

Trip Report — Borneo II 2025

June 17-July 4, 2025 with Megan Edwards Crewe & Jumaidi, Sabinas and Syahfil



We had several magnificent encounters with Whitehead's Trogon, always one of our key quarries on Mount Kinabalu. Photo by participant Linnet Tse.

What a wonderful time we had in the Bornean rainforest! For more than two weeks, we immersed ourselves in the exotic, verdant steaminess of one of the world's richest jungles, with a plethora of things to look for, and a never-ending stream of birds, mammals, herps, insects and plants to enthrall and entertain us. The weather largely cooperated (if you discount a few afternoons of pouring rain), and the birds -- well, the birds were amazing!

Where do you start a "highlight list" for a trip with so many highlights? Perhaps with the pair of Bornean Bristleheads that flew over our heads and landed atop a tree along the entrance road at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge

(BRL), or with the bizarre, square-headed pair of Helmeted Hornbills that flapped over several minutes later. Or maybe with the lusciously green quartet of Whitehead's Broadbills that gobbled fruit near the restaurant balcony on Mount Kinabalu, seriously interrupting our breakfast. Perhaps I should start with the jewel-bright Bornean Green-Magpies shrieking at each other along the Mount Kinabalu park road, or the Fruit-hunters sitting quietly on the other side of the little stream along the Silau-Silau trail. Maybe with the elegant Whiskered Treeswifts, or the Sabah Partridge that approached nearly to our boot tips, or the bullet-like Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrots that finally descended to earth to nibble flower petals in a vine tangle just below us on the BRL canopy walkway. Or with the solitary male Bornean Pygmy Elephant we found splashing around on the banks of the Kinabatangan in the dark, or the nose-y Proboscis Monkeys draped across branches along the rivers, or the Sunda Jungle Cat trotting down the road in front of us or the surprisingly alien Western Tarsier staring goggle-eyed from the darkness. So many choices!



Participant Linnet Tse snapped this portrait of a pensive Orangutan, one of several we saw well.

Our adventure began in Sepilok, with an afternoon walk on the grounds of our first hotel. A fruiting tree in the parking lot attracted a convenient mix of Spectacled and Yellow-eared spiderhunters (plus a plethora of Asian Glossy Starlings), while a nearby stand of flowering bottlebrush attracted both Crimson and Brown-throated sunbirds. Rufous-tailed Tailorbirds twitched along the edges of the driveway, and a trio of Rhinoceros Hornbills shared a massive fruiting fig tree with more than a dozen well-camouflaged Thick-billed Green-Pigeons. Later that evening, a fruitless search for Brown Boobook brought us our first look at a Giant Red Flying Squirrel (waaaaaay up at the top of a huge emergent tree) and numerous Rough-sided Frogs ("What? What?! WHAT?!") The following morning, after an early breakfast at our hotel, we ventured down the road to the Sepilok Rainforest Discover Center. The park, with its extensive trail system and fabulous canopy walkways and towers, provided a great place to start to get familiar with some of Borneo's more widespread species. In the parking lot, Sunda Pygmy and Buff-necked woodpeckers vied for a potential nesthole, a male Copper-throated Sunbird sipped from bright yellow flower spikes and Dusky and Chestnut munias flicked through hedges. The towers and walkway brought us eye level with glittering Verditer Flycatchers, a squirrel-like Red-billed Malkoha, a family group of Black-winged Flycatcher-shrikes, a spread-eagled Greater Coucal sunbathing in the early morning light, a surprisingly red Banded Woodpecker, a busy swarm of Green loras and more. As the sun (and heat) rose higher, we descended to ground level to walk the trails. There, we found a pair of gruff-voiced Red-bearded Bee-eaters hunting just off the path, a White-crowned Hornbill lurking in a dense tree and an all-too-brief Crimson-winged Woodpecker with a busy mixed flock. And who will soon forget the very friendly Sabah Partridge, which was clearly used to photographers bringing it tasty morsels?



Hornbills are a staple of the Borneo tour, with eight species possible. Helmeted Hornbill, now critically endangered due to poaching and habitat loss, is the rarest. Photo by participant Linnet Tse.

From there, we went on to the Sukau Rainforest Ecolodge, on the banks of the Kinabatangan River. Here, we traded hot feet for bare toes, as we did much of our exploring by boat, drifting along the main river and several of its tributaries. This area is often great for hornbills, and it didn't disappoint, with Black, Oriental Pied-, Wrinkled, and Rhinoceros hornbills regularly flying over or perched up on treetops, drying out after late afternoon thundershowers. Busy troops of Proboscis Monkeys and Long-tailed Macaques swung through trees or boiled along riverbanks. A White-bellied Sea-Eagle soared over our heads, then plunged into the water right beside our boat, surfacing with a wriggling fish in its talons. Malaysian Blue-Flycatchers made quick little sallies from twigs over the water, while White-chested Babbler hopped along tree roots lower down. Black-and-red Broadbills added bulging mouthfuls to their untidy nests. Storm's Storks posed atop riverside trees and massive Lesser Adjutants soared in wide circles overhead. A Slaty Woodpecker shouted from a nesthole while

another clung to a trunk nearby. A Buffy Fish-Owl hunted frogs in a huge rain puddle near the boardwalk to the lodge's dining room, completely ignoring the excited humans nearby. A Changeable Hawk-Eagle stared imperiously down from its riverside perch, and a Crested Goshawk stood spread-eagled in a treetop, drying its wings after a downpour. Blue-eared Kingfishers glittered like gems on their low perches while much larger Stork-billed Kingfishers flew off, calling, in front of our boat. A pair of Bold-striped Tit-Babblers danced through a fallen tree along the river and Yellow-bellied Prinias serenaded from tall grasses along the shore. Brown Barbets played follow-the-leader through treetops and Blue-throated Bee-eaters chased passing prey from bare snags. White-breasted Waterhens gamboled along the riverbanks and a couple of Straw-headed Bulbuls (rare now as they're targeted by the caged bird trade) sang from a scraggly bush not far from the lodge's dock. A couple of night trips turned up some additional treats, including the Bornean Pygmy Elephant splashing around in the dark on the river's edge, a number of pint-sized Saltwater Crocodiles, and a trio of Large Flying Foxes clambering around in a fruiting tree.



