) **Pale Giant Squirrel**, and a **Prevost's Squirrel**.

In the afternoon, we drove to Sepilok where we would spend the next two nights. There were many birds along the way, including stunning **White-breasted Woodswallows** and a great many **Javan**



Mynas and Asian Glossy Starlings. We also encountered Southern Pig-tailed and Long-tailed (Crab-eating) Macaques on the journey.

Half an hour of birding around the lodge before dinner generated some great birds. These included **Black Hornbill**, **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, lots of **Little Green Pigeons**, likely **Edible-nest Swiftlets** around a swiftlet farming structure, and a couple of fast-flying **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots**.



Today we also went to see this blooming Rafflesia, the largest flower on the planet and a parasitic plant

Day 6, 5th October 2022. Birding at Sepilok

This was a magnificent day despite a late (around 9 am) start because of heavy rain earlier in the morning. We started at the amazing 2,000 foot (620 meter) long canopy walkway at the <u>Rainforest Discovery Centre</u>. A jewel-like **Blue-eared Kingfisher** was scoped. One of the first birds we saw from the canopy walkway itself was a **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle** carrying a stick to its nest. **Oriental Pied Hornbill**, **Black Hornbill**, and an overflying **Wreathed Hornbill** were all around. An exquisitely colorful **Blue-throated Bee-eater** was scoped (and we also saw another one later near our lodge).

On a trail underneath the canopy walkway, we found and scoped a beautiful **Red-naped Trogon**, along with **Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike**, a few **Brown Barbets**, **Spectacled Spiderhunter**, and the unusual **Maroon Woodpecker**. Various bulbuls showed during the course of the morning,



including **Grey-cheeked**, **Spectacled**, and **Asian Red-eyed Bulbuls**. As we exited the Rainforest Discovery Centre to go for lunch, we found some **Silver-rumped Spinetails**.

After lunch we rushed back to the canopy walkway to try and "twitch" a Bornean Orangutan, but unfortunately failed to see it. We did however find a couple of good birds, such as a stunning **Redbearded Bee-eater**, a female **Dark-throated Oriole**, **White-crowned Forktail**, and others.

We then went to the <u>Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center</u> where, apart from the great apes we also saw a number of **Southern Pig-tailed Macaques** and some awesome birds, the most spectacular being a pair of **Rhinoceros Hornbills**. In the parking area we also saw the endemic **White-fronted Falconet**.

A late afternoon walk from the lodge was spectacular, with lots of brilliant birds. These included a gorgeous Hooded Pitta, a giant White-bellied Woodpecker, three Red Junglefowl, a jewel-like Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher, Raffles's Malkoha, Greater Coucal, Black-throated Babbler, Grey-hooded Babbler, a Bornean Black-capped Babbler walking on the ground, Black-throated Wren-Babbler, Lesser Cuckooshrike, Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, a couple of Red-throated Sunbirds, and a pair of spectacularly adorned Greater Racket-tailed Drongos.



Seeing the gorgeous **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher** is always a treat.

Just before dusk, we went back to the canopy walkway and managed to see a mother **Bornean Orangutan** with her baby (thanks to the Canadian couple who pointed them out to us). We then also enjoyed seeing **Velvet-fronted Nuthatch** and three **Slender-billed Crows** as we waited for **Red Giant Flying Squirrels** to emerge from their nest boxes. What a show these incredible animals gave us, with their spectacular glides from tree to tree. The moon was extremely impressive tonight and we scoped it, seeing all the craters. We also scoped Saturn and saw the



rings around this beautiful planet nicely. As we walked back to the van, we saw a **File-eared Tree Frog** and a cave scorpion.

Mammal-wise, apart from those already mentioned, we started the day with a **Common** (Large) **Treeshrew** and ended the day with a **Lesser Treeshrew**. We saw a large number of the beautiful **Jentink's Squirrels** today.

