



*Field Guides Tour Report*

**Borneo II 2014**

Jun 8, 2014 to Jun 25, 2014

Dave Stejskal

*For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE.*



*One of the many highlights of our stay on the Kinabatangan R. was seeing a fine herd of these Bornean Pygmy (Asiatic) Elephants. The young males seen here seemed to be playing more than fighting while we watched them from our boat. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)*

I'm convinced, after my fifth tour to Borneo, that it's impossible to have a bad trip to this fantastic place. Sure, you might have some weather to deal with (and we did -- but not much), but there's so much to look at, the place is so well run for tourists in general, the lodgings are so nice, and the food (well, for the most part) is terrific! It really is a wonderful destination, and I'll gladly endure that long flight to get there for years to come (hopefully) just to immerse myself in the natural bounty there again.

All of you got a leg up on the lowland rainforest birds by coming to Sepilok early, birding, for a couple of days at least, at the rich Rainforest Discovery Center near our lodging with your local guide from Borneo Eco Tours. Finding some of the scarcer birds in the reserve actually made our lives a bit easier on the tour, allowing us to concentrate on the birds that were new to all. If only you all could have come across that Bristlehead then...

Bristlehead aside for the moment, we found some great birds and mammals at our first two venues, Sukau Rainforest Lodge (with a couple of visits to Gomantong Caves) and Borneo Rainforest Lodge. The highlights at Sukau often involve some primates -- like Proboscis Monkey and Orangutan -- but we were treated to much more on this tour. Our encounter with the Bornean Pygmy (Asiatic) Elephants really jumps to mind (they were too far upstream for us to try for last year), and we got our fill of these beasts as they fed and interacted on the banks of the Kinabatangan River. We had our fill of great birds as well, with a number of prizes found at Sukau and nearby Gomantong including at least a couple of rare Storm's Storks and a single Lesser Adjutant along the river, multiple Bat Hawks chasing Wrinkle-lipped Bats as they emerged in the evening, three species of hawk-eagles, both fish-eagles, a fine assortment of Treron green-pigeons, a coy Oriental Bay-Owl on one of our nighttime boat trips, multiple Buffy Fish-Owls, four species of nesting swiftlets (i.d.'ed by their respective nests on which they sat incubating), four species of lovely trogons, six species of impressive hornbills, the endemic White-fronted Falconet and Black-headed Pitta, among others.

We got into a different type of forest at Borneo Rainforest Lodge -- what we'd call terra firme forest in South America -- and the birdlife changed pretty dramatically. It was here that we finally caught up with that coveted Bornean Bristlehead -- on our last full day there -- as well as gems like Crested Fireback, the formidable Great-billed Heron, both Gray-rumped and Whiskered treeswifts, five species of barbets (including two newly recognized endemics, Brown and Gold-faced [Gold-whiskered] barbets), the endemic Blue-headed Pitta, scarce Straw-headed and Finsch's bulbuls, close to 20 species of 'bblers' (whatever those are anymore!), five spiderhunters, as well as about seventeen species of mammals! To have this wealth of wildlife and birds at our doorsteps while enjoying luxury accommodations and gourmet food is truly exceptional in the world, in my experience.

After spending a week and a half in the warm lowlands, the cool Crocker Range and Kinabalu NP were like an entirely different tour for us, with almost

completely different birds and mammals, not to mention the very different flora. Mammals were in relative short supply in the highlands, save for several new squirrels and treeshrews, but the difference in birds was stark. Our most memorable scores had to be getting two of the three 'Whitehead's' (the broadbill and the trogon), finding a friendly Friendly Bush-Warbler on the summit trail, coming across an active Fruit-hunter nest with a couple of youngsters still in it, our surprise Collared Owlet over the road, three new endemic barbets, that responsive Bornean Stubtail, our three species of laughingthrushes, and so many others.

We wouldn't have done nearly as well as we did on this tour without the strong help and guidance of Hazwan, Paul, and Adrian. I really wish that every country that I birded in had such capable local guides! Thanks to the three of them and our good drivers Phil and Ibin. Thanks to all of you, too, for providing such great companionship on this tour -- you certainly made it a pleasure to guide from my perspective. I hope we can all catch up on another trip somewhere soon -- maybe somewhere else in Asia!

--Dave

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## KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: \* = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

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## BIRDS

### Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

**RED-BREASTED PARTRIDGE** (*Arborophila hyperythra*) – We had a pretty good setup to see these shy endemic partridges cross the trail, but you had to be pretty darned quick to see them do that! Luckily, a few folks were able to get a partial view of one sitting on the left side of the trail while it was thinking about crossing. [E]

**CHESTNUT-NECKLACED PARTRIDGE** (*Arborophila charltonii*) – We heard these often in the lowlands during the first half of the tour, but seeing one was a challenge. One came in pretty well while we were all sitting in boats on the Menanggul near Sukau.

**CRIMSON-HEADED PARTRIDGE** (*Haematortyx sanguiniceps*) [E\*]

**CRESTED FIREBACK** (*Lophura ignita nobilis*) – The lodge at Danum Valley is usually the best place to see this one, and that's where we eventually got ours.

**GREAT ARGUS** (*Argusianus argus*) – Never really that close this year. [\*]

### Ciconiidae (Storks)

**STORM'S STORK** (*Ciconia stormi*) – You always get this one at Sukau, but you always sweat it out until you do see one! We had some remarkable looks at this Endangered stork, most memorably along the Menanggul R. from the boats.

**LESSER ADJUTANT** (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – I'm not sure I've ever seen more than one individual along the Kinabatangan R., but I've never missed it, either.

### Anhingidae (Anhingas)

**ORIENTAL DARTER** (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – I'll bet that the photographers wish that all birds could be such good subjects as this one!

### Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

**CINNAMON BITTERN** (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) – On the very last day on our way back into Kota Kinabalu from Mt. Kinabalu.

**GREAT-BILLED HERON** (*Ardea sumatrana*) – It sure paid off to check that river behind the lodge every day; it also helped that a lot of other birders there were looking, too!

**PURPLE HERON** (*Ardea purpurea*)

**GREAT EGRET** (*Ardea alba*)

**INTERMEDIATE EGRET** (*Mesophoyx intermedia*)

**LITTLE EGRET** (*Egretta garzetta*)

**CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN)** (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)

### Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

**BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE** (*Elanus caeruleus*) – In the Cinnamon Bittern marsh on our final afternoon.

**ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD** (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – That one stretch of the Danum entrance road is always good for this one. They often trick you into thinking that you've got one of the hawk-eagles, but it almost invariably turns out to be this one.

**JERDON'S BAZA** (*Aviceda jerdoni*) – Very similar to young Blyth's and Wallace's hawk-eagles in some plumages.

**CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE** (*Spilornis cheela*) – Especially good looks along the Gomantong Caves road.