Mount Kinabalu, the highest peak in Borneo, is home to most of the island's endemic bird species -- and an impressive number of endemic plants (especially ferns, pitcher plants and orchids). Photo by participant John Forsyth.

From Sukau, we made multiple forays to the Gomantong Caves, famous for their extensive colonies of echo-locating swiftlets. The caves are quite literally breath-taking -- raw with the stench of ammonia emanating from the massive heap of accumulated bat guano, the output of millions of Wrinkle-lipped Free-tailed Bats over hundreds (thousands?) of years. But they're also breathtaking for the number of Black-nest, White-nest, Mossy-nest and Plume-toed swiftlets that shelter there, tucking their distinctive nests into dark corners and crevices throughout. While the edible nests had been recently harvested, we were still able to find a few examples of each nest type with birds conveniently perched on top, so that we could be sure of their identities. The surrounding forest provided more treats, including a plethora of Orangutans -- at least seven right around the cave mouth during our afternoon visit! Elsewhere, a tiny White-fronted Falconet stood atop a dead snag along the main road, while a Banded Broadbill proved more circumspect, sitting quietly on a branch tucked into the middle of a tree. A

calling male Diard's Trogon zoomed into view, followed mere minutes later by an equally snazzy male Scarlet-rumped Trogon. White-crowned Shamas bounced along the roadsides and a Maroon Woodpecker tapped and tapped and tapped at something just below a leafy Orangutan's nest. We whistled a couple of Sooty-capped Babblers into view by imitating their disjointed songs, but had a harder time getting views of a skulking pair of Black-throated Babblers. Some saw them well and others only ever saw them zipping back and forth across the road! After considerable effort, we tracked down a calling White-crowned Hornbill and had super views of the female (the male wasn't quite as cooperative) as she peered around from her perch high in a big tree. A little troop of Maroon Langurs worked their way through some nearby trees, stopping now and then to munch as they went. We stayed late enough one evening to watch the emergence of the cave's bats, which left the safety of the cavern in compact groups, the better to avoid the quartet of hunting Bat Hawks. Not all were successful in evading capture!



Storm's Stork is thought to be the rarest of the world's storks, now numbering less than 500 in the wild. The Kinabatangan watershed is a stronghold. Photo by participant Leslie Flint.

Next up was the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, a haven of luxury tucked into the virtually untouched primary forest of the Danum Valley. Though the poor condition of the trails kept us on the entrance road for the most part, we still managed to find a wonderful selection of the valley's species. Top of the list was probably the pair of aforementioned Bornean Bristleheads, which have been mighty hard to find in recent years. We'd been enjoying views of a group of Bornean Black Magpies when Patty suddenly exclaimed "Hey, this one has a red head" -- much excitement ensued! The flyby Helmeted Hornbills were probably a close second. We chased pittas for several days before FINALLY actually laying eyes on one (or more): half the group got a quick scope look at a Blue-headed Pitta before it hopped down from its song perch and disappeared, and we all -- eventually -- got a look at a handsome Black-crowned Pitta as it moved through the underbrush along the road. A Black Eagle made great looping dives in an impressive territorial display and two Wallace's Hawk-Eagles chased a squirrel around and around the trunk of a huge emergent tree. We found an abundance of bulbuls: 10 species in all, including appropriately named (and nicely crested) Streaked Bulbuls, handsomely scalloped Scaly-breasted Bulbuls in a fruiting tree, a brief single Puff-backed Bulbul, plenty of Charlotte's Bulbuls (formerly considered a subspecies of the Buff-vented Bulbul), and a surprise pair of Cream-eyed Bulbuls near the little creek under the old canopy walkway's end. Babblers were equally common, with 15 species seen -- among them, a pair of Black-capped Babblers parading along the edge of the road, a Striped Wren-Babbler alternately whistling his song and flipping leaves as he worked his way steadily closer to where we stood, cooperative pairs of Black-throated Wren-Babblers and Horsfeld's Babblers mere inches above the leaf litter, and a busy group of Fluffy-backed Tit-Babblers showing their blue eye-surrounds nicely. A White-crowned Forktail waggled its way along the road, a Bornean Spiderhunter shouted challenges from an open perch and family groups of Little Spiderhunters worked the roadsides. Yellow-rumped and Yellow-breasted Flowerpeckers rummaged through shrubs around the lodge.

Our visit to the canopy walkway, still not completely reopened after a fallen tree caused the closure of more than half of it several years ago, was

productive despite the truncation. A pair of Lesser Cuckoo-shrikes shared leafy branches with Gray-headed Canary-flycatchers and a Finsch's Bulbul. A snowy-white male Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher flashed across the clearing, trailing its long tail like a comet. A Velvet-fronted Nuthatch stuck its landing within touching distance on the trunk just over our heads while Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrots nibbled flower petals just below our feet. A night walk on the nature trail brought an amazingly pink leaf katydid, a trio of point-blank treefrog species, another Buffy Fish-Owl (sitting atop the soccer goal), a trio of Sambar grazing near the staff quarters, and a spectacular collection of moths. Night drives yielded a trio of civets (including the gorgeously patterned Malay Civet), both Thomas's and Giant Red Flying Squirrels (one of the latter which made a prodigious leap from one tree to another 100+ yards away, gliding right over our vehicles), a couple of tiny Greater (it's all relative) Indo-Malaysian Chevrotains, the tarsier and that oh-so-energetic Sunda Jungle Cat. After three days in the relative wilderness, we made the three-hour drive back to Lahad Datu, where we caught our afternoon flight to Kota Kinabalu.



