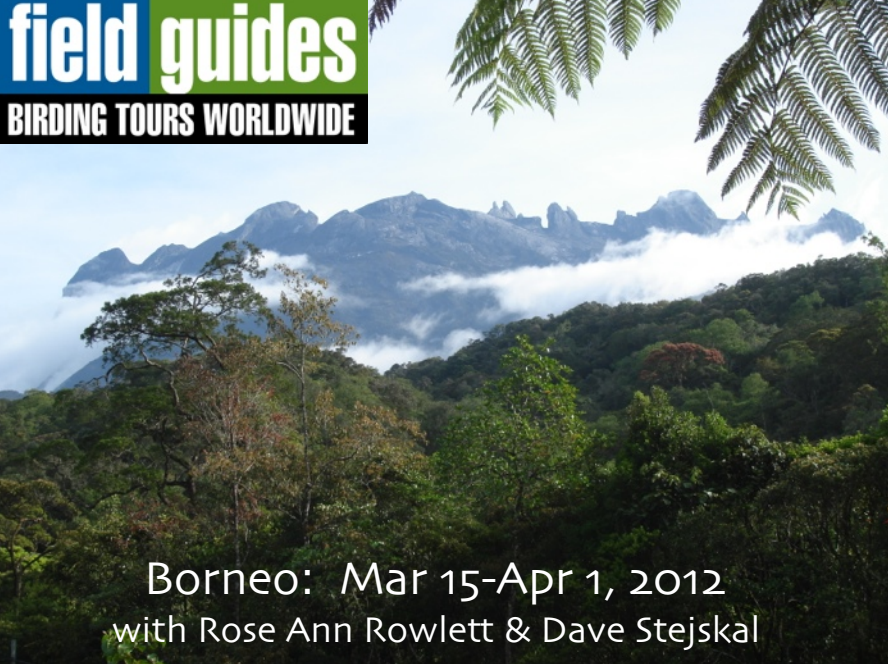




field guides
BIRDING TOURS WORLDWIDE



Borneo: Mar 15-Apr 1, 2012
with Rose Ann Rowlett & Dave Stejskal



Borneo

Mar 15, 2012 to Apr 1, 2012
Rose Ann Rowlett & Dave Stejskal

I've said it before, but I'm still thinking: what could be more fun?! Take an enthusiastic group of birders to some of the world's most impressive forests, full of exotic birds and mammals, "flying" reptiles and amphibians, and a long list of other incredible critters and plants, and we're sure to have a great time. And so it was on this, our sixth, tour of some of the best of Borneo. Dave and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

In our efforts to overcome jetlag, we all arrived early, and we managed to get in a little extra birding before the tour officially started. We had a morning to the N of KK, in open country marshes and agricultural fields on the Tempusak Plain; it produced a number of more widespread Asian species that we don't see on the tour itself but that were clearly enjoyed by this group, a number of whom were experiencing Asian birding for the first time. (Since we all participated, I've included those species in the list below.)

We began officially in the Crocker Range, where we saw a number of highland endemics, from the usually tough Whitehead's Broadbill and Mountain Serpent-Eagle to Mountain and Bornean barbets, Bornean Treepie, Bornean Bulbul, Bornean Leafbird, Black-sided Flowerpecker, and endearing flocks of Chestnut-crested Yuhinas. We were off to a nice start.

At Gungung Kinabalu, Borneo's center of endemism, we had wonderful luck with such specialties as the gorgeous Whitehead's Trogon (a male before breakfast our very first morning!), Fruit-hunter (including near an active nest), Crimson-headed Partridge, Bare-headed Laughingthrush, Cave Swiftlet, and such skulkers as Mountain Wren-Babbler, Bornean Stubtail, and (for the Summit Trail group) Friendly Bush-Warbler. We never heard even a note from a Whitehead's Spiderhunter, and we failed to encounter the little-known Everett's Thrush, but most of the rest of the endemics fell into place, and we had a wonderful Rafflesia experience at Poring and saw fabulous pitcher plants, including (for the Mesilau group) the world's largest. Each morning we marveled at the diversity of beautiful critters, especially moths, that had accumulated outside Steve's door.

Our real introduction to tropical lowland forest was at Sepilok, where we spent a morning in the RDC canopy towers, enjoying a range of representative Asian species, from our first hornbills and Black-and-yellow Broadbills to displaying Violet Cuckoos, stunning White-bellied and Crimson-winged woodpeckers, and fancy Raffles's and Chestnut-breasted malkohas.

That afternoon we would continue to Gomantong Cave, where we scoped out each of the echo-locating swiftlets on their nests and then emerged from the cave to our first Orangutan! We watched a long-winged Black Eagle sailing along the high limestone cliffs and watched our first Red Leaf Monkeys accomplishing some impressive jumps. We saw a calling pair of White-crested Hornbills and watched large groups of Bushy-crested Hornbills gather to roost sites as we waited for the bats to emerge. Soon there were smoke-like clouds of hundreds of Wrinkle-lipped Bats drifting away from the caves, and shortly the crepuscular Bat Hawks appeared, diving through the clouds and emerging with food for the night. We would later see them perched and even hear their calls. It was a lovely clear evening, and we managed to reach Sukau earlier than usual.

We had sunny mornings, cloudy afternoons, and rainy evenings for our two full days in the Kinabatangan. We birded by boat, morning, late afternoon, and one evening, and we worked in some time on the boardwalk immediately behind our



The spiffy Black-and-yellow Broadbill, though a fairly common Sundaland specialty, turned out to be one of our favorites. (Photo by tour participant Steve Rannels)

lodge. Highlights included the Bornean Ground-Cuckoo that we all managed to see on our very first morning; electric light on such beauties as Long-tailed Parakeets, Black-and-red Broadbills, and Storm's Storks; the dramatic interactions among three wing-lifting Great Slaty Woodpeckers; scope views of Ruddy Kingfisher and Striped Wren-Babbler from our Sukau boardwalk; a pair of tiny White-fronted Falconets perched up beside the big Kinabatangan just before the heavens opened up; incredible Proboscis Monkeys gathered along the riverbanks; a Colugo with a young one that roosted during the day on a trunk at our lodge and then sailed from one trunk to another by night; and finding "our own" herd of Bornean Pygmy Elephants at close range.

We had a wonderful morning of birding along the Gomantong entrance road, seeing such wonders as Hooded and Black-headed pittas, Red-bearded Bee-eater, and a terrific array of babblers, before settling in to Borneo Rainforest Lodge, our comfortable home for the next five days.

Foremost among our favorites at BRL were great views of the monotypic Bornean Bristleheads on our first morning afield; being able to watch at leisure a stunning male Blue-headed Pitta repeatedly gathering dead-leaf material from the forest floor and carrying it to a nest in the crotch of a tree 25 feet up!; and watching (and listening to!) the most bizarre of the hornbills, the Helmeted. The canopy walkway offered non-stop activity from time to time, with unique opportunities to see canopy species eye-to-eye, and both the road and the trails held ever-changing surprises, both by day and by night. Among the many incredible birds, mammals, and other critters we encountered at BRL, we'll each have our own additional favorites. It was fun reliving the trip while annotating the list that follows. Hopefully it'll serve to bring back great memories for you guys as well.

It was a bit sobering to realize how many of the species we saw are considered either Endangered, Vulnerable, or Near Threatened by Birdlife International and the IUCN Red List. We'll hope that our visit will contribute a bit toward their longterm preservation.

In the annotations below, I've used the following abbreviations:

RDC = Rainforest Discovery Centre
BRL = Borneo Rainforest Lodge

By a Sundaland specialty, I mean a species whose range is generally restricted to the Thai-Malay peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, and Java, all of which were connected during the last ice age. The eastern boundary of Sundaland is Wallace's Line, a deep-water trench between Borneo and Sulawesi and between Bali and Lombok, east of which is Wallacea/Australasia. Many of the birds of Borneo, as marked with an S on the checklist, are Sundaland specialties. Taxonomy follows the Clements checklist with online updates. To access the Clements checklist, go to <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/clementschecklist>, where you can download it and check for additional updates.

We thank Borneo Eco Tours, our great local guides (Adrian, Haswan, Wangkong, and Paul), our captains and boatmen, and the staffs of our wonderful lodgings throughout the tour. Special thanks for cover photos to John Drummond (Fruit-hunter, Black-sided Flowerpecker), Steve Rannels (Antheraea moth, Black-and-yellow Broadbill), and Karen Walz (Orangutan). Dave contributed the Storm's Stork, Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter, and Blue-headed Pitta, and the rest were mine. Thanks, too, to each of you guys for coming and for making the trip so much fun.

--Rose Ann (& Dave)

For more information about this tour, including future departures, visit our website at www.fieldguides.com. And to see this same triplist online, go to <http://www.fieldguides.com/triplists/bor12aLIST.pdf> and you will find the list in its entirety.

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)

LESSER WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna javanica*) – At least two birds were seen on our pre-tour morning in the marshes near Kota Belud.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

RED-BREASTED PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila hyperythra*) – Heard (repeatedly) by all and seen well by one lucky group along the Bukit Ular trail at Kinabalu on our final morning in the park. [E]

CHESTNUT-NECKLACED PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila charltonii*) – Seen late one afternoon from the road at BRL. Well, there was a pair at close range, singing away and responding to playback, but it was so dark inside the tangled road-edge forest floor, where one bird came into view, that it appeared mostly a big, dark blob--even in the scope. Still, it was a singing dark blob for those who could make it out.

CRIMSON-HEADED PARTRIDGE (*Haematortyx sanguiniceps*) – But we all had fabulous views of this stunning Bornean endemic along the Bukit Ular trail at Kinabalu. [E]

CRESTED FIREBACK (*Lophura ignita nobilis*) – We had missed them the afternoon of our arrival to BRL, and we had rain the following afternoon. But Martin wandered the grounds as the rain stopped and found a male that led us to a group of at least 4 birds, 2 males and 2 females, that we all had great views of. Several birds were seen again during our stay, near the lodge and off the entrance road. Note the endemic Bornean race, with the central tail feathers cinnamon-buff (instead of white).

GREAT ARGUS (*Argusianus argus*) – We all heard this one a few times, giving a series of calls as they foraged through the forest, but they were not at their display grounds this trip. One group got incredibly lucky and had a foraging male walk across the Sapa trail right in front of us! Sorry there was nothing we could do to target this beauty for the other group.

Ciconiidae (Storks)

STORM'S STORK (*Ciconia stormi*) – Classified as Endangered (with a population of fewer than 500 birds) by the IUCN, this small stork is one of the real specialties of the Kinabatangan, which is considered its world stronghold. We were quite lucky this trip, seeing as many as 10 birds circling together and 6 on another day, both perched and flying! That's in an area where a breeding population of only 40+ birds was censused between 1999 and 2002. With increased fragmentation of their habitat, the species has declined throughout its limited range, mostly in Borneo and Sumatra. The cover photo was taken by Dave Stejskal.

LESSER ADJUTANT (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) – We lucked into one perched bird, in a dead tree along the big Kinabatangan, at sunset one afternoon as we returned by boat to Sukau Rainforest Lodge. This species is more common well downriver, close to the coast.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

ORIENTAL DARTER (*Anhinga melanogaster*) – Fairly common in the Kinabatangan.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

YELLOW BITTERN (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) – Seen both on our pre-tour morning in the Kota Belud marshes and at night (by flashlight!) in tall grasses along the Kinabatangan.

CINNAMON BITTERN (*Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*) – Our pre-tour views were all of birds in flight--up and back down quickly--but we had great scope views of a bird that flushed up along the highway through the palm plantations en route to Gomantong. It's a locally common breeder in Borneo, but its numbers are augmented by boreal migrants that winter as well.

GRAY HERON (*Ardea cinerea*) – Seen from a moving bus and then by some in the Kinabatangan.