Day 7, 6th October 2022. Final Sepilok birding and transfer to the Kinabatangan River

Pre-breakfast, we returned to the canopy walkway to see if the **Bornean Orangutan** mother and baby were still there. We were not disappointed, as they put on a real show, emerging from their overnight nest and climbing across to a different tree! Bird-wise, a **Violet Cuckoo** tantalized us by flying over several times; this tiny cuckoo looked like a midget as it flew among the giant dipterocarp trees. We also saw **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**, **Raffles's Malkoha**, **Red-naped Trogon**, **Buff-rumped Woodpecker**, **Dark-throated Oriole**, **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**, and other good birds.

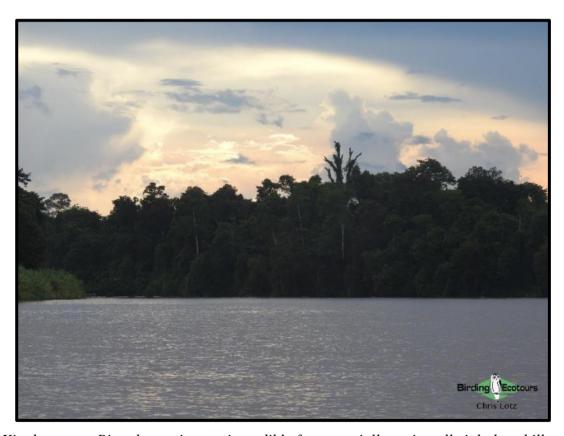
Back at the lodge, Barbara saw a **Stork-billed Kingfisher**. We then went to the <u>Bornean Sun Bear Conservation Centre</u> where we enjoyed seeing a number of these Vulnerable (<u>IUCN</u>) animals, the smallest of the planet's bear species. Here there were also some great birds around such as a close-up, beautiful **Black-and-yellow Broadbill**, **White-bellied Erpornis** (previously considered to be a yuhina, the current thinking is that it might be elevated to monotypic family status), **Chestnut-breasted** and **Raffles's Malkohas** again, and some far more (compared to yesterday) cooperative **Brown Barbets**. A gliding lizard also put on quite a show.



Chestnut-breasted Malkoha is an attractive but often secretive bird, as are many of the malkohas.



After an enjoyable visit, we drove the two hours to our next lodge on the banks of the Kinabatangan River. After lunch and a rest period during the midday heat (with some good birds around the lodge such as **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker** and **Malaysian Pied Fantail**), we embarked on a boat cruise which was, as usual, highly productive. Hornbills were much in evidence, often sitting on dead trees along the river or flying over the river and we enjoyed views of the Endangered (BirdLife International) **White-crowned Hornbill**, along with **Wrinkled**, **Black** and **Oriental Pied Hornbills**. A **Lesser Adjutant** flew over the river at one point as did two **Purple Herons**. A number of **Oriental Darters**, a couple of **Little Egrets**, and quite a lot of **Intermediate Egrets** were all along the riverside. A good number of **Slender-billed Crows**, a couple of **Green Imperial Pigeons**, and the occasional **Long-tailed Parakeet** also overflew the river. A pair of stunning **Black-and-red Broadbills** showed well, what a dazzling bird species. Another **Stork-billed Kingfisher** showed extremely well and a number of **Oriental Dollarbirds** sat on the highest available perches above the river.



The Kinabatangan River boat trips are incredible for potentially seeing all eight hornbill species found in Borneo, Bornean Ground Cuckoo, and many other birds and mammals, including the strange-looking Proboscis Monkey.

Raptors were numerous along the river and started with a pair of **Brahminy Kites** and a stunning **Bat Hawk**, followed by a young **Wallace's Hawk-Eagle**, then a **Crested Serpent Eagle**. One of the first mammal species we encountered was **Proboscis Monkey**, with **Long-tailed** (Crab-eating) **Macaques** on the opposite riverbank. We also saw **Silvery Lutung** (Silvered Langur) later on.



Day 8, 7th October 2022. A full day along the amazing Kinabatangan River

The biggest highlight of our early morning boat trip was seeing Bornean Ground Cuckoo. Violet Cuckoo was another highlight as it showed very well this time, unlike at Sepilok. A small flock of charismatic Bornean Black Magpies flew over the river in front of us, but we were unable to get perched views. Storm's Storks were much in evidence, and we also saw a couple of Lesser Adjutants. Four Black-crowned Night Herons were also around. There were a few more beautiful Stork-billed Kingfishers and a migrant Common Kingfisher present too. A pair of humongous White-bellied Woodpeckers showed quite well on a bare branch and then gave us a show as they flew upriver. A couple of Long-tailed Parakeets were also perched up in a dead tree.

