



Field Guides Tour Report

Borneo - Invitational 2015

Feb 26, 2014 to Mar 16, 2014

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For our tour description, itinerary, past triplists, dates, fees, and more, please [VISIT OUR TOUR PAGE](#).



One of the foremost (of many!) highlights of our tour was watching a pair of beautiful Whitehead's Trogons in the humid cloud forest of Kinabalu Park. Endemic to undisturbed montane forest above 900m in N Borneo, this species was but one of an amazing 6 species of trogons we saw on the trip; that's all the trogons of Borneo! This male was photographed above the Silau-Silau by participant Bob Rodrigues.

The island of Borneo is a magical place. Though acre after acre of the Malaysian state of Sabah is continually being converted to oil palm plantations, there are still vast swaths of primeval forest, cloaked with some of the tallest trees on earth. For sixteen days, we explored luxuriant, tangled lowland jungle and hill forest, venturing even into the heady heights of its great canopy, thanks to a series of fabulous canopy towers and walkways. Via tidal rivers and tiny, meandering streams, we poked into otherwise inaccessible seasonally flooded forest near Sukau. For the final quarter of our stay, we climbed into the cool highlands of the spectacular Mount Kinabalu massif, where we wandered through a beautiful cloud forest with its masses of mosses and ferns and epiphytes. Throughout it all, there were so many sights and sounds and experiences to enjoy....

Our adventure began at Sepilok, where we spent several days recovering from our long flights and coming to grips with some of the more common lowland species. From the wonderfully sturdy towers and walkways at the nearby Rainforest Discovery Center, we watched an ever-changing cast of characters, including a Banded Woodpecker clinging for minutes to a nearby branch, a Black-bellied Malkoha rummaging through nearby foliage, a stunning male Violet Cuckoo displaying at close range, a Verditer Flycatcher that returned again and again to the same branch, a spiffy Black-and-yellow Broadbill that approached to within arm's length, and Red Giant Flying Squirrels sailing through the canopy at dusk. Along the trails below, we watched two male Fluffy-backed Tit-Babblers arguing over a (presumed) female (with much flaring of bright blue eyebrows and gular patches), a pair of Rufous-collared Kingfishers swinging on their viny perches, a tiny Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher perched beside a meandering stream, calling male Red-naped and Diard's trogons, a host of colorful sunbirds visiting a patch of equally colorful flowers, and a Large-tailed Nightjar hovering right overhead and then singing from a distant snag.

En route to Sukau, we detoured slightly to visit the Gomantong Caves (which we would visit again in the coming days). Though most of the edible nests in the cave we toured had been harvested recently (resulting, sadly, in a lack of renesting Black-nest and White-nest swiftlets), we did see Mossy-nest Swiftlets sitting atop their distinctive moss-incorporated nests (they're too messy to warrant cleaning for bird's nest soup). And a host of additional highlights awaited us between the cave and the beginning of the Gomantong entrance road. Among them were: a female Orangutan nursing her baby on the slope above the cave; a gang of seven Bushy-crested Hornbills snuggling shoulder-to-shoulder on their roosting branch; a dazzling Black-headed

Pitta whistling from a shadowy perch in the understory and a striking Hooded Pitta that sat surprisingly high for scope views; a pair of scarce Spotted Fantails flitting nearby, their tails waving jauntily; a small flock of Endangered Storm's Storks circling overhead, one even parading right down the road ahead of our bus; hunting Bat Hawks in the sunset, picking off victims from the thousands of Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats exiting the caves; and a dramatic pair of Helmeted Hornbills whooshing overhead after delivering their maniacal calls.

From our base at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, we explored the Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary, by day and by night, via a network of rivers and streams and a conveniently close boardwalk. Among our highlights there were a pair of tiny White-fronted Falconets making repeated hunting forays from atop a tall dead tree; a family of White-crowned Hornbills that called from a great distance and then came to the river's edge in the late afternoon; pairs of big Wrinkled Hornbills bounding through the riverside treetops; a tree full of scarce green-pigeons (including Large and Cinnamon-headed) in the afternoon light; a beautiful Ruddy Kingfisher that sat for scope views off the Sukau boardwalk; the various Buffy Fish-Owls hunting from low perches along the rivers and the dramatic Brown Wood-Owl that flew in close while we were owling along the Menanggul; an abundance of big Water Monitors basking in the sun (of which there was plenty!), a black-and-yellow Mangrove Cat Snake cryptically coiled in an overhanging tree, and a big Reticulated Python foraging along the riverbank one night; the many primates in this primate-rich refuge, from a big male Orangutan to the playful macaques and the iconic Proboscis Monkeys that inhabit the forest corridors along the rivers. But our foremost highlight in the Kinabatangan may have been watching a cow Bornean Pygmy Elephant and her calf feeding at leisure on "elephant grass" on the banks of the Kinabatangan.

At Borneo Rainforest Lodge, a family of monotypic Bornean Bristleheads appeared and disappeared as they moved through the canopy, their bizarre, featherless, red-and-yellow heads bright against the green leaves. A singing Bornean Wren-Babbler lured us up and down a VERY steep hill before finally hopping right out onto the trail. Handsome and confiding Whiskered Treeswifts made frequent short forays from their favorite perches, where they constantly turned their heads left and right, seemingly covering 180 degrees in each direction! Crested Firebacks nibbled tidbits in a patch of tall grass behind the staff quarters. A Bornean Banded-Pitta calling from its song post was like a displaced bit of sunlight reflected through the trees. From the canopy walkway we scoped Yellow-crowned Barbets and Orange-backed Woodpeckers and watched a procession of sunbirds and spiderhunters sip nectar from the blossoms of an eye-level canopy vine. Winding along trails through the forest interior, we watched fabulous Asian Paradise-Flycatchers, Green Broadbills, and Cinnamon-rumped Trogons. And our night forays produced an array of critters, from big tarantulas and sleeping lizards to flying frogs, a Barred Eagle-Owl, and the amazing Horsfield's Tarsier!

We welcomed the cool, refreshing highlands, where we finished the tour amid a host of montane endemics. We watched Golden-naped Barbets above blooming rhododendrons at Gunung Alab, scoped Mountain and Bornean barbets at premontane levels in the Crocker Range, where we enjoyed a rush of other new species, from Bornean Leafbirds to elegant Long-tailed Broadbills. Our first morning at Kinabalu Park was a highlight in itself, with dozens of species showing well in the calm, sunlit trees right outside our rooms! A quartet of Mountain Serpent-Eagles screamed and circled in cloudless skies right overhead at a Kinabalu vista. BIG, green Whitehead's Broadbills burst from the forest, crossing the road, and posing briefly on mossy branches. Whitehead's Spiderhunters proved surprisingly responsive this trip, flicking into some roadside trees and chasing each other around. And a pair of highly prized Whitehead's Trogons--among the fanciest of the world's trogons--gleamed from the forest understory. Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrels charmed us as they scrambled through the vines, their fluffy, white ear tufts exposed. Tiny Bornean Stubtails--Urosphena whiteheadi, also named for Whitehead--belted out their incredibly high-pitched song, their mouths opened wide, exposing their yellow mouth linings. One group watched a Friendly Bush-Warbler dance back and forth across a mossy stretch of ground at the tip of our boots (!) on the Summit Trail; while the other group watched a pair of tail-teetering White-crowned (Bornean) Forktails on a rushing stream at Mesilau, where we climbed the Nepenthes Trail to see four species of pitcher plants, including the world's largest. Together we made an afternoon trip to Poring to view a spectacular blooming Rafflesia, on its third day open, and to bird a bit near the hot springs, where we ended the day with a wonderful Crested Jay. Back at the Hill Lodge, we marveled at--and photographed--the wondrous array of moths that gathered each night around our porch lights.

On our return to KK, we made a final birding stop in an open-country marsh near Tuaran. There we sorted through rafts of Wandering Whistling-Ducks, finding a scarce drake Garganey in breeding plumage and a vagrant hen Cotton Pygmy-Goose, as well as Cinnamon and Yellow bitterns in lovely afternoon light. It was a nice way to end a wonderful trip with a wonderful group of participants.

It's been fun reliving the trip while sorting through photos and annotating the list. Hopefully, the comments below--and the media embedded in the online version--will enliven your memories and contain a few new "gee whizzes," as well as identify some of the many "other critters" we enjoyed in the field.

In the following list--which we've annotated jointly--SNR refers to Sepilok Nature Resort, RDC refers to the Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Center, and BRL refers to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge. Taxonomy follows the Cornell/Clements checklist with online updates, including the most recent version (6.9, Aug'14).

We thank our great local guides (Hazwan, Paul, and Adrian), our support staff (Karen at FGI & Cindy and all of our captains at BET), and the attentive staffs at our great accommodations. Thanks to everyone who shared photos, with special thanks to Bob Rodrigues for contributing so many fabulous photos for the online triplist. And many thanks to all of you for your fine companionship throughout; we had a great time sharing with you some of the magic of Borneo.

--Rose Ann (Grebe) & Megan (Kestrel)

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

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arcuata*) – Typically the most common duck seen on our Borneo tours, and that certainly held true this trip. We had hundreds floating on the marshy pond near Tuaran, with dozens dropping in as we watched.

COTTON PYGMY-GOOSE (*Nettapus coromandelianus*) – A female, looking small and pale, floated among the masses of whistling-ducks on the marsh at Tuaran -- great spotting, Rita! This is a rare vagrant in Borneo; in fact, it was a Borneo tick for Rose Ann!

GARGANEY (*Anas querquedula*) – Two (a drake in breeding plumage and a hen) snoozed or preened among the whistling-ducks on shore at the marsh near Tuaran -- nice spotting, Paul! [b]

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RED-BREASTED PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila hyperythra*) – We heard these higher-elevation partridges on several days while birding in Kinabalu Park, and those who walked the Bukit Ular trail on our last morning at Kinabalu had nice looks at a small group of them near the trail. Well below in this triplist, we've embedded a recording of the duet RAR recorded that morning; it's a common sound in Kinabalu Park. [E]

CHESTNUT-NECKLACED PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila charltonii*) – After hearing the tremulous whistles of this species echoing from the forest at Gomantong and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, we finally connected with a singing bird along the entrance road to BRL. After creeping back and forth through the undergrowth, he finally found a good spot to sing from, and vehemently serenaded us, allowing great binocular studies.

CRIMSON-HEADED PARTRIDGE (*Haematortyx sanguiniceps*) – We heard the raucous calls of several coveys along the Bukit Ular and Silau-Silau trails, and most folks ended up with a good view of this handsome partridge somewhere along the trails. [E]

CRESTED FIREBACK (*Lophura ignita nobilis*) – We came across a flock of a half dozen along the BRL entrance road on our arrival (enjoying our first views against a darkening forest), but our best studies came near the staff quarters several days later, when we found a male and three females foraging at the edge of the grass.

GREAT ARGUS (*Argusianus argus*) – Some of the gang heard one calling (distantly) while walking the Jacuzzi trail. Unfortunately, that was the best we could do! [*]

Ciconiidae (Storks)

STORM'S STORK (*Ciconia stormi*) – Borneo is the last remaining stronghold of this critically Endangered species, and we had multiple fine encounters with them during our stay at Sukau -- including a kettle of five circling over the Gomantong road, and a single bird padding down the road in front of our bus late one afternoon, and another preening in a tree along the Kinabatangan.

LESSER ADJUTANT (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – Two stood atop tall trees a few hundred meters apart along the Kinabatangan, seen as we made our way upriver to look for elephants. This species is closely related to Africa's Marabou Stork.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

ORIENTAL DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Very common along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, with dozens seen drying their feathers on snags or soaring past overhead.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

YELLOW BITTERN (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) – A handful stalked the edges of the marsh near Tuaran, including one in plain sight on our side of the water.

CINNAMON BITTERN (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) – A single adult lurked in one of the reed beds at the Tuaran marsh, looking considerably rustier than the nearby Yellow Bitterns. Good spotting, Rita!

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) – One dropped in for a landing in one of the ponds on the outskirts of Kota Kinabalu, seen as we drove to our hotel on our final evening afield. [b]

GREAT-BILLED HERON (*Ardea sumatrana*) – Dan and Barbara saw one while birding along the river at BRL during one of our breaks.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) – Abundant over the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, particularly as dusk approached, when dozens flapped past in every direction, headed for their roosts.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – Regular -- though in small numbers -- along the banks of the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, including some with bills and legs already changing into breeding colors.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – A few, including one wandering around near the taxiway of the Laha Dahtu airport. The gape line on this species stops short of the eye.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) – A few scattered along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, including one trailing a Great Egret, allowing nice comparison.

CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN) (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*) – Regular along roadsides throughout the state of Sabah, typically lurking around the feet of some livestock. This taxon is elevated to full-species status by some.