GREAT-BILLED HERON (*Ardea sumatrana*) – As we sat in the BRL dining room one rainy afternoon, Jan spotted this species flying upriver; but it disappeared before anyone else got on it.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*) – Seen widely, in small numbers.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – Fairly common and widespread.

INTERMEDIATE EGRET (*Mesophoyx intermedia*) – Seen well on our pre-tour morning and especially on the airstrip at Lahad Datu, where we could see that the gape extended only as far as the eye--and not beyond (as it does in Great Egret).



We found a very friendly Friendly Bush-Warbler up the Summit Trail at Kinabalu. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*) – Seen in the rice fields and along the Kinabatangan.

PACIFIC REEF-HERON (*Egretta sacra*) – Several were seen flying past during our dinner(s) at the delicious Indian food restaurant on the waterfront in KK.

CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN) (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*) – Fairly common and widespread this time of year, but not known to breed in Borneo. We did see some in orangy alternate plumage; these are thought to be headed for Japan and/or Taiwan. Note the trinomial in case this Asian race is elevated to full-species status in the future. [b]

CHINESE POND-HERON (*Ardeola bacchus*) – It was nice to see a couple of birds in breeding plumage in the marshy fields on our pre-tour trip to Kota Belud. In Borneo this species is considered an uncommon to rare non-breeding visitor. [b]

JAVAN POND-HERON (*Ardeola speciosa*) – This seemed to be the more common of the two pond-herons at Kota Belud--where it is considered regular but non-breeding--and we saw a number of breeding-plumaged birds. It does breed in se Kalimantan. [b]

STRIATED HERON (*Butorides striata*) – Kota Belud & the Kinabatangan.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) – A few birds in the Kinabatangan.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

JERDON'S BAZA (*Aviceda jerdoni*) – First seen flying above the Gomantong entrance road, but later seen better by folks along the BRL entrance road.

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*) – Because this species mimics the plumages of the hawk-eagles with which it occurs, differentiating on the basis of plumage can be really tough. Fortunately, we saw birds in flight, on two different days, well out the BRL entrance road, and we could see their long-necked, small-headed, long-tailed shapes.

BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) – What a treat! Not only did we watch them in dramatic pursuit of bats emerging from the Gomantong caves, but we saw them up close and calling and then perched and in the scopes! The species is widespread but local, occurring in Africa, Australasia, and SE Asia. The Borneo birds belong to the nominate race.

BLACK-SHOULDERED KITE (*Elanus caeruleus*) – Over the marshy fields near Kota Belud.

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*) – Common and widespread, especially in secondary habitats.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) – First seen from our dinner table on the KK waterfront, this species was seen fairly widely, from the RDC canopy to the Kinabatangan to Lahad Datu.

LESSER FISH-EAGLE (*Ichthyophaga humilis*) – Seen well along the Menanggul and (through the scopes) along the Danum R at BRL; considered Near Threatened by the IUCN.

MOUNTAIN SERPENT-EAGLE (*Spilornis kinabaluensis*) – Our first one was calling, high above the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre, and we ran out to the parking lot to see it and were delighted with seeing it at all. Then we lucked into calling birds at least twice more in Kinabalu Park, on one occasion when a bird swooped in low overhead for good naked-eye views! This was the most conspicuous I've had this Vulnerable rarity on a Borneo tour. [E]

CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE (*Spilornis cheela*) – Seen first, perched, from the Sepilok RDC tower, and then seen daily the rest of the trip; the common lowland counterpart of the last species.

CRESTED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) – Also fairly common, this species was more conspicuous than usual this trip. We watched it perched and displaying overhead, seeing it well repeatedly.

JAPANESE SPARROWHAWK (*Accipiter gularis*) – This migrant was seen by one group with DS, well out the BRL entrance road. [b]

BLACK EAGLE (*Ictinaetus malayensis*) – It was another treat to watch this long-winged eagle sailing along the cliffs above Gomantong caves on our first visit there. We later saw one at BRL as well.

RUFOUS-BELLIED EAGLE (*Lophotriorchis kienerii*) – We all had great views of a bird along the Menanggul near Sukau, and then some folks saw another out the BRL entrance road.

CHANGEABLE HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) – We found an active nest of this species, one bird of which was a dark morph, along the Menanggul River. [N]

BLYTH'S HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus alboniger*) – Birds were seen on two different days out the BRL entrance road.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

WHITE-FRONTED FALCONET (*Microhierax latifrons*) – Considered Near Threatened, this tiny raptor can be easily overlooked. We were extremely lucky to have seen a pair of them, perched up together, along the big Kinabatangan, and just before the rains came down, on our final afternoon boat trip from Sukau. [E]

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – One bird was perched on a high tower above the marshy fields of the

Tempusak Plain on our pre-tour excursion.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) – Fairly common and widespread, this one was seen first on our pre-tour trip and then on various occasions along our tour route.

WATERCOCK (*Gallicrex cinerea*) – I've never seen such a concentration of this rallid as in the marshes of the Tempusak Plain near Kota Belud. We saw numbers flying up and down, and we even had the telescopes on several that showed well. Generally thought to be a non-breeding visitor to Borneo, it has now been recorded during the breeding season and may actually stay to breed. [b]

PURPLE SWAMPHEN (BLACK-BACKED) (*Porphyrio porphyrio indicus*) – One was seen by John Drummond (and possibly others?) in the marshy fields near Kota Belud pre-tour.

EURASIAN MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*) – Fair numbers near Kota Belud.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

PACIFIC GOLDEN-PLOVER (*Pluvialis fulva*) – One bird, still in basic plumage, in a flooded rice field N of Kota Belud. [b]

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

PIED STILT (*Himantopus leucocephalus*) – The Old World stilts have been split, this species breeding from Indonesia to Australia & New Zealand and wintering in the Philippines, and the nominate Black-winged Stilt, *Himantopus himantopus*, breeding in the Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa to SE Asia and Taiwan, considered distinct species. Both occur regularly as migrants in NW Borneo and could have been in the flooded field N of Kota Belud (where we turned around), but I noticed only *leucocephalus*, with black on the back of the neck before we left. [a]

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

COMMON SANDPIPER (*Actitis hypoleucos*) – A few on our pre-tour excursion and then several along the Kinabatangan near Sukau. [b]

GREEN SANDPIPER (*Tringa ochropus*) – Near Kota Belud pre-tour; the Old World equivalent of our Solitary Sandpiper. [b]

COMMON GREENSHANK (*Tringa nebularia*) – Kota Belud pre-tour; the big guy.

MARSH SANDPIPER (*Tringa stagnatilis*) – Pre-tour excursion; reminiscent of a very whitish Lesser Yellowlegs. [b]

WOOD SANDPIPER (*Tringa glareola*) – The commonest sandpiper in the marshy fields on our pre-tour excursion. [b]

LONG-TOED STINT (*Calidris subminuta*) – We had nice scope views of this peep in the flooded field N of Kota Belud. [b]

PIN-TAILED SNIPE (*Gallinago stenura*) – Based on captures, this is considered the commonest snipe in W Sabah--which is where we were on our pre-tour excursion; so the snipe we saw were likely of this species. But it's practically impossible to separate this species from Swinhoe's where they overlap, and so we leave this one unidentified--as snipe sp.?? [b]

Glareolidae (Pratincoles and Coursers)

ORIENTAL PRATINCOLE (*Glareola maldivarum*) – A few are known to breed in Borneo, but the dozen or so we saw on our pre-tour excursion were probably migrants. We did have some nice looks, both at scoped birds on the ground and then at birds in buoyant flight. [b]

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

GULL-BILLED TERN (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) – Pre-tour excursion. [b]

WHITE-WINGED TERN (*Chlidonias leucopterus*) – Pre-tour; nice views of birds well into alternate plumage. [b]

WHISKERED TERN (*Chlidonias hybrida*) – Pre-tour excursion. [b]



The canopy walkway at BRL offers a totally different perspective on canopy birding. (Photo by guide Rose Ann Rowlett)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) [I]

SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*) – Common and widespread in non-forested areas.

RUDDY CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia emiliana*) – Dave pointed out one quick fly-by, which some folks got on, from our vista point along the trail above Poring Hot Springs. A slope specialist of lower montane forest, this Sundaland specialty is quite scarce on our route.

LITTLE CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia ruficeps*) – But this smaller relative of the last species is fairly common, especially in the montane forest, and we had great looks, starting at the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre and then also at Kinabalu.

EMERALD DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*) – Only glimpsed flying across the river in the Kinabatangan and then heard at BRL; fortunately, this one is a very widespread species.

ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia striata*) [I]

LITTLE GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron olax*) – We had terrific looks at this spiffy Sundaland specialty in the big fruiting fig right on the grounds of our Sepilok Jungle Resort. Also seen regularly in the Kinabatangan.

PINK-NECKED PIGEON (*Treron vernans*) – Martin saw one perched briefly on our pre-tour excursion N of Kota Belud. The rest of us saw a female above the parking area at Sepilok RDC and then with the Large Green-Pigeon along the Kinabatangan.

LARGE GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron capellei*) – We had nice views of this big pigeon, another Sundaland specialty, perched up along the Kinabatangan, where we saw 6 birds together during an afternoon cruise.

GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula aenea*) – Seen by some around KK, this was the common big pigeon of the lowlands. We had nice views in good light along the Kinabatangan and at BRL.

MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula badia*) – First seen flying over the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre, this big montane pigeon was best seen in a tree right beside our bungalows in Kinabalu Park.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

BLUE-RUMPED PARROT (*Psittinus cyanurus*) – Heard by one group along the entrance road at BRL. [*]

LONG-TAILED PARAKEET (*Psittacula longicauda*) – First seen at Sepilok, this Sundaland specialty was ultimately seen perched up in electric light in the Kinabatangan.

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING-PARROT (*Loriculus galgulus*) – Seen (when heard) as a midget fly-by on many occasions in the lowlands before we all finally managed great scope views at BRL, either from the canopy walkway or out the entrance road.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

LARGE HAWK-CUCKOO (DARK) (*Hierococcyx sparverioides bocki*) – The race *bocki* is restricted to the mountains of Sundaland, but it was always calling in the distance, and we never managed a view on this trip. [*]

MOUSTACHED HAWK-CUCKOO (*Hierococcyx vagans*) – A bird was seen briefly along the Menanggul, and we also heard them calling at BRL.

MALAYSIAN HAWK-CUCKOO (*Hierococcyx fugax*) – Another Sundaland specialty, this one was seen by some folks with DS along the BRL road; otherwise, it was heard only.

INDIAN CUCKOO (*Cuculus micropterus*) – This species was calling a lot during our trip, but it was tough getting a good look. Some folks saw it in the scope, briefly, from the RDC canopy tower; we all saw a responsive bird fly high overhead along the Gomantong road; and then the group in the BRL canopy on our final morning there had good looks at a perched bird.

SUNDA CUCKOO (*Cuculus lepidus*) – It took a while, but this Sundaland specialty was ultimately lured in by playback, right above our rooms at Kinabalu Park, such that everyone had great scope views. Good spotting, John Spahr!

BANDED BAY CUCKOO (*Cacomantis sonneratii*) – BRL [*]

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO (*Cacomantis merulinus*) – Heard more often than seen, this little cuckoo turned up regularly (for great views!) just outside the dining area at BRL

LITTLE BRONZE-CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*) – Known to brood-parasitize sunbirds, this scarce cuckoo was a nice surprise along the Menanggul, where we all saw it well from the boats.

VIOLET CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) – This little beauty was engaged in flight displays throughout our visit, starting at the RDC canopy walkway, where we had great scope views and watched it in display flight.

ASIAN DRONGO-CUCKOO (*Surniculus lugubris*) – Widespread and calling a lot during our visit, this species was best seen by all from the canopy walkway, where it was quite responsive--and looking quite like a drongo (until it started its

wing-spreading display).