The later morning boat trip allowed us to add a few more species to our growing list. **Black-capped Kingfisher** and **Rufous Piculet** were the best of these. It was also interesting to see a lantern bug.

After another delicious lunch and a rest during the heat of the middle of the day, we embarked on another wonderful boat trip. The highlight was a noisy pair of the world's largest extant woodpecker, **Great Slaty Woodpecker**. What a spectacular bird! Hornbills abounded as usual, with **Wreathed Hornbill**, our first **Bushy-crested Hornbill** (eight of them), and various others all noted. Mammal-wise, we saw a reddish morph **Silvery Lutung** (Silvered Langur), **Proboscis Monkey**, and more.



The odd-looking **Proboscis Monkey** photographed during our 2022 Borneo bird tours.

Day 9, 8th October 2022. Final Kinabatangan River birding and transfer to the Danum Valley

We were worried that the mist would adversely affect our pre-breakfast boat trip, but fortunately we were wrong, and we ended up seeing some further amazing birds. One of the luckiest sightings



was a **Straw-headed Bulbul**, now Critically Endangered (<u>BirdLife International</u>) because this species is, unfortunately, popular as a cage bird due to its beautiful song. Great views of **White-bellied Sea Eagle** and **Lesser Fish Eagle**, along with some other birds of prey we'd already encountered, were great to see. Hornbills were, as always here, incredible, and today included **Wreathed Hornbill**. Perhaps the top highlight of the morning boat trip was seeing a **Rufous Woodpecker**, and underneath this bird near the ground were a couple of **White-chested Babblers** while a pair of **Black-and-red Broadbills** added a splash of color.



The huge **White-bellied Sea Eagle** never disappoints!

We heard **Northern** (North Bornean) **Grey Gibbon** on both sides of the river and also saw various other mammals we had already seen on previous days, such as **Proboscis Monkey**. We then embarked on our drive to the <u>Danum Valley Conservation Area</u>, stopping in Lahad Datu for lunch. At the airport in Lahad Datu (which was across from our lunch restaurant) was at least one **Paddyfield Pipit**.

As we descended into the spectacularly wildlife rich Danum Valley, we started seeing a host of lowland rainforest bird species again. On a particularly productive stop, we saw a **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha** sunning itself in a dead tree, looking like a raptor until we scoped it. A **Violet Cuckoo** flew by but since we'd had good views of this stunning little bird previously, we concentrated on looking for other birds. A **Grey-and-buff Woodpecker** sat just long enough on a branch to give us all a quick look. We scoped a small flock of **Little Green Pigeons**. A small flock of **Blue-rumped Parrots** also kept flying around and we managed to scope a **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot**. A **Bronzed Drongo** was present but other birds vied for attention so we kind of forgot to look at this one properly. We did enjoy seeing a number of **Lesser Green Leafbirds**. Great scope views of a beautiful **Red-bearded Bee-eater** were enjoyed by all. **Whiskered**



Treeswift, Changeable Hawk-Eagle, Brown-backed Needletail, Silver-rumped Spinetail, and others were also present.



The fantastic **Red-bearded Bee-eater** was enjoyed today.

Remarkably, a **Giant Pitta** flew across the road in front of us, but was only seen by two participants (luckily we were to see this species the next day as well, though!). As we approached the lodge, a pair of (Bornean) **Crested Firebacks** came into the road and provided great views.

As we approached the 5-star Borneo Rainforest Lodge where we were going to spend the last three nights of our trip, we were entertained by a **Thomas's Flying Squirrel** that put on a flight show as it glided from one tree to the next. As we pulled into the lodge, Barbara saw a **Sunda Leopard Cat** (although not a good view).