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – A couple seen in flight along the Kinabatangan during our stay at Sukau.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – We saw an adult catch a crab along the river during one night boat trip, then found a youngster fishing along another tributary on another night tour.

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*) – One sat high in a dead snag along the Kinabatangan; this is a winter visitor to Borneo. [b]

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – One, chased by a Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, perched for a few minutes in the open near the Bristlehead tower at RDC, giving us time to sort out its distinguishing features. We saw another in flight along the BRL entrance road (where we stopped for our first Whiskered Treeswifts) and other single birds from the BRL canopy walkway; they look distinctly small-headed in flight.

JERDON'S BAZA (*Aviceda jerdoni*) – One glided past over the parking lot at our lodge in Kinabalu Park (where scarce!) while we birded outside our rooms on our first morning there. In every age plumage, this species mimics the larger Wallace's Hawk-Eagle. Completing her bazas, this was one of Melinda's favorites.

MOUNTAIN SERPENT-EAGLE (*Spilornis kinabaluensis*) – Our best looks at this scarce endemic came at the Kinabalu Park overlook, where a surprising FOUR circled over our heads, uttering their wild whistling screams. We saw our first one well above the road near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center. [E]

CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE (*Spilornis cheela*) – Quite common in the lowlands, with many seen in flight (where their striking underwing pattern is really distinctive) and others studied while perched along the Gomantong road and elsewhere. That big yellow cere is really distinctive.

BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) – Seen especially well at the Gomantong caves, where they hunted (very successfully!) the emerging ribbons of Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats as dusk approached.

CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus limnaeetus*) – Best seen in the Kinabatangan, where dark morphs were seen a couple of times; also seen by some at RDC and BRL.

BLYTH'S HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus alboniger*) – A pair near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center was having a tough morning, being chased by the Ashy Bulbuls whenever they tried to land in one of the emergent trees. Though dark, this species lacks the distinctive black and white trailing edge of the serpent-eagles.

WALLACE'S HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus nanus*) – A youngster in a tree near the RDC canopy walkway towards dusk allowed good scope studies -- but probably deterred the nearby flying squirrels from leaving their holes. We saw an adult gliding across the clearing to the same tree as we worked our way back along the canopy walkway. This was one of the most common raptors of the tour, seen throughout the lowlands.

RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE (*Lophotriorchis kienerii*) – A few seen -- rather distantly -- in flight, including one which showed its distinctive white chest pretty well over the Bristlehead tower at RDC and one on the Gomantong road.

CRESTED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) – First seen from the RDC towers; then small numbers in the Kinabatangan, including one that perched briefly on a big horizontal branch right across the narrow Menanggul from where we were huddled in the boats, waiting out a cloudburst.

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*) – Fairly common and widespread in the lowlands.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – We had multiple nice views of this distinctive raptor, including over the grounds of the Sepilok Nature Resort, from the RDC walkway, and in the Kinabatangan.

LESSER FISH-EAGLE (*Ichthyophaga humilis*) – Scattered flighty birds along the rivers; they typically flew as soon as they caught sight of our boat. We did get longer views of one sitting on a thick vine along the Tenangang, but our best views came at BRL -- where one soared over the river.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – Scattered birds, including a point blank pair squabbling in the Water Hyacinth under the veranda at the Sepilok Nature Resort.

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (BLACK-BACKED) (*Porphyrio porphyrio indicus*) – At least two rummaged along the edges of the reed beds at the marsh near Tuaran; the subspecies here is "indicus", which would become Black-backed Swamphen were the species to be split--which is quite likely now.

EURASIAN MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Our first was in the roadside pond where we stopped en route to Gomantong and Sukau, but our best views were through the scopes at the Tuaran marsh.

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – Single birds and small parties flew past, stiff-winged, as we motored along the rivers around the Sukau Rainforest Lodge. We even saw one or two on the lawn at the Sepilok RDC. [b]

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – A couple of birds along the Kinabatangan, including one perched atop some dead branches with a couple of Pacific Swallows, seen as we moved upriver towards the Tenangang.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Quite common along the roads throughout the tour -- typically sitting on roadside wires, especially in the palm plantation country.

LITTLE CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia ruficeps*) – Quite common in the highlands, with especially nice views of two or three bouncing through a fruiting tree just across the road at our first rest stop in the Crocker Range on our drive to Kinabalu.

EMERALD DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*) – Heard more often than seen, but a few folks saw one in flight across the water at Sukau, others at BRL.

ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia striata*) – Our best views came in the RDC parking lot, when we spotted one perched in a little tree just across the road. [I]

LITTLE GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron olax*) – Quite common along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, with multiple flocks of more than a dozen perched up in treetops. We had a pair posing nicely along the Menanggul on our first visit.

PINK-NECKED PIGEON (*Treron vernans*) – Two preening birds in some scruffy bushes towards the back of a clearing along the road near the Sepilok Nature Resort were cooperative and nice through the scopes in the afternoon sunlight. Others were in the Kinabatangan.

CINNAMON-HEADED PIGEON (*Treron fulvicollis*) – Best seen from our boats upriver on the Kinabatangan, where a tree full of pigeons produced a nice male of this species, as well as Large & Pink-necked.

LARGE GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron capellei*) – This one--in that same tree--was nearly twice the size of its cousins!

GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula aenea*) – Regular around Sepilok and Sukau, but less common in the thicker forest around BRL and missing completely in the mountains. Our best views probably came along the Kinabatangan, where we saw several groups perched up in tree tops in lovely light.

MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula badia*) – Regular in Kinabalu Park, including small groups wheeling over our breakfast restaurant most mornings, close pairs calling and carrying nesting material along the road, and a pair copulating as we walked down from the Summit trailhead our last afternoon in the park. [N]

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

CHESTNUT-WINGED CUCKOO (*Clamator coromandus*) – One flew across the Menanggul in front of the boats, giving everybody a brief -- but very distinctive -- look. This is a scarce winter visitor to Borneo. [b]

LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO (DARK) (*Hierococcyx sparverioides bocki*) – Another bird that flew across the Menanggul and was seen by some; it was heard a few times in the Crocker Range and at Kinabalu, but it wasn't very responsive during our visit.

MOUSTACHED HAWK-CUCKOO (*Hierococcyx vagans*) – But, with some effort, we all had a good look at this one, along the Gomantong road, where it flew back and forth in response to playback.

MALAYSIAN HAWK-CUCKOO (*Hierococcyx fugax*) – A calling and responsive bird was seen well along the Segama River trail at BRL by Grebe's group on 9 March.

INDIAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus micropterus*) – This one was calling throughout the lowlands, but we never got a look at one. [*]

SUNDA CUCKOO (*Cuculus lepidus*) – This one was a highlight of our first morning's birding around the Hill Lodge in Kinabalu Park, when a calling bird flew in and landed in a nearby tree -- showing from every possible angle as it moved around; it eventually found a big cache of caterpillars among the flowers, and proceeded to polish them all off.

BANDED BAY CUCKOO (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) – Seen by those with Meegs and Hazwan from the Bristlehead Tower of the RDC walkway on 1 March; otherwise, heard frequently throughout the lowlands, but elusive.

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO (*Cacomantis merulinus*) – This common cuckoo was seen throughout the lowlands, starting right on the grounds of our first lodgings -- at Sepilok Nature Resort.

VIOLET CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) – This little beauty was displaying A LOT during our visit. It was seen nicely multiple times, but especially from the RDC canopy walkway.

SQUARE-TAILED DRONGO-CUCKOO (*Surniculus lugubris*) – We heard the "counting song" of this widespread species regularly in the lowlands ("one two three four five six seven"). Our best views came from the Hornbill Tower at RDC, where one sang from a dead snag sticking above the canopy.

BLACK-BELLIED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus diardi*) – One clambered through the trees all around the Hornbill Tower at RDC, giving us fine views and even inviting photos!

RAFFLES'S MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*) – Seen and heard throughout the lowlands, perhaps best from the RDC canopy, where we practiced sexing them.

RED-BILLED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*) – A pair bounding like squirrels through some trees near the parking lot at the Gomantong caves were a nice finish to our morning walk en route to BRL.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*) – This dramatically colored cuckoo was fairly common in lowland forest and seen well repeatedly. What a face!

BORNEAN GROUND-CUCKOO (*Carpococcyx radiceus*) – A few early birders heard one (or two?) that Hazwan pointed out calling across the river from the dining room at Sukau Rainforest Lodge. By the time we boated across to try for them, they were nowhere to be seen or heard. [E*]

GREATER COUCAL (*Centropus sinensis*) – Heard regularly, seen less frequently, though we did have super views of one sunning in a bush along the Menanggul River -- with wings spread and back feathers all fluffed up.

LESSER COUCAL (*Centropus bengalensis*) – We heard one calling from the palm trees in a plantation along the Tenangang (with a couple of Greater Coucals providing counterpoint). [*]

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

ORIENTAL BAY-OWL (*Phodilus badius*) – We heard a pair calling (and calling and calling) from the thick brush along the boardwalk at SNR, but we just couldn't get an angle where we could see them. We had another pair (family group?) calling along the boardwalk at Sukau -- but only a few folks glimpsed one flying across an opening in the beam of Hazwan's spotlight. So close, but essentially heard only (still, a lovely vocalization that is quite unusual among owls). [*]

Strigidae (Owls)

MOUNTAIN SCOPS-OWL (*Otus spilocephalus*) – Heard, usually during the wee hours, from our Hill Lodge area at Kinabalu. This species is more easily seen elsewhere within its large range. [*]

SUNDA SCOPS-OWL (*Otus lempiji*) – Arg! It called and called and called from the forest near the back cabins at Sepilok Nature Resort, but most folks only managed views of it dropping off its perch, clearly averse to the light. [*]

BARRED EAGLE-OWL (*Bubo sumatranus*) – By contrast we had dynamite views of this scarce, big owl, which came into view at sunset near BRL, right where Paul had promised!

BUFFY FISH-OWL (*Ketupa ketupu*) – Common along the Menanggul, where it was seen every few hundred meters (and sometimes closer!) perched low over the water. As its name suggests, this species eats a lot of fish; it also takes frogs, insects and some mammals.

COLLARED OWLET (*Glaucidium brodiei borneense*) – Grebe, Bob, and Marsha heard one of these dirunal owls calling from the forest along the lower Bukit Ular trail on our final morn at Kinabalu. [*]

BROWN WOOD-OWL (*Strix leptogrammica*) – One flew in and perched over our boat while we listened for Oriental Bay-Owls along the Menanggul one gorgeous moonlit night. Talk about up close and personal views! Adults and a downy juvenile were seen by night near the BRL staff quarters, and then those who walked the Silau-Silau trail with Meegs and Adrian on our final morning at Kinabalu saw another -- on a day roost; nice spotting, Sue! [N]

BROWN BOOBOOK (*Ninox scutulata borneensis*) – It took a concerted effort -- and some patience -- but we finally got good views of this widespread Asian species on our last morning at the SNR, when we spotlighted one calling high over some of the cabins.

Caprimulgidae (Nightjars and Allies)

LARGE-TAILED NIGHTJAR (*Caprimulgus macrurus salvadorii*) – The finale of our first evening on the RDC canopy walkway was finding one of these in the parking lot as we left. After treating us to fine flight views as it hovered over our heads, the male retreated to a dead snag atop a nearby tree, filling the night air with its loud song.

Apodidae (Swifts)

SILVER-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*) – Widespread throughout the tour, including many dipping down to drink at the lake outside the SNR dining room.

BROWN-BACKED NEEDLETAIL (*Hirundapus giganteus*) – Where we stopped for our first Whiskered Treeswifts, we saw fair numbers of these big swifts over the logging road to BRL, sharing the skies with Silver-rumped Needletails. Their brown backs and white undertail coverts were clearly visible when they dipped down against the trees.

GLOSSY SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*) – Very common and widespread, particularly on the second half of the tour, including birds nesting at the well lit mouth of the Gomantong Cave, under the eaves near Gg. Alab, right at Kinabalu Park headquarters, and on the walls outside the Fairy Garden restaurant. [N]

CAVE SWIFTLET (BORNEAN) (*Collocalia linchi dodgei*) – Small numbers in Kinabalu Park, including one on a nest in the entrance shelter near the start of the Summit Trail. We owe their confirmed ID to researchers who had mist-netted them and checked their hind toes to determine that they were indeed featherless (unlike those of Glossy Swiftlets)! The taxon is elevated to full-species status by most authors and considered a rare endemic to the mountains of Borneo. [N]

MOSSY-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus salangana*) – These were the only echo-locating swiftlets we found sitting on nests in the Gomantong cave -- presumably because their nests, which incorporate so much moss, aren't harvested for the "edible nest" trade. We saw a good-sized cluster of nests (most occupied) near the start of the boardwalk trail around the main cavern. Among the thousands of swiftlets we had during the tour, we undoubtedly saw White-nest and Black-nest Swiftlets too, but without seeing them on their nests, identifying them is speculative! [N]

HOUSE SWIFT (*Apus nipalensis*) – Some of the group saw several drinking from the lake outside the SNR dining room our first morning. The combo of a white rump and black tail is distinctive; its white throat is generally harder to see.

Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)

GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne longipennis*) – Unusually conspicuous in the lowlands this trip, including many in the skies above the RDC towers, and several perched -- and scopable -- in one of the huge emergent trees visible from the BRL canopy walkway.

WHISKERED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne comata*) – We had marvelous views of these beauties where they were perched at close range at a stop along our drive toward BRL. They also sometimes hunted and perched just off our dining veranda at BRL.

Trogonidae (Trogons)

RED-NAPED TROGON (*Harpactes kasumba*) – Both males and females were seen well repeatedly at RDC and BRL, but our first one--a lovely male right along the entrance walkway to the RDC canopy--would be hard to top. Surprisingly, they were relatively quiet and inconspicuous on the tour immediately following ours; we must have hit their peak of territorial activity. The species, restricted to Sundaland, is considered Near Threatened by the BirdLife International.

DIARD'S TROGON (*Harpactes diardii*) – We saw scattered birds in the lowlands, with especially nice views of a male perched below the walkway at RDC, and of another male calling from a tree near the Kingfisher Trail. It's another Sundaland specialty.

WHITEHEAD'S TROGON (*Harpactes whiteheadi*) – Wahoo! We found a great pair of this much-wanted member of our "Whitehead's trio" of endemic birds along the road in Kinabalu Park, not far up from our hotel. Both cooperated beautifully, posing repeatedly on atmospherically mossy branches for good photos. Perhaps the most beautiful of the Bornean endemics, this species can also be one of the toughest; we were lucky to see it our first morning at Kinabalu. [E]

CINNAMON-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes orrhophaeus*) – Grebe's group on our first day on the Jacuzzi Trail had great looks at a male of this scarce, small trogon, and a female was seen briefly. Meegs and Paul and the other half of the group followed the same trail and had great views of the female. Another Sundaland specialty.

SCARLET-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes duvaucelii*) – Our best views of this small beauty were along the Sukau River, where a pair flitted through some streamside trees. With a little boat maneuvering, we eventually got everybody a good look. Also a Sundaland specialty.

ORANGE-BREASTED TROGON (*Harpactes oreskios*) – One along the road near the Rafflesia Center was a surprise -- and a first for a Field Guides Borneo tour. It took some work, but we eventually got a look at the male as he worked his way through the forest, calling periodically. The species is usually found at slightly lower-elevation montane forest.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

COMMON KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*) – One of these jewel-bright migrants sat on a bush at the edge of the Tuaran marsh. [b]

BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER (*Alcedo meninting*) – Particularly common along the tributaries of the Kinabatangan, where we saw many intently studying the water below their low perches. We had others at RDC and BRL.

BLUE-BANDED KINGFISHER (*Alcedo euryzona*) – A perched bird that Dan spotted--and scoped showed the group--along the Danum River delayed lunch for a bit on our final afternoon at BRL. A Sundaland specialty, this one is the scarcest of Borneo's kingfishers.

RUFOUS-BACKED DWARF-KINGFISHER (*Ceyx rufidorsa*) – Quite common in the lowlands, including one that flashed through the group as we started along the RDC Kingfisher Trail (appropriate, eh?); it then perched in a little tree above the stream for long minutes, peering down and occasionally flicking its tiny tail. The tiny one blinking in the spotlight beam during one of our night outings (when we zipped out in pursuit of tarsier and loris) was also cute.

BANDED KINGFISHER (*Lacedo pulchella*) – Those who visited the canopy walkway on our last morning at BRL were rewarded with a vocal female (though her bill opened such a tiny amount when she called that it took us a while to decide she was actually making the noise) in a nearby tree. It's certainly easy to see how the species got its name!

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – Especially common around Sukau, where we saw good numbers perched along the rivers and streams, including one that moved a few dozen yards at a time ahead of us along the Menanggul -- again and again and again.

RUDDY KINGFISHER (*Halcyon coromanda*) – A bright adult over one of the observation platforms on the boardwalk behind the Sukau Rainforest Lodge was the highlight of what turned into a drizzly afternoon.

COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Todiramphus chloris*) – Scattered birds in open areas in the lowlands, particularly on wires along the road between SNR and RDC and in the palm plantation country en route to Gomantong; we had another perched in a tree near the edge of the marsh at Tuaran.

RUFOUS-COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Actenoides concretus*) – A pair on a side trail off the Kingfisher Trail at RDC proved very cooperative, perching repeatedly on big open vines between sorties after prey. The female showed big spots on her upperparts -- which aren't shown in one of the Borneo field guides. Another Sundaland specialty.

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER (*Nyctornis amictus*) – This one was seen well at the RDC, and there were a few near the cabins at SNR, including one gobbling stingless bees as they emerged from their nest in a tree near the lake. What a great combination of colors!

BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER (*Merops viridis*) – Common and widespread in the lowlands, where they hunted from trees and roadside wires. The birds flashing after insects near the BRL dining room allowed particularly good study, as did the ones nesting in the sandy floodplain of the Danum River. [N]

Coraciidae (Rollers)

DOLLARBIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*) – Very common along the edges of the rivers around Sukau, typically perched in pairs on dead snags emerging from the forest canopy. We had others in flight -- flashing those big silver dollar-like wing patches for which they're named -- at several places.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – First seen right on the grounds of the SNR, this was the commonest hornbill in the Kinabatangan lowlands. But it was absent from the primary hill forest at BRL.

BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) – Seen daily in the lowlands, from Sepilok through Gomantong and the Kinabatangan, but not very common at BRL (where we missed it this trip).

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL (*Buceros rhinoceros*) – Surprisingly, the most commonly seen hornbill of the trip, this dramatic Sundaland specialty was seen on most days in the lowlands -- including 40 or more that exploded from a fruiting fig (with a din of whooshing wings) along the appropriately named Hornbill Trail at BRL. What an amazing casque!

HELMETED HORNBILL (*Buceros vigil*) – We had heard them along the Gomantong road on our first morning visit there, but they were distant. On our next morning at Gomantong we went fairly directly to the same spot and enticed them with playback. Sure enough, a pair of these bizarre

hornbills with the maniacal calls whooshed by for impressive views.

BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILL (*Anorrhinus galeritus*) – The commonest small hornbill inside lowland rainforest; we had some nice encounters with family groups, including 7 birds that lined up to roost, shoulder-to-shoulder, on a branch above the slope from which we viewed the exodus of bats from the Gomantong caves.

WHITE-CROWNED HORNBILL (*Aceros comatus*) – We had nice looks at a family group along the banks of the Kinabatangan well downriver from our lodge; they were calling in the late afternoon well upslope but responded by coming toward the edge for a look. Another wonderfully bizarre Sundaland specialty.

WRINKLED HORNBILL (*Aceros corrugatus*) – We saw pairs of this fancy, big hornbill along the Kinabatangan on two different afternoon cruises.

Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

BROWN BARBET (*Calorhamphus fuliginosus*) – This aberrant, monotypic barbet (with red legs and feet) has been split from the birds of peninsular Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia & Sumatra (those now called Sooty Barbet, *C. hayii*), thus becoming another Bornean endemic. The trio bathing in the "tree pool" puddle high in the canopy, visible from the BRL canopy walkway, showed especially nicely. We saw others along the tiny Sukau River and heard some along BRL's Jacuzzi Trail. [E]

BLUE-EARED BARBET (*Psilopogon duvaucelii duvaucelii*) – This was certainly the common barbet of the lowlands, with dozens heard singing in the forests everywhere we went. One over the dining room at Sukau Rainforest Lodge was particularly cooperative, and half of the group spotted another from the Bristlehead Tower at RDC.

BORNEAN BARBET (*Psilopogon eximius*) – Half the group saw one in the scopes before our fly-over Whitehead's Spiderhunter made its appearance (interrupting the rest of the line). Fortunately, we spotted another singing in a tree above the information building at the Tambunan Rafflesia Center - and he showed his snazzy face quite nicely. This was the one that sings continuously, seemingly never stopping to take a breath! [E]

RED-THROATED BARBET (*Psilopogon mystacophanos*) – Like the Blue-eared Barbet, this species was heard far more frequently than it was seen! Our best views came along the Menanggul, where we spotted one singing from a riverside tree.

GOLDEN-NAPED BARBET (*Psilopogon pulcherrimus*) – A Kinabalu/Crocker Range endemic, it was seen nicely, first along the Gg. Alab side road opposite our lunch stop in the Crocker Range. They were calling at Kinabalu during our visit and were seen again there several times. [E]

YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET (*Psilopogon henricii*) – Usually the toughest barbet to see on this route, it too is a Sundaland specialty. We had good scope views of it from the highest platform of the BRL canopy walkway.

MOUNTAIN BARBET (*Psilopogon monticola*) – Duller than most of the other endemic barbets, this was the one that stops to take a breath after delivering a long series of notes. We scoped it nicely near the Masakob "waterfall," our foothill birding site in the Crocker Range. [E]

GOLD-FACED BARBET (*Psilopogon chrysopsis*) – A recent split from Gold-whiskered Barbet of the mainland and Sumatra, this species too was heard more than seen. But we connected with a responsive bird along the trail above Poring Hot Springs, noting its very broad yellow whiskers and its enormous bill. [E]

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RUFIOUS PICULET (*Sasia abnormis*) – Seen nicely along the Gomantong road and at BRL; another Sundaland specialty.

GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) – We saw a pair that played hide-and-seek with us near the Gomantong parking lot and then saw one in some of the tallest treetops along the canopy walkway at BRL.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus javensis*) – We had good flight views of a big White-bellied Woodpecker from the RDC canopy walkway.

BANDED WOODPECKER (*Picus miniaceus*) – A male flashed in and landed in a nearby tree while we birded from the Hornbill Tower at RDC, giving us superb views as he called and peered around (hiding under the branch he was on when the Black-bellied Malkoha bounced into view).

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Picus puniceus*) – This handsome woodpecker was seen by one group (with Hazwan & Meegs) from the Bristlehead Tower of the RDC walkway and by another group (with Adrian & Meegs) in a flock along the Silau-Silau Trail at Kinabalu.

RUFIOUS WOODPECKER (*Micropternus brachyurus*) – A calling male made multiple passes back and forth below us as we birded from the Hornbill Tower. Eventually, we climbed down and found him perched in a tree near the trail, giving us the chance to study him in the scopes.

BUFF-RUMPED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tristis*) – Seen nicely repeatedly at RDC and then on one day at BRL. This one is restricted to Sundaland.

BUFF-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tukki*) – A male clinging to the side of a vertical branch along a forest path at SRL proved spectacularly cooperative, hanging contentedly in the same place and allowing fine scope studies -- thanks to some great spotting by Hazwan! One group with Grebe & Adzal at BRL also had very close looks at a responsive pair with a flock along the Sapa Trail. Also a Sundaland specialty, this one is considered Near Threatened.

MAROON WOODPECKER (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*) – This Sundaland specialty was heard repeatedly in the lowlands and glimpsed several times, but some folks had good looks at a bird at Kinabalu.

ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Reinwardtipicus validus*) – We ALL had terrific views of this Sundaland specialty--a pair that flew back and forth below the highest platform along the BRL canopy walkway, ultimately landing for good scope views.

GRAY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER (*Hemicircus concretus*) – We had great views of this tiny woodpecker with the big crest from the RDC canopy.

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) – Heard distantly from the Hornbill Tower at RDC and at BRL. Sorry, Rob. (You'll just have to go to Thailand!) [*]

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

WHITE-FRONTED FALCONET (*Microhierax latifrons*) – We had lovely views of a pair hunting from a dead tree along the Menanggul on our first morning cruise at Sukau, and then we had another pair perched along the Gomantong road the following morning--two great encounters with the smallest of the Bornean raptors! [E]

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One zipped past while we waited for our flight from Kota Kinabalu to Sandakan, in hot pursuit of a fleeing Rock Pigeon. Another was chasing bats emerging from the Gomantong caves. And a third was circling over the clearing at BRL. [b]

Psittaculidae (Old World Parrots)

LONG-TAILED PARAKEET (*Psittacula longicauda*) – Another Sundaland specialty, this one was seen mostly in flight, first over the RDC, and then along the Menanggul (where 4 birds perched up for our best views) and over Gomantong.

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING-PARROT (*Loriculus galgulus*) – Most were seen as silhouettes hurtling past overhead, but we had great views of at

least two clambering around in a fruiting vine high in the canopy at RDC (from the Hornbill Tower). Great spotting, Rita!

Calyptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)

GREEN BROADBILL (*Calyptomena viridis*) – Both groups on the Jacuzzi Trail at BRL had great views of this species, which was singing spontaneously along the forested trail.

WHITEHEAD'S BROADBILL (*Calyptomena whiteheadi*) – This species was the first of our "Whitehead's Trio" -- a pair of calling birds whose territory spanned the road opposite the upper Silau-Silau in Kinabalu. Most got super looks (some even in the scope) as they moved back and forth. Half of the group found another male near the bottom of the Bukit Ular Trail on our afternoon's walk there, and those who walked the upper Silau-Silau Trail on our last morning got yet another look at a male. This is one BIG broadbill! [E]

Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)

BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILL (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus*) – Most of us saw our first ones right on the grounds of the SNR; for others it was at the RDC or Gomantong. But we all had fabulous looks at them in the Kinabatangan, which is ideal habitat for this species that hangs its nest (which looks like flood debris) above the water. [N]

LONG-TAILED BROADBILL (*Psarismomus dalhousiae*) – Could this one be the most elegant of them all?! We had lovely views of a pair with a nest near the Masakob "waterfall" in the foothills of the Crocker Range NP. [N]

BANDED BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus javanicus*) – We had good views of this species along the Gomantong road and then heard it regularly at BRL.

BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) – Wow! A couple of eye-level birds near one of the towers along the RDC canopy walkway were a highlight of our first afternoon there. And then we recorded it every single day of our tour in the lowlands.

DUSKY BROADBILL (*Corydon sumatranus*) – One sitting in several treetops along the Kinabatangan got short shrift, thanks to the mama and baby Bornean Pygmy Elephants we saw at about the same time. Fortunately, we found an obliging quartet along the BRL entrance road, which gave us a relaxed chance to study them more closely. This species has the broadest bill of them all!

Pittidae (Pittas)

BLACK-HEADED PITTA (*Erythropitta ussheri*) – It took some patience and a bit of perseverance, but we finally tracked down a singing bird at Gomantong. Once we found him, we followed him along for a while, enjoying multiple scope views as he sang from various perches. A close relative to the Garnet Pitta, with which it was once lumped. What a knockout! [E]

BORNEAN BANDED-PITTA (*Hydromis schwaneri*) – Wow, wow, wow! The stunning male we found singing along the BRL Hornbill Trail -- on three different days!! -- was certainly a highlight of our stay there. He posed nicely on various logs, branches and vines. Formerly lumped with the "Banded Pitta" of Malaya, the Bornean bird has become yet another endemic. [E]

BLUE-HEADED PITTA (*Hydromis baudii*) – Darn! We heard several singing for ages along the Hornbill and Jacuzzi trails at BRL, but we just couldn't entice any of them out to where we could see them. (The same was true for the following tour two weeks later; it was still quite dry at BRL.) [E*]

HOODED PITTA (*Pitta sordida*) – More widespread than the other Bornean pittas, this one occurs from India to New Guinea, but the race that breeds in Borneo has an entirely black hood (with no brown cap). We saw a lovely adult male at Gomantong.

Acanthizidae (Thornbills and Allies)

GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE (*Gerygone sulphurea*) – Two in a tree along the road near the Masakob "waterfall" (where we birded en route to Kinabalu) showed nicely as they foraged along the spindlier branches. The subspecies in Borneo is the nominate.

Vangidae (Vangas, Helmetshrikes, and Allies)

LARGE WOODSHRIKE (*Tephrodornis gularis*) – Our best "whole-group" views came along the BRL entrance road, where a group of four swirled through the big trees overhead, hunting among the foliage. Half the group also saw one well (though fairly briefly) from the Bristlehead Tower at RDC.

BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus picatus*) – A few with mixed flocks in the highlands, including one hunting in the flowering trees just above our cabins on our first morning in Kinabalu Park and a couple near the Masakob "waterfall."

BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus hircinaceus*) – The lowland cousin of the previous species, this one is relatively common throughout the lowlands. Our first was hunting along the path we walked on our first morning at Sepilok Nature Resort. We watched them eye-to-eye from the BRL canopy walkway.

RUFIOUS-WINGED PHILENTOMA (*Philentoma pyrhoptera*) – We had nice looks at this species along the BRL entrance road on our first morning there. "Philentoma" names this genus as a "lover of insects," "entoma" sharing the same root as entomology.

MAROON-BREASTED PHILENTOMA (*Philentoma velata*) – Our best look at this one was along the Gomantong road.

Artamidae (Woodswallows)

WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) – Fairly common in open country throughout the lowlands, this species was seen from KK to Sepilok to Lahad Datu and Tuaran. It is Borneo's only woodswallow.

Pityriaseidae (Bristlehead)

BORNEAN BRISTLEHEAD (*Pityriasis gymnocephala*) – Wow! Always among the "most-wanted" birds of Borneo, this distinctive relative of bushshrikes and vangas represents a monotypic family--the only one endemic to Borneo. Fascinating and still poorly understood, this weirdly wonderful bird is considered Near Threatened and is easily missed. On this tour we had no luck with it at the RDC or in the Kinabatangan, where it is sometimes seen; we were depending on seeing it at BRL. Fortunately, on our very first morning out the BRL entrance road, we found a couple of birds that foraged through the tall treetops, periodically offering us good scope views--eventually for everyone! That took the pressure off, and the following afternoon we had much closer views of 4 birds from the BRL canopy walkway. Yip! Yip! Yip! [E]

Aegithinidae (Ioras)

COMMON IORA (*Aegithina tiphia*) – Seen principally along the rivers around Sukau, including a pair in the trees right over the entrance to the Menanggul on our first visit there.

GREEN IORA (*Aegithina viridissima*) – Considered Near Threatened owing to habitat destruction, this Sundaland canopy specialist was seen well from the RDC & BRL towers and walkways and along the Gomantong road.

Campephagidae (Cuckooshrikes)

FIERY MINIVET (*Pericrocotus igneus*) – Another Near Threatened Sundaland specialty, this small beauty was first seen from the RDC canopy walkway. Its generic name, "very saffron colored," refers to the female; its specific epithet, "fiery," refers to the male. Few scientific names of dimorphic species refer to both sexes. We saw both well, in forest throughout the lowlands.

GRAY-CHINNED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus solaris*) – The highland minivet, this one was seen with foraging flocks near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center and at Kinabalu Park, usually traveling in pairs or family groups.

SUNDA CUCKOOSHRIKE (*Coracina larvata*) – Another montane species, it was first seen at the Rafflesia Center, but then also at Kinabalu. As its name implies, it's a Sundaland specialty.

LESSER CUCKOOSHRIKE (*Lalage fimbriata schierbrandi*) – Another Sundaland specialty, this one--quite small by comparison--was seen first along the Gomantong road, and then (at least by some) at close range from the BRL canopy walkway.

Pachycephalidae (Whistlers and Allies)

BORNEAN WHISTLER (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*) – A couple hanging around near the start of the upper Silau-Silau Trail in Kinabalu Park were certainly cooperative, spending long minutes foraging at eye level and occasionally breaking into explosive song. We saw them daily in the highlands. [E]

Laniidae (Shrikes)

BROWN SHRIKE (*Lanius cristatus*) – It was a surprise (and a write-in) to see this boreal migrant at the road edge on our exit drive from BRL, but it is considered a fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant in lowland dipterocarp forest throughout. [b]

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanius schach*) – We saw several of these, including a "short-tailed Long-tailed Shrike" (regrowing all of its tail feathers, presumably after nearly becoming a meal) on wires along the highway between Sukau and the Gomantong caves road. It was not known to breed in Sabah until recently and has been expanding its range. We even saw one from the vehicles near Kundusang en route to Mesilau.

Vireonidae (Vireos, Shrike-Babblers, and Erpornis)

BLYTH'S SHRIKE-BABBLER (BLYTH'S) (*Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni*) – We had some marvelous views of this newly reclassified species (now considered a species distinct from others that were formerly classified as White-browed Shrike-Babbler) near the Masakob "waterfall" and again near our Hill Lodge in Kinabalu Park. Note that the shrike-babblers are more closely related to vireos than to babblers, based on genetic studies.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

DARK-THROATED ORIOLE (*Oriolus xanthonotus*) – Another Sundaland specialty that's considered Near Threatened, this one was heard more often than seen. Sally spotted our first one from the RDC Hornbill Tower, but we all got good looks at a male along the Gomantong road. Some also saw it in the canopy at BRL.

BLACK-AND-CRIMSON ORIOLE (*Oriolus cruentus*) – Even more range-restricted than the previous species, this chunky highland oriole is found only on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo. We all had excellent looks at it, first near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center, and then right at the corner of our Hill Lodge parking lot in Kinabalu.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

ASHY DRONGO (BORNEAN) (*Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops*) – A handsome, gray drongo, this endemic taxon, *stigmatops*, may well be split. It was common in the highlands, from the Rafflesia Center to the more open areas at and near Kinabalu. We had especially good views of a half dozen or so in the trees around the Fairy Garden restaurant.

BRONZED DRONGO (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – We saw single birds along the Gomantong road on each visit, with others along BRL's entrance road.

HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO (*Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*) – Some of us had a nice encounter with a responsive pair of these curly-tailed drongos along the Silau-Silau Trail, just down the hill from our Kinabalu cabins, while we waited for the luggage van on our final morning of birding.

GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus*) – Single birds were seen on several days, including one hunting along the Kingfisher Trail at RDC and one silhouetted nicely against the sky along the Menanggul River. Others were seen at BRL.

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

SPOTTED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura perlata*) – A couple of these handsome fantails, which accompanied a noisy gang of Chestnut-winged Babblers along the boardwalk trail to the Gomantong Caves, were certainly cooperative, pirouetting right over our heads. Some of the group saw another along the Jacuzzi Trail, while waiting for the Cinnamon-rumped Trogon to make an appearance.

MALAYSIAN PIED-FANTAIL (*Rhipidura javanica*) – The common fantail of the lowlands, it was seen well on multiple days -- including a busy pair with a burgeoning nest full of youngsters (still in pin feathers) below the dining room at BRL. [N]

WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura albicollis*) – The fantail of the highlands in Borneo; single birds flitted (with much flirting of tails) amongst mixed flocks along the Bukit Ular and Silau-Silau trails in Kinabalu Park.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLACK-NAPED MONARCH (*Hypothymis azurea*) – This handsome monarch was seen beautifully from the RDC walkway, along the Sukau boardwalk and waterways, and on the Gomantong entrance road. The male is a real knockout!

ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) – The male of this species is dynamite! We saw both males and females, first a male along the Menanggul, and then several of both sexes at BRL. Most of the adult males in Borneo, of the endemic subspecies *borneensis*, are white morphs.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

CRESTED JAY (*Platylophus galericalatus*) – We had heard it in the distance from the RDC walkway, and some of us had glimpsed it along the Sapa Trail at BRL. But all of us had superb views of a responsive bird late in afternoon at Poring Hot Springs. The subspecies *coronatus*, brown instead of blue-black (as it is on the Thai-Malay Peninsula), is restricted to Borneo and Sumatra. The call is thought by some to forecast rain. (No wonder we heard so little of it during our super-dry tour!)

BLACK MAGPIE (*Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus*) – Two along the road near the entrance to RDC were among the first birds seen on our first early morning walk there; at one point, one was feeding the other, though it wasn't clear if it was a courting pair or an adult and youngster. This all-black taxon, endemic to Borneo, is a good candidate for a split from birds of the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra.

BORNEAN GREEN-MAGPIE (*Cissa jefferyi*) – One of these spectacular birds made an appearance as we searched for our first Whitehead's Broadbill, completely distracting us for a bit. Its stealthy way of moving through the forest made it a bit tough to follow, despite its colorful plumage! We saw others near our cabins at the Hill Lodge. Formerly called Short-tailed Green-Magpie, *jefferyi* was recently split from its sister taxon (now

Javan Green-Magpie), thus becoming another Bornean endemic. [E]

BORNEAN TREEPIE (*Dendrocitta cinerascens*) – Another species seen regularly in the highlands; those long tails and white wing patches are eye-catching! Our first were a pair foraging in a tree right across the road from our first rest stop in the Crocker Range. They were fairly common at Kinabalu as well. [E]

SLENDER-BILLED CROW (SLENDER-BILLED) (*Corvus enca compilorator*) – Encountered almost daily in the lowlands, where it is widespread.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – A good-sized mob of these migrants swirled over the Tenangang River late one afternoon, fueling up for the long journey north. [b]

PACIFIC SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*) – Seen daily -- and abundant -- including a few pairs nesting on one of the buildings at Gunung Alab, at the top of the hill we visited while our lunch was being prepared on the day we drove to Kinabalu via the Crocker Range. [N]

Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)

GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – We all saw one that hunted from the "handrail" of the BRL canopy walkway on our first afternoon visit there. And half the group watched a busy pair that ferried nesting material into a hole in a fallen tree along the hill trail beyond the Jacuzzi Pool while waiting for the Bornean Wren-Babbler. [N]

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta frontalis*) – We all saw a pair that crawled around on some of the bigger branches over the BRL entrance road one morning; and another pair was seen nicely (by half the group) at Kinabalu on our final morning there. The species is widespread, but it's quite a striking nuthatch!