ASIAN KOEL (*Eudynamys scolopacea*) – One migrant was seen by some in the Kinabatangan. [b]

BLACK-BELLIED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus diardi*) – This Sundaland specialty was first seen along the Gomantong entrance road and then at BRL as well.

RAFFLES'S MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*) – Reminiscent of the Squirrel Cuckoo of the neotropics, this handsome Sundaland specialty was seen well repeatedly, especially from the canopy, starting at the tallest RDC canopy tower.

RED-BILLED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*) – Another Sundaland specialty, this one was seen only twice--both from the BRL canopy walkway.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*) – First seen in the vines at Poring, this Sundaland specialty was later seen extremely well, especially from the RDC canopy and from the BRL canopy walkway.

BORNEAN GROUND-CUCKOO (*Carpococcyx radiatus*) – Yip! Yip! Yip! It was amazing that we all--in all three boats!--managed to see this shy and elusive endemic! Something was just right this trip to cause them to respond well vocally, and then we were lucky to find a reasonable spot for viewing along the banks of the Menanggul. We may have used up our luck for a while on this one. [E]

GREATER COUCAL (*Centropus sinensis*) – Heard more often than seen, but eventually seen well by all.

LESSER COUCAL (*Centropus bengalensis*) – Scoped at a distance in the marshy fields N of Kota Belud on our pre-tour extension and then seen again by one group well out the entrance road at BRL.

Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)

ORIENTAL BAY-OWL (*Phodilus badius*) – Heard, at too great a distance, along the Menanggul on our first night cruise; then heard, at closer range, from the Sukau boardwalk the following night, right before the rainstorm. A great sound, but sorry we couldn't see it. [*]

Strigidae (Owls)

MOUNTAIN SCOPS-OWL (*Otus spilocephalus*) – Calling very little--and only during the wee hours of the night--during our visit to Kinabalu. [*]

BUFFY FISH-OWL (*Ketupa ketupu*) – We had great studies of this one! We first saw it right on the grounds of Sukau Rainforest Lodge, but our best looks were of two birds interacting (adult and young?) repeatedly behind the dining area at BRL.

BROWN WOOD-OWL (*Strix leptogrammica*) – We had a great view of this beauty on our BRL night walk, when we spotlighted a bird near the staff quarters.

Apodidae (Swifts)

SILVER-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*) – Fairly common and widespread in the lowlands, starting with Poring (over the parking lot).

BROWN-BACKED NEEDLETAIL (*Hirundapus giganteus*) – Seen well by all out the BRL entrance road.

GLOSSY SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*) – Seen essentially every day of the trip, this commonest swiftlet was nesting under the eaves of various structures. Unlike the echo-locating swiftlets of the genus *Aerodramus*, this species needs some light for nesting, thus building under eaves or near the mouth of caves. [N]

CAVE SWIFTLET (BORNEAN) (*Collocalia linchi dodgei*) – Endemic to the mountains of Borneo (mostly to upper Kinabalu), the race *dodgei* of this swiftlet (otherwise known from Sumatra, Java, Bali, & Lombok) is considered a full species, Bornean Swiftlet, by some authors. It differs from Glossy Swiftlet by the green (rather than bluish) gloss to its plumage and by the absence of a feather tuft on its hind toe, a feature seen only in the hand. Thanks to Andy Boyce, of the bird research team working at Kinabalu, we got to see this difficult-to-identify species on its nest, where we accepted Andy's word that birds nesting there had been handheld and verified as *dodgei*. We could see the green gloss and were delighted to be able to count this species that we usually lack confidence to count. This was a case where my group was able to reciprocate (for the Bare-headed Laughingthrushes) by reaching DS's group with the news in time for everyone to see it (on our final morning at Kinabalu Park). Special thanks to Andy! [N]

MOSSY-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus salangana*) – One of the three similar, echo-locating swiftlets that nest inside Gomantong Cave; they're so similar, in fact, that they are not reliably separated unless seen on their distinctive nests. This species builds a cup nest of sticks glued together with saliva and covered with moss, often placed on a small ledge, sometimes at low elevation. Their nests contain too much foreign material to be edible and hence are not harvested. We saw them well inside the cave. [N]

BLACK-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus maximus*) – The Black-nest Cave at Gomantong was named for this species, and

indeed it was the most abundant nester during our visit. Their nests, harvested at least twice a year, are shallow cups of their own dark feather glued with their own saliva. There were masses of them clustered together on the very vertical walls of the cave, all blackish in appearance. Teams of workers clean these nests up for the market, and we saw their nests for sale in the KK airport.

EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) – On a couple of vertical walls, between clusters of black nests, were a few shallow white cups. We could find only one white nest that was occupied by a bird, an Edible-nest Swiftlet, essentially identical to the other swiftlets but ID'd by its nest. Composed almost entirely of the birds' saliva, these beautiful little nests of the Edible-nest Swiftlet are highly prized for the Chinese delicacy, bird's-nest soup. The packages of 6 nests that we examined in the KK international airport were priced at 580RM, or about \$188 U.S.! Despite the nest harvesting--once just after they're built (when the birds will surely renest), and then after the nestlings have fledged--the Gomantong Caves are said to have supported a healthy population of swiftlets for centuries, traced to the times of the Chinese Emperor. Today the caves are administered by Sabah's Wildlife Department, who licenses contractors who hire the locals to harvest the nests by hand, using rattan ladders, ropes, and poles, as well as great skill and caution. We were told that the first harvest of the year had been completed in February. The Black-nest Swiftlets had clearly renested in numbers, and presumably the Edible-nest Swiftlets had renested in the upper, less accessible, cave, known as the "White-nest Cave."

HOUSE SWIFT (*Apus nipalensis*) – Seen by some from the bus, right in KK, on our pre-tour excursion.

ASIAN PALM-SWIFT (*Cypsiurus balasiensis*) – John Spahr alone saw this species, flying over the palm plantations en route to Gomantong, from the bus window.

Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)

GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne longipennis*) – Seen nicely in flight several times, especially over the parking lot at Poring, and then seen again, perched by some, at BRL.

WHISKERED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne comata*) – A real favorite, this handsome and confiding treeswift was a regular presence at BRL, where it often had lunch with us!

Trogonidae (Trogons)

RED-NAPED TROGON (*Harpactes kasumba*) – Considered Near Threatened, this Sundaland beauty was seen in the Kinabatangan, along the Gomantong road, and on several occasions at BRL. Big and handsome!

DIARD'S TROGON (*Harpactes diardii*) – BRL: a female by some along the road; a male from the canopy tower by one group; and another male along the Jacuzzi Trail on our final morning afield. Another handsome Sundaland specialty.

WHITEHEAD'S TROGON (*Harpactes whiteheadi*) – Perhaps the most beautiful of the Bornean endemics, a male of this species was seen well by all on our first morning afield at Kinabalu Park! Yip! Yip! Yip! The group with RAR on our final morning in Kinabalu encountered a female trogon as well, along the Kiau View trail. This can be one of the toughest of the specialties to encounter. [E]

SCARLET-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes duvaucelii*) – Like a miniature version of the Red-naped Trogon, this Sundaland beauty was seen first along the Menanggul, then on the Gomantong road, and then by some from the BRL canopy walkway.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

COMMON KINGFISHER (*Alcedo atthis*) – Possibly a breeder, but more likely the bird we saw at the mouth of the Menanggul was a winter visitor that hadn't left yet for its breeding area in continental Asia or the Philippines. [b]

BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER (*Alcedo meninting*) – Seen well in the Kinabatangan, including by spotlight on a night roost.

BLUE-BANDED KINGFISHER (*Alcedo euryzona*) – We could hear it calling as it flew under the bridge across the Danum R. (on our final morn at BRL), but we never laid eyes on it. [*]



The scarce Red-throated Sunbird replaces Brown-throated Sunbird inside primary forest at BRL. (Photo by tour participant Steve Rannels)

RUFOUS-BACKED KINGFISHER (*Ceyx rufidorsa*) – One group with DS on the Sukau boardwalk called in a responsive bird. Then as we were drinking our welcome drink at BRL, Jan pointed out a bird perched just outside. After that we saw a confiding bird around the lodge several additional times. What a cutie!

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Pelargopsis capensis*) – This big, noisy beauty was first seen after breakfast at the Sepilok Jungle Resort, then repeatedly (and quite well! by day and night) in the Kinabatangan, and even at BRL

RUDDY KINGFISHER (*Halcyon coromanda*) – This difficult-to-see species was seen wonderfully well by all, through the scope, after it responded to playback along the Sukau boardwalk. A fabulous kingfisher!

COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Todiramphus chloris*) – Seen nicely at Sepilok Forest Edge and along the wires through the vast palm plantations between Sukau and Lahad Datu.

RUFOUS-COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Actenoides concretus*) [*]

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER (*Nyctyornis amictus*) – A fabulous--and very different--bee-eater, it was scoped at Gomantong and seen from the BRL canopy walkway and along the BRL road.

BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER (*Merops viridis*) – Seen daily in the Kinabatangan and our almost constant companions at BRL, these handsome bee-eaters were nesting in holes in the small sandy mounds along the Danum R. floodplain. [N]

Coraciidae (Rollers)

DOLLARBIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*) – At Gomantong and in the Kinabatangan.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) – It was the first hornbill we saw, at Sepilok Jungle Resort, and it was the commonest along the rivers in the Kinabatangan; but it was absent from the primary forest at BRL.

BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) – Considered Near Threatened, this noisy Sundaland specialty was also seen first at Sepilok, then in the Kinabatangan, and also in small numbers at BRL. We saw male variants (with the white brow) on a number of occasions.

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL (*Buceros rhinoceros*) – Also considered Near Threatened, this dramatic hornbill may be the handsomest of the hornbills. We saw them well in the Kinabatangan and at BRL, where they were regular in small numbers.

HELMETED HORNBILL (*Buceros vigil*) – Well, Jan may have seen more than her share, but, ultimately, everyone caught up with this, the most bizarre of the hornbills, along the BRL entrance road. We laughed repeatedly at its long, maniacal song as we made numerous attempts to call it in. It too is a Sundaland specialty that is considered Near Threatened.

BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILL (*Anorrhinus galeritus*) – Usually the commonest of the hornbills in the lowland rainforest, this social species was seen best in the late afternoon at our Gomantong bat emergence vista. Also seen at Sukau and BRL.

WHITE-CROWNED HORNBILL (*Aceros comatus*) – This scarce Sundaland specialty is usually the hardest to see, but we were lucky this trip to have seen a pair on our afternoon at Gomantong caves. Then one group with RAR along the BRL road encountered another group of 3. Also considered Near Threatened.

WRINKLED HORNBILL (*Aceros corrugatus*) – We saw but one female of this Near Threatened, Sundaland specialty, but she was seen quite well, along the Tenangang R, a tributary of the Kinabatangan.

WREATHED HORNBILL (*Aceros undulatus*) – This big hornbill, more widespread than most, is generally scarce on this tour in March; apparently, most of the figs they prefer fruit later in the year. They travel long distances to good fruiting trees, sometimes gathering in large groups at a fruit bonanza. We saw our first pair flying along the Kinabatangan, another pair (for one group) perched out the entrance road at BRL, and there was yet one other encounter along the BRL road. A big beauty indeed!

Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

BROWN BARBET (*Calorhamphus fuliginosus*) – This aberrant, monotypic barbet is another Sundaland specialty, the Bornean birds having red legs and feet. We saw them well on various occasions, first at the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre, then at Sepilok, in the Kinabatangan, at Gomantong, and at BRL.

GOLD-WHISKERED BARBET (*Megalaima chrysopogon*) – We all saw this Sundaland specialty well from our vista point along the trail at Poring, where we called one in for scope views. It was heard widely thereafter but never seen well again.