After a wonderful dinner at our luxurious lodge, we did a night drive. Highlights were a **Malay** (Palm) **Civet**, **Red Giant Flying Squirrel**, more **Thomas's Flying Squirrels**, **Gould's Frogmouth**, a sleeping **Horsfield's Babbler** which we looked at quickly and then left alone, and a massive (10-foot or 3 meter), beautifully marked **Reticulated Python** on the road.

Day 10, 9th October 2022. Our first full day birding in the Danum Valley!

What a place the Borneo Rainforest Lodge is, right in the middle of the rainforest! Many of the great birds are within a mile (1.6 kilometers) of the lodge, and right around the lodge, in fact. Today, for example, we found four pitta species within a mile (1.6 kilometers) of our accommodation. After a 5.30 am breakfast, we embarked on an incredible birding and mammal walk. A young **Bornean Orangutan** entertained us right next to the lodge and **Red Langur**



(Maroon Leaf Monkey), **Pale Giant Squirrel**, and **Lesser Treeshrew** were some of the further mammal highlights during the course of the morning.



Red Langur (Maroon Leaf Monkey) can be found around the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

Progress was slow as a plethora of spectacular birds presented themselves. These included Orange-backed Woodpecker, Bornean Blue Flycatcher, Banded Broadbill, Black-and-red Broadbill, Red-naped Trogon, Crested Goshawk, Black Eagle, Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher, Dark-necked Tailorbird, Asian Brown Flycatcher, Bornean Spiderhunter, and others.

We did eventually start making a little progress, getting to a spot where there were several bulbul species, including Yellow-bellied, Grey-cheeked, Hairy-backed, Cream-vented, and Cream-eved Bulbuls. We also saw Finsch's and Spectacled Bulbuls this morning.

Much to our delight, after managing to proceed a bit further, we got to an area where there were four pitta species, although only three of them were seen and the remaining one, **Blue-headed Pitta**, had to wait until our afternoon walk for visuals (but we saw it well then!). **Giant Pitta**, **Bornean Banded Pitta**, and **Black-crowned Pitta** were the ones that showed this morning.

Malkohas were also well represented this morning, with **Black-bellied**, **Chestnut-breasted**, and **Raffles's Malkohas** all seen. A close-up **Rufous Piculet** was part of a good mixed flock we found just before returning to the lodge for lunch. A number of other goodies were also around, such as **Rufous-winged Philentoma**, **Brown Fulvetta**, **Little Spiderhunter**, **Lesser Cuckooshrike**, a



couple of massive **Rhinoceros Hornbills**, and eight **Bushy-crested Hornbills**. The final bird of the morning was **Bornean Bristlehead** that gave us excellent scope views. This monotypic family and Bornean endemic is always a top target on any Sabah birding tour.



We got good views of **Bornean Banded Pitta** today, although this photo is from our Mount Trusmadi birding tour that ran just before this trip, where we also got excellent views (see trip report here).

After a scrumptious lunch and a rest during the midday heat and a thunderstorm, we went out for a 4 to 6 pm walk, and were once again richly rewarded with great birds. We scoped a **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**. Then we spent some time looking for **Blue-headed Pitta** which showed well after a bit of patient waiting. **Bornean Wren-Babbler** showed well with hardly any effort, what a pleasure! We also saw **Sooty-capped Babbler** and scoped an attractive **Whiskered Treeswift**. On our way back to the lodge, we saw a male (Bornean) **Crested Fireback** on the road and after a little while we saw it flying up into a tree to roost for the night!

On a short night walk after dinner, we heard but unfortunately didn't see, **Large Frogmouth**, we did however see a pair of (Bornean) **Sambar** deer.



Day 11, 10th October 2022. A second full day of birding in the magnificent Danum Valley

This was Earl's birthday, so we hoped for a good birding morning, and were not disappointed! We found over 60 bird species and a new mammal for the trip this morning, a wonderfully cute **Lesser Oriental Chevrotain** (Lesser Mouse Deer). We also again heard **Northern** (North Bornean) **Grey Gibbon**.