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

PUFF-BACKED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus eutilotus*) – This crested bulbul, restricted to Sundaland, was seen from the RDC Hornbill Tower and along the Menanggul and Sukau rivers, where birds responded somewhat to playback of their warbling song.

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus atriceps*) – Seen right on the grounds of the SNR and then in the Kinabatangan, including on the grounds of our Sukau lodgings, and at Poring.

STRAW-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) – Largest of the bulbuls, this handsome species is a popular cagebird and is traded commonly in Java; the pressure has caused the species to become considered Vulnerable, with protected areas its main refuge now. A spontaneously singing bird was seen by some across the river from the BRL dining area.

BORNEAN BULBUL (*Pycnonotus montis*) – As split from Black-crested Bulbul, this yellow-throated, dark-eyed bulbul is endemic to the lower montane forests of north-central Borneo. We saw a couple of noisy groups that swirled through the vegetation along the road near the Masakob Waterfall, eventually giving everybody a good view. [E]

FLAVESCENT BULBUL (*Pycnonotus flavescens leucops*) – The pale-faced race *leucops*, elevated to full-species status by some, is restricted to the mountains of north-central Borneo and looks quite distinctive. Myers and Phillipps call it Pale-faced Bulbul; it's a likely candidate for a split by Cornell Clements as well, which would make it another Bornean endemic. Our best views came at Gunung Alab, where a number of them twitched across the hillside, following a group of Mountain Warblers; others were seen at Mesilau by the group who went to the Nepenthes Trail.

YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) – Common on the grounds of the Sepilok Nature Resort, where we first watched them, this is the commonest bulbul in edge habitats throughout the lowlands and lower highlands.

OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus plumosus*) – This relatively dull bulbul (with the relatively small head and olive wings) was seen in small numbers in edge habitats throughout the lowlands, starting right on the grounds at SNR.

RED-EYED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus brunneus*) – Common and widespread in the lowlands, this Sundaland specialty was seen in good numbers daily.

SPECTACLED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*) – From a distance, it can be hard to tell this species from the previous one. Fortunately, we had several chances to study them in the scope, which allowed us to see their diagnostic yellow eye ring. It's yet another Sundaland specialty.

HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL (*Tricholestes criniger*) – A very distinctive Sundaland specialty, this was the one with the big yellow eyering. We saw it well first along the Gomantong road, then at Sukau, and finally along the entrance road at BRL.

FINSCH'S BULBUL (*Alophoixus finschii*) – We had excellent looks at this rare Sundaland specialty, considered Near Threatened, along the entrance road at BRL.

OCHRACEOUS BULBUL (*Alophoixus ochraceus*) – This big, puff-throated, montane bulbul was seen well near the Rafflesia Center, as well as at Kinabalu, including right beside our Hill Lodge.

GRAY-CHEEKED BULBUL (*Alophoixus bres*) – A couple of these big bulbuls flicked through the trees over the forest path at the Sepilok Nature Resort, dwarfing the nearby Spectacled Bulbuls. We later saw them repeatedly throughout the lowlands. It's the lowland counterpart of the Ochraceous Bulbul.

YELLOW-BELLIED BULBUL (*Alophoixus phaeocephalus*) – We had especially nice views of one sitting low in vegetation along the forest trail at the SNR on our first morning, not far from where we found our first fairy-bluebirds. We would see them again at RDC, near Sukau, and at BRL.

BUFF-VENTED BULBUL (*Iole olivacea*) – Another Sundaland specialty considered Near Threatened; his was the big one with the pale iris that we saw well first with the mixed flock along the same forest-interior trail at SNR, and then at the RDC.

ASHY BULBUL (CINEREOUS) (*Hemixos flavala connectens*) – The Bornean taxon *connectens* is split by some from birds of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula, and those birds are sometimes split from *flavala* of the Himalayas to Thailand. It's one to watch, as *connectens* could be elevated to a full species. One proposed English name for *connectens* is Sociable Bulbul. We saw several of these birds, their puffy white throats extended, near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center.

STREAKED BULBUL (*Ixos malaccensis*) – A couple these distinctive Sundaland specialties foraged and chased each other around in the canopy of the trees surrounding RDC's Hornbill Tower on each of our visits.

Cettiidae (Bush-Warblers and Allies)

BORNEAN STUBTAIL (*Urosphena whiteheadi*) – We had stellar views for both groups of little males singing (and pivoting from side to side) on vines, branches, and logs just above the ground along the Bukit Ular Trail at Kinabalu. Their weak, thin call is incredibly high-pitched--a real test of one's hearing! If we take into account the scientific names, this species too is named for Whitehead, making it a "foursome" of Whitehead's endemics (rather than a "trio"). [E]

YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER (*Abroscopus superciliaris*) – Those who climbed the Bukit Ular Trail before breakfast on our last morning at

Kinabalu Park saw a pair in the giant bamboo outside the Balsam Cafe.

MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD (*Phyllogates cucullatus*) – Fairly common in the highlands of Kinabalu Park, where we saw some confiding birds twitching through low vegetation along the road. Their sweet song was a regular part of the park's soundtrack. Note that this species is no longer grouped with the other tailorbirds, but is placed in the family Cettidae.

SUNDA BUSH-WARBLER (*Horornis vulcanius*) – Our first was a point-blank bird creeping through the dense understory along the road up Gunung Alab; it was so close it went UNDER us when it sneaked through the drainage grate to the other side of the road! We had additional close birds at the roadsides in Kinabalu Park.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

MOUNTAIN WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*) – Quite common in the highlands, this species is often a (noisy) part of the mixed flocks there. We saw one pair gathering nesting material and flushed another bird out of its nest hole (in a bank right beside the trail) along the Bukit Ular Trail.

They appear to come in two forms -- one quite yellow, the other considerably paler. [N]

YELLOW-BREASTED WARBLER (*Seicercus montis*) – This charming Sundaland specialty, with the high-pitched, sweet song, was fairly common with the small-bird parties at Kinabalu. "Seicercus" refers to its habit of shaking the tail, a trait characteristic of all 11 species belonging to the genus.

Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)

STRIATED GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus palustris*) – We had super looks at one perched on the utility lines along the road through the palm plantations en route to the Gomantong road.

FRIENDLY BUSH-WARBLER (*Locustella accentor*) – Those of us who climbed Kinabalu Park's Summit Trail from the Timponon Gate were rewarded with fabulous views of one singing bird dancing practically on our boot tips just off the side of the trail! It crept back and forth across the mossy ground like a little mouse. [E]

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) – One danced around us on the road to the Gomantong caves, and we had a second preening and sunbathing low in a bush along the road to BRL, where we stopped to check out our first Whiskered Treeswifts. It was a regular along the road at BRL.

ASHY TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus ruficeps*) – Very common in the lowlands on the first half of the tour, with fewer in the primary forest around BRL. Common as it is, it too is a Sundaland specialty.

RUFIOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus sericeus*) – We had great views of one twitching through some low vegetation along the road on our first pre-tour walk at SNR. This was another widespread species, seen on most days in the lowlands and a regular around our chalets at BRL.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA (*Prinia flaviventris*) – One sang from a succession of tall grass clumps in a roadside field near SNR, and many in the group saw another along the BRL entrance road. We certainly heard many more than we saw, recording them on most days in the lowlands.

Zosteropidae (White-eyes, Yuhinas, and Allies)

CHESTNUT-CRESTED YUHINA (*Yuhina everetti*) – The most common of the montane endemics, these captivating little yuhinas were abundant in Kinabalu Park, with many noisy little flocks swirling through the trees overhead. Several of the birds we saw were carrying mouthfuls of nesting material. Our first good looks were below the Tambunan Rafflesia Center, where they flocked and flew in tandem. [EN]

PYGMY WHITE-EYE (*Oculocincta squamifrons*) – A little gang of them in a fruiting tree at the far end of the suspension bridge across the Danum River were seen en route to the BRL Jacuzzi Trail. The light was a bit tough, though the folks who got to the scope before they flew off could vouch for their pale eyes. We saw another flock of them near the Rafflesia Center. A.k.a. Pygmy Ibon, this Zosteropid belongs to a monotypic genus. [E]

MOUNTAIN BLACK-EYE (*Chlorocharis emiliae*) – Half of the group found a fairly responsive trio near the restrooms at the end of the road to the Timponon Gate. But the best views came for those who climbed the Summit Trail, where an inquisitive group dropped down to eye level to check us out. [E]

BLACK-CAPPED WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops atricapilla*) – This Sundaland specialty is a common species in montane Borneo, where we saw them repeatedly at Kinabalu, with especially nice views of a few with the big mixed flock near our rooms on our first morning in Kinabalu Park.

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

BOLD-STRIPED TIT-BABBLER (*Mixornis bornensis*) – These noisy near-endemics (also found in Java) were first seen at the forest edge near the base of the RDC Hornbill Tower, but our best views were those in the shrubs at the edge of the Gomantong parking lot. They were then our regular companions around the grounds at BRL, where we often heard their "chonk-chonk-chonk."

FLUFFY-BACKED TIT-BABBLER (*Macronus ptilosus*) – We had a wonderful encounter with these (Grebe's favorite Bornean babbler) at the intersection of the Kingfisher and Pitta trails at RDC; two males appeared to be facing off over a female, with much posturing and singing and inflating of electric blue orbital and gular patches. Wow! It's a Sundaland specialty that's considered Near Threatened.

CHESTNUT-WINGED BABBLER (*Cyanoderma erythropterum*) – Fairly common throughout the lowlands, this one is also a Sundaland specialty that performed mellow duets from Sepilok and Sukau to Gomantong and BRL.

CHESTNUT-BACKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus montanus*) – We'd had brief looks at this Sundaland specialty along the BRL entrance road, but it stayed high and wasn't seen well (or at all by some). We were delighted then to have seen an oliging bird lower and in good light up the road from the Hill Lodge at Kinabalu Park, near the upper limit of their altitudinal range.

BLACK-THROATED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigricollis*) – We had spectacular, close views of another Near Threatened Sundaland babbler along a side trail off the Kingfisher Trail at the RDC. In fact, we saw some of the fanciest of the babblers that very morning!

CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER (*Stachyris maculata*) – This one was seen beautifully at the Gomantong parking lot, and then again at BRL. It's amazing how many of these Sundaland babblers that seem common on our route are considered Near Threatened by BirdLife International; most of it is owing to massive habitat loss. It's a reminder of how fortunate we were to be able to visit -- and stay -- right in the heart of some of Borneo's finest remaining forests.

GRAY-THROATED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigriceps*) – First seen well along the road below the Rafflesia Center; then we encountered it regularly at Kinabalu, including a confiding group that foraged right along the roadside -- even perching on the cables or right on the ground -- as we walked down the hill on our last afternoon in the park.

GRAY-HEADED BABBLER (*Stachyris poliocephala*) – A little gang of them led us on a merry dance up and down the BRL entrance road as they skulked through roadside tangles. Most folks got a good look eventually. Their pale eyes are distinctive. Yet another Sundaland specialty.