RED-THROATED BARBET (*Megalaima mystacophanos*) – Another Sundaland specialty, this one was seen well at Gomantong and from the BRL canopy tower.

MOUNTAIN BARBET (*Megalaima monticola*) – We had several good looks at this lower-montane endemic along the road at Tambunan Rafflesia Centre, and we heard it along the Kiau View trail at Kinabalu, where it is scarce. This was the one that stops to take a breath after delivering a series of notes. [E]

YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET (*Megalaima henricii*) – The toughest barbet to see, it too is a Sundaland specialty that was heard several times in the distance at BRL. [*]

GOLDEN-NAPED BARBET (*Megalaima pulcherrima*) – A Kinabalu/Crocker Range endemic, it was heard a lot, but seen only a few times this trip. [E]

BLUE-EARED BARBET (*Megalaima australis*) – A more widespread species, this one was nesting in a hole in a tree just outside the dining area at BRL We had already seen it well at Poring, in the fig at Sepilok, and in the Kinabatangan. [N]

BORNEAN BARBET (*Megalaima eximia*) – A generally tough endemic, it was a struggle to locate this one, but we finally succeeded in getting scope views for all; at TRafflesia Centre. [E]

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RUFOUS PICULET (*Sasia abnormis*) – Seen best along the Sukau boardwalk (just when Martha stepped off!) and then again at BRL. It's another Sundaland specialty.

GRAY-CAPPED WOODPECKER (*Dendrocopos canicapillus*) – Seen well by the group that was in the BRL canopy walkway with RAR the entire morning on the cooler day (after night rains) that proved to be such great birding everywhere!

RUFOUS WOODPECKER (*Celeus brachyurus*) – This widespread woodpecker, still placed in the same genus with all the blond, crested woodpeckers of the neotropics, put in brief appearances at Sukau and on the Gomantong road.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus javensis*) – What a great way to start our lowland birding at the RDC! A very responsive pair of these dramatic woodpeckers showed well both from the ground and from the canopy walkway.

BANDED WOODPECKER (*Picus miniaceus*) – I think we all had beautifully responsive birds, both from the canopy and along the road, on that cool (and super!) day of birding at BRL. This one's a Sundaland specialty.

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Picus puniceus*) – Another Sundaland specialty, and another stunning Old World woodpecker! We all enjoyed it, as if frozen to the trunk, in a tree visible from the Bristlehead Tower at RDC.

CHECKER-THROATED WOODPECKER (*Picus mentalis*) – First seen by one group (with DS) along the Bukit Ular trail at Kinabalu, this Sundaland specialty was seen again with flocks at Kinabalu and along the entrance road at BRL.

MAROON WOODPECKER (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*) – Another Sundaland woodpecker, this one was seen at Kinabalu, in the Kinabatangan, at Gomantong, and at BRL.

ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Reinwardtipicus validus*) – This fancy Sundaland specialty was seen right at the Hill Lodge and up the road at Kinabalu, and one group had a nice pair from the canopy walkway at BRL.

BUFF-RUMPED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tristis*) – We all saw this one well from the RDC Hornbill Tower, then later in the Kinabatangan and at BRL. It too is restricted to Sundaland.

BUFF-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tukki*) – Also a Sundaland specialty, this one considered Near Threatened; we saw a pair (or family group?) well along the Gomantong entrance road. It was also seen at BRL.

GRAY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER (*Hemicircus concretus*) – What a fabulous little woodpecker! It's one of Asia's smallest woodpeckers and a Sundaland specialty to boot. We had several marvelous looks at it, including a close pair from the BRL canopy walkway. The male sat close-by, its tall crest erect and curled forward.

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*) – From the smallest to the largest of Asian woodpeckers! This big woodpecker was seen well in threesomes, first along the Menanggul by all, and then by a group with DS along the BRL entrance road. In each case, they seemed to face off, calling and spreading their wings in interaction. Quite a treat to behold!

Calyptomenidae (African and Green Broadbills)

GREEN BROADBILL (*Calyptomena viridis*) – Heard by a group with Wangkong and DS near the trail to the BRL canopy walkway, but it didn't respond well and managed to go unseen. [*]

WHITEHEAD'S BROADBILL (*Calyptomena whiteheadi*) – This fancy endemic was more conspicuous this year than on any past trip for me! We had fabulous looks at a responsive bird near the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre; then a bird was seen well on lower Bukit Ular, and they were vocalizing a lot (and seen yet again) near our lodgings at Kinabalu Park. A fantastic big broadbill, now placed (with Green Broadbill & African broadbills) into a family distinct from that of the other Asian broadbills. [E]

Eurylaimidae (Asian and Grauer's Broadbills)

BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILL (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*) – The typical Asian broadbills are exquisite too! This one, first seen at Gomantong, was seen especially well from our boats in the Kinabatangan. We noted several old nests hanging over the tributaries, at least one of them currently active on the Tenangang. [N]

LONG-TAILED BROADBILL (*Psarisomus dalhousiae*) – Fairly widespread, but what a bird! We saw a pair beautifully near Masakob Waterfall.

BANDED BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus javanicus*) – This one was seen well repeatedly, starting at the RDC Hornbill Tower, then along the Menanggul, and finally at BRL, where we watched it nest-building in the crotch of a canopy emergent from the BRL walkway. For one whole morning, at least one bird would fly in repeatedly, carrying long strings of plant material and casually drop it in the fork of two major limbs of a big canopy emergent. It rarely seemed to stay long enough to work the material into any form. On another morning at the same tower, we didn't see any such activity. [N]

BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) – Could this extraordinary and confiding small broadbill be the fairest of them all? Certainly, the soft pink is a rare color in passerines. We watched one at an active nest along the Menanggul and enjoyed them eye-to-eye from the canopy walkways. Common as it is, it's the only streaky-breasted spiderhunter that's restricted to Sundaland. Thanks to Steve Rannels for the lovely cover photo. [N]

DUSKY BROADBILL (*Corydon sumatranus*) – But this one has the biggest bill of all! After our first, rather frustrating, encounter with a responsive bird that continually overshot (well downriver in the Kinabatangan), one group had an incredibly responsive family of 8 birds from the BRL canopy walkway our first morning up there. Others caught up with good scope views along the road.

Pittidae (Pittas)

GIANT PITTA (*Pitta caerulea*) – On our final morning at BRL, four lucky folks who were birding the road with Wangkong (Martha, Jan, Harlan, & Martin) got to see a responsive male Giant Pitta, another Sundaland specialty, that had decided to start singing right at the end of our stay! Sorry we didn't have yet another morning.

BANDED PITTA (BORNEAN) (*Pitta guajana schwaneri*) – It would seem that some combination of rain and timing had awakened the pittas; it was a pitta day. The Banded Pittas decided to start singing as well. Three other lucky folks (John D, Terry, & Harriet), birding the Jacuzzi loop with RAR & Paul, encountered a Banded Pitta sitting up singing right beside the trail and heard yet another bird--on a loop that had been silent just two days before. Could it have been an emergence of earthworms? Or ants or caterpillars? Note that the race *schwaneri*, visually and vocally distinct from birds in Java and those on the peninsula, is endemic to Borneo and another good candidate for a split. Collectively, all three races are restricted to Sundaland.

BLUE-HEADED PITTA (*Pitta baudii*) – Watching the male of this handsome endemic, gathering and transporting nesting material to the crotch of a tree 25-30 feet above ground (!), was one of the foremost highlights of the tour. According to published sources, including the Handbook of Birds of the World (vol. with pittas published in 2003), the single nest known for the species was a domed structure of matted dead leaves surrounded by herbs and placed 50 cm above ground level on top of a soil mound created by the root system of a fallen tree; it was found in early May. Most pittas place their nests low, though some are known to build their domes in the crotch of a tree, some as high as 3 m. above ground. I suspect 25-30' (7-9m) up would be represent a record height. In most species, the male does the majority of the nest-building labor, but the female usually helps. Truth is very little is known about the nesting behavior of most pittas, including Blue-headed, which is classified as Vulnerable. The cover photo of the nest-building male was taken by DS.

[EN]

BLACK-HEADED PITTA (*Pitta ussheri*) – Another highlight was watching this gorgeous endemic singing through the scopes along the Gomantong entrance road. Some folks (with DS on that final morning afield) saw another bird along the road at BRL It was indeed a pitta morning. [E]

HOODED PITTA (*Pitta sordida*) – This colorful pitta was wonderfully responsive too, along the Gomantong entrance road, where it flew back and forth across the road, exposing its striking "silver dollar" wing patches as it flew past.

Acanthizidae (Thornbills and Allies)



This male Blue-headed Pitta was busy building a nest 25' above ground in primary forest at BRL. (Photo by tour participant John Drummond)

GOLDEN-BELLIED GERYGONE (*Gerygone sulphurea*) – DS probably heard it near the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre and then confirmed hearing it along the BRL entrance road. [*****]

Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)

LARGE WOODSHRIKE (*Tephrodornis gularis*) – Seen nicely from the BRL canopy walkway.

RUFOUS-WINGED PHILENTOMA (*Philentoma pyrhoptera*) – Between birds seen at Sukau and BRL, I think everyone managed a good look at this one.

MAROON-BREASTED PHILENTOMA (*Philentoma velata*) – Its fancier cousin was even more cooperative, coming in for close looks, both from the BRL canopy and along the road. This one is restricted to Sundaland.

Artamidae (Woodswallows)

WHITE-BREASTED WOODSWALLOW (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) – The only woodswallow in Borneo, it was seen well in open country throughout.

Pityriaseidae (Bristlehead)

BORNEAN BRISTLEHEAD (*Pityriasis gymnocephala*) – One of the most distinctive birds of Borneo, it is now placed in its own family, the red-throated sunbird, the only bird family endemic to Borneo. Though you wouldn't have known it this trip--we encountered them so many times!--it's also one of the most easily missed birds in Borneo. We were particularly fortunate to have encountered them on our very first morning at BRL and to have them hang around so that everyone in each group could see them well. A real highlight, not only for Harlan (Yip! Yip!), but for everyone. The generic name *Pityriasis* derives from the Greek *pityriasis*, meaning bran-like eruptions on the head, referring to the bare, bristle-covered head of this weirdly wonderful bird. Its closest relatives are thought to be the bushshrikes and vangas. Considered Near Threatened. [**E**]

Aegithinidae (Ioras)

COMMON IORA (*Aegithina tiphia*) – Seen along tributaries in the Kinabatangan.

GREEN IORA (*Aegithina viridissima*) – Considered Near Threatened owing to habitat pressure, this Sundaland canopy specialist was seen well repeatedly, especially from the towers and walkways.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

SUNDA CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina larvata*) – Another Sundaland specialty, it was seen well repeatedly in the highlands, starting at Tambunan Rafflesia Centre.

LESSER CUCKOO-SHRIKE (*Coracina fimbriata*) – Its smaller cousin, also restricted to Sundaland, was seen by all at BRL.

PIED TRILLER (*Lalage nigra*) – Seen very well on our pre-tour excursion, where it was common in trees and shrubs at the road edge.

FIERY MINIVET (*Pericrocotus igneus*) – Another Sundaland specialty that was best seen from the RDC towers and at BRL. Also considered Near Threatened.

SCARLET MINIVET (*Pericrocotus flammeus*) – Seen at our rest stop as we departed the Danum Valley en route back to Lahad Datu and our flight.

GRAY-CHINNED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus solaris*) – The highland minivet, it was seen with foraging flocks at Tambunan and Kinabalu, usually traveling in pairs.

BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus picatus*) – Seen nicely along the road near the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre and at Kinabalu.

BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*) – The lowland counterpart of the last species, this one is a Sundaland specialty. It was seen at RDC, in the Kinabatangan, and from the BRL canopy walkway (where it was feeding young). [**N**]

Pachycephalidae (Whistlers and Allies)

BORNEAN WHISTLER (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*) – This montane endemic, with the strong song, was seen well repeatedly in the Crocker Range and at Kinabalu. [**E**]

Laniidae (Shrikes)

BROWN SHRIKE (*Lanius cristatus*) – This migrant was seen in a roadside tree on the pre-tour excursion to the Tempusak Plain. [**b**]

LONG-TAILED SHRIKE (*Lanius schach*) – Several birds, probably breeders in Borneo now, were sitting on the wires in the plantation country between Sukau village and the turnout to Gomantong Caves. The species seems to have colonized

the increasingly abundant open country in Borneo, where it was not known to breed until very recently.

Vireonidae (Vireos)

BLYTH'S SHRIKE-BABBLER (BLYTH'S) (*Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni*) – Formerly classified as subspecies of White-browed Shrike-Babbler, the aeralatus group (including robinsoni, of the highlands of Borneo) has been elevated to a full species, as Blyth's Shrike-Babbler. Recent genetic studies have shown that the shrike-babblers are more closely related to vireos than to the babblers (Timaliidae) and that the whole group needed reassessment; hence the changes. The aeralatus group occurs from N Pakistan to S China and through Sundaland. We saw the Bornean subspecies at Tambunan Rafflesia Centre and on Kinabalu.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

DARK-THROATED ORIOLE (*Oriolus xanthonotus*) – Our first one was seen from our vista along the trail at Poring, where we had a male in the scopes. We then saw them at RDC, Gomantong, and BRL, especially in the canopy. Another Sundaland specialty that's considered Near Threatened.

BLACK-AND-CRIMSON ORIOLE (*Oriolus cruentus*) – Even more restricted than the last species, this chunky highland oriole is found only on the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo. We all had good looks at it near Tambunan and right outside our lodgings at Kinabalu Park.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

ASHY DRONGO (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) – Of the endemic race stigmatops, this handsome gray drongo was fairly common throughout the highlands.

CROW-BILLED DRONGO (*Dicrurus annectans*) – A scarce migrant in Borneo, a bird was seen by one of DS's groups out the BRL entrance road. [b]

BRONZED DRONGO (*Dicrurus aeneus*) – Seen nicely at Poring and BRL.

HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) – This one with the extremely curled tail was seen in the Crocker Range and on two days at Kinabalu.

GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus*) – Fanciest of the drongos, this one was scoped from the Bristlehead Tower and seen well again at BRL.

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura albicollis*) – The common and confiding fantail of the highlands.

PIED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura javanica*) – The common and confiding fantail of the lowlands.

SPOTTED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura perlata*) – But this Sundaland specialty is scarce by comparison; only one pair was encountered this trip. They were seen by the group with RAR in the BRL walkway on the morning of 28 Mar, and they were with a flock along the lower section of the walkway.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLACK-NAPED MONARCH (*Hypothymis azurea*) – This handsome monarch was seen nicely in the lowlands, from Gomantong to BRL.

ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) – We had fabulous views of knockout males of this long-tailed monarch from the BRL canopy walkway. Most of the adult males in Borneo are white-morph birds.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

CRESTED JAY (*Platylophus galericulatus coronatus*) – This secretive Sundaland specialty was seen by all along the road at BRL and then briefly from the canopy walkway. The race coronatus, brown instead of blue-black, is restricted to Borneo and Sumatra.

BLACK MAGPIE (*Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus*) – The all-black race, endemic to Borneo, is a good candidate for a split from birds of the Malay Peninsula and Sumatra. On this trip they were seen at RDC and BRL.

SHORT-TAILED MAGPIE (*Cissa thalassina*) – This stunning corvid, found only in Borneo and Java, was a real favorite at Kinabalu, where we watched it at close range (just outside our lodge) and thrilled to its varied--and loud!--repertoire of songs.

BORNEAN TREEPIE (*Dendrocitta cinerascens*) – This distinctive specialty was seen daily in the highlands, from Tambunan Rafflesia Centre through our stay at Kinabalu. [E]

SLENDER-BILLED CROW (*Corvus enca*) – Encountered daily in the lowlands.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BARN SWALLOW (*Hirundo rustica*) – This migrant was reasonably conspicuous during our trip, starting with the pre-tour

excursion. [b]

PACIFIC SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*) – Common throughout and seen nesting in various places, especially under the eaves at BRL [N]

STRIATED SWALLOW (*Cecropis striolata*) – We scoped a bird on the wire (with other swallows) in the Tempusak Plain on our pre-tour excursion, seeing even the streaks on the rufous-orange rump. A scarce, non-breeding visitor to Sabah, it was a lifer for our local guide Adrian! [b]

Stenostiridae (Fairy Flycatchers)

GRAY-HEADED CANARY-FLYCATCHER (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) – Heard several times, then finally seen, by those with DS on our final morning at BRL.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta frontalis*) – Seen well both by Summit Trail hikers and by the Mesilau group at Kinabalu; also seen several times at BRL; a delightful nuthatch!

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

PUFF-BACKED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus eutilotus*) [*]

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus atriceps*) – Seen at Gomantong, in the Kinabatangan, and at BRL.

BORNEAN BULBUL (*Pycnonotus montis*) – As split from Black-crested Bulbul, this yellow-throated, dark-eyed bulbul inhabits the lowermontane forests of north-central Borneo. We watched it along the road near the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre. [E]

SCALY-BREASTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus squamatus*) – Seen best out the entrance road at BRL

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. Some saw it well at the red-berried shrub at the entrance to the Timpohon gate, and then the Summit Trail hikers encountered it on their hike up Mt Kinabalu.

YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) – Common and widespread in disturbed habitats of the lowlands.

OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus plumosus*) – Seen well at Poring and Sepilok.

RED-EYED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus brunneus*) – This Sundaland bulbul, common throughout the lowlands, had a slightly orange-tinted red eye. We were never comfortable with an ID of its close look-alike, Cream-vented.

SPECTACLED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*) – Fairly common in the lowland forests and seen well at Sepilok, Sukau, and BRL. Another Sundaland specialty.

HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL (*Tricholestes criniger*) – This distinctive bulbul, with the big yellow eyering and the whiny call, was seen well along the Sukau boardwalk, the Gomantong road, and at BRL. Another Sundaland specialty.

FINSCH'S BULBUL (*Alophoixus finschii*) – This Sundaland specialty, considered Near Threatened, was surprisingly scarce this trip; it was seen on only one morning (4 birds along the BRL entrance road), by the group with DS on the morning of 28 March.

OCHRACEOUS BULBUL (*Alophoixus ochraceus*) – This big, puff-throated, montane bulbul was seen well several times at Kinabalu, including at Mesilau.

GRAY-CHEEKED BULBUL (*Alophoixus bres*) – The lowland counterpart of the last species, this puffy-throated bulbul was seen first at Poring, and then we learned its song along the Menanggul, where a responsive bird flew back and forth across the river in response to playback. It was also a regular at BRL.

YELLOW-BELLIED BULBUL (*Alophoixus phaeocephalus*) – We first saw this pretty Sundaland bulbul along the Menanggul, where a pair responded nicely. It was also seen almost daily at BRL.

BUFF-VENTED BULBUL (*Iole olivacea*) – This was the big one with the pale iris, seen at Gomantong and BRL. It's another Sundaland bulbul that is considered Near Threatened.

ASHY BULBUL (CINEREOUS) (*Hemixos flavala connectens*) – The Bornean race *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 it could be elevated to a Bornean endemic. We saw it well at the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre, its white throat puffed out.

STREAKED BULBUL (*Ixos malaccensis*) – This Near Threatened Sundaland specialty was seen first at Poring, then at Gomantong, and then at BRL.

Cettiidae (Bush-Warblers and Allies)

BORNEAN STUBTAIL (*Urosphena whiteheadi*) – What a cutie! Its yellow mouth lining is quite exposed as it opens its mouth widely to sing. And its song competes with that of a Blackpoll Warbler to test a birder's hearing! Our good looks

were along the Silau-Silau trail (with DS) and along the road paralleling the Silau-Silau (RAR's group; where it may have had a nest?) at Kinabalu. It's another Whitehead's endemic. [E]

YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER (*Abroscopus superciliaris*) – This was the bamboo specialist (with the sweet song) that was seen well first near the Tambunan Rafflesia Centre and then at Kinabalu.

MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD (*Phyllergates cucullatus*) – Another real cutie, but not actually a tailorbird; now placed in the Cettidae. It was seen well several times at Kinabalu.

SUNDA BUSH-WARBLER (*Cettia vulcania*) – This one was a bit unfriendly where we first tried for it (at the road edge in Kinabalu), but other individuals in the same area, as well as at Mesilau, were quite friendly indeed. As implied by its name, this is another Sundaland specialty.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

ARCTIC WARBLER (*Phylloscopus borealis*) – Individuals were seen a couple of different times at BRL. [b]

MOUNTAIN WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*) – A.k.a. Mountain Leaf-Warbler, this one was quite common at Kinabalu, where it was seen well.

YELLOW-BREASTED WARBLER (*Seicercus montis*) – This charming Sundaland warbler, with the high-pitched song, was quite common with small-bird parties at Kinabalu.

Acrocephalidae (Reed-Warblers and Allies)

ORIENTAL REED-WARBLER (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) – Seen at road edge on the Tempusak Plain, where John D's familiarity with its call note helped us locate this skulker. [b]

Locustellidae (Grassbirds and Allies)

FRIENDLY BUSH-WARBLER (*Bradypterus accentor*) – The Summit Trail group managed to find this endemic with the piercing song by climbing less than 2 kms up the trail. A lifer even for DS, it proved to be quite friendly--even photogenic! Yip! Yip! Now placed in the Locustellidae, along with the grassbirds. [E]

STRIATED GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus palustris*) – First seen well on our pre-tour excursion and then in the palm plantation country between Sukau and Gomantong.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) – We called in some very responsive birds along the Gomantong entrance road and then saw them at BRL as well.

RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus sericeus*) – We had lovely looks at these endearing tailorbirds, starting at the RDC tower and then throughout the lowlands. Of special interest was the roosting bird at night along the Nature Trail at BRL.

ASHY TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus ruficeps*) – Almost equally endearing, it too was common in the lowlands.

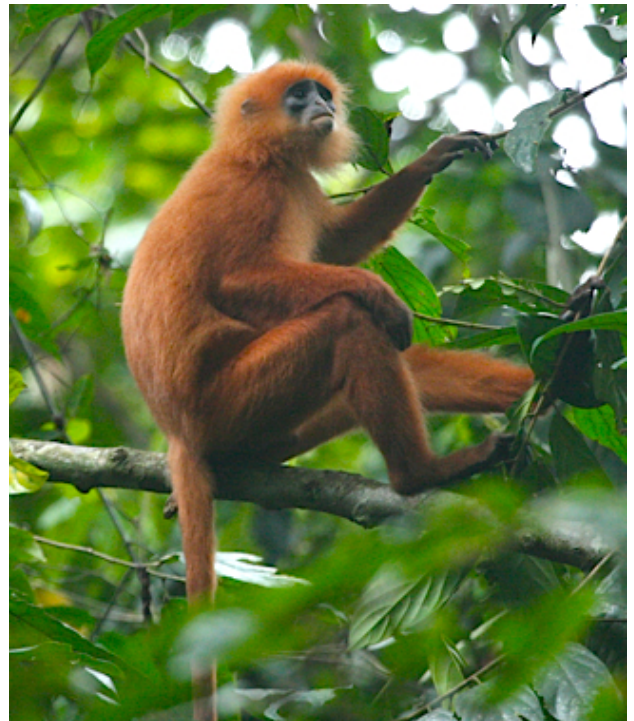
YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA (*Prinia flaviventris*) – First seen on our pre-tour excursion north, this one is widespread in the more open areas of the lowlands, where we heard it regularly. A roosting bird was spotlighted on one of our night cruises as well.