It wasn't just birds and mammals that caught our eye. Borneo has a wealth of interesting plants and invertebrates as well -- like this Red Percher (*Diplacodes bipunctata*). Photo by participant Leslie Flint.

Leaving Kota Kinabalu in the dark the next morning, we headed to the Crocker Range, winding our way slowly up switchback after switchback as we climbed. By daybreak, we'd reached our first birding spot -- Gunung Alab, the highest point in the Crocker Range National Park. Leaving our bus on the lower slopes, we ambled our way up to the summit, where a veritable feast of goodies awaited us. First up were an obliging half-dozen Red-breasted Partridges swarming over a tangle of logs (which had been sprinkled with seeds by a photography group that was departing as we arrived). They were soon followed by a trio of Crimson-headed Partridges, with a male that posed stockstill in the open while his warier female companions clucked from the trees. An Orange-headed Thrush sitting quietly above the commotion was an added bonus. A noisy generator powering a communication tower nearby made conversation a bit challenging (and belched some mighty smelly diesel fumes), but fruiting trees in the area attracted a couple of Mountain Black-eyes, several retina-searing Temminck's Sunbirds, a subtly-

hued Golden-naped Barbet, a whirlwind of Gray-chinned Minivets, and a surprisingly confiding Mountain Barbet. Two noisy Bornean Treepies, trailing long tails behind them, swooped across the hillside and a showy pair of Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes investigated nearby vegetation. The barbed wire fence around the tower itself proved irresistibly convenient for hunting Indigo and Little Pied flycatchers, a busy gang of Chestnut-crested Yuhinas, and a half dozen Ashy Drongos. A flighty Bornean Forktail flicked off the road before everybody got a look, but Aberrant Bush Warblers proved far more cooperative, twitching along the edges of dense thickets of ferns as they foraged. The park's lower slopes were less productive, but we did add a couple of Gray-cheeked Bulbuls (in nice comparison with a nearby Penan Bulbul), a Little Cuckoo-Dove gobbling berries, and a quartet of handsomely crested Bornean Bulbuls. Then we were back on the bus for the two-plus hour journey to Mount Kinabalu National Park, on the slopes of Borneo's highest mountain.



We had some great luck with partridges this trip. A trio of Crimson-headed Partridges, including this male, visited a feeding station on Gunung Alab. Photo by participant Linnet Tse.

We finished our tour with a stint at Kinabalu NP, which was blessedly cool after the heat of the lowlands. Borneo's heights are where most of the island's endemics are found, and with a few notable exceptions (we're talking to you, Mountain Serpent-Eagle and Pygmy Heleia), they and a host of other species cooperated very nicely indeed. We scored the coveted "Whitehead's trio", with multiple views of a pair of confiding Whitehead's Trogons posing photogenically along the road, at least four Whitehead's Broadbills gobbling fruits near the Liwagu restaurant (and later moving up the road to the entrance gate) and a Whitehead's Spiderhunter visiting a flowering tree near our lunch restaurant -- and interrupting the proceedings every time it made an appearance, to the bemusement of our fellow diners. We had encounters with several rare Everett's Thrushes: one in the early morning half-light that disappeared into the dark forest before everybody got much of a look and a second that hopped around right in the middle of the park road in the middle of the afternoon. Wow! Early mornings around the Timpohon Gate were always fun, as a busy mixed flock gleaned insects drawn in overnight by the generating station's lights. Indigo Flycatchers and Ashy Drongos hunted from the fence top while Mountain Leaf-warblers, Yellow-breasted Warblers ("Pumpkinheads"), Chestnut-crested Yuhinas and Gray-chinned Minivets swarmed through the treetops. Bornean Treepies and dozens of Sunda and Chestnut-headed laughingthrushes moved through in waves (the latter sometimes hopping around in the grass right near us), sometimes with other species in tow -- a Black-and-crimson Oriole one day, a couple of Sunda Cuckooshrikes on another. A Mountain Tailorbird moved through the bushes with a loudly begging chick in insistent pursuit, a group of Gray-throated Babblers rummaged along the roadside, and a couple of Pale-faced Bulbuls gobbled berries beside the path. A noisy group of Mountain Wren-Babblers worked along the roadside (distracting some of us from the trogons), and a tiny Bornean Stubtail enchanted us as it sang (quite inaudibly for some) from atop a fallen log.

We ventured to the other side of the mountain one afternoon, visiting the hill forest around Poring Springs in search of Rafflesia flowers. Though we weren't lucky enough to see an open bloom, we did find a basketball-sized bud that was within days of unfolding, and that was pretty impressive too!

Rambling around the fringes of the park's hot springs -- and up the hill past the orchid garden (which siphoned off a fair number of the group for a bit), we added a hunting Fulvous-chested Jungle-Flycatcher, a bright pair of Scarlet Minivets and a trio of Asian Fairy-Bluebirds, plus another showy Banded Broadbill and a busy Rufous Piculet.