**BAT HAWK** (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) – It's always great fun to watch these go after the Wrinkle-lipped Bats emerging from the caves in the late afternoon!

**CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE** (*Nisaetus limnaeetus*) – This one seems to be quite reliable in the Kinabatangan area.

**BLYTH'S HAWK-EAGLE** (*Nisaetus alboniger*) – Very similar to the next species, but that tail pattern difference is usually evident. I think we had our best looks this year at Danum Valley.

**WALLACE'S HAWK-EAGLE** (*Nisaetus nanus*) – Decent looks at both Sukau and at Danum Valley.

**RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE** (*Lophotriorchis kienerii*) – That distant bird perched in the huge tree next to the Tenangan R. near Sukau gave us fits, but the close perched adult at Danum Valley was much more cooperative.

**BLACK EAGLE** (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) – Excellent looks from the lodge at Danum Valley one afternoon before our walk.

**CRESTED GOSHAWK** (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) – Bob spotted our first perched bird from the Hornbill Tower at Rainforest Discovery Center (RDC) near Sepilok.

**BRAHMINY KITE** (*Haliastur indus*)

**WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE** (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – We had some good looks at Sukau, but the one at the canopy walkway at Borneo

Rainforest Lodge (BRL) was a bit of a surprise.

**LESSER FISH-EAGLE** (*Ichthyophaga humilis*) – All scrutinized very carefully at Sukau.

**GRAY-HEADED FISH-EAGLE** (*Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*) – Hazwan finally produced one of these for us along the Tenangan R. near Sukau - my first ever there!

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

**WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN** (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – A pretty common roadside bird in the palm plantations.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

**LITTLE TERN** (*Sternula albifrons*) – An active nesting colony in the dirt strips between the runways at the Kota Kinabalu airport was a surprise find for us.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

**ROCK PIGEON** (*Columba livia*) [I]

**SPOTTED DOVE** (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

**LITTLE CUCKOO-DOVE** (*Macropygia ruficeps*) – Seemingly always in pairs.

**EMERALD DOVE** (*Chalcophaps indica*)

**ZEBRA DOVE** (*Geopelia striata*) [I]

**LITTLE GREEN-PIGEON** (*Treron olax*) – Often the most common Treron at Sukau.

**PINK-NECKED PIGEON** (*Treron vernans*) – Much more common on the Kinabatangan R. this trip than on any of my previous tours.

**CINNAMON-HEADED PIGEON** (*Treron fulvicollis*) – We found a couple of distinctive males along the Kinabatangan R. this year with the more common Pink-necks and Littles.

**THICK-BILLED PIGEON** (*Treron curvirostra*) – Surprisingly scarce this year.

**LARGE GREEN-PIGEON** (*Treron capellei*) – A couple of flybys only this year along the Kinabatangan.

**GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON** (*Ducula aenea*) – Just about everywhere in the lowlands on this tour, being replaced in the highlands by the next species.

**MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON** (*Ducula badia*) – Including a couple of very confiding birds at Kinabalu, giving all great looks.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

**MOUSTACHED HAWK-CUCKOO** (*Hierococcyx vagans*) – Just some quick flyby looks. It's always tough to get this one to perch in the open for some good looks.

**SUNDA CUCKOO** (*Cuculus lepidus*) – A couple of nice studies in the highlands. A relatively recent split from Oriental Cuckoo.

**BANDED BAY CUCKOO** (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) [\*]

**PLAINTIVE CUCKOO** (*Cacomantis merulinus*) – A very common voice in the lowlands.

**VIOLET CUCKOO** (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) – Another cuckoo that we heard almost every day in the lowlands.

**SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO-CUCKOO** (*Surniculus lugubris*) – Ditto for this one. Asian Drongo-Cuckoo (or simply Drongo Cuckoo before the Philippine birds were split off) was recently split into a few species and this one is the only possibility in Borneo.

**RAFFLES'S MALKOHA** (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*) – The easiest of the malkohas to see on this tour.

**RED-BILLED MALKOHA** (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*) – This one came in for some remarkable looks in the Hornbill Tower at RDC on that first morning.

**CHESTNUT-BREASTED MALKOHA** (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*) – The only malkoha here without any white in the tail. These three malkohas and the coucals are the only cuckoos that we saw on this tour that aren't brood parasites.

**SHORT-TOED COUCAL** (*Centropus rectunguis*) – Brief looks at RDC for some, and we had another very close birds at BRL along the entrance road that remained hidden from view.

**GREATER COUCAL** (*Centropus sinensis*)

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

**ORIENTAL BAY-OWL** (*Phodilus badius*) – A great find as it perched very low just back from the bank of the Menanggal one night!

Strigidae (Owls)

**BUFFY FISH-OWL** (*Ketupa ketupu*) – Both at Sukau and at BRL. Great looks!

**COLLARED OWLET** (*Glaucidium brodiei borneense*) – We got my first looks ever at this endemic subspecies along the road above our lodging at Kinabalu NP. Whether this one is distinctive enough from the other races of Collared Owlet to be split some day remains to be seen.

**BROWN WOOD-OWL** (*Strix leptogrammica*) [\*]

Apodidae (Swifts)

**SILVER-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL** (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*) – Very easy to see at our lodge in Sepilok as birds regularly dip the ponds right in front of the restaurant.

**GLOSSY SWIFTLET** (*Collocalia esculenta*) – Almost daily. These Collocalia swiftlets lack the 'sonar' capabilities that the Aerodramus swiftlets have, so they need to nest out in the light. [N]

**CAVE SWIFTLET (BORNEAN)** (*Collocalia linchi dodgei*) – Nesting again under the rock ledge next to the road at Kinabalu NP. [N]

**MOSSY-NEST SWIFTLET** (*Aerodramus salangana*) – This species, and the next two, were studied well on their respective nests at Gomantong Cave. Trying to i.d. them in the field, away from their distinctive nests, would be a nightmare! [N]

**BLACK-NEST SWIFTLET** (*Aerodramus maximus*) – Maybe the most common of the Aerodramus swiftlets in the cave. [N]

**WHITE-NEST SWIFTLET** (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) – Formerly called the Edible-nest Swiftlet. [N]

**HOUSE SWIFT** (*Apus nipalensis*) – Just a couple of birds in the Crocker Range at our lunch restaurant.

Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)

**GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT** (*Hemiproctus longipennis*) – The most common of the two treeswifts throughout the lowlands.



**WHISKERED TREESWIFT** (*Hemiprocne comata*) – The smallest, and certainly the cutest, of the treeswifts.

*Trogonidae (Trogons)*

**RED-NAPED TROGON** (*Harpactes kasumba*) – I'd have to say that, if you exclude the Quetzals, these Old World Harpactes trogons are just simply more beautiful overall than our New World Trogons.