Pellorneidae (Ground Babblers and Allies)

- MOUSTACHED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron magnirostre*) – A pair of them uttered their lovely whistles as they foraged along BRL's entrance road on our first morning there. Then half of the group got even closer looks at another group in trees right beside one of the canopy platforms.
- SOOTY-CAPPED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron affine*) – Seen with understory flocks at the RDC, Gomantong, and BRL. It occurs only in Sundaland and is another one considered Near Threatened.
- SCALY-CROWNED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron cinereum*) – Very similar to Rufous-crowned, this babbler is the smaller one with the pinkish legs that we saw well in direct comparison with that species on our first morning along the BRL entrance road. The scales on the crown are difficult to see, but we even managed to see them a couple of times.
- RUFOUS-CROWNED BABBLER** (*Malacopteron magnum*) – This is the larger — magnum — of these two look-alikes, with gray legs and no scaling on the crown. We compared them in the same flock our very first morning out the BRL entrance road. Like most of these remarkable babblers, it's found only in Sundaland and is considered Near Threatened.
- BLACK-CAPPED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum capistratum*) – This charming babbler performed nicely for us--walking on the ground nearby--along the Kingfisher Trail at RDC and along the Sukau boardwalk behind our rooms. Yet another Sundaland specialty.
- TEMMINCK'S BABBLER** (*Pellorneum pyrrogenys*) – Yet another Sundaland specialty, this skulker was outstandingly obliging our first morning at Kinabalu when we watched it foraging on the ground in the open (!) along the hedgerow behind our rooms at the Hill Lodge. It's usually very difficult to see well.
- SHORT-TAILED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum malaccense*) – Our two mornings walking out that BRL entrance road produced some dynamite birding! In addition to the many other babblers seen, we had good looks at a responsive, singing individual of this species. Need we say it? Yes, another Sundaland specialty.
- WHITE-CHESTED BABBLER** (*Pellorneum rostratum*) – Common along waterways in the lowlands, including a pair splashing along the edge of a little creek at RDC and others hopping around on the roots and banks of the Menanggul River.
- FERRUGINOUS BABBLER** (*Pellorneum bicolor*) – We had nice looks at one of these, yep, Sundaland babblers along the Sukau Rainforest Lodge boardwalk, which was a bit surprising given how dry it was; the species is most often found near water, especially streams. Another was seen at BRL.
- STRIPED WREN-BABBLER** (*Kenopia striata*) – This Sundaland specialty with the whistled song was seen well by all from our boats (!) along the Menanggul, when it sang from dense river-edge vegetation. We later heard it at BRL.
- BORNEAN WREN-BABBLER** (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*) – It took a rather "breathtaking" climb up the steep trail toward the Coffin Cliff, but the effort paid off with great views of this scarce terrestrial endemic (a.k.a. Bornean Ground-Babbler) trundling around on the ground--even in the path--for both groups. [E]
- HORSFIELD'S BABBLER** (*Turdinus sepiarius*) – This Sundaland specialty was seen nicely en route to the Jacuzzi Pool at BRL.
- MOUNTAIN WREN-BABBLER** (*Turdinus crassus*) – We stumbled into a family group--adults feeding young--of this montane endemic along the upper section of the Bukit Ular Trail on an afternoon walk at Kinabalu. Another group was seen en route to the Nepenthes Trail at Mesilau; everyone except Meegs had seen it. But then Meegs caught up on our final morning in the park when she and half of the group saw another little group bouncing along the bank across the Silau-Silau creek while walking the Silau-Silau trail. [EN]

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes and Allies)

- BROWN FULVETTA** (*Alcippe brunneicauda*) – Yet another Sundaland specialty that is considered Near Threatened; it was seen quite nicely from inside the forest at BRL, where it came in close in response to playback. Its charm is in its personality, not its looks. Surprisingly, the fulvettas, once placed with the Ground Babblers, are now grouped with the Laughingthrushes.
- SUNDA LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Garrulax palliatus*) – Found only on Sumatra and Borneo, this is one of the montane specialties of the trip. We saw them several times with big-bird flocks at Kinabalu, ultimately getting really good views. They are shyer than the Chestnut-hooded's and spend more time foraging on the ground.
- BARE-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Garrulax calvus*) – A split from Black Laughingthrush, this weirdly wonderful laughingthrush is now another Bornean endemic. Of the three montane laughingthrushes, this is usually the toughest to see. But this trip they were surprisingly conspicuous, being encountered daily with the big-bird flocks at Kinabalu. Nice! [E]
- CHESTNUT-HOODED LAUGHINGTHRUSH** (*Ianthocincla treacheri treacheri*) – By far the most conspicuous of the laughingthrushes, this one was ridiculously common in the highlands, with dozens of chattering birds poking and prodding through mosses and epiphytes in big mixed flocks. It was only recently split (by Cornell Clements at least) from Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, thus becoming another Bornean endemic. [E]

Irenidae (Fairy-bluebirds)

- ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD** (*Irena puella*) – This species, now in a separate family with only one other, closely related, species, is uncommon on our route. We saw it briefly along the forest trail at the SNR (where it was with the mixed bulbul flock our first morning pre-tour) and then from the vista trail at Poring.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

- DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa sibirica*) – Cornell Clements now follows the recent revision of Asian Brown and Brown-streaked flycatchers (Rheindt and Eaton, 2012) in eliminating Asian Brown from Borneo and merging endemic taxon umbrosa (formerly placed under Asian Brown) with Brown-streaked, thereby creating a breeding Brown-streaked (*M. w. umbrosa*) restricted to Sabah, and not permitting nominate williamsoni to occur in Borneo at all (although it does get to Sumatra and may well reach Borneo as a winter visitor). Daurica, evidently now but a synonym, has completely disappeared! So, what we've been calling Asian Brown Flycatcher is now considered this species. On this trip, the bird we called Asian Brown at Sukau would now be considered the umbrosa race of this species. The two birds seen well at BRL were classic sibirica Dark-sided's. Ornithologists have, or so it would appear, shared our confusion! [b]
- GRAY-STREAKED FLYCATCHER** (*Muscicapa griseisticta*) – At least two of these winter visitors sallied from posts and branches at SNR late one afternoon. [b]
- ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN** (*Copsychus saularis*) – Fairly common in edge habitats throughout the lowlands and foothills. We had especially nice looks at SNR and BRL
- RUFOUS-TAILED SHAMA** (*Copsychus pyrrropygus*) – Normally shy and difficult, but on this trip one bird was singing spontaneously at BRL, where we all had nice looks at it easily.
- WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA (WHITE-CROWNED)** (*Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii*) – Very common in the lowlands, though much more frequently heard (a lovely, rich song) than seen. Our best looks were at Gomantong, BRL, and Poring. The taxon stricklandii, endemic to Sabah and NE Kalimantan, is elevated to species status by some (including Myers and Phillipps) and called White-crowned Shama, but it is still treated as a

subspecies of White-rumped by the Cornell Clements checklist.

LONG-BILLED BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis caeruleus*) – This Sundaland blue-flycatcher, a.k.a. Large-billed Blue-Flycatcher, was seen well by all along the Jacuzzi Loop Trail at BRL.

MALAYSIAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis turcosus*) – We had lovely views of a pair flicking through a waterside tangle along the Menanggul River (and later, sleeping low over the water on one of our nighttime boat trips).

BORNEAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis superbus*) – We had nice looks at this pretty endemic right beside the BRL entrance road near the far end of the canopy walkway. [E]

BLUE-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*) – We saw a male and a female near the Masakob waterfall and another male our first morning at Kinabalu. [b]

INDIGO FLYCATCHER (*Eumyias indigo*) – Our first ones were among the first montane species we saw--opposite our first rest stop near Gg. Alab. They were fairly common at Kinabalu, and one pair was nesting near our lodge. [N]

VERDITER FLYCATCHER (*Eumyias thalassinus*) – One made repeated sallies from a branch right beside the Hornbill Tower at RDC, providing little flashes of sky blue as it ventured out into the sunshine. Eventually, a second bird appeared, which led to much chasing around back and forth through the tree. The species is widespread, but it's not very common on our route.

EYEBROWED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER (*Vauriella gularis*) – Rita found one of these chunky endemics at the edge of the Hill Lodge parking lot, but the rest of us caught up later, some en route to the Nepenthes at Mesilau, and others along the Silau-Silau. [E]

WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING (*Brachypteryx montana erythrogyna*) – Those who climbed Kinabalu Park's Summit Trail saw a furtive female twitching through the undergrowth along the trail, not far from the second shelter. Everybody certainly heard the loud, whistled songs of this species on several of the highland trails.

SIBERIAN BLUE ROBIN (*Larvivora cyane*) – This unobtrusive winter visitor and passage migrant was seen several times by folks with Meegs and Paul on the Hornbill Trail at BRL. [b]

BORNEAN WHISTLING-THRUSH (*Myophonus borneensis*) – The large moths attracted to our porch lights provided a meal each morning at dawn for this hefty hunter. Others were seen nicely along the streams. [E]

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (WHITE-CROWNED) (*Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*) – This taxon is a lowlander and may well be split from its montane congener, *borneensis*, which our two field guides (following Moyle et al., 2005) split. For that reason we have entered both taxa. This one was seen along the Jacuzzi Loop Trail at BRL.

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (BORNEAN) (*Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis*) – A.k.a. Bornean Forktail, this is the endemic, montane taxon--the one at Kinabalu. It has a longer tail and more white on the crown than the lowland birds, and recent molecular studies suggest that *borneensis* should be a distinct species, in which case it would become another Bornean endemic. It is already treated as such in our two field guides. The Mesilau group had stellar views of a pair along the rushing creek below the restaurant there, and folks with Meegs and Adrian on our final morning at Kinabalu chased down a pair along the Silau-Silau.

CHESTNUT-NAPED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus ruficapillus*) – Half the group (with Grebe & Adzal) on our first day on the BRL Jacuzzi Loop Trail had lovely scope views of a responsive bird that flew in and continuously bobbed its splayed tail while uttering a high-pitched scold. Sadly, we couldn't relocate it the following morning.

RUFIOUS-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula dumetoria*) – The group who took the Segama Trail with Grebe and Adzal on Mar 10 saw a handsome (though furtive) Rufous-chested Flycatcher. It's a Near Threatened Sundaland specialty.

LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula westermanni*) – Our first birds were a pair below the Tambunan Rafflesia Center in the Crocker Range. We later saw a male at Kinabalu. The species is fairly common and widespread.

MUGIMAKI FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula mugimaki*) – We had multiple views of this spiffy little Asian migrant and winter visitor, starting near the Masakob waterfall and then in Kinabalu Park. [b]

SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hypertyra*) – This widespread montane flycatcher can be very confiding--as Dan and Barbara discovered--or it can be unobtrusive and totally missed. On this tour, however, it was seen by some on each of our four birding days at Kinabalu. Some watched it at a nest along the Silau-Silau. [N]

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

FRUIT-HUNTER (*Chlamydochaera jefferyi*) – Bob R. was the lucky one this time; he found one while taking a rest stop along the upper Bukit Ular Trail!! He summoned the rest of us, but, unfortunately, the bird flew off before the rest of the group arrived. He was able to snap a quick picture of it while he waited. This species, which uses masses of wet moss in its nest, may have been affected by the unusually dry conditions during our visit; they were generally quiet. [E]

Sturnidae (Starlings)

ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING (*Aplonis panayensis*) – Regular in open areas in the lowlands; we had especially nice views of an iridescent green male perched up in a leafless tree at the Sepilok Nature Resort, his red eye glowing in the early morning sunlight.

COMMON HILL MYNA (*Gracula religiosa*) – A noisy gang of them perched in a leafless tree near the start of RDC's Kingfisher Trail, seen well as we got ourselves organized for our first early morning walk there.

JAVAN MYNA (*Acridotheres javanicus*) – This was the widespread myna, from Sepilok to Lahad Datu. Birds introduced near Sepilok became established locally and expanded along roads through the palm plantations to the coast at Lahad Datu. [I]

Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)

GREATER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) – The females are more easily distinguished than the males in the two look-alike green leafbirds. Both species are Sundaland specialties. This one was seen by some on each of our first two days at BRL, but I'm not sure whether everyone caught up with it.

LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*) – We all did see this, the more common of the two lowland species, well, starting at the RDC and then at BRL and Poring.

BORNEAN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis kinabaluensis*) – Another Bornean endemic, as split from Blue-winged Leafbird; the females have black masks/throats (like the males), which Blue-winged females lack. We had a little gang working through some trees on the steep slopes above the road near the Rafflesia Center, showing their blue wings (and the yellowy tinge around the dark faces of the males) nicely. [E]

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)

YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus maculatus*) – This Sundaland specialty was especially conspicuous this year around the

main building at BRL, feeding in the flowering shrubs.