After a final lunch in the mountains, we descended to Kota Kinabalu, stopping at the city's Prince Philip park in the late afternoon. And what a fitting finale that proved to be! With the blue, blue South China Sea forming a scenic backdrop and cool breezes riffing the omnipresent palm trees, we spent a pleasant hour getting better looks at things and notching up a few new species. Colorful Pink-necked Green-Pigeons and Green Imperial-Pigeons foraged in fruiting trees along one side of the open area while Spotted and Zebra doves rummaged in the lawns below. A Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker spent long minutes hammering on eye-level branches right in front of us. Blue-naped Parrots and Long-tailed Parakeets gathered in roost trees, gabbling noisily to each other. White-breasted Woodswallows made repeated sallies from telephone wires. Crimson and Ornate sunbirds flicked through flowering bushes while a Pied Triller warbled from an open branch. And to finish our visit, a pair of Pied Imperial-Pigeons (uncommon on the main island) flew in and perched atop a nearby tree -- a lifer species for both of your guides! Our final species were a pair of Hooded Crows we spotted as we waited at a traffic light and a flyby Nankeen Night-Heron for a few as we passed some wetlands on the way to our hotel.

Thanks so much for joining me in amazing Borneo. It was fun to share some adventures with all of you! Thanks also to our local guides, who added so much to the mix, and to Karen in our office for setting things up so that our trip went smoothly. I hope to see you all again in the field somewhere, some day. Meanwhile, good birding!

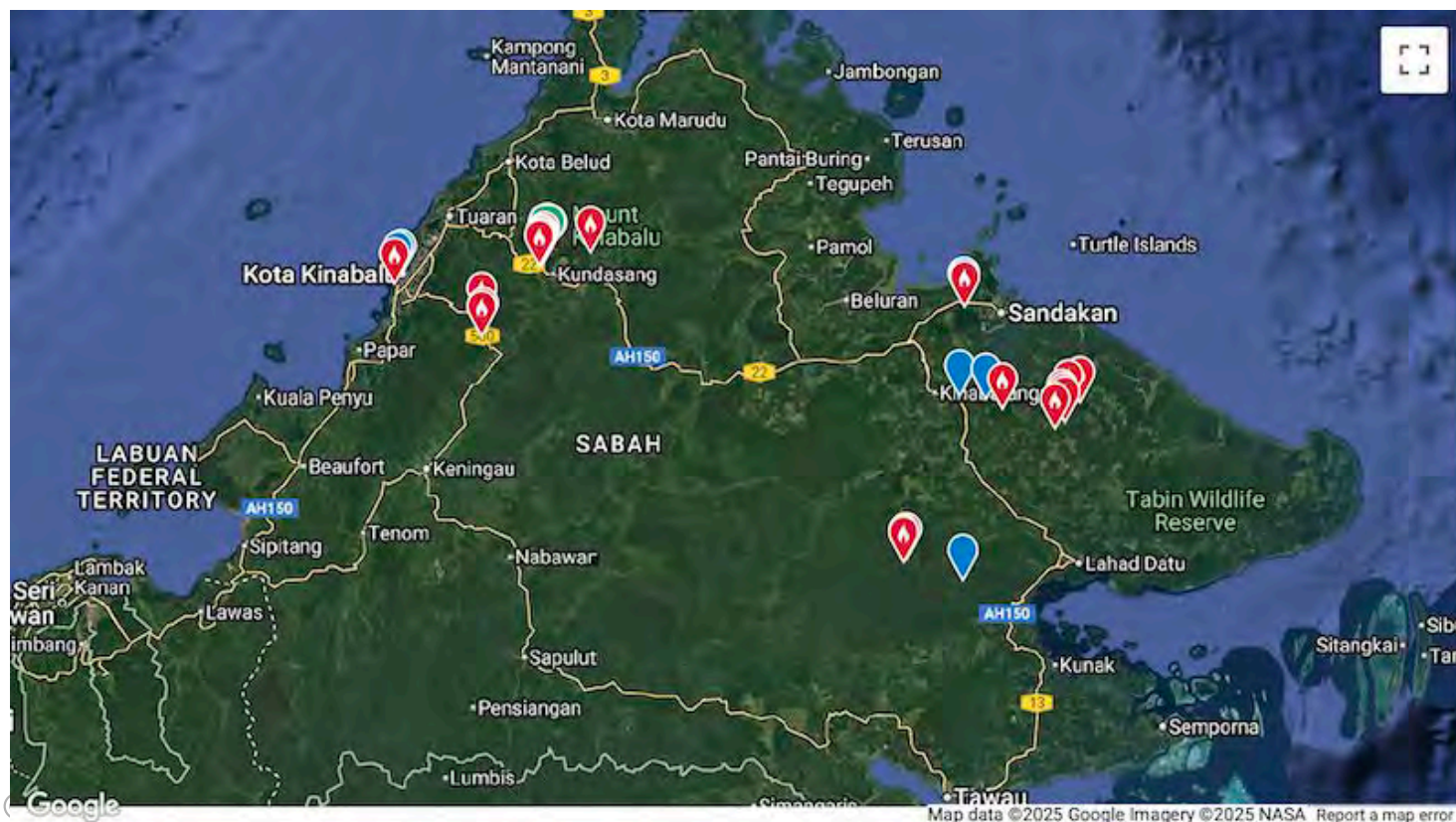
You can see my complete trip report on eBird at this link: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/386326>


You can see my iNaturalist report of non-avian taxa at this link: <https://inaturalist.org/projects/field-guides-june-july-2025-borneo-tour>

Megan

Field Guides Birding Tours — BORNEO (with Megan Edwards Crewe)

19 Jun – 3 Jul 2025 (15 days) [Link-only](#)



 Sabah, Malaysia

 Megan Edwards Crewe (Field Guides)



For a narrative summary of this tour, including a Field Guides photo gallery and additional media for this trip report, visit:

<https://fieldguides.com/triplists/bor25b/>

For information on future departures of this Field Guides itinerary, visit:

<https://fieldguides.com/bird-tours/borneo>

OTHER CREATURES OF INTEREST:

MAMMALS:

SUNDA COLUGO (*Galeopterus variegatus*): We found one preening itself in a tree along the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's entrance road; soon afterwards, it was sound asleep and looked like little more than a clump of pale fur in a tree fork.