**DIARD'S TROGON** (*Harpactes diardii*) – Our first looks at RDC on that first morning were probably the best of the trip.

**WHITEHEAD'S TROGON** (*Harpactes whiteheadi*) – We just couldn't find them along the stream near our rooms at Kinabalu this time, but we were all able to get good looks of up to four birds much farther downstream on our penultimate day of the tour. [E]

**CINNAMON-RUMPED TROGON** (*Harpactes orrhophaeus*) – This was a bit of a surprise find along the road into Gomantong on our second visit there. It's the only place in the country where I've seen this species.

**SCARLET-RUMPED TROGON** (*Harpactes duvaucelii*) – That first look of an adult male on the first afternoon at Gomantong was outstanding!

*Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)*

**BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo meninting*) – Pretty easy to see in the Sukau area along the tributaries of the Kinabatangan R.

**BLUE-BANDED KINGFISHER** (*Alcedo euryzona*) [\*]

**RUFOUS-BACKED DWARF-KINGFISHER** (*Ceyx rufidorsa*) – Seen by most at BRL.

**BANDED KINGFISHER** (*Lacedo pulchella*) [\*]

**STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER** (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – Several terrific, close views of confiding birds in the Sukau area.

**RUDDY KINGFISHER** (*Halcyon coromanda*) – We found a very cooperative bird on that first afternoon of birding along the Gomantong Cave entrance road. Like a lot of these Old World kingfishers, this one isn't necessarily tied to water.

**COLLARED KINGFISHER** (*Todiramphus chloris*)

**SACRED KINGFISHER** (*Todiramphus sanctus*) – Bob spotted this scarce austral migrant high in a tree next to the Tenangan R. near Sukau. [a]

**RUFOUS-COLLARED KINGFISHER** (*Actenoides concretus*) – We didn't really pursue this one calling at Gomantong since you all had seen it so well at RDC before the start of the tour. [\*]

*Meropidae (Bee-eaters)*

**RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER** (*Nyctornis amictus*) – Still feeding young at RDC during our visit there on Day 1. [N]

**BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER** (*Merops viridis*) – Every day in the lowlands. We never saw it again after we ascended the highlands.

*Coraciidae (Rollers)*

**DOLLARBIRD** (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

*Bucerotidae (Hornbills)*

**ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL** (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – The most common hornbill in the Sukau area.

**BLACK HORNBILL** (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) – That male 'variant' with the long white supercilium seemed to be pretty common on this trip.

**RHINOCEROS HORNBILL** (*Buceros rhinoceros*) – Many memorable looks at both Sukau and at BRL. There was even one on the grounds of our lodge in Sepilok before the tour!

**BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILL** (*Anorrhinus galeritus*) – A good bit noisier than most of the other hornbills.

**WHITE-CROWNED HORNBILL** (*Aceros comatus*) – Hazwan came through for us by finding a responsive male next to the Kinabatangan one afternoon, providing our only looks of the tour!

**WRINKLED HORNBILL** (*Aceros corrugatus*) – These were easier at Sukau this year than any of my prior tours there.

**WREATHED HORNBILL** (*Aceros undulatus*) – This big hornbill finally obliged the group at BRL.

*Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)*

**BROWN BARBET** (*Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius*) – This race, and the nominate *fuliginosus*, were just recently split by the Clements Checklist folks at Cornell from the other two races on the Malay Peninsula and on Sumatra as another Bornean endemic. The other two races are now called Sooty Barbet (*C. hayii*).

**GOLD-WHISKERED BARBET** (*Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis*) – Another split in the new Clements was this one, which is now yet another Bornean endemic. We were calling it Gold-whiskered Barbet (*M. chrysopogon*) on the tour, but this new endemic is now Gold-faced Barbet (*M. chrysopsis*). [EN]

**RED-THROATED BARBET** (*Megalaima mystacophanos*) – We sure heard a lot of these - the ones without any rhythm - but we saw very few. Longer-billed relative to the other barbets.

**MOUNTAIN BARBET** (*Megalaima monticola*) – This is usually an endemic that we struggle with in the Crocker Range, but we saw several rather easily this year. We even heard two or three more on Mt. Kinabalu. [E]

**YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET** (*Megalaima henricii*) – We always have to really work for this one at BRL and we finally tracked one down along the entrance road on our final morning there.

**GOLDEN-NAPED BARBET** (*Megalaima pulcherrima*) – This sounds nearly identical to the above Yellow-crowned Barbet, but it replaces that species in the highlands. We had a few fab looks at Kinabalu. [E]

**BLUE-EARED BARBET** (*Megalaima australis*) – Our most widespread barbet.

**BORNEAN BARBET** (*Megalaima eximia*) – A few folks nailed it, but others had only brief looks of a distant bird in the scope in the Crocker Range. [E]

*Picidae (Woodpeckers)*

**RUFOUS PICULET** (*Sasia abnormis*) – A few great looks at this tiny woodpecker.

**GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER** (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) – This bird is so variable throughout its wide range (Borneo birds don't look like Thai birds which don't look like Chinese birds; calls are notably different, too). I think it would make a good candidate for a split into at least a few species.

**RUFOUS WOODPECKER** (*Ceelus brachyurus*) – We got great looks of this one right off the bat at RDC on that first morning.

**WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER** (*Dryocopus javensis*) – This is another one that we heard, but didn't pursue on the tour, since you all had seen it

so well before the trip. [\*]

**BANDED WOODPECKER** (*Picus miniaceus*) – Difficult to see well from our boats.

**CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER** (*Picus puniceus*) – We never really got the looks we wanted to get at BRL.

**CHECKER-THROATED WOODPECKER** (*Picus mentalis*) – Good views right outside our cabins at Kinabalu.

**OLIVE-BACKED WOODPECKER** (*Dinopium rafflesii*) – Of the larger crested woodpeckers on this tour, this one always seems to be the toughest. Great views of a pair along the Gomantong entrance road!

**MAROON WOODPECKER** (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*) – Finding that active nest hole at Kinabalu was pretty critical for seeing this one so well. [N]

**ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER** (*Reinwardtipicus validus*) – We ran into this strange-looking woodpecker a fair number of times in the lowlands on this year's trip, but the best was likely up in the canopy walkway at BRL.

**BUFF-RUMPED WOODPECKER** (*Meiglyptes tristis*) – The calls of this one and those of Gray-and-buff are pretty similar, but I think that this is the more common of the two in the lowlands.

**BUFF-NECKED WOODPECKER** (*Meiglyptes tukki*) – Nicely at both RDC and at Gomantong.

**GRAY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER** (*Hemicircus concretus*) – Our best was probably up in the canopy walkway at BRL. Certainly one of the most bizarre of the many bizarre S.E. Asian woodpeckers!

**GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER** (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) – We all had a nice flyby trio from the boats along the Kinabatangan. I almost always see this one in 3's.

#### Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

**WHITE-FRONTED FALCONET** (*Microhierax latifrons*) – We made an effort to get this one the day before the 'official' tour started at Sepilok, and I'm glad we did, but it turned out to be more common on this tour than it has on most trips here. Not a bad problem to have! [E]

#### Psittacidae (Parrots)

**BLUE-RUMPED PARROT** (*Psittinus cyanurus*) – Excellent flyby looks along the BRL entrance road.

**LONG-TAILED PARAKEET** (*Psittacula longicauda*) – Seen every morning we were out in the boats at Sukau.

**BLUE-CROWNED HANGING-PARROT** (*Loriculus galgulus*) – We had daily flybys - and a few perched birds - in the lowlands on this tour.

#### Calyptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)

**WHITEHEAD'S BROADBILL** (*Calyptomena whiteheadi*) – YESSSS!!!! A little fishing proved worth our while at Kinabalu on that first afternoon of birding there when a gorgeous adult male came flying in for some great looks in the scopes! Two out of three 'Whitehead's' isn't too bad! [E]

#### Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)

**BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILL** (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*) – The Sukau area is like a paradise for this water-loving species. [N]

**BANDED BROADBILL** (*Eurylaimus javanicus*) – Strangely difficult on this tour, but we got our looks.

**BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL** (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) – One of the most endearing species in all of S.E. Asia.

**DUSKY BROADBILL** (*Corydon sumatranus*) – We were a little lucky to get this one so well along the Menanggul R. near Sukau - we never got a whiff of it again!

#### Pittidae (Pittas)

**BLUE-HEADED PITTA** (*Pitta baudii*) – The bird at the BRL lobby forest patch didn't behave for us, and it took us until our final morning there before we caught up with it right underneath the canopy walkway. A real knockout! [E]

**BLACK-HEADED PITTA** (*Pitta ussheri*) – We had our looks at this one early on when we were coming back from the bat cave at Gomantong. A very close relative of the Garnet Pitta (with which it was once lumped). What a stunner!! [E]

**HOODED PITTA** (*Pitta sordida*) – Another lucky encounter was finding this one from the boats along the Menanggul on our first morning at Sukau. Gorgeous!

#### Acanthizidae (Thornbills and Allies)

**GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE** (*Gerygone sulphurea*) [\*]

#### Vangidae (Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies)

**LARGE WOODSHRIKE** (*Tephrodornis gularis*) – From the BRL canopy walkway.

**BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE** (*Hemipus picatus*) – In Borneo, this species replaces the Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike at higher elevations. We saw ours in the Crocker Range. In Thailand, this one is tolerant of a huge elevational range.

**BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE** (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*) – If you know the voice of this one, you realize that it's everywhere in the lowlands.

**RUFIOUS-WINGED PHILENTOMA** (*Philentoma pyrhoptra*) – Our looks were best at BRL of this forest understory species.

**MAROON-BREASTED PHILENTOMA** (*Philentoma velata*) – We heard several of these throughout the lowlands, but our only looks were at BRL. More often found near the canopy of the forest than the Rufous-winged.

#### Artamidae (Woodswallows)

**WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW** (*Artamus leucorhynchus*)

#### Pityriaseidae (Bristlehead)

**BORNEAN BRISTLEHEAD** (*Pityriasis gymnocephala*) – WHEW!!!! It sure took a lot of looking, but Paul came through for us all at BRL when he found a quiet group of these along the entrance road with Jack and Judith. The rest of us arrived just in time to get the last looks before they disappeared for good. I've never come quite so close to missing this remarkable endemic. [E]

#### Aegithinidae (Ioras)

**COMMON IORA** (*Aegithina tiphia*)

**GREEN IORA** (*Aegithina viridissima*) – An ever present voice in the lowland forests at Sukau, Gomantong, and BRL.

#### Campephagidae (Cuckooshrikes)

**FIERY MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus igneus*) – Minivets, in general, just aren't very common in Borneo, it seems. We had a few of each species at various

venues in the lowlands and in the foothills.

**GRAY-CHINNED MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus solaris*) – The race here in the highlands is darker-headed than birds I see on the mainland, which makes them appear more similar to Fiery Minivet than one would think.

**SCARLET MINIVET** (*Pericrocotus speciosus*)

**BAR-BELLIED CUCKOOSHRIKE** (*Coracina striata*) – Gary and I were likely the only ones to see this one fly over the Kinabatangan R. It sounds like others may have seen it at RDC prior to the tour.

**SUNDA CUCKOOSHRIKE** (*Coracina larvata*) – We finally found one of these in the canopy up near Timponon at Kinabalu on the final morning.

**LESSER CUCKOOSHRIKE** (*Lalage fimbriata schierbrandi*) – Seen by the group at RDC prior to the tour. [\*]

*Pachycephalidae (Whistlers and Allies)*

**BORNEAN WHISTLER** (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*) – I'm always struck by how uncommon this bird seems to be at Kinabalu, but we did get some great views. [E]

*Laniidae (Shrikes)*

**LONG-TAILED SHRIKE** (*Lanius schach*) – This species has invaded the road edge in the oil palm plantations in Sabah.

*Vireonidae (Vireos)*

**BLYTH'S SHRIKE-BABBLER (BLYTH'S)** (*Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni*) – This one used to be known as White-browed Shrike-Babbler, but it's been split up into four species (maybe more to come?). One of the more common canopy birds in the highlands.

**WHITE-BELLIED ERPORNIS** (*Erpornis zantholeuca*) – Most books call this one the White-bellied Yuhina, but it's since been taken out of that family and placed with the vireos, of all things!

*Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)*

**DARK-THROATED ORIOLE** (*Oriolus xanthonotus*) – This is another one of these birds that you hardly ever see, but if you know the voice, you realize it's everywhere in the lowlands.

**BLACK-AND-CRIMSON ORIOLE** (*Oriolus cruentus*) – We had a really fine, close look at one of these highland orioles in the Crocker Range on our way to Kinabalu.

*Dicruridae (Drongos)*

**ASHY DRONGO (BORNEAN)** (*Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops*) – This endemic race looks quite a bit like the race *leucogenis* that breeds in China and winters in S.E. Asia. There's probably some splitting needed within Ashy Drongo.

**BRONZED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – Very flycatcher-like in its habits.

**HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*) – This bird is so different in the various parts of its range, I wouldn't be surprised at all if it gets split up sometime in the future by an enterprising taxonomist.

**GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO** (*Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus*) – Wow, did any of the birds that we saw have any intact rackets?

*Rhipiduridae (Fantails)*

**SPOTTED FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura perlata*) – In the scope at Gomantong Caves!

**MALAYSIAN PIED-FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura javanica*) – The Pied Fantails in the Philippines were recently split off as a separate species, so the new name for this one is Malaysian Pied-Fantail. [N]

**WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL** (*Rhipidura albicollis*) – This one replaces the other fantails in the highlands.

*Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)*

**BLACK-NAPED MONARCH** (*Hypothymis azurea*) – A common flock component in the lowlands.

**ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER** (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) – Man, that white male that we had next to the road at Gomantong was SPECTACULAR!

*Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)*

**BLACK MAGPIE** (*Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus*) – Our best were on that first morning at RDC. Some authors, including Myers, split this endemic race from birds on the mainland and Sumatra.

**BORNEAN GREEN-MAGPIE** (*Cissa jefferyi*) – Short-tailed Green-Magpie was recently split into two species - this one and the Javan Green-Magpie. [E]

**BORNEAN TREEPIE** (*Dendrocitta cinerascens*) – We regularly saw this and the Bornean Green-Magpie in mixed flocks with drongos, woodpeckers, and the like in the lower slopes of Kinabalu. [E]

**SLENDER-BILLED CROW (SLENDER-BILLED)** (*Corvus enca compiler*) – Another good candidate for some splitting.

*Hirundinidae (Swallows)*

**PACIFIC SWALLOW** (*Hirundo tahitica*) [N]

*Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)*

**GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER** (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*)

*Sittidae (Nuthatches)*

**VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH** (*Sitta frontalis*) – This one's got a huge range in s. Asia, occurring from India east to the s.w. Philippines.

*Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)*

**PUFF-BACKED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus eutilotus*) – Nice scope looks at this rather shy bulbul along the Gomantong entrance road.

**BLACK-HEADED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

**STRAW-HEADED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) – A favored target for the cagebird trade, the numbers of this distinctive bulbul have plummeted in the past 50 years.

**BORNEAN BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus montis*) – A recent split from the rather similar Black-crested Bulbul. My guess is that they really aren't that closely related, given their appearance and their different voices. [E]

**SCALY-BREADED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus squamatus*) – We found a couple of these scarce and beautiful bulbuls in the fruiting fig at BRL.

**FLAVESCENT BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus flavescens leucops*) – We had some nice views on our final morning up near Timpohon. This endemic race doesn't really strike me as being all that close to the Flavescent Bulbuls of the mainland, so I suspect it'll be split off as a good species some day.

**YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

**OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus plumosus*) – A few in the riverine scrub at BRL.

**CREAM-VENTED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus simplex*) – A couple of birds at RDC on that first morning. The birds in Borneo have red eyes, which makes them difficult to distinguish from Red-eyed Bulbul here. On the mainland, their white eyes make them stand out much more among the more common bulbuls.

**RED-EYED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus brunneus*) – Maybe the most common bulbul in the lowlands.

**SPECTACLED BULBUL** (*Pycnonotus erythroptalmos*) – Very common by voice, but we saw very few this time.

**HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL** (*Tricholestes criniger*) – Very different from every other bulbul out there.

**FINSCH'S BULBUL** (*Alophoixus finschii*)

**OCHRACEOUS BULBUL** (*Alophoixus ochraceus*) – This race sounds pretty different from what I know from Thailand. Good looks on the lower slopes of Kinabalu.

**GRAY-CHEEKED BULBUL** (*Alophoixus bres*)

**YELLOW-BELLIED BULBUL** (*Alophoixus phaeocephalus*) – Seemingly more shier than other bulbuls, it was really tough to get everyone on this one at BRL.

**BUFF-VENTED BULBUL** (*Iole olivacea*) – This one and the Finsch's Bulbul have nearly identical calls.

**ASHY BULBUL (CINEREOUS)** (*Hemixos flavala connectens*) – This endemic race sounds nothing like the birds on the mainland, adding fuel to the thinking that this one ought to get split as a good species.

**STREAKED BULBUL** (*Ixos malaccensis*) – Never very common and always a little shy.

*Cettiidae (Bush-Warblers and Allies)*

**BORNEAN STUBTAIL** (*Urosphena whiteheadi*) – We found a very cooperative bird along the Mempening Trail at Kinabalu NP late one afternoon. [E]

**YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER** (*Abroscopus superciliaris*) – Curiously unresponsive in the Crocker Range.

**MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD** (*Phyllergates cucullatus*) – We finally tracked one down on that final morning at Kinabalu. Recently taken out of the 'true' tailorbirds in the genus *Orthotomus* and placed in a new genus in a new family (which makes perfect sense!).

**SUNDA BUSH-WARBLER** (*Horornis vulcanius*) – This one is usually the 'friendliest' bush-warbler, but read on below.

*Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)*

**MOUNTAIN WARBLER** (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*) – A very common flock bird on the slopes of Kinabalu.

**YELLOW-BREADED WARBLER** (*Seicercus montis*) – I'm sure that the high-pitched song of this one is difficult to hear for some, but it's a common song throughout the highlands in Borneo.

*Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)*

**STRIATED GRASSBIRD** (*Megalurus palustris*) – A little Mockingbird-like in its form and behavior.

**FRIENDLY BUSH-WARBLER** (*Locustella accentor*) – We were certainly the lucky ones with this difficult endemic! You couldn't beat our looks! [E]

*Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)*

**DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)

**ASHY TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus ruficeps*) – Incredibly common in all lowland forest types. [N]

**RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD** (*Orthotomus sericeus*) – Not far behind the Ashy Tailorbird in abundance. [N]

**YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA** (*Prinia flaviventris*)

*Zosteropidae (Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies)*

**CHESTNUT-CRESTED YUHINA** (*Yuhina everetti*) – I sort of wish these endearing little birds weren't quite so common... [E]

**PYGMY WHITE-EYE** (*Oculocincta squamifrons*) – We had a couple of quick encounters with this tiny endemic. Even with a great look, this one leaves you longing for more. [E]

**MOUNTAIN BLACK-EYE** (*Chlorocharis emiliae*) – This highland endemic was incredibly vocal and very common during our visit on the Summit Trail. [E]

**BLACK-CAPPED WHITE-EYE** (*Zosterops atricapilla*) – With every canopy flock on the slopes of Kinabalu.

*Timaliidae (Tree-Babblers, Scimitar-Babblers, and Allies)*

**BOLD-STRIPED TIT-BABBLER** (*Mixornis bornensis*) – Most guides call this one the Striped Tit-Babbler, but it's been split into two species now, with this one being found mostly on Java and Borneo, and the Pin-striped Tit-Babbler being found mostly on the mainland and Sumatra.

**FLUFFY-BACKED TIT-BABBLER** (*Macronus ptilosus*) – If you were lucky, you may have gotten to see the bright blue neck patches while it sang.

**CHESTNUT-WINGED BABBLER** (*Cyanoderma erythropterum*) – This common species also has those same blue neck patches, but I'm not sure we ever watched one sing on this trip.