We started the morning overlooking the river from the lodge. Here, a beautiful male **Malaysian Blue Flycatcher** and a far drabber **Asian Brown Flycatcher** were some of the first birds we saw, followed by brief views of **White-bellied Munia** and **White-crowned Shama**. Noisy **Bold-striped Tit-Babblers** moved around and occasionally showed themselves.

We then embarked on a walk up the road. A superb White-crowned Forktail showed unusually well in the road in front of us. Changeable and Wallace's Hawk-Eagles both put on flight shows for us and a diminutive White-fronted Falconet sat in a dead tree. An extremely close-up Rufous Piculet worked thin branches and hardly needed binoculars. A small flock of Bornean Black Magpies with their awesome repertoire of strange calls was very entertaining and a Puff-backed Bulbul gave close views.

We then decided to spend some time on the amazing canopy walkway. Woodpeckers were aplenty, with **Buff-necked**, **Buff-rumped**, and **Grey-and-buff Woodpeckers** on branches near us high up in the canopy. A **Rhinoceros Hornbill** and some other bird species feasted on fruit from a large tree nearby. We managed to see three **Arctic Warblers**, one of them extremely close-up from the canopy walkway. **Great Argus** were heard calling frequently from the forest floor way below us.



The Danum Valley canopy walkway was productive and was a great way to observe canopy birds.

We then left the canopy walkway and continued birding along the road, finding stacks more birds. Lesser Cuckooshrike and Large Woodshrike put in appearances. A couple of spectacular Blyth's Paradise Flycatchers (white-phase birds) put on a real show. We also saw a Black-naped Monarch and a stunning Verditer Flycatcher. Much more subdued in color was a Grey-streaked Flycatcher. Highly vocal Fluffy-backed Tit-Babblers showed well.

We also found **Grey-hooded Babbler**, **Sooty-capped Babbler**, **Scaly-crowned Babbler**, **Rufous-crowned Babbler**, and **Ferruginous Babbler** today from the roadside, quite an assemblage of babblers! **Chestnut-necklaced Partridge** took some effort to see, but it was one of the avian highlights this morning, showing excellently in the end.

After another delicious dinner (including lobsters, prawns, a variety of great breads, etc.), we embarked on another night drive. Our first mammal was a cute **Horsfield's** (Western) **Tarsier**. We then enjoyed seeing some more **Red Giant Flying Squirrels**. A few **Large Flying-foxes** searched for fruit high in the canopy. A **Common** (Bornean) **Palm Civet** crept around in the canopy of a huge tree and at one point climbed down a branch giving us a view of more than just its eyes.

Bird-wise, at the start of our night drive we saw a sleeping **Black-naped Monarch** which we briefly viewed and then left in peace. At the end of the session, we saw a dazzling red ball right next to the road about a foot off the ground which turned out to be a roosting **Black-crowned**



Pitta! We of course also left this one alone so it could get a good night's rest, after we'd all had a quick look through our binoculars.



Exquisite Scarlet-rumped Trogon was enjoyed in the Danum Valley.

Day 12, 11th October 2022. Final Danum Valley birding before departing

After some early morning birding excitement, we rushed away from the lodge in a golf cart to go and "twitch" some **Northern** (North Bornean) **Grey Gibbons** that had been reported from the roadside near the canopy walkway. We enjoyed watching these charismatic primates for about an hour as they fed on fruit and also called extremely loudly from time to time. After enjoying the gibbons, we did a relaxed but highly productive walk the mile or so back down the hill to the lodge and a number of new trip birds were seen. These included a female **Diard's Trogon**, a beautiful migrant **Narcissus Flycatcher**, and **Short-tailed Babbler**. We also got good views of some previously seen birds too, such as **Black-headed Bulbul** (excellent scope views) and a number of **Little Spiderhunters** feeding close-up at wild banana flowers.

A large male **Bornean Orangutan** named Sean came to visit us at the lodge just as we were starting our early (11.30 am) lunch. After this final lunch, we transferred (a 2.5-hour road trip) to Lahad Datu airport from where Bill, Mary and I flew home, while the others had opted to overnight before flying home the next day.

All in all, this proved to be a spectacular tour for birds, mammals, scenery, and last but not least, great company. The trip bird and animal lists follow.