LARGE FLYING FOX (*Pteropus vampyrus*): A trio clambered around in a fruiting tree near the Kinabatangan, seen on one of our night floats.

WRINKLE-LIPPED FREE-TAILED BAT (*Mops plicatus*): Thousands and thousands and thousands chittered as they clung to the ceiling of the big cave at Gomantong, and we saw hundreds of others emerging in tight clumps as dusk approached -- presumably the better to evade the hunting Bat Hawks.

LESSER TREESHREW (*Tupaia minor*): One of these small, pointy-nosed treeshrews scrambled through a tree along the Gomantong Caves road.

WESTERN TARSIER (*Cephalopachus bancanus*): Fine views of one of these goggle-eyed cuties clinging to a sapling not far off the entrance road at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, seen on our last night drive.

LONG-TAILED MACAQUE (*Macaca fascicularis*): Regular in the lowlands, particularly around the Kinabatangan. Despite its abundance in Borneo, this species (which is also widely known as the Crab-eating Macaque) is considered to be Endangered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

SOUTHERN PIG-TAILED MACAQUE (*Macaca nemestrina*): Far less common than the previous species along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, but fractionally more widespread on this year's tour. Their shorter tails and dark caps help to separate them from the previous species.

SUNDA SILVERY LANGUR (*Trachypithecus cristatus*): A trio along the Kinabatangan late one afternoon, with a bigger family group along the Menanggul on our afternoon boat trip there. This species is seldom found far from water.

MAROON LANGUR (*Presbytis rubicunda*): A busy group moved through the trees along the Gomantong Caves road (and then sat in the open, where we could get great looks and photographs) and we found others in smaller numbers in the Danum Valley.

PROBOSCIS MONKEY (*Nasalis larvatus*): An endangered endemic, fortunately still quite common around the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, where we found many families. Their primary threat is loss of habitat to palm plantations.

EASTERN GRAY GIBBON (*Hylobates funereus*): We heard the tuneful whoops of this species on multiple days in the lowlands (particularly in the Danum Valley) but sadly never laid eyes on the singers.

BORNEAN ORANGUTAN (*Pongo pygmaeus*): Particularly common around the Gomantong Caves this year, where we saw at least five -- including a youngish male that ambled towards us along the railing beside the boardwalk for a bit before angling off into the trees. There was a female and her small youngster around the cabins at Sukau on several days, and we spotted another high in the trees near the main lodge in Danum Valley.

PALE GIANT SQUIRREL (*Ratufa affinis*): One of these appropriately named squirrels -- large enough they're regularly mistaken for monkeys -- from the boardwalk at the Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Center, with others at Poring Springs and near Hill Lodge on Mount Kinabalu. We heard their loud, machine-gun-like calls on most days in Danum Valley too.

PREVOST'S SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus prevostii*): These sizable black squirrels were ubiquitous throughout Sabah's lowlands and foothills.

PLANTAIN SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus notatus*): Fairly common in the lowlands, where they were the common medium-sized squirrel.

BORNEAN BLACK-BANDED SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus orestes*): Particularly nice studies of the hopeful ones on the railings of the little cafe above the Timpohon Gate.

JENTINK'S SQUIRREL (*Sundasciurus jentinki*): Regular on Mount Kinabalu, where they scurried through the trees with remarkable speed.

BORNEAN MOUNTAIN GROUND SQUIRREL (*Sundasciurus everetti*): We found our first nosing around in the grass at the summit of Gunung Alab, but they were also common on Mount Kinabalu. Their name is a bit of a misnomer, as they're sometimes found in trees too.

LEAST PYGMY SQUIRREL (*Exilisciurus exilis*): Seen on most days in the lowlands, with particularly nice views of one using its teeth to scrape something off a trunk along the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's entrance road. These little squirrels are not much bigger than a human thumb!

RED GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL (*Petaurista petaurista*): Our first was high in a huge tree over our cabins at Sepilok, seen as we searched for owls on our first evening together. We had better views of another on our last night drive in the Danum Valley -- particularly when it launched out of the tree and soared right over our vehicles! The black tip to its long tail separates it from the next species.

THOMAS'S FLYING SQUIRREL (*Aeromys thomasi*): The only flying squirrel we spotted on our second night drive in the Danum Valley -- peering down from one of the huge emergent trees near the entrance road. Its entirely red pelage (with no black nose or tail tip, like the previous species has) helps to identify it.

MALAY CIVET (*Viverra zibetha*): One rummaged along the edge of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's entrance road, seen on our last night drive. We spotted bits and pieces of several others as they moved through the dense undergrowth along the road.

SMALL-TOOTHED PALM CIVET (*Arctogalidia trivirgata*): A couple winked in and out of view in a tree along the Kinabatangan, seen on our first night float there. Unlike the previous species, this one seldom descends out of the trees.

NORTHERN PALM CIVET (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*): The most common of the tour's civets, seen most nights around Sukau (including one hunting right over the boardwalk down to the dining room one wet evening) with another on our first night drive at Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

SUNDA LEOPARD CAT (*Prionailurus javanensis*): What a wonderful encounter we had with this little cat! It suddenly appeared in front of our vehicles on our last night drive in the Danum Valley, but disappeared before everybody spotted it. However, it soon reappeared -- and proceeded to trot along ahead of us for the next two-plus kilometers, stopping now and then to check out potential prey. Wow!