Zosteropidae (Yuhinas, White-eyes, and Allies)

CHESTNUT-CRESTED YUHINA (*Yuhina everetti*) – Common and captivating, tight flocks of these little yuhinas were regular in the montane forest edge at Tambunan and Kinabalu. [E]

PYGMY WHITE-EYE (*Oculocincta squamifrons*) – Their "favorite trees" were just at the right stage of fruiting at BRL to attract multiple foraging flocks of these little, rather nondescript endemics. We all saw them surprisingly well, mostly through the scopes. [E]

MOUNTAIN BLACK-EYE (*Chlorocharis emiliae*) – Both the Summit Trail group and the Mesilau group managed to see this higher-elevation endemic, which was one of the targets of our morning on the higher slopes of Mt Kinabalu. It belongs to a monotypic genus. [E]



The handsome Red Leaf Monkey is one of 10 sympatric primates in the Kinabatangan. (Photo by guide Dave Stejskal)

BLACK-CAPPED WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops atricapilla*) – This Sundaland specialty is a common species in montane Borneo, where we saw them repeatedly at Tambunan and Kinabalu.

Pellorneidae (Fulvettas and Ground Babblers)

BROWN FULVETTA (*Alcippe brunneicauda*) – Yet another Sundaland specialty that is considered Near Threatened; it was seen quite nicely at BRL.

BLACK-THROATED WREN-BABBLER (*Turdinus atrigularis*) – What a songster! Both groups had exceptionally good looks at this big wren-babbler that was singing so enthusiastically below the start of the BRL canopy walkway; it's normally quite a skulker. Considered Near Threatened. [E]

HORSFIELD'S BABBLER (*Malacocincla sepiaria*) – At home near the stream along the Jacuzzi trail, this species was seen quite well by both groups who birded that trail. Also a Sundaland specialty.

SHORT-TAILED BABBLER (*Malacocincla malaccensis*) – Yet another Sundaland babbler, it was seen well at BRL, when it responded to playback along the creek near the bridge (for one group) and along the entrance road (for the other group).

STRIPED WREN-BABBLER (*Kenopia striata*) – What great scope views of that singing bird along the Sukau boardwalk! On our final morning, the BRL Jacuzzi trail group stumbled into another bird as well. Another Sundaland specialty.

TEMMINCK'S BABBLER (*Pellorneum pyrrogenys*) – Yet another babbler confined to Sundaland, this one is a highlander. We saw it right at our feet before breakfast on our first morning up the road at Kinabalu.

BLACK-CAPPED BABBLER (*Pellorneum capistratum*) – First seen along the Gomantong boardwalk, this one performed beautifully along the Sukau boardwalk and was still charming us at BRL. Like most of the babblers we saw, it's another Sundaland specialty.

WHITE-CHESTED BABBLER (*Trichastoma rostratum*) – Ditto for this one. Preferring to forage right at the edge of the water, this one was seen (and heard!) quite well along the Menanggul and at Gomantong, as well as BRL. As common as it is along the waterways of the Kinabatangan, it's hard to believe that it is considered Near Threatened.

FERRUGINOUS BABBLER (*Trichastoma bicolor*) – Seen well by RAR's group along the Sukau boardwalk, this Sundaland specialty is fairly common in the lowlands. By the time we left BRL, everyone had caught up with it well.

MOUSTACHED BABBLER (*Malacopteron magnirostre*) – With a nice duet, or sometimes a chorus of a whole family group, this Sundaland babbler was seen well repeatedly at BRL.

SOOTY-CAPPED BABBLER (*Malacopteron affine*) – First encountered along the Gomantong road, this one too was seen well by everyone before we left BRL. It too occurs only in Sundaland and is considered Near Threatened.

SCALY-CROWNED BABBLER (*Malacopteron cinereum*) – This was the smaller one with the pinkish legs that we saw mostly from the trails at BRL. Terry finally nailed it along the Jacuzzi trail.

RUFOUS-CROWNED BABBLER (*Malacopteron magnum*) – Everyone had super looks at this species that came in so close below us in response to playback from the BRL canopy tower; it was fairly big and had dark legs and no black scaling on its rufous crown. Like so many of these babblers, it's found only in Sundaland and considered Near Threatened.

MOUNTAIN WREN-BABBLER (*Napothera crassa*) – Another confiding endemic, this one came in close for everyone along the Bukit Ular trail and was seen and heard on several other occasions at Kinabalu. [E]

BORNEAN WREN-BABBLER (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*) – This one wasn't singing much during our visit to BRL; we heard it only once--way in the distance--and never saw it this trip. Considered Vulnerable. [E*]

Leiothrichidae (Laughingthrushes)

SUNDA LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax palliatus*) – Found only on Sumatra and Borneo, this is another real specialty of the trip, albeit reasonably common at Mt. Kinabalu. We had several good looks at big-bird flocks with this species being one of the primary components, especially along the road near our lodge.

BARE-HEADED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax calvus*) – As split from Black Laughingthrush, this weirdly wonderful laughingthrush becomes another Bornean endemic. We ALL saw it well on our final morning at Kinabalu, thanks to DS's group having found it and kept track of it until my group arrived. It reminds us of one of the advantages of having had two groups in the field simultaneously. [E]

CHESTNUT-CAPPED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (CHESTNUT-HOODED) (*Garrulax mitratus treacheri*) – This race too is split by some authorities as Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush, in which case it would be another Bornean endemic of the north-central mountain ranges, where it is quite common. It seemed to lead a number of big-bird flocks and was quite vocal during our visit.

Timaliidae (Babblers)

RUFOUS-FRONTED BABBLER (*Stachyridopsis rufifrons*) – Heard a few times at BRL, but seen only by the group with DS in the canopy walkway on our final morning afield.

BOLD-STRIPED TIT-BABBLER (*Macronous bornensis*) – Another recent split from Striped Tit-Babbler, this noisy babbler becomes yet another Bornean endemic. Some of us saw it well in the gardens of the Sukau Rainforest Lodge and then everyone caught up with it on the Gomantong road and/or at BRL, where it is quite common on the grounds. [E]

FLUFFY-BACKED TIT-BABBLER (*Macronous ptilosus*) – This Near Threatened Sundaland specialty is among my favorite babblers. It was quite responsive to playback along the Gomantong entrance road, but we had to work to see it well. Ultimately, we all managed to see its electric-blue eye ring, but it didn't erect its long back plumes this time.

GRAY-THROATED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigriceps*) – This Sundaland specialty was especially cooperative, being seen well first at Tambunan and then along the road edge and trails at Kinabalu on various occasions.

GRAY-HEADED BABBLER (*Stachyris poliocephala*) – One group watched a pair of these Sundaland babblers above their bathing stream late one afternoon at BRL. We found them again in the same area for everyone else two days later. This distinctive babbler was #4000 for Jan, who ended the trip with 258 lifers!

BLACK-THROATED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigricollis*) – This one was even more of a challenge than the Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler, but I think everyone (with some perseverance) managed a reasonable look in the same shrubbery and vines as that species. Also a Sundaland specialty that is considered Near Threatened.

CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER (*Stachyris maculata*) – These were seen well on the Gomantong road, where a whole family group responded well to playback. Also at BRL. Another Sundaland specialty that is considered Near Threatened.

CHESTNUT-WINGED BABBLER (*Stachyris erythroptera*) – Seen well along the Gomantong boardwalk, where a pair duetted, the male inflating its blue pouch, as we watched; fairly common throughout the lowlands, it is also a Sundaland specialty.

CHESTNUT-BACKED SCIMITAR-BABBLER (*Pomatorhinus montanus*) – We had exceptionally good looks at this Sundaland beauty from the BRL canopy walkway on one morning, and then it was seen well along the entrance road the next day.

Irenidae (Fairy-bluebirds)

ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD (*Irena puella*) – Now representing a family of just two closely related species, this beauty is generally uncommon on our route. This trip we saw more than usual, perhaps the best being that gorgeous male that we scoped at the edge of the Sepilok parking lot. Dynamite colors!

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

DARK-SIDED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa sibirica*) – An uncommon visitor/passage migrant to Sabah, this was species was seen a couple of times (in the same spot) along the BRL entrance road. [b]

GRAY-STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa griseisticta*) – A rare non-breeding visitor to Sabah, it was seen by DS and one group out the BRL entrance road on 30 March, a late date for the species in Borneo. [b]

ASIAN BROWN FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapa dauurica*) – A fairly common migrant and winter visitor in Borneo, it was seen in the lowlands and foothills. [b]

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN (*Copsychus saularis*) – Quite common in edge habitats throughout the lowlands and foothills. The race we saw was *adamsi*, with mostly black underparts but white undertail coverts.

RUFOUS-TAILED SHAMA (*Copsychus pyrrropygus*) – A generally shy and uncommon resident of lowland rainforest, this Sundaland specialty was singing spontaneously during our visit to BRL. We called it in for good looks by all. Considered Near Threatened.

WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA (WHITE-CROWNED) (*Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii*) – Common (by its lovely song) throughout the lowlands, but not always easily seen. We did have nice views in scattered situations this trip. Myers, Phillipps & Phillipps, and others split *stricklandii*, of Sabah and NE Kalimantan, as a separate species, White-crowned Shama, but Cornell retains it as a race of White-rumped in the Clements checklist.

PALE BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis unicolor*) – Dave heard this one at BRL. [*]

LONG-BILLED BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis caerulatus*) – This Sundaland blue-flycatcher, considered Vulnerable, was seen well by all along the trails at BRL, where we had some responsive birds.

MALAYSIAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis turcosus*) – Fairly common along the Kinabatangan tributaries, males of this Near Threatened, Sundaland specialty was seen well both there and by one group at BRL.

BORNEAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis superbus*) – All the blue-flycatchers at BRL seemed to have started singing the same day! Both groups saw this one the same day as we both saw Long-billed along the road and the forest trails at BRL. Was it the relative humidity? the rain? the cloud cover? the intensity of the sunshine? the angle of the sun?

Something.... [E]

GRAY-CHESTED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis umbratilis*) – Seen by one group with DS, along the Segama trail at BRL. Another Sundaland specialty that is considered Near Threatened.

PYGMY BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Muscicapella hodgsoni*) – This little beauty breeds at Kinabalu, but it's scarce; the Summit Trail group has a nice view of this one on their climb.

BLUE-AND-WHITE FLYCATCHER (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*) – Another Asian breeder that is an uncommon passage migrant in Borneo, this one was seen well by all near the Rafflesia Centre on our first morning in the highlands. [b]

INDIGO FLYCATCHER (*Eumyias indigo*) – A common breeder at Kinabalu, it was a regular just outside our chalets.

EYEBROWED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER (*Vauriella gularis*) – This unobtrusive endemic was seen nicely by all at Kinabalu. [E]

WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING (*Brachypteryx montana*) – This songster was mostly heard, but the Mesilau group had a very responsive bird right at our feet, and everyone else caught up at Kinabalu, ultimately along the Silau-Silau trail.

BORNEAN WHISTLING-THRUSH (*Myophonus borneensis*) – Perhaps the dullest of the heavy-set whistling-thrushes; we had great views of it at Kinabalu and Mesilau. [E]

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*) – This is the widespread lowland race, which we saw along the road at BRL.

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis*) – A.k.a. Bornean Forktail, this is the endemic, montane race, which is the one we saw along the Silau-Silau at Kinabalu. It has a longer tail and more white on the crown than the lowland birds, and recent molecular studies suggest that *borneensis* could be a distinct species, in which case it would become another Bornean endemic.

CHESTNUT-NAPED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus ruficapillus*) – This one was seen well by one group heading out the entrance road early; it's unusual to have seen it right along the road! It's a spiffy Sundaland specialty.

RUFOUS-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula dumetoria*) – This Near Threatened Sundaland flycatcher of mature forest understory was more conspicuous than usual during our visit to BRL, where we all had good looks.

LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula westermanni*) – Several pairs of this widespread species were seen at Kinabalu, especially well at the edge of our lodge parking lot.

MUGIMAKI FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula mugimaki*) – We had numerous sightings of these pretty Asian migrants in the highlands. [b]

SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hyperythra*) – Seen on two days at Kinabalu, especially along the Silau-Silau trail.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

EYEBROWED THRUSH (*Turdus obscurus*) – John S had one near the Rafflesia Centre, and one group with RAR saw one in a fruiting tree along the Mempening trail at Kinabalu. [b]

FRUIT-HUNTER (*Chlamydochaera jefferyi*) – The downhill group on Bukit Ular had lovely views of a male right above them (see cover photo by John Drummond), but it had vanished when we were next at that spot. But the other group caught up two days later, when we too had great looks at a male, near an active nest, along the Mempening trail, thanks to a tip from Adam, one of the researchers at Kinabalu. [EN]

Sturnidae (Starlings)

ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING (*Aplonis panayensis*) – A regular resident in disturbed habitats, from towns and gardens to palm plantations, this one is usually one of the first birds seen when folks arrive KK.

COMMON HILL MYNA (*Gracula religiosa*) – The only native myna in Borneo, it's also the handsomest. We saw it at Sepilok, in the Kinabatangan, and at BRL.



The largest flower in Borneo, Rafflesia keithii has no leaves or stems; it is totally parasitic on an underground vine. (Photo by tour participant Karen Walz)

JAVAN MYNA (*Acridotheres javanicus*) – This was the one we saw at the Sepilok RDC, where introduced birds have become established locally and expanded along roads through the palm plantations toward the coast. It would be hard to separate this species from Crested Myna from a moving bus, and since Crested is not known from the Sepilok/Sukau road, I removed that species that was thought to have been seen along that road. [I]

Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)

GREATER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) – The females are more easily distinguished than the males in the two look-alike green leafbirds. We had nice views of females of this species, with the yellow throat and big yellow eyering, from the RDC towers and at BRL. When the two species are together, the size difference is notable as well. Both green leafbirds are Sundaland specialties.

LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*) – Seen first at Sepilok; we had repeated good views from the BRL canopy walkway, where it seemed common enough to be a distraction! Considered Near Threatened.

BORNEAN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis kinabaluensis*) – As split from Blue-winged Leafbird, another Bornean endemic; we saw pairs at the Rafflesia Centre and noted the black masks/throats of the females, which Blue-winged females lack. [E]

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)

YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus maculatus*) – This Sundaland specialty was seen well almost daily along the road at BRL.

YELLOW-RUMPED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*) – Often seen feeding near the last species, this handsome endemic was seen best along the BRL entrance road. [E]

THICK-BILLED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum agile*) – This widespread flowerpecker is scarce in Borneo, but we had the scope on one at the walkway to the RDC towers, and we could see its red eye and streaky breast.

BROWN-BACKED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum everetti*) – We saw another brown flowerpecker from the Bristlehead Tower. DS studied it carefully in the scope and declared its eye whitish, which would make it this species, a scarce bird in Sabah that is considered Near Threatened.

YELLOW-VENTED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum chrysorrheum*) – Seen nicely along the Gomantong entrance road.

ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) – First seen near the Rafflesia Centre, then at Poring, Sepilok, Sukau, and then daily at BRL. The males are quite striking!

BLACK-SIDED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum monticolum*) – Though it was first seen near the Rafflesia Centre, our best views of this handsome montane endemic were at Kinabalu, especially just outside our lodge (which is where John Drummond took the stunning cover photo). [E]

SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) – This beauty was seen in the mistletoe berries at the edge of the Sepilok parking lot.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) – Seen first from the boats along the Menanggul and then on a number of occasions at BRL, where it foraged in a blossoming vine with lots of spiderhunters.

PLAIN SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes simplex*) – Appropriately named, these little guys are fairly common at BRL, where they were often foraging just outside the dining room and near the canopy walkway. It's another Sundaland specialty.

PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes malacensis*) – Seen widely in gardens and secondary lowland forest edge, this widespread sunbird was seen nicely at Poring, Sepilok, Sukau, and near Gomantong.

RED-THROATED SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes rhodolaemus*) – A primary forest specialist confined to Sundaland, this scarce sunbird was surprisingly conspicuous at BRL this trip. It was feeding in flowers from the low road edge to the high canopy, and we saw more than our share. It was a lifer for RAR, who has birded BRL on 5 prior occasions! It's considered Near Threatened and decreasing.

PURPLE-NAPED SUNBIRD (*Hypogramma hypogrammicum*) – This understory sunbird, with the distinctive call note, is hard to see well since it's always flying through the forest. It was seen by some at Sukau, and some folks got a very good look at it at BRL while we were working on the Chestnut-necklaced Partridge.

VAN HASSELT'S SUNBIRD (*Leptocoma brasiliana*) – Formerly known as Purple-throated Sunbird, this little sunbird shines in the sun! We saw it first from the RDC Bristlehead Tower and then along the Menanggul near Sukau. Note that the Clements checklist follows others in splitting this species (which occurs from India to SE Asia and the Greater Sundas) from the Philippine bird, *L. sperata*. You might scratch your head, however, about the specific moniker "brasiliana."

OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris jugularis*) – Common in disturbed habitats throughout.

EASTERN CRIMSON SUNBIRD (*Aethopyga siparaja*) – This striking sunbird was seen first at Poring, where we had

terrific scope view right from the parking lot; later seen near Sukau and at BRL.

TEMMINCK'S SUNBIRD (*Aethopyga temminckii*) – This Sundaland specialty is a lower montane equivalent of the last species, though even more brilliant. We saw it wonderfully at Kinabalu, especially outside our dining room at the Liwagu.

LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera longirostra*) – The commonest of the spiderhunters, this one was seen repeatedly, at Sukau and at BRL. Even then, it was heard more often than seen.

THICK-BILLED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera crassirostris*) – This Sundaland specialty was seen well by someone (John?) at BRL, but I think that was the only sighting reported.

LONG-BILLED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera robusta*) – We had exceptionally good studies of this Sundaland specialty from the BRL canopy walkway, where we could compare it to other species of spiderhunters foraging in the same flowering vine. Its specific moniker is appropriate!

SPECTACLED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera flavigaster*) – Also a Sundaland specialty, this one was seen by some at Poring, and most folks had good views at some point at BRL, where they foraged in flowers just outside the entrance to the main building. This was the one with the very prominent yellow eyering and the smaller ear spot.

YELLOW-EARED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera chrysogenys*) – This was the one with the prominent ear spot and the narrower yellow eyering. By persevering we had some very nice looks at both these Sundaland specialties at BRL.

STREAKY-BREASTED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera affinis everetti*) – Apparently all the birds of Sabah belong to this taxon. According to Myers: "Previously this distinctive subspecies was treated as an endemic, Bornean Spiderhunter *A. everetti*, but *A. affinis* on Java and Bali shows many similarities and thus both taxa are better treated as one species *A. affinis* (*A. a. everetti* from Borneo, *A. a. affinis* from Java and Bali)." Sheldon, Moyle, & Kennard (Ornithology of Sabah, Ornith. Monog. 52, 2001) examined all the specimens from Sabah (from highlands and lowlands) and found only this species, and no *A. modesta*, Gray-breasted. We had repeated good looks at this specialty, first near the Rafflesia Centre and then daily in the flowers at BRL, where DS took the cover photo.

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

EASTERN YELLOW WAGTAIL (*Motacilla tschutschensis simillima*) – This non-breeding visitor/passage migrant was seen in the wet fields of the Tempusak Plain on our pre-tour excursion. [b]

WHITE WAGTAIL (OCULARIS) (*Motacilla alba ocularis*) – Ditto. [b]

ORIENTAL PIPIT (*Anthus rufulus malayensis*) – This was the pipit at the Lahad Datu airport, our final new bird of the tour.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*) – Introduced in Borneo, but apparently doing quite well around human habitations throughout. [I]

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

DUSKY MUNIA (*Lonchura fuscans*) – Seen first at Poring, but best at BRL, even from the dining table, where they were the only munia around--at the edge of primary forest. [E]

NUTMEG MANNIKIN (*Lonchura punctulata*) – Small flocks were seen on our pre-tour excursion to the Tempusak Plain. These birds in W Sabah, of the Philippine race *cabanisi*, are considered recent colonists from the Philippines rather than escaped or introduced birds.

WHITE-BELLIED MUNIA (*Lonchura leucogastra*) – The race *palawana* is the bird that occurs in Sabah, where it is a rare resident. We watched a bird feeding young--evidence of breeding--at the mouth of the Gomantong caves. This was a first for the tour. [N]

CHESTNUT MUNIA (*Lonchura atricapilla*) – An abundant resident in open areas throughout, it's a sharp-looking munia. We saw it first on the pre-tour excursion and then repeatedly during the tour.

MAMMALS

COLUGO (*Cynocephalus variegatus*) – What a fabulous opportunity! When Haswan found this exotic mammal that sails from tree to tree on "wings" of skin stretched among its limbs, roosting by day right in the yard at our Sukau Rainforest Lodge, we got to watch it then in the dark and see it actually sail from one tree to another, its baby secured to its breast. We later saw another on a night drive at BRL. Belonging to the order Dermoptera, the Colugo has recently been shown to be our closest living relative outside of primates (see the following link for a short article on this and for a great photo of a Colugo with a baby sailing from one tree to another: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-491237/Our-closest-living-relative--rainforest-bat.html>).

WRINKLE-LIPPED BAT (*Tadarida [Chaerephon] plicata*) – The majority of the bats pouring out of the Gomantong Caves were of this species, which clearly provide ample prey for the Bat Hawks that gather each evening to feast. On our clear afternoon this trip, the bats were pouring out early, drifting off in separate little clouds in the same direction. It was great fun to watch the Bat Hawks dive through the clouds!

COMMON TREESHREW (*Tupaia glis*) – More closely related to primates than to rodents, treeshrews have the highest brain-to-body mass ratio of any animal, even higher than humans. This species was the lowland species seen by some at BRL.

MOUNTAIN TREESHREW (*Tupaia montana*) – This was the montane counterpart of the last, seen and photographed by those who climbed the Summit Trail at Kinabalu. These treeshrews provide the nitrogen needed by the world's largest pitcher plant. Can you guess how? (See under Pitcher Plants in the Conclusions.) [E]

SLOW LORIS (*Nycticebus cougang*) – This one IS a primate, albeit a very slow-moving primate. Thanks to our boatmen at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, we had a wonderful view of one of these sloth-like primates along the Menanggul R. on our night cruise.

CRAB-EATING MACAQUE (*Macaca fascicularis*) – A.k.a. Long-tailed Macaque, it was seen in the Kinabatangan (where common along the rivers and roosting near our lodge) and at BRL.

PIGTAIL MACAQUE (*Macaca nemestrina*) – Common in the Kinabatangan, where they regularly used the monkey bridges to cross tributary rivers; feisty singleton males were also seen at BRL.

SILVERED LEAF MONKEY (*Presbytis cristata*) – A.k.a. Silvered Langur. This species is a bit more widespread than the next, being found in peninsular Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, as well as the Greater Sundas. We saw them along the rivers in the Kinabatangan.