- YELLOW-RUMPED FLOWERPECKER** (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*) – A female in some shrubs along the driveway at Sepilok Nature Resort was the tour's first flowerpecker. We saw more -- including some stunning males -- throughout the lowlands. [E]
- ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) – Common and widespread, but the males are quite spiffy. Their song is one of the most frequently heard throughout the lowlands. We had numerous great studies, starting right on the grounds of the SNR.
- BLACK-SIDED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum monticolum*) – First seen near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center, but our best views were at spiffy males feeding on red flowers (and purple melastome berries) just outside our rooms at Kinabalu Park. [E]
- SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER** (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) – We had fabulous views of several bright males -- and the somewhat drabber females -- along the road outside of the SNR. This mistletoe specialist is most regularly found in coastal forest, so is typically not found along most of our tour route.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

- RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD** (*Chalcopteryx singalensis*) – Our best views came along the Gomantong caves road, where we found a gorgeous male feeding in some roadside flowers. We had more distant views of another pair in flowering spikes far out in the canopy visible from RDC's Hornbill Tower.
- PLAIN SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes simplex*) – There were mall numbers in the lowlands, with our best views coming at BRL -- particularly around the restaurant (where a feeding male flashed his iridescent purple forehead at us) and on the canopy walkway (where several visited those busy flower spikes). Another Sundaland specialty.
- PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes malacensis*) – This was the common sunbird in more open habitats in the lowlands, with many seen at SNR, RDC, and along the Gomantong caves road.
- RED-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Anthreptes rhodolaemus*) – A Sundaland specialty, this generally scarce sunbird was seen splendidly from the BRL canopy walkway as it visited the eye-level flower spikes that attracted so many spiderhunters and sunbirds.
- VAN HASSELT'S SUNBIRD** (*Leptocoma brasiliana*) – Abundant near Sepilok, with dozens swarming over the flowering shrubs planted along the entrance road to RDC, this species was formerly known as Purple-throated Sunbird. Males are electric in good light! A possible explanation for the rather incongruous scientific name: "Brasil," "pau-brasil," or "brasilwood," are names given to a dyewood long imported from the East that produces a purplish-red dye that matches the deep-red color of Van Hasselt's underparts. (Brazil took its name from this tree since a similar, native tree was referred to as "pau-brasil" by Portuguese explorers.)
- COPPER-THROATED SUNBIRD** (*Leptocoma calcostetha*) – Like a larger, longer-billed, longer-tailed version of the previous species, with a purple (rather than maroon) belly which really sets off that iridescent copper throat. It's another Sundaland specialty that is locally common in mangroves and coastal forests and gardens but is very scarce inland; Sepilok is the only place we've seen it on our route.
- OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD** (*Cinnyris jugularis*) – Common in disturbed habitats, this widespread species was seen at Sepilok and in the oil palm plantations along the highway to Gomantong.
- TEMMINCK'S SUNBIRD** (*Aethopyga temminckii*) – This striking Sundaland specialty, a montane replacement of the Crimson Sunbird (but with a red tail), was seen first in the Crocker Range, and then beautifully right outside our rooms at Kinabalu.
- CRIMSON SUNBIRD** (*Aethopyga siparaja*) – This beauty, the epithet "Eastern" now dropped, was seen wonderfully around Sepilok, at Gomantong, and at BRL. It's the lowland counterpart of the previous species (but with a dark blue tail).
- THICK-BILLED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera crassirostris*) – We had especially fine views of several of these big spiderhunters at the flower spikes near one of the platforms along the BRL canopy walkway. Like most of the big spiderhunters, it's restricted to Sundaland.
- LONG-BILLED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera robusta*) – This one was seen only from the RDC canopy walkway (on 1 Mar), where it stopped long enough for scope views several times.
- LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera longirostra*) – The commonest of the spiderhunters, this one was seen repeatedly, its repetitive song heard widely. Our best views were probably at BRL, where they visited the blooming gingers and cannas along the boardwalk to and beyond our chalets.
- PURPLE-NAPED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera hypogrammicum*) – Formerly considered an understory "sunbird," this species has been transferred from Hypogramma into the spiderhunter genus *Arachnothera*. We saw stunning males especially well on the Gomantong road and at the popular flower spikes near one of the platforms along the BRL canopy walkway. Males display not only a purple nape, but a flashy purple lower back!
- WHITEHEAD'S SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera juliae*) – After the anguish of our first bird, which flew over and landed oh-so-briefly atop a tree near the Masakob waterfall before winging off never to be seen again, we found a trio of birds interacting among some flowering trees along the road in Kinabalu Park, not far from the Bukit Ular trailhead. This is often the toughest of the Whitehead's trio of montane endemics to see. Yip! Yip! Yip! [E]
- YELLOW-EARED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera chrysogenys*) – This one, too, was best seen eye-to-eye at the flower spikes along the BRL canopy walkway. This was the one with the relatively big ear patch and small yellow eyering.
- SPECTACLED SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera flavigaster*) – This one, with the relatively big yellow eyering and the reduced ear patch, was seen by some from the RDC towers and by others at the flower spikes along the BRL canopy walkway.
- BORNEAN SPIDERHUNTER** (*Arachnothera everetti*) – We had good looks at this big, streaky-breasted spiderhunter at the flower spikes visible from the BRL canopy walkway and in the flowers around our rooms and the main building at BRL. This species was split fairly recently from the Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter, giving Borneo yet another endemic. [E]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

- GRAY WAGTAIL** (*Motacilla cinerea*) – Some of the group saw one of these winter visitors along the rocky stream bank at BRL, and others saw birds flush from the road edge as we drove to the Rafflesia Center. [b]
- ORIENTAL PIPIT** (*Anthus rufulus malayensis*) – A.k.a. Paddyfield Pipit; a few marched around the airfield at Lahad Datu, seen by those who ventured out into the afternoon heat before our flight to Kota Kinabalu.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

- EURASIAN TREE SPARROW** (*Passer montanus*) – Introduced, but thriving near human habitations throughout. [I]

Ploceidae (Weavers and Allies)

- BAYA WEAVER** (*Ploceus philippinus*) – Hazwan took us to a nesting colony along the highway near Sepilok where we saw dozens -- and hundreds of nests -- in a bush, including a bright male weaving some strands into his hanging nest. The species is Asian, but it has become established near

Sandakan in recent years, apparently from a feral population. [IN]

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

- DUSKY MUNIA** (*Lonchura fuscans*) – These little seed-eating endemics were widespread in the lowlands and first seen along the road near the SNR, but perhaps best seen in the grass just outside the buildings at BRL. [E]
- WHITE-BELLIED MUNIA** (*Lonchura leucogastra*) – A few folks had quick views of this scarce munia near the SNR, but I think most of us missed it completely.
- CHESTNUT MUNIA** (*Lonchura atricapilla*) – We saw these spiffy munias in the lowlands, including a big group "beeping" away in some tall grasses in the oil palm stretch, near where we stopped for Long-tailed Shrike; also at the Lahad Datu airport.

MAMMALS

- LARGE FLYING FOX** (*Pteropus vampyrus*) – We had good looks at this giant on two different night cruises along the Menanggul as it hung upside down and crawled through the foliage for fruits. Also known as Malaysian Flying Fox, it is often said to be the largest of the megabats. As with other Old World fruit bats, it lacks the ability to echolocate.
- WRINKLE-LIPPED FREE-TAILED BAT** (*Chaerephon plicatus*) – Hundreds of thousands boiled out of the Gomantong caves as dusk approached; the strands of bats as they emerged looked almost like skywriting as they writhed about in the sky, trying to avoid the ubiquitous hawks and falcons. It was fun to watch the Bat Hawks diving into the glut of protein.
- MOUNTAIN TREESHREW** (*Tupaia montana*) – Those who climbed Kinabalu Park's Summit Trail had super views -- up close encounters with several mooching handouts near one of the shelters. Some of the group saw another one (or two) along the Bukit Ular Trail. [E]
- LARGE TREESHREW** (*Tupaia tana*) – One worked along the bank of the Sukau River, snuffling among the leaf litter.
- SLOW LORIS** (*Nycticebus cougang*) – One of these slothlike primates hung upside down over the BRL entrance road, adding a unexpected bonus to our impromptu night drive -- when the Horsfield's Tarsier interrupted our dinner! They are strepsirrhine primates, related to lemurs and bush babies. The race we saw, *menagensis*, is endemic to Borneo and is considered a distinct species by mammalogists who split the many forms.
- HORSFIELD'S TARSIER** (*Tarsius bancanus*) – Wow! One of the mammalian highlights of the trip was seeing this incredible nocturnal mammal with the big eyes and extraordinary leaping ability. And we saw it twice at BRL, first when another group alerted us to the one along the road that interrupted our dinner; and then even better when Paul found one clinging to a vertical stem on our night prowl along the Nature Trail. Yip! Yip! Yip!
- CRAB-EATING MACAQUE** (*Macaca fascicularis*) – A.k.a. Long-tailed Macaque; it was common along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries and was seen as well along the Gomantong road and along the river at BRL. It's widespread in peninsular Myanmar, Sundaland, and s Indochina.
- PIGTAIL MACAQUE** (*Macaca nemestrina*) – Seen on several days, including a close group in the bushes along a small tributary down the Kinabatangan and a big group of females and youngsters crossing the BRL entrance road, seen while we searched for Bornean Bristleheads.
- SILVERED LEAF MONKEY** (*Presbytis cristata*) – A.k.a. Silvered Langur; a few near the edge of the Kinabatangan River gave us great opportunity for study -- especially one pensive animal peering down from a squat tree right over our boats. This species is a bit more widespread than the next, being found in peninsular Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, as well as the Greater Sundas. A troop of them roosted in the tall river-edge trees at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, where we saw them most every morning.
- RED LEAF MONKEY** (*Presbytis rubicunda*) – We saw small numbers of these handsome endemics along the Gomantong Caves road. [E]
- PROBOSCIS MONKEY** (*Nasalis larvatus*) – Another mammalian highlight was seeing these fabulous endemics with the long white tails and strange noses; they gathered to socialize and roost above the banks of the Kinabatangan and its tributaries. We even inadvertently spotlighted a few that were sleeping high above the Menanggul on our night cruises. [E]
- GRAY GIBBON** (*Hylobates muelleri*) – We heard a wonderful variety of calls from these vocal creatures, and watched a mother with a baby swinging through the trees on a ridge overlooking BRL's entrance road while we searched for Bornean Bristleheads. Grebe's embedded audio should help us recall their far-carrying calls. [E]
- ORANGUTAN** (*Pongo pygmaeus*) – Now usually called Bornean Orangutan, having been split from the larger Sumatran Orangutan. Our first encounter with this Endangered primate was with a mother nursing a young one on the slope above the Black-nest Cave at Gomantong. We then saw a big male along the Kinabatangan River on our afternoon cruise downriver. They were also seen on two days at BRL, and their night roosts were conspicuous throughout. Seeing them in the wild was far more satisfying--if tougher--than watching them at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center, where we made an afternoon visit pre-tour at feeding time. Under any circumstances, they are fascinating to watch. Orangutans average 73-180 lbs, with big males weighing 250 lbs or more! [E]
- PALE GIANT SQUIRREL** (*Ratufa affinis*) – This big squirrel is considered a Sundaland specialty of Near Threatened status. It was seen on the grounds of the SNR, then by some at the RDC, and finally at BRL.
- PREVOST'S SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus prevostii*) – This was the common, good-sized squirrel of the lowland rainforest, where it was seen almost daily. The Bornean taxon we saw is blackish with a chestnut belly.
- PLANTAIN SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus notatus*) – Fairly common in the lowlands, where we saw it at RDC, in the Kinabatangan, at Gomantong, and at BRL.
- EAR-SPOT SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus adamsi*) – This montane endemic was the one at Kinabalu with the stripes on the side and the white edge to the back of the ear. [E]
- BORNEAN BLACK-BANDED SQUIRREL** (*Callosciurus orestes*) – This was the one at Kinabalu with the stripes on the side and the white spot on the neck behind the ear. It was very common in the highlands. They were numerous scampering around the observation platform at the Timpohon gate, where they are clearly used to being fed! [E]
- JENTINK'S SQUIRREL** (*Sundasciurus jentinki*) – This one, yet another endemic, was the one with white underparts (no stripes on the sides), a whitish eyering, and a long, thin tail. Adrian pointed it out near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center, and then some folks saw it in the lower section of Kinabalu Park. [E]
- BORNEAN MOUNTAIN GROUND-SQUIRREL** (*Dremomys everetti*) – With its elongated nose this one is easily confused with a treeshrew. Someone showed me a photo of one taken on 14 Mar, thus either along the Summit Trail or at Mesilau. Most of us failed to pin this one down. [E]
- PLAIN PYGMY SQUIRREL** (*Exilisciurus exilis*) – This endearing pygmy squirrel of the lowlands was first seen at the RDC, and then throughout the lowlands, where it would rush around the tree limbs and even along the bannisters (think Gomantong boardwalk and Sukau Rainforest Lodge banisters). It forages on mosses and lichens, and it was much enjoyed during our stay. [E]
- WHITEHEAD'S PYGMY SQUIRREL** (*Exilisciurus whiteheadi*) – This one replaces the last species in the highlands. We saw a fair number of these

tiny squirrels at Kinabalu, typically creeping around on tree trunks. With its fuzzy white ear tufts, this one may have been our favorite among the squirrels, at least at Kinabalu. Considering its scientific name, it's yet another Whitehead's endemic. [E]

RED GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL (*Petaurista petaurista*) – We waited at dusk along the RDC canopy walkway for this extraordinary "flying" squirrel to emerge from its cavity and sail over the canopy. It didn't emerge until it was getting dark, but we spotlighted it as it sailed away. We saw a second one take "flight" just down the walkway. We later saw a head of one poking out of its cavity in the daytime along the Gomantong road. And we spotlighted them on our night drives at BRL. Though widespread in southeast Asia as a species, the taxon we saw, *rajah*, is endemic to Borneo.