BORNEAN PYGMY ELEPHANT (*Elephas maximus borneensis*): A male lolled along the edge of the of the Kinabatangan in the dark, rolling and blowing and grabbing the occasional mouthful of grass from the nearby shore. Though they're called "pygmy", these elephants are similar in size to those found on mainland Asia.

GREATER INDO-MALAYSIAN CHEVROTAIN (*Tragulus napu*): Single individuals of these tiny deer (formerly known as Greater Mouse Deer) scurried across roads or trails on a couple of our night outings.

SOUTHERN RED MUNTJAC (*Muntiacus muntjak*): A couple of these small deer bounded off the side of the road as we made our way to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.

SAMBAR (*Rusa unicolor*): Small numbers on most days in Danum Valley, including a regular trio grazing along the river near the main lodge on several late afternoons.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS:

HARLEQUIN FLYING TREEFROG (*Rhacophorus pardalis*): A few of these smaller, orangish treefrogs clung to leaves and fence railings around the frog pond at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge. They were dwarfed by the next species!

FILE-EARED TREEFROG (*Polypedates otitophus*): The stripey black and white legs of these big treefrogs make them easy to identify. We saw numbers around the frog pond at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, with others on our night drive there.

ROUGH-SIDED FROG (*Pulchrana glandulosa*): What? What?! WHAT?! The almost human calls of this little frog -- clearly very common around our Sepilok hotel -- had us all giggling as we searched for Brown Boobook. We saw a few in a wet pit near some of the cabins.

GREEN PADDY FROG (*Hylarana erythraea*): One along the Menanggul, seen on our night float there, when its huge eyes and bright white belly caught the spotlight's beam.

BORNEAN HORNED FROG (*Megophrys nasuta*): We were luckily in the area when another group's guide spotted one of these well-camouflaged, nocturnal frogs resting on the leaf litter beside a little stream in the Danum Valley. It was extraordinarily hard to spot -- even when we knew where it was!

COMMON HOUSE GECKO (*Hemidactylus frenatus*): Very common in the lowlands -- particularly at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, where dozens loitered around the lights in the "boot room".

SABAH FLYING GECKO (*Gekko rhacophorus*): One sailed from one huge tree to another across the canopy walkway and stuck its landing on a nearby trunk. It was a uniformly speckled brown, which helps to distinguish it from the *Draco* geckos. As its name suggests, this one is endemic to Sabah.

SMITH'S GIANT GECKO (*Gekko smithii*): We heard these "barking geckos" around the cabins at Sepilok.

WHITE-BANDED NARROW-DISKED GECKO (*Gekko albofasciolatus*): One of these big geckos hung on the side of John and Linnet's cabin at Sepilok, seen by a few folks.

CRESTED GREEN LIZARD (*Bronchocela cristatella*): Andy spotted one of these along the entrance road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge on one of our walks.

BORNEO ANGLE-HEADED LIZARD (*Gonocephalus borneensis*): One along the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's entrance road, where its funny head shape made it easy to identify.

OLIVE TREE SKINK (*Dasia olivacea*): These small, strongly striped lizards were quite common on the grounds of our Sepilok hotel, with others seen along the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's entrance road.

ROUGH MABUYA (*Eutropis rudis*): The fairly plain brown lizard with the yellow belly we saw near the start of the trail to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge's canopy walkway.

WATER MONITOR (*Varanus salvator*): A few along the Kinabatangan's tributaries, including a big one hunting a White-breasted Waterhen chick near the mouth of the Menanggul.

TRIANGLE KEELBACK (*Xenochrophis trianguligerus*): One seen briefly, swimming across the frog pond at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge. Found across southeast Asia, they're typically around water.

EQUATORIAL SPITTING COBRA (*Naja sumatrana*): This one was sadly squashed in the driveway of the Fairy Garden restaurant, spotted as we headed to lunch one afternoon. We'd originally identified it as a Malaysian Banded Wolf Snake, but herpetologists who knew it better pointed to the v-shaped rings near its neck as being diagnostic for this species.


DOG-TOOTHED CAT SNAKE (*Boiga cynodon*): One had twined its way up a "promise tree" (in reality a multi-branched stick with bits of paper dangling from its "branches") near the reservation desk at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, nervously avoiding the appreciative crowd that had gathered to snap its picture.

SALTWATER CROCODILE (*Crocodylus porosus*): A number of fairly small individuals spotted along the riverbanks of the Kinabatangan and tributaries.

For selected invertebrates, fungi and plants, see the attached iNaturalist report:
<https://inaturalist.org/projects/field-guides-june-july-2025-borneo-tour>


























 245

Species Observed

 60

Checklists

LIFERS  190 

Species Observed		Show all details
1	Wandering Whistling-Duck 	  1
28	Red-breasted Partridge 	  11
3	Great Argus 	  3
13	Sabah Partridge 	  7
15	Crimson-headed Partridge 	  5
20	Rock Pigeon 	  1
15	Spotted Dove	  1
4	Little Cuckoo-Dove 	  4
1	Asian Emerald Dove	  1

10	Zebra Dove * ✓	▶ 3
10	Pink-necked Green-Pigeon ✓	▶ 1
15	Thick-billed Green-Pigeon ✓	▶ 1
55	Green Imperial-Pigeon	▶ 11
2	Pied Imperial-Pigeon ✓	▶ 1
8	Greater Coucal	▶ 5
5	Raffles's Malkoha ✓	▶ 4
1	Red-billed Malkoha ✓	▶ 1
6	Chestnut-breasted Malkoha ✓	▶ 4
2	Black-bellied Malkoha ✓	▶ 2
5	Violet Cuckoo	▶ 4
2	Plaintive Cuckoo	▶ 2
11	Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo	▶ 8
4	Indian Cuckoo	▶ 4
4	Sunda Cuckoo ✓	▶ 4
4	Silver-rumped Spinetail ✓	▶ 1
412	Plume-toed Swiftlet ✓	▶ 19
6	Mossy-nest Swiftlet ✓	▶ 1
4	Black-nest Swiftlet ✓	▶ 1
2	White-nest Swiftlet ✓	▶ 1
1	Gray-rumped Treeswift ✓	▶ 1
8	Whiskered Treeswift ✓	▶ 4
12	White-breasted Waterhen	▶ 6