RED LEAF MONKEY (*Presbytis rubicunda*) – These lovely endemics were fairly common in the rainforests at Gomantong and BRL. [E]

PROBOSCIS MONKEY (*Nasalis larvatus*) – These fascinating monkeys with the great noses, fat bellies, and the long white tails were another mammalian highlight along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, where they gather to feed, socialize, and roost. [E]

GRAY GIBBON (*Hylobates muelleri*) – Mostly heard, especially pre-dawn from across the river at BRL; but John D and a few folks who were in the dining area one rainy afternoon saw a distant gibbon brachiating through the trees across the Danum and down into the forest out of sight. [E]

ORANGUTAN (*Pongo pygmaeus*) – Now usually called Bornean Orangutan, having been split from the larger Sumatran Orangutan. Our first encounter with this Endangered primate comprised another of the outstanding mammalian highlights of the trip. It was a was, according to Haswan's estimate, a 12 to 13-year-old male, right at the entrance to Gomantong cave, and it was "hanging out" in the open, so that we had great views! We later saw a mother with a baby in the Kinabatangan and singles at BRL on two occasions, one of them showing just the top of its head over the rim of its roosting "nest." Orangutans average 73-180 lbs, with big males weighing 250 lbs or more. Considered Endangered by the IUCN Red List. Thanks to Karen Walz for the cover photo. [E]

GIANT SQUIRREL SP. (*Ratufa affinis*) – A.k.a. Pale Giant Squirrel. Generally considered a Sundaland specialty, of Near Threatened status, this big squirrel was seen well, first from the RDC towers and then along the road at BRL.

PREVOST'S SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus prevostii*) – The common good-sized squirrel of the lowland rainforest, it was first seen at RDC and then seen daily at Sukau and BRL. They were particularly common in the trees close to the main lodge at BRL. The Bornean race is very dark with a chestnut belly.

PLANTAIN SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus notatus*) – Seen nicely at Sukau and BRL.

BORNEAN BLACK-BANDED SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus orestes*) – Seen by one group with RAR and Adrian, from the pavilion above the Timpohon gate, where it ran along the railing beside a Bornean Mountain Ground-Squirrel (for a good comparison). [E]

JENTINK'S SQUIRREL (*Sundasciurus jentinki*) – Seen by some at the Rafflesia Centre and again at Kinabalu. Adrian



This Mountain Treeshrew could be contributing critical nitrogen to the largest pitcher plant on Earth. (Photo by tour participant Steve Rannels)

identified it. [E]

BORNEAN MOUNTAIN GROUND-SQUIRREL (*Dremomys everetti*) – These were the commonest ones at Kinabalu, including those that beg for handouts along the Summit trail. We had several nice looks during our visit to Kinabalu. [E]

PLAIN PYGMY SQUIRREL (*Exilisciurus exilis*) – The endearing pygmy of the lowlands, it was seen regularly at Sukau and BRL, where it would run along the boardwalk banister near our rooms. [E]

RED GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL (*Petaurista petaurista*) – Seen on 3 different nights on BRL night drives, this was the biggest, with an orange tint to its pelage and a black-tipped tail. We even got to see it sail from high on the trunk of one canopy emergent down to the trunk of another.

THOMAS'S FLYING SQUIRREL (*Aeromys thomasi*) – We had a great view of this endemic at very close range on our second BRL night drive; we could see that it did not have a black tip to the tail, and it's a bit more slender than the Red Giant, as well as being a darker rust. There were two together, probably a pair. [E]

COMMON PORCUPINE (*Hystrix brachyura*) – A.k.a. Malayan Porcupine, this is a BIG porcupine. We saw one briefly at the road edge on our second BRL night drive. Paul said there had been a second one too. It occurs from India and Nepal to S China, Sumatra, and Borneo.

SMALL-CLAWED (INDIAN SMOOTH) OTTER (*Aonyx cinerea*) – A.k.a. Oriental Small-clawed Otter, this is the most likely candidate for the otter that ran across the BRL entrance road in front of DS et al. on our final afternoon along the road.

MALAY CIVET (*Viverra zibetha*) – This distinctive spotted civet, with the bands across its chest, is primarily nocturnal and terrestrial, but John Spahr spotted one walking along the terrace of the Danum River, right off the BRL dining room one lunch time!

MASKED PALM CIVET (*Paguma larvata*) – Paul spotlighted the somewhat raccoon-like head of this uncommon civet during our first BRL night drive. It was a first for the tour and a lifer for me.

BINTURONG (*Arctictis binturong*) – Largest of the civets, the scarce Binturong was seen in a fruiting fig along the BRL entrance road by one morning group with DS and Wangkong. An exciting find indeed!

BANDED PALM CIVET (*Hemigalus derbyanus*) – For me the most exciting nocturnal mammal we saw was this richly orange-rust civet with the broad black bands across its back; it was slithering through the vegetation like a snake! This was on our third BRL night drive and spotlighted by Paul well out the entrance road. Another first for the trip and another lifer for the Grebe.

BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANT (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) – But perhaps the diurnal mammalian highlight was finding a herd of 10+ Bornean Pygmy Elephants feeding in the "elephant grass" along the banks of the Kinabatangan. We had heard they had been seen upriver the day before. We were heading upriver the following afternoon, and our boatmen spotted one just upriver from some major evidence of their passage. It was fun to be the first boat on the scene and watch them at close range (see my cover photo) and even hear them trumpet. They are indeed smaller than their Indian cousins and can easily disappear in the tall grass. Though they are still considered a race of the larger Indian Elephant on our list, most authorities now elevate the smaller Bornean race to full-species status based on DNA evidence. Amazingly, we then saw several more right off the long gravel road from Lahad Datu to the Danum Valley, where we've only seen elephant dung in the past.

BEARDED PIG (*Sus barbatus*) – A small group of big Bearded Pigs was seen downriver from Sukau along the Kinabatangan on the following afternoon.

GREATER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus napu*) – Seen on our third BRL night drive.

LESSER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus javanicus*) – This tiny Asian ungulate is the smallest known hoofed mammal. We saw it on two different nights at BRL.

MUNTJAC (BARKING DEER) (*Muntiacus muntjak*) – We heard it bark near the Rafflesia Centre, and then it was seen a couple of times at BRL.

SAMBAR (*Cervus unicolor*) – Individuals and small herds of females were seen on several night drives at BRL. Some individuals had what appeared to be angry wounds on their chests, which are explained by Wikipedia: "Adult males and pregnant or lactating females possess an unusual hairless, blood-red, spot located about half way down the underside of their throats. This sometimes oozes a white liquid, and is apparently glandular in nature."

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

One of the joys of birding in Borneo is all the delightful distractions that come in varied and exotic forms from other parts of

the animal kingdom. Our triplist database contains only birds and mammals, but we had a long list of additional write-ins, including a few plant species of exceptional interest. To mention a very few, emphasizing those that we were able to identify:

Among the plants:

--*Rafflesia keithii* - We traveled to Poring to see the flower of this fascinating Bornean endemic, the largest of its genus in Borneo. Adrian explained how scientists and the Kinabalu Park staff work with locals to enhance the environmental conditions favorable to this rare parasitic plant, namely by making its host vine available for distribution on nearby private lands. We saw several buds and a fabulous blossom on its second day open, as well as several older, decaying flowers.

--Carnivorous *Nepenthes* pitcher plants - The pitcher plant center of Borneo (and the world!) is the upper-elevation Mt. Kinabalu. This was the first year we've offered an alternative trip to Mesilau, where we took a steep (but short) trail to 4 different species of pitcher plants: *N. burbigae* (see my cover photo), *N. fusca* (a small one), *N. tentaculata* (the same one that was seen by the group birding the Summit Trail); and *N. rajah*, a.k.a. Rajah Brooke's Pitcher Plant, the largest pitcher plant in the world, its pitcher holding up to 3.5 liters of liquid! Recent research has revealed the "evolutionary incentive" for high-elevation pitcher plants to have evolved bigger and bigger pitchers: It's to serve as a toilet for treeshrews! 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

Among the other vertebrates of particular interest were:

--that huge Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*), in the crotch of a tree along the Menanggul River

--the giant Tokay Geckos (*Gekko gecko*) that were usually under the covered section of the boardwalk between the rooms and the dining area at Sukau Rainforest Lodge; these were the ones we heard throughout the lowlands, uttering the loud "gec-ko" or "to-kay" that slows down; it was for this species that the genus was named.

--the cool Kuhl's Parachute Gecko (*Ptychozoon kuhli*) that some of us saw on the trunk of a tree at the Danum bridge; those frilly extensions on its sides and all of its appendages help it sail from tree to tree by night, when it's active.

--Blue-eyed Angle-headed Lizard (*Gonocephalus liogaster*) - This is what I think the crested agamid lizard was that we saw by night at BRL. Its nuchal and dorsal crests were continuous and tall, and it showed a blue eye with yellow eyering. It's another Sundaland specialty, found only in peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, and Borneo.

--small "flying lizards" of the genus *Draco* - The bright green one with the pointed orange display pouch was probably *D. cornutus*. They were seen at Sukau and BRL.

--Mangrove (or Yellow-banded) Cat Snake (*Boiga dendrophila*), the shiny black snake with the bright-yellow bands that was so tightly coiled in a tree overhanging the Menanggul that we could hardly see its head! Their diet consists of birds and their eggs, amphibians, lizards, other snakes, mouse deer (!), and treeshrews.

--Red-sided Keelback Water Snake (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*) This was what Paul called a "Red-sided Tree Snake" when we saw and photographed it at the BRL "frog pond." It's a mildly venomous member of the Colubridae that feeds almost exclusively on frogs near bodies of water.

--File-eared Tree Frog (*Polypedates otilophus*), the richly colored frogs also at the BRL frog pond. They occur only in Sumatra and Borneo, ordinarily well above the ground. But they congregate over water to breed and 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.

--Harlequin Flying Tree Frog (*Rhacophorus pardalis*). Also at the BRL frog pond. Little did we realize at the time that this little frog spends most of its time in the canopy, only coming to the ground to breed in suitable streams and pools. It too is a foam nest builder, but it's one of the "flying" frogs, with extensive membranes between its toes to help it glide from branch to branch--and down to pools on the forest floor. It occurs in peninsular Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo, and the Philippines.

Among the many invertebrates were some that simply must be remembered:

--the common Wood Nymph (*Idea stollii*) or Tree Nymph butterflies that floated tissue paper-like throughout the lowlands

--the striking black-and-yellow Common Birdwings (*Trioides helena*) and many other superb butterflies [see the following website to help ID some of your photos: <http://www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/Malaysia%20thumbs.htm>]

--the many gorgeous moths attracted to Steve's black light at Kinabalu, including the big beauty on the cover (*Antheraea* sp.; thanks for the photo, Steve); and the big Lyssa moth (*Lyssa menoetus*) that was photographed along the boardwalk to our rooms at BRL. We'll try to post the names of the ones we've ID'd in a slideshow, to be compiled eventually.

--the long-snouted Chinese Lantern Bug (*Pyrops* sp.) that Diana found at Poring (and I think some were seen at BRL as well?). These are sap suckers, which excrete excess sugars as droplets that certain ants have specialized to collect!

--those wonderful black-and-orange Trilobite Beetles (*Duliticola paradoxa*; in rotten logs at Kinabalu) that retain their larval form even when sexually mature

--that unbelievable praying mantis that was so elaborately trimmed to resemble a dead stick with leafy extensions; all the big cicadas, katydids, and other amazing insects in the lowland rainforest

--the hordes of cockroaches and scuterigid centipedes that decorated the walls of Gomantong Cave

--those long, dark millipedes with bright orange legs; and big, short, fat Pill Millipedes (*Glomeris connexa*) that curl into a ball like a pillbug, both fairly common at BRL

--some wonderful spiders, including lots of "wolf spiders" with eyeshine and that big arboreal tarantula that Paul pointed out on our final night drive

--and did I mention the leeches? Especially notable were those yellow-striped Tiger Leeches (*Haemadipsa picta*) at BRL, yet another Bornean specialty. They informed our fashion and left several of us with a "battled scar" to show off at home.

Like Kinabalu itself, that's just the "tip of the batholith." There are LOTS of fabulous critters out there, and we encountered a wonderful sampling of them.

Totals for the tour: 328 bird taxa and 33 mammal taxa