A group photo from the last morning of the trip at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

Bird List - Following IOC (12.2)

Birds 'heard only' are marked with (H) after the common name, all other species were seen. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable. The common name for Bornean endemics is shown in **bold** type, e.g., **Bornean Bristlehead**.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Ducks, Geese, Swans (Anatidae)	
Wandering Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna arcuata
Pheasants & Allies (Phasianidae)	
Red-breasted Partridge	Arborophila hyperythra
Crested Fireback – VU	Lophura ignita
Great Argus – VU	Argusianus argus
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge – VU	Tropicoperdix charltonii
Crimson-headed Partridge	Haematortyx sanguiniceps
Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus





Common Name	Scientific Name
Wood Sandpiper	Tringa glareola
Gulls, Terns, Skimmers (Laridae)	
Common Tern	Sterna hirundo
Whiskered Tern	Chlidonias hybrida
White-winged Tern	Chlidonias leucopterus
Storks (Ciconiidae)	
Storm's Stork – EN	Ciconia stormi
Lesser Adjutant – VU	Leptoptilos javanicus
A line D. (A line)	
Anhingas, Darters (Anhingidae)	A 1. 1
Oriental Darter	Anhinga melanogaster
Herons, Bitterns (Ardeidae)	
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax
Nankeen Night Heron	Nycticorax caledonicus
Striated Heron	Butorides striata
Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea
Great Egret	Ardea alba
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta
Pacific Reef Heron	Egretta sacra
Kites, Hawks, Eagles (Accipitridae)	
Crested Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus
Crested Serpent Eagle	Spilornis cheela
Mountain Serpent Eagle	Spilornis kinabaluensis
Bat Hawk	Macheiramphus alcinus
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus cirrhatus
Blyth's Hawk-Eagle	Nisaetus alboniger
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle - VU	Nisaetus nanus
Black Eagle	Ictinaetus malaiensis
Crested Goshawk	Accipiter trivirgatus
Brahminy Kite	Haliastur indus
White-bellied Sea Eagle	Haliaeetus leucogaster
Lesser Fish Eagle	Haliaeetus humilis











Common Name	Scientific Name
Cream-eyed Bulbul	Pycnonotus pseudosimplex
Pale-faced Bulbul	Pycnonotus leucops
Yellow-vented Bulbul	Pycnonotus goiavier
Swallows, Martins (Hirundinidae)	
Pacific Swallow	Hirundo tahitica
Barn Swallow	Hirundo rustica
Cettia Bush Warblers & Allies (Cettii	daa
Mountain Tailorbird	Phyllergates cucullatus
Sunda Bush Warbler	Horornis vulcanius
Bornean Stubtail	Urosphena whiteheadi
Dornean Stubtan	Crospnena whiteheata
Leaf Warblers (Phylloscopidae)	1
Arctic Warbler	Phylloscopus borealis
Yellow-breasted Warbler	Phylloscopus montis
Mountain Leaf Warbler	Phylloscopus trivirgatus
Cisticolas & Allies (Cisticolidae)	
Yellow-bellied Prinia	Prinia flaviventris
Dark-necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	Orthotomus sericeus
Ashy Tailorbird	Orthotomus ruficeps
Wil 'A constitution of the	
White-eyes (Zosteropidae) Chestnut-crested Yuhina	Ctl.: I
	Staphida everetti
Pleak corned White eye	Heleia squamifrons
Black-capped White-eye	Zosterops atricapilla Zosterops amilias
Mountain Blackeye	Zosterops emiliae
Babblers, Scimitar Babblers (Timaliio	lae)
Bold-striped Tit-Babbler	Mixornis bornensis
Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler	Macronus ptilosus
Grey-hooded Babbler	Cyanoderma bicolor
Bare-headed Laughingthrush	Melanocichla calva
Sunda Scimitar Babbler	Pomatorhinus bornensis
Black-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigricollis
Grey-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigriceps



Scientific Name
Turdinus atrigularis
Malacopteron affine
Malacopteron cinereum
Malacopteron magnum
Pellorneum capistratoides
Pellorneum malaccense
Pellorneum pyrrogenys
Pellorneum rostratum
Pellorneum bicolor
Malacocincla sepiaria
Gypsophila crassa
Ptilocichla leucogrammica
Alcippe brunneicauda
J.:J
chidae)
Garrulax palliatus
Pterorhinus treacheri
Irena puella
A
Sitta frontalis
Aplonis panayensis
Gracula religiosa
Acridotheres javanicus
Zoothong overetti
Zoothera everetti
Geokichla citrina
icapidae)
Copsychus saularis
Copsychus stricklandii



Common Name	Scientific Name
Grey-streaked Flycatcher	Muscicapa griseisticta
Asian Brown Flycatcher	Muscicapa dauurica
Bornean Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis superbus
Malaysian Blue Flycatcher	Cyornis turcosus
Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher	Cyornis olivaceus
Verditer Flycatcher	Eumyias thalassinus
Indigo Flycatcher	Eumyias indigo
White-browed Shortwing	Brachypteryx montana
Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher	Vauriella gularis
White-crowned Forktail	Enicurus leschenaulti
Bornean Forktail	Enicurus borneensis
Bornean Whistling Thrush	Myophonus borneensis
Narcissus Flycatcher	Ficedula narcissina
Pygmy Flycatcher	Ficedula hodgsoni
Little Pied Flycatcher	Ficedula westermanni
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	Ficedula hyperythra
Leafbirds (Chloropseidae)	
Greater Green Leafbird – EN	Chloropsis sonnerati
Lesser Green Leafbird	Chloropsis cyanopogon
Bornean Leafbird	Chloropsis kinabaluensis
Flowerpeckers (Dicaeidae)	
Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker	Prionochilus maculatus
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker	Prionochilus xanthopygius
Yellow-vented Flowerpecker	Dicaeum chrysorrheum
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	Dicaeum trigonostigma
Plain Flowerpecker	Dicaeum minullum
Black-sided Flowerpecker	Dicaeum monticolum
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Dicaeum cruentatum
Sunbirds (Nectariniidae)	
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	Chalcoparia singalensis
Plain Sunbird	Anthreptes simplex
Brown-throated Sunbird	Anthreptes malacensis
Red-throated Sunbird	Anthreptes rhodolaemus
Olive-backed Sunbird	Cinnyris jugularis
Crimson Sunbird	
CHIIISOH SUHUHU	Aethopyga siparaja



Common Name	Scientific Name
Temminck's Sunbird	Aethopyga temminckii
Purple-naped Sunbird	Kurochkinegramma
Turple-haped Sunond	hypogrammicum
Little Spiderhunter	Arachnothera longirostra
Spectacled Spiderhunter	Arachnothera flavigaster
Bornean Spiderhunter	Arachnothera everetti
Whitehead's Spiderhunter (H)	Arachnothera juliae
Old World Sparrows, Snowfinches (P	asseridae)
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	Passer montanus
Waxbills, Munias & Allies (Estrildida	e)
Scaly-breasted Munia	Lonchura punctulata
Dusky Munia	Lonchura fuscans
White-bellied Munia	Lonchura leucogastra
Chestnut Munia	Lonchura atricapilla
Wagtails, Pipits (Motacillidae)	
Grey Wagtail	Motacilla cinerea
Paddyfield Pipit	Anthus rufulus

Total seen	254
Total heard only	3
Total recorded	257

Mammal List

The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following <u>IUCN</u>: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, DD = Data Deficient.

Common Name	Scientific Name
Squirrels (Sciuridae)	
Pale Giant Squirrel	Ratufa affinis
Least Pygmy Squirrel - DD	Exilisciurus exilis
Tufted (Whitehead's) Pygmy Squirrel	Exilisciurus whiteheadi
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel	Sundasciurus everetti
Jentink's Squirrel	Sundasciurus jentinki
Kinabalu Squirrel	Callosciurus baluensis





Common Name	Scientific Name
Chevrotains (Tragulidae)	
Lesser Oriental Chevrotain	Tragulus kanchii
Deer (Cervidae)	
(Bornean) Sambar - VU	Rusa unicolor brookei
	1

Total 27