**RUFOUS-FRONTED BABBLER** (*Cyanoderma rufifrons*) – This one got the short straw when it came to looks among the babblers.

**CHESTNUT-BACKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER** (*Pomatorhinus montanus*) – Pretty inconspicuous for a scimitar-babbler, but we coaxed at least one into view for the group.

**BLACK-THROATED BABBLER** (*Stachyris nigricollis*) – Pretty cooperative along the Gomantong Caves entrance road. I think it's one of the prettiest of the babblers.

**CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER** (*Stachyris maculata*) – Nicely responsive along the Gomantong Caves entrance road.

**GRAY-THROATED BABBLER** (*Stachyris nigriceps*) – On Borneo, this one seems to be restricted to the highlands, which is unlike its distribution on the mainland.

**GRAY-HEADED BABBLER** (*Stachyris poliocephala*) – It took a couple of tries to finally get a good look at the head of this one. For whatever reason,



these seem to be a little more excitable than the other babblers.

Pellorneidae (Ground Babblers and Allies)

**MOUSTACHED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron magnirostre*) – We just had the one small group of these along the Hornbill Trail at BRL. That 'moustache' is often really hard to see.

**SOOTY-CAPPED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron affine*) – Probably the most common member of the Malacopterons on this tour.

**SCALY-CROWNED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron cinereum*) – Gotta see those pink legs to help separate it from the next species.

**RUFOUS-CROWNED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron magnum*) – The biggest of the Malacopterons, this is the only one with that vague streaking on the chest.

**BLACK-CAPPED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum capistratum*) – Nicely on the boardwalk behind the lodge at Sukau.

**TEMMINCK'S BABBLER** (*Pellorneum pyrogenys*) – Most of these Pellorneums are tough to pull out, but there's none tougher than this one on this tour.

**SHORT-TAILED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum malaccense*) – Great views on the boardwalk in front of the lobby at BRL.

**WHITE-CHESTED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum rostratum*) – Always tied to water, we had quite a few while we were at Sukau, which is the 'wettest' venue of the trip.

**FERRUGINOUS BABBLER** (*Pellorneum bicolor*) – That Gomantong Caves entrance road is always a great place for this one.

**STRIPED WREN-BABBLER** (*Kenopia striata*) – That bird behind Sukau seems to have vanished, so we were fortunate to get the good looks that we got from the boats along the Menanggul.

**BORNEAN WREN-BABBLER** (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*) – YESSS!!!! We were just close enough to this guy's territory at BRL that he had to come in for a look. One of the tougher endemics to get at Danum Valley. [E]

**HORSFIELD'S BABBLER** (*Turdinus sepiarius*) – Pretty easy in the understory at BRL.

**BLACK-THROATED WREN-BABBLER** (*Turdinus atrigularis*) – Darn it! [E\*]

**MOUNTAIN WREN-BABBLER** (*Turdinus crassus*) – We found a nicely responsive group up on the Summit Trail and then another group down along the Silau-Silau R. while we searched for Whitehead's Trogon. [E]

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)

**BROWN FULVETTA** (*Alcippe brunneicauda*) – About as dull as these babblers get.

**SUNDA LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Garrulax palliatus*) – This was one of the regulars in the mixed flocks of 'big birds' in the canopy of the forest on the lower slopes of Kinabalu.

**BARE-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Garrulax calvus*) – We found this odd-looking endemic laughingthrush pretty much straight away on our first morning at Kinabalu. A relatively recent split from the Black Laughingthrush on the mainland. [E]

**CHESTNUT-HOODED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Ianthocincla treacheri treacheri*) – The most common laughingthrush in the highlands on this tour. Recently split from Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush of the mainland and Sumatra. [E]

Irenidae (Fairy-bluebirds)

**ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD** (*Irena puella*) – We never really ran into this one as a group until we got to BRL.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

**ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** (*Copsychus saularis*) – All of the birds that we saw were the race adamsi, with the male being mostly black on the underparts (unlike the birds on the mainland which are white on the belly).

**RUFOUS-TAILED SHAMA** (*Copsychus pyropygus*) – It just wouldn't budge! [\*]

**WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA (WHITE-CROWNED)** (*Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii*) – Where this race and the black-crowned birds come into contact, there's quite a lot of interbreeding going on, so this one has lost its specific status with most taxonomists.

**PALE BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis unicolor*) – Nicely from the 3rd tower at BRL. These birds seem to be much more vocal at this season than they are in the spring.

**LONG-BILLED BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis caerulatus*) – After hearing a couple of these, we finally caught up to one at BRL on our final full day there.

**MALAYSIAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis turcosus*) – A regular sight along the narrow Menanggul R. near Sukau.

**BORNEAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis superbus*) – BRL is typically the only place where we find this endemic *Cyornis*. They're pretty common there, but they tend to stay pretty high and can be pretty darned difficult to view! [E]

**GRAY-CHESTED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER** (*Cyornis umbratilis*) – Paul got us onto a stake-out bird near the main lodge building at BRL. A lot of the Jungle-Flycatchers have been lumped into *Cyornis* and taken out of *Rhinomyias* (a genus that has now disappeared).

**PYGMY BLUE-FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapella hodgsoni*) – Most of those who ventured up the summit trail at Kinabalu were rewarded with nice looks of this tiny, scarce flycatcher.

**INDIGO FLYCATCHER** (*Eumyias indigo*) – The highland replacement of the Verditer Flycatcher.

**VERDITER FLYCATCHER** (*Eumyias thalassinus*) – Widespread across a huge swath of s. Asia.

**EYEBROWED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER** (*Vauriella gularis*) – This was another Jungle-Flycatcher taken out of *Rhinomyias*, but instead of placing it in *Cyornis* with many of the others, it was placed in the new genus *Vauriella*. The only other three members of this genus occur in the Philippines. [E]

**WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING** (*Brachypteryx montana erythrogyna*) – Very common in the undergrowth of Kinabalu, but it's far more often heard than it is seen. A widespread species, I suspect that many of the island endemic subspecies of this one will eventually be split off as good species.

**BORNEAN WHISTLING-THRUSH** (*Myophonus borneensis*) – Surprisingly scarce this trip up at Kinabalu NP. [E]

**WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL** (*Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*) – A couple of flybys across the entrance road into Gomantong Caves.

**WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL** (*Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis*) – We all got a good look at this large endemic race along the Silau-Silau Trail at Kinabalu. It's quite likely that this subspecies will be split off as a good species. [N]

**RUFOUS-CHESTED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula dumetoria*) – At his usual spot along the trail at BRL for most.

**LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula westermanni*) – This one's found in the highlands from the Himalayas in Nepal south and west to the



mountains of Timor.

**SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER** (*Ficedula hyperythra*) – Another species that's probably abundant in the mountains here, but you hardly ever detect it.

*Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)*

**FRUIT-HUNTER** (*Chlamydochaera jefferyi*) – YESSSS!!!! We had surprisingly little difficulty with this one this year (I missed it in 2013!), with a calling female bird for some in the Crocker Range (my first ever there) and then multiple birds at Kinabalu NP, including a couple of youngsters about to fledge from a nest on the Mempening Trail! [EN]

*Sturnidae (Starlings)*

**ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING** (*Aplonis panayensis*) – Particularly common in the Sukau area.

**COMMON HILL MYNA** (*Gracula religiosa*)

**JAVAN MYNA** (*Acridotheres javanicus*) – This is typically the only introduced myna that I see on this trip. [I]

*Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)*

**GREATER GREEN LEAFBIRD** (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) – This seemed to be the most common leafbird in the lowlands along our route, at least by voice.

**LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD** (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*) – About 3/4 the size of the above species.

**BORNEAN LEAFBIRD** (*Chloropsis kinabaluensis*) – Heard only at the Crocker Range, unfortunately. [E\*]

*Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)*

**YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER** (*Prionochilus maculatus*) – This is one of the most widespread, but most inconspicuous, of the many flowerpecker species along our route.

**YELLOW-RUMPED FLOWERPECKER** (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*) – We had several beautiful males at close range in the lowlands. [E]

**BROWN-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum everetti*) – We had a couple of these rather scarce flowerpeckers the day before the tour officially started at Sepilok, and then ran into another at BRL for good measure.

**YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*) – At Sepilok the day before the tour started.

**ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) – The most common and widespread of our many flowerpeckers on this tour.

**PLAIN FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum minullum borneanum*) – This unobtrusive species showed up right above our heads at tower #3 at BRL. That was the very plant where the "Spectacled" Flowerpecker was first seen there.

**BLACK-SIDED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum monticolum*) – A very close relative of the Fire-breasted Flowerpecker (this bird looks a lot like the apo race of that species in the Philippines) [E]

**SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) – Essentially the same bird that's found all over the mainland of s. Asia, but this race is a bit blacker below.

*Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)*

**RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD** (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) – We had this warbler-like sunbird regularly in the lowlands on the first half of the tour.

**PLAIN SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes simplex*) – This one drew the short straw, I'm afraid.

**PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes malacensis*) – There's talk of splitting this one into brown-throated and gray-throated species. Ours was one of the widespread brown-throated birds (the gray-throated races are just in the Philippines).

**RED-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes rhodolaemus*) – A little duller on the belly and more colorful on the throat. This species is more of a forest bird than the Plain-throated, which prefers edge and disturbed habitats.

**VAN HASSELT'S SUNBIRD** (*Leptocoma brasiliانا*) – This was what was once known in all of the guides as Purple-throated Sunbird, a name reserved now to an endemic in the Philippines that was split from this one.

**OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** (*Cinnyris jugularis*) – One of the most widespread of all the sunbirds (but probably in need of some taxonomic revision?).

**TEMMINCK'S SUNBIRD** (*Aethopyga temminckii*) – This is usually the only species of sunbird that we find up at the higher elevations.

**CRIMSON SUNBIRD** (*Aethopyga siparaja*) – Not quite as widespread as the Olive-backed, but nearly so.

**LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera longirostra*) – We had this one every day in the lowlands. The birds in the Philippines were just recently split from this one, and there may be some more splitting yet to come (the song of this Bornean race is quite different from the birds on the mainland).

**PURPLE-NAPED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera hypogrammicum*) – Traditionally called a sunbird, the new thinking is that this is more closely related to the spiderhunters - hence the new scientific and common names.

**YELLOW-EARED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera chrysogenys*) – Not always easy to tell from the next species, but you can usually see the faint streaking on the chest of this one, whereas the chest of the Spectacled is plain.

**SPECTACLED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera flavigaster*) – This was certainly the largest spiderhunter that we saw on this tour.

**BORNEAN SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera everetti*) – A recent re-split from Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter, which is now confined to Java and Bali. Pretty common on the grounds of BRL. [E]

*Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)*

**ORIENTAL PIPIT** (*Anthus rufulus malayensis*) – At the Lahad Datu airport. Also known as Paddyfield Pipit and a split from Richard's Pipit.

*Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)*

**EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) [I]

*Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)*

**RED AVADAVAT** (*Amandava amandava*) – We saw a few of these flying away from us in the agriculture near Kota Kinabalu on our final afternoon. [I]

**DUSKY MUNIA** (*Lonchura fuscans*) – Almost daily in the lowlands on the first 2/3 of this tour. [EN]

**NUTMEG MANNIKIN** (*Lonchura punctulata*) – Seen by some on our final afternoon near Kota Kinabalu. Also called the Scaly-breasted Munia.

**WHITE-BELLIED MUNIA** (*Lonchura leucogastra*) – Judith spotted our only one on the first morning at RDC.

**CHESTNUT MUNIA** (*Lonchura atricapilla*) – Dozens and dozens of these on our last afternoon near Kota Kinabalu.

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## MAMMALS

**LARGE FLYING FOX** (*Pteropus vampyrus*) – The only likely flying fox along our route.

**WRINKLE-LIPPED FREE-TAILED BAT** (*Chaerephon plicatus*) – Although I can't swear to it, it seems that most of the bats occupying the Gomantong Caves and making a mass evening exodus are this species (the same species that we see exiting caves in the evening in Thailand).

**MOUNTAIN TREESHREW** (*Tupaia montana*) – Seen by some of us at Kinabalu NP. [E]

**SMOOTH-TAILED TREESHREW** (*Dendrogale melanura*) – Some of us got onto this critter climbing about in the trees on that first evening at Kinabalu NP while we searched for trogons. The lack of a bushy tail helps separate this one from the similarly-sized Mountain Treeshrew. [E]

**SLOW LORIS** (*Nycticebus cougang*) – This was our prize on that last night at BRL. He even stuck around for the late arrivals!

**HORSFIELD'S TARSIER** (*Tarsius bancanus*) – Certainly one of the mammalian highlights on this tour was seeing this big-eyed nocturnal species from the truck on one of our night drives at BRL (thanks to Paul's excellent spotting!). It was my first tarsier in the wild - and I suspect it was for all of you as well. It was fantastic to see it ambulate from tree trunk to tree trunk when we inadvertently made a loud noise in the truck. Also called the Western Tarsier (it also occurs in Sumatra).

**CRAB-EATING MACAQUE** (*Macaca fascicularis*) – Seemingly not nearly as aggressive as its larger relative, the Pigtail Macaque. Also called the Long-tailed Macaque.

**PIGTAIL MACAQUE** (*Macaca nemestrina*) – These big macaques give me the creeps! They're much more aggressive than their smaller, crab-eating cousins, and those 3-inch long canines could really do some damage if they got close enough.