1	Little Tern	▶  1
4	Storm's Stork ✓	▶  3
4	Lesser Adjutant	▶  1
45	Oriental Darter	▶  7
12	Black-crowned Night Heron	▶  3
1	Nankeen Night Heron ✓	▶  1
1	Little Egret	▶  1
1	Striated Heron	▶  1
3	Great Egret	▶  1
18	Purple Heron	▶  4
1	Oriental Honey-buzzard	▶  1
17	Crested Serpent-Eagle	▶  9
10	Wallace's Hawk-Eagle ✓	▶  6
2	Changeable Hawk-Eagle	▶  2
1	Black Eagle	▶  1
4	Bat Hawk	▶  1
4	Crested Goshawk	▶  2
1	Brahminy Kite	▶  1
1	White-bellied Sea-Eagle	▶  1
1	Lesser Fish-Eagle ✓	▶  1
1	Gray-headed Fish-Eagle	▶  1
1	Reddish Scops-Owl ✓	▶  1
5	Buffy Fish-Owl ✓	▶  3

1	Barred Eagle-Owl	✓	▶  1
1	Sunda Owlet	✓	▶  1
5	Red-naped Trogon	✓	▶  4
2	Diard's Trogon	✓	▶  2
6	Whitehead's Trogon	✓	▶  3
4	Scarlet-rumped Trogon	✓	▶  3
3	White-crowned Hornbill	✓	▶  2
2	Helmeted Hornbill	Sensitive ✓	▶  1
28	Rhinoceros Hornbill	✓	▶  11
10	Black Hornbill	✓	▶  6
20	Oriental Pied-Hornbill	✓	▶  5
7	Wreathed Hornbill	✓	▶  2
23	Wrinkled Hornbill	✓	▶  3
5	Red-bearded Bee-eater	✓	▶  3
12	Blue-throated Bee-eater	✓	▶  4
13	Blue-eared Kingfisher	✓	▶  5
2	Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher	✓	▶  2
1	Banded Kingfisher	✓	▶  1
11	Stork-billed Kingfisher		▶  5
6	Collared Kingfisher	✓	▶  4
7	Dollarbird		▶  4
15	Brown Barbet	✓	▶  5
20	Black-eared Barbet	✓	▶  10
























3	Bornean Barbet	✓	▶  2
7	Red-throated Barbet	✓	▶  6
13	Golden-naped Barbet	✓	▶  11
3	Yellow-crowned Barbet	✓	▶  2
3	Mountain Barbet	✓	▶  3
2	Gold-whiskered Barbet	✓	▶  2
4	Rufous Piculet	✓	▶  3
1	Gray-and-buff Woodpecker	✓	▶  1
3	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	✓	▶  2
4	Maroon Woodpecker	✓	▶  4
3	Orange-backed Woodpecker	✓	▶  2
3	Rufous Woodpecker	✓	▶  1
3	Buff-necked Woodpecker	✓	▶  2
4	Buff-rumped Woodpecker	✓	▶  3
1	Crimson-winged Woodpecker	✓	▶  1
4	Banded Woodpecker	✓	▶  3
2	Checker-throated Woodpecker	✓	▶  2
2	Great Slaty Woodpecker	✓	▶  1
2	White-bellied Woodpecker	✓	▶  1
1	White-fronted Falconet	✓	▶  1
10	Long-tailed Parakeet	✓	▶  1
20	Blue-naped Parrot	* ✓	▶  1
29	Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot	✓	▶  11

8	Whitehead's Broadbill	✓	▶  4
8	Black-and-red Broadbill	✓	▶  2
3	Banded Broadbill	✓	▶  2
24	Black-and-yellow Broadbill	✓	▶  16
7	Black-crowned Pitta	✓	▶  6
3	Blue-headed Pitta	✓	▶  2
4	Western Hooded Pitta	✓	▶  3
13	Gray-chinned Minivet		▶  5
2	Scarlet Minivet		▶  1
3	Sunda Cuckooshrike	✓	▶  1
1	Pied Triller	✓	▶  1
4	Lesser Cuckooshrike	✓	▶  2
5	White-browed Shrike-Babbler		▶  4
15	Bornean Whistler	✓	▶  6
2	Ventriloquial Oriole	✓	▶  1
2	Black-and-crimson Oriole	✓	▶  2
11	White-breasted Woodswallow	✓	▶  3
2	Large Woodshrike	✓	▶  1
7	Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike	✓	▶  2
4	Bornean Bristlehead	✓	▶  2
17	Common Iora		▶  7
11	Green Iora	✓	▶  3
2	Spotted Fantail	✓	▶  1

9	Malaysian Pied-Fantail	✓	▶  5
17	White-throated Fantail		▶  8
14	Ashy Drongo		▶  4
4	Bronzed Drongo		▶  3
4	Hair-crested Drongo		▶  3
7	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo		▶  2
9	Black-naped Monarch		▶  5
2	Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher	✓	▶  2
1	Long-tailed Shrike		▶  1
4	Bornean Black Magpie	✓	▶  2
4	Bornean Green-Magpie	Sensitive ✓	▶  2
27	Bornean Treepie	✓	▶  11
2	House Crow	*	▶  1
44	Sunda Crow	✓	▶  14
1	Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher		▶  1
4	Dark-necked Tailorbird	✓	▶  3
47	Ashy Tailorbird	✓	▶  13
6	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	✓	▶  3
6	Yellow-bellied Prinia	✓	▶  2
49	Pacific Swallow	✓	▶  15
2	Yellow-bellied Bulbul	✓	▶  2
3	Gray-cheeked Bulbul	Sensitive ✓	▶  2
6	Penan Bulbul	✓	▶  4