THOMAS'S FLYING SQUIRREL (*Aeromys thomasi*) – Our first BRL night drive produced a couple of these endemics -- their dark, all-reddish tails lacking the black tip of the Red Giant -- in a big roadside tree. [E]

NORWAY (BROWN) RAT (*Rattus norvegicus*) – One rummaged along the edge of a roadside ditch in the oil palm plantation between Sukau and the Gomantong Caves road. [I]

SHORT-TAILED MONGOOSE (*Herpestes semitorquatus*) – Seen by some along the Gomantong road.

BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANT (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) – We were wonderfully lucky to have found a cow with a calf along the banks of the Kinabatangan--after we had been told that the herd was too far upriver to reach. Watching them interacting and eating elephant grass was one of the highlights of the entire trip. Though considered a race (with a proportionately longer tail) of the larger Indian Elephant, many authorities now elevate the smaller Bornean taxon to species status, based on genetic evidence. Their provenance in Borneo is still being debated.

BEARDED PIG (*Sus barbatus*) – Our first encounters with this big, blond pig were along the Gomantong entrance road, where Bob R. pointed out a group at the edge of the road. They got away pretty quicky, but we later saw them out again along the same road. Plus we saw it later at BRL. The species is restricted to Sundaland and the Philippines.

GREATER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus napu*) – We saw both of the miniature deer, this and the following species, on the same night drive at BRL. The pattern on their underparts, usually seen in profile, is the best mark to look for to distinguish the two.

LESSER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus javanicus*) – Also at BRL on the same night drive.

SAMBAR (*Cervus unicolor*) – We saw two antlered males on the soccer field near the BRL staff quarters, and a couple of females along the end of the road out to the Jacuzzi Trail at the end of our nighttime excursion out to look for Gould's Frogmouth. The bizarre hairless reddish spot on their necks (which looks distressingly like a large wound) is actually a musk-producing gland. It's commonly seen in adult males and pregnant or lactating females.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

One of the joys of birding in Borneo is encountering so many fabulous "other critters," both plant and animal in nature. In the space below, we'll list a few of particular interest, with emphasis on those we've been able to identify.

Among the plants:

--*Rafflesia keithii* - We detoured to Poring to see the flower of this fascinating Bornean endemic, the largest of the genus in Borneo and the second largest flower in the world. An endoparasite, it has no stems, leaves, or true roots, deriving its energy entirely from its host, a woody grapevine in the genus *Tetrastigma* (Vitaceae). We discussed how scientists and the Kinabalu Park staff work with locals to enhance the environmental conditions favorable to this rare flower, namely by making its host vine available for distribution on nearby private lands and encouraging a thriving ecotourism business among locals and travelers alike. It has worked well, increasing the probability of our encountering an ephemeral *Rafflesia* flower somewhere near Poring on our tour. On this tour we saw a flower on its third day open--complete with flies crawling on it--as well as numerous buds and old, decaying flowers. A recent study on its congener, *Rafflesia cantleyi*, determined that the parasite was not only absorbing nutrients from its host, but was actually stealing genes! For details on this horizontal gene transfer, a rare phenomenon among organisms more complex than bacteria, go to: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/presscenter/pressreleases/20120608>.

--Carnivorous *Nepenthes* pitcher plants - The pitcher plant center of Borneo (and the world!) is upper-elevation Mt. Kinabalu. Recent research has revealed the "evolutionary incentive" for high-elevation pitcher plants (like *N. rajah*, the largest in the world) to have evolved bigger and bigger pitchers: It's to serve as a toilet for treeshrews! Mountain Treeshrews, which are common at these high elevations (where insects become increasingly scarce), are attracted by the sweet secretion on the underside of the pitcher's lid. To reach it, they climb onto the pitcher's sturdy rim, which fits them perfectly, and sip away, meanwhile defecating into the pitcher to mark their feeding territory--thus supplying all the nitrogen critical to these normally carnivorous plants. (See the following link for a full explanation, with photos: http://news.bbc.co.uk/earth/hi/earth_news/newsid_8552000/8552157.stm.) The pitcher plant we saw near Poring was *Nepenthes stenophylla*, an insect-eater. The four species on the *Nepenthes* Trail at Mesilau were *N. burbridgeae*, *N. fusca*, *N. rajah*, and *N. tentaculata* (see photo). Back in the garden at Mesilau were a hybrid, a *N. villosa*, and a *N. lowii*, the latter two of which grow naturally higher up the mountain.

Among the many invertebrate critters we encountered were:

--Bornean Pill Millipedes (*Glomeris connexa*, family Zephronidae) at BRL. They feed on dead leaves and wood in the leaf litter, contributing to decomposition of organic matter and releasing nutrients back into the soil. They curl into a protective ball like a pillbug when disturbed. There were other, more traditional millipedes as well.

--Long-legged centipedes (*Scutigera* spp.), on the Gomantong cave walls, are generally nocturnal. They devour spiders, stick insects, and beetle larvae.

--Among the many spiders, outstanding was the big hole-living tarantula in its den in the bank of the road to the BRL staff quarters. That's not mentioning the hundreds of tiny spider eyes reflected in the spotlights on our nocturnal forays.

--Lantern bugs (*Pyrops* species, family Fulgoridae, order Hemiptera). The species we saw, on trunks along the path at Poring Hot Springs, was *P. sultana*. It is basically white with a long, red, snout-like head process. Contrary to the belief of Linnaeus, who described several species, the inflated head process does not light up at night. Lantern bugs are in fact sap suckers, their slender proboscis (below the head process) probing into the sap of certain trees, where they sometimes congregate in numbers. They excrete excess sugars as droplets that certain ants have become specialized to collect!

--Giant Forest Ants (*Camponotus gigas*), seen at BRL, are among the largest ants worldwide. They are primarily nocturnal, nest underground mostly (though sometimes in the canopy), and feed on dead insects and plant material. They are similar to Neotropical "bullet ants."

--Of the many butterflies, perhaps most memorable would be the Common Wood Nymph or Tree Nymph (*Idea stollii*) that floats, tissue paper-like, throughout the lowlands (and is replaced by a montane counterpart in the highlands); the big, striking black-and-yellow Common Birdwings (*Trioides helena*) that were especially common at the bright-orange flowers at Gomantong; the lovely Clipper Butterfly (*Parthenos sylvia*) we photographed along the Sukau boardwalk; and the collection of colorful butterflies in the mud near the Masakob waterfall (one of which was *Cyrestis maenalis*, one of the mapwings). We've included a composite photo of three of these species in the online triplist.

--We were amazed and overwhelmed by the diversity and beauty of the many fabulous moths attracted nightly to the lighted walls of our lodgings at Kinabalu Park. Among them was the long-tailed, brown-and-white Lyssa moth (*L. zampa*), one of which we saw taken by a Bornean Whistling-Thrush. We've included a composite photo of a few of the many we were able to ID, using multiple excellent websites, including: <http://www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/Malaysia%20thumbs.htm> and <https://www.flickr.com/groups/1073122@N24/>

--Among the many other fascinating insects were iridescent green beetles, big green cicadas, some nice dragonflies, and the masses of cockroaches clumped together on the walls of the Gomantong Cave.

--And we can't forget the leeches. Despite the surprisingly dry conditions, we did "experience" a few, including both Brown Leeches (*Haemadipsa zeylanica*) and Tiger Leeches (*H. picta*), which are probably the most talked about of Borneo's diverse fauna. They informed our fashion and left some of us with "battle scars" and official Tiger Leech Survivor certificates.

Additional vertebrates of particular interest:

--Harlequin Flying Frog (*Rhacophorus pardalis*) - A canopy inhabitant that sails to the forest floor to breed. We saw this one at the BRL "frog pond," one of very few forest pools we encountered during this dry period. Like other "flying frogs," it's able to "fly" by spreading its toes, which are connected by broad membranes that allow it to sail from branch to branch or across gaps in the forest canopy.

--File-eared Treefrog (*Polypedates ottilophus*) - These yellowish frogs tend to congregate over water, where they lay their fertilized eggs into a foam mass that will harden on the outside while remaining liquid on the inside, providing the tadpoles a suitable environment until the mass falls into the water below. Ours were above the "frog pond" at BRL.

--Bornean Horned Frog (*Megophrys nasuta*) - Adzal found a small one along the trail to the Jacuzzi Pool on 9 March, showing it to half the group. With its tan and brown mottling and its pointed ears and snout, it so blends into the leaf litter that it constitutes an exceptional example of camouflage!

--Smith's Giant Gecko, or Giant Forest Gecko (*Gekko smithii*) - As split from Tokay Gecko (*G. gecko*), this was the one that we heard so frequently uttering its surprisingly loud calls throughout the lowland forests. We saw it, green eyes and all, at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, where it played hide-and-seek along the covered section of the boardwalk back to the rooms. Of course, there were also oodles of common house geckos, gathering around any lighted area.

--Horned Flying Lizard (*Draco cornutus*) - This was the bright green lizard with spiny scales over the eyes and an orange-tipped, triangular dewlap erected in courtship. We watched several different individuals sail from one trunk to another, first right on the grounds of the SNR, and then elsewhere in the lowlands. They expand a winglike patagium of skin on their sides that allows them to glide between trees, sometimes as far as 60m!

--Crested Green Lizard (*Bronchocela cristatella*) - This was the brilliant green lizard with the extremely long, thin tail that some of us saw at SNR and everyone saw at Gomantong and Sukau. It's common and widespread throughout the lowlands of Borneo.

--Borneo Angle-headed Lizard (*Gonocephalus borneensis*) - This one, endemic to Borneo, was seen at the RDC.

--Comb-crested Agamid (*Gonocephalus liogaster*) - A.k.a. Blue-eyed Angle-headed Lizard, this was the species, two of which we saw sleeping on eye-level branches on our night walk with Paul at BRL.

--Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*) - We saw some big ones, especially in the Kinabatangan, where we had them along the tributaries in the sun. Also in the gardens and swimming across the lake at the Sepilok Nature Resort.

--Saltwater or Estuarine Crocodile (*Crocodylus porosus*) - Though the little ones were more commonly spotlighted, we had one really big in the Kinabatangan. Considered to be very intelligent and sophisticated animals, they communicate by barks and are thought to display four different calls. Widely distributed, Saltwater Crocs are the largest living reptiles, males reaching 6-7 m and weighing more than 2500 lbs. Females are much smaller.

--Paradise Flying Snake (*Chrysopelea paradisi*, most likely though there are two species in Borneo) - A few very lucky folks (Nancy, at least) got to see one "fly" across the road near the sunbird flowers at RDC! Its body was flattened and ribbon-like, its motion undulating in curves, basically, "snaking" through the air. Several more folks got to see once it landed. But it disappeared quite quickly. It was a lifer for the Grebe! For a neat video of this species in "flight," see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtlpfTwwziY>.

--Mangrove Cat Snake (*Boiga dendrophila*) A.k.a. Yellow-banded Cat Snake, this pretty black and yellow snake is nocturnal, eating birds (especially their nestlings & eggs), amphibians, lizards, & other snakes. It's even known to take mouse deer! It's usually seen coiled on a branch over water during the day, as where we saw it along the Menanggul.

--Reticulated Python (*Broghammerus reticulatus*) - Found in Sundaland and the Philippines, it's nocturnal and feeds primarily on homeotherms near water; it kills its prey by constriction. We saw a big one on a night cruise near the mouth of the Menanggul into the Kinabatangan.

--Red-sided Keelback Water Snake (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*) - This was the small snake, of which we saw two, at the BRL "frog pond" on our night walk.

--"Common Bronzeback" was what Hazwan called the smaller of the two snakes we looked down upon from the little bridge over the forested stream at the Sepilok Orangutan Rehab Center. The genus is *Dendrelaphis*, but there are various species in Borneo, *D. caudolineatus* probably being the most common. At the same spot, we watched a 2m-long, large-headed, dark snake with a pale dorsal stripe which Hazwan thought was a "White-bellied Rat Snake," *Ptyas fusca*. I couldn't confirm these with photos.

--Brown-tailed Racer (*Gonyosoma oxycephalum*), a.k.a. Red-tailed Racer - The long bronze-olive snake with the very pointed nose, yellow throat, and contrasting gray-brown tail, which we found dead (unfortunately) along the entrance road to BRL, belonged to this species. Its slender, compressed body is normal for the species, which feeds on birds and rodents.

Like Kinabalu itself, that's just the "tip of the batholith." There are LOTS of fabulous critters out there, and we encountered but a small (yet wonderful!) sampling.

Totals for the tour: 301 bird taxa and 31 mammal taxa