**SILVERED LEAF MONKEY** (*Presbytis cristata*) – This Threatened primate was a fairly common sight along the Kinabatangan during our visit to Sukau. Superficially similar to the more numerous Crab-eating Macaque, this one always shows that peculiar crest.

**RED LEAF MONKEY** (*Presbytis rubicunda*) – This one was confined to the good forest that we visited at Gomantong and BRL. None of the primates that we saw were really that wary of us, which makes me think that there really isn't all that much poaching going in in the areas that we visited. [E]

**PROBOSCIS MONKEY** (*Nasalis larvatus*) – Big troops of these very distinctive Endangered endemic primates were easy to see along the river edge at Sukau, their stronghold in Sabah. Normally, troops have one adult male in their midst, but multiple troops will sleep in the same area and the males of each troop seem to tolerate each other in that circumstance. [E]

**GRAY GIBBON** (*Hylobates muelleri*) – We wound up with some very nice scope views of this Endangered gibbon out behind the main building at BRL. The voice of this one is pretty similar to the voices of the few other gibbon species that I've heard in S.E. Asia. [E]

**ORANGUTAN** (*Pongo pygmaeus*) – Our third Endangered primate on this tour, and certainly the most coveted by the group at the start of the trip. We did extremely well with Orangutan sightings this year, recording it on seven different days! Most taxonomists now split this smaller form as a species distinct from the form in Sumatra. [E]

**PREVOST'S SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus prevostii*) – The most common medium-sized squirrel in the lowlands on this tour.

**KINABALU SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus baluensis*) – The only large squirrel that we saw on the slopes of Mt. Kinabalu. [E]

**PLANTAIN SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus notatus*) – This one really should be listed as a Sundaland specialty as well since it occurs on all of the Greater Sundas as well as the Thai-Malay Peninsula.

**BORNEAN BLACK-BANDED SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus orestes*) – We had a few sightings of this small squirrel in the highlands at Kinabalu NP. [E]

**LOWE'S SQUIRREL** (*Sundasciurus lowii*) – This inconspicuous little squirrel was seen a couple of times near the ground at BRL (mostly while we were up in the canopy walkway looking down at the forest floor).

**JENTINK'S SQUIRREL** (*Sundasciurus jentinki*) – That bold white eye-ring and the black and white markings on the muzzle of this one made it pretty easy to i.d. in the highlands. [E]

**BORNEAN MOUNTAIN GROUND-SQUIRREL** (*Dremomys everetti*) – Those of us who hiked the summit trail were able to see this small, all-dark ground-squirrel. [E]

**PLAIN PYGMY SQUIRREL** (*Exilisciurus exilis*) – It's certainly the smallest squirrel that I've ever seen anywhere! Widespread across the lowlands and often at our lodging. [E]

**RED GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL** (*Petaurista petaurista*) – Bigger than the Thomas's and always told from that one by its distinctive black-tipped tail.

**THOMAS'S FLYING SQUIRREL** (*Aeromys thomasi*) – We had both this one and the above in the same tree on one of our night drives at BRL. One of our twelve species of endemic mammals on this tour! [E]

**SMALL-CLAWED (INDIAN SMOOTH) OTTER** (*Aonyx cinerea*) – I was surprised to come across a family group of these along the Menanggul near Sukau, and even more surprised that some of you saw another three on our way out of BRL!

**MALAY CIVET** (*Viverra zibetha*) – A couple of these on one of our BRL night drives.

**SMALL-TOOTHED PALM CIVET** (*Arctogalidia trivirgata*) – Nice looks of one of these foraging in a tree next to Sukau Lodge one evening.

**LEOPARD CAT** (*Felis bengalensis*) – The big prize on our first BRL night drive! I've seen this one now on three of five visits to BRL.

**BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANT** (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) – Taxonomists still classify this one with the Asiatic Elephant (*E. maximus*) and how it got to Borneo is often debated. Regardless of its distinctness or its provenance, we still had a fantastic experience with a herd of these wonderful animals next to the Kinabatangan R. near Sukau! My best experience with them to date!

**BEARDED PIG** (*Sus barbatus*) – We had one swimming across the Menanggul and another at BRL. This is the second time that I've seen them swimming near Sukau.

**SAMBAR** (*Cervus unicolor*) – We had several confiding individuals along the roadside on one of our night drives at BRL. This one is the largest native artiodactyl that we see on this tour.

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## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

There's so much more to see and observe in Borneo than the birds and mammals alone! While those are nothing short of astounding, we did share some other tentaculata, non-mammalian highlights:

Rafflesia kiethii -- There weren't many options to see one of these huge flowers in bloom this trip, but we did get to see a rather old (5 days old) flower and plenty of buds near Poring Hot Springs. This endoparasite has the second largest bloom in the genus and the local government works with local landowners to preserve this endangered plant, while generating some ecotourism dollars for the landowner.

Pitcher plant (*Nepenthes tentaculata*) -- We saw one carnivorous pitcher plant in the wild on this tour, and it was only along the summit trail at Kinabalu. There are several more species higher up on the same trail, and Borneo is the richest in this bizarre family of plants.

Water Monitor (*Tentaculata salvator*) -- most of the monitors that we saw were pretty small, but we did see some real monsters in the Sukau area.

Saltwater Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) -- the one adult that was pointed out to us by the boatman along the Kinabatangan was estimated to be about 3 meters long -- a big one!

Mangrove Cat Snake (*Boiga dendrophila*) -- The boatmen at Sukau knew where one of these was roosting along the Tenangan R. This was the black snake with bright yellow bands perched over the water.

Twin-barred Treesnake (*Chrysopelea pelias*) -- Most of us got to see this one along the boardwalk to the rooms at BRL.

Giant Forest Gecko (*Gekko smithii*) -- This one is now split from the Tokay Gecko, which is what I was calling it on the tour.

Sumatran Pit Viper (*Parias sumatranus*) -- We pulled up in the truck in time to see this one being moved by one of the BRL staff to a spot that was less likely to be a bother to the guests and workers.

File-eared Treefrog (*Polypedates otitophus*) -- a couple of these big treefrogs in the 'frog pond' along the BRL entrance road one night.

Harlequin Flying Treefrog (*Rhacophorus pardalis*) -- another one of our frogs at the 'frog pond' - all of which were mysteriously invisible until Paul came through to point them out!

Black-eared Treefrog (*Polypedates macrotis*) -- The smallest of the treefrogs at the 'frog pond'.

Flying lizards (*Draco*, sp.) -- we saw plenty of these gliding from tree trunk to tree trunk, especially while in the various towers on the tour (RDC, BRL). When they stayed put, they often flared out their brightly-colored dewlaps.

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**Totals for the tour: 281 bird taxa and 30 mammal taxa**