2	Finsch's Bulbul	✓	▶  2
6	Charlotte's Bulbul	✓	▶  4
2	Cinereous Bulbul	✓	▶  1
2	Streaked Bulbul	✓	▶  1
1	Puff-backed Bulbul	✓	▶  1
9	Black-headed Bulbul	✓	▶  2
2	Spectacled Bulbul	✓	▶  2
11	Scaly-breasted Bulbul	✓	▶  4
4	Bornean Bulbul	✓	▶  1
6	Cream-vented Bulbul	✓	▶  3
3	Olive-winged Bulbul	✓	▶  1
15	Red-eyed Bulbul	✓	▶  7
2	Straw-headed Bulbul	Sensitive ✓	▶  1
2	Cream-eyed Bulbul	✓	▶  1
4	Pale-faced Bulbul	✓	▶  2
11	Yellow-vented Bulbul	✓	▶  2
13	Yellow-breasted Warbler	✓	▶  9
21	Mountain Leaf Warbler	✓	▶  10
4	Bornean Stubtail	✓	▶  3
8	Mountain Tailorbird		▶  5
14	Aberrant Bush Warbler	✓	▶  5
91	Chestnut-crested Yuhina	✓	▶  8
8	Black-capped White-eye	✓	▶  3

2	Mountain Black-eye	✓	▶  1
30	Bold-striped Tit-Babbler	✓	▶  6
3	Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler	✓	▶  1
14	Gray-hooded Babbler	✓	▶  4
3	Rufous-fronted Babbler	✓	▶  2
1	Bare-headed Laughingthrush	✓	▶  1
4	Black-throated Babbler	✓	▶  2
5	Chestnut-rumped Babbler	✓	▶  2
6	Gray-throated Babbler		▶  1
2	Gray-headed Babbler	✓	▶  1
2	Black-throated Wren-Babbler	✓	▶  1
13	Sooty-capped Babbler	✓	▶  6
10	Scaly-crowned Babbler	✓	▶  3
3	Rufous-crowned Babbler	✓	▶  1
6	Moustached Babbler	✓	▶  2
10	Bornean Black-capped Babbler	✓	▶  5
2	Short-tailed Babbler	✓	▶  1
2	Temminck's Babbler	✓	▶  1
15	White-chested Babbler	✓	▶  7
1	Ferruginous Babbler	✓	▶  1
4	Striped Wren-Babbler	✓	▶  3
4	Horsfield's Babbler	✓	▶  2
12	Mountain Wren-Babbler	✓	▶  3

11	Brown Fulvetta	✓	▶  4
34	Sunda Laughingthrush	Sensitive ✓	▶  6
53	Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush	✓	▶  6
3	Velvet-fronted Nuthatch		▶  3
49	Asian Glossy Starling	✓	▶  4
8	Common Hill Myna	Sensitive ✓	▶  4
15	Javan Myna	* ✓	▶  5
2	Everett's Thrush	✓	▶  2
4	Fruit-hunter	✓	▶  3
1	Orange-headed Thrush		▶  1
3	Oriental Magpie-Robin	Sensitive	▶  1
23	White-crowned Shama	Sensitive ✓	▶  11
8	Indigo Flycatcher	✓	▶  6
3	Verditer Flycatcher		▶  3
6	Malaysian Blue Flycatcher	✓	▶  4
4	Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher	✓	▶  2
3	Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher	✓	▶  2
5	Bornean Shortwing	✓	▶  4
10	Bornean Whistling-Thrush	✓	▶  7
3	White-crowned Forktail	✓	▶  3
1	Bornean Forktail	✓	▶  1
6	Snowy-browed Flycatcher	✓	▶  3
2	Pygmy Flycatcher		▶  2

2	Little Pied Flycatcher		▸  2
2	Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker	✓	▸  1
4	Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker	✓	▸  2
17	Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	✓	▸  6
5	Black-sided Flowerpecker	✓	▸  4
1	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	✓	▸  1
2	Plain Sunbird	✓	▸  2
12	Brown-throated Sunbird	✓	▸  5
3	Red-throated Sunbird	✓	▸  2
2	Van Hasselt's Sunbird	✓	▸  2
2	Copper-throated Sunbird	✓	▸  1
4	Ornate Sunbird	✓	▸  3
18	Temminck's Sunbird	✓	▸  11
5	Crimson Sunbird		▸  4
2	Purple-naped Spiderhunter	✓	▸  1
10	Little Spiderhunter	✓	▸  4
3	Whitehead's Spiderhunter	✓	▸  3
6	Yellow-eared Spiderhunter	✓	▸  1
3	Spectacled Spiderhunter	✓	▸  2
3	Bornean Spiderhunter	✓	▸  2
3	Asian Fairy-bluebird		▸  1
4	Greater Green Leafbird	Sensitive ✓	▸  2
11	Lesser Green Leafbird	✓	▸  5

- 6

Bornean Leafbird

✔

▶ 1 2
- 6

Baya Weaver

*

▶ 1 1
- 4

Scaly-breasted Munia

▶ 1 1
- 15

Dusky Munia

✔

▶ 1 2
- 7

Chestnut Munia

✔

▶ 1 2
- 52

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

▶ 1 5

EXOTIC: ESCAPEE

- 1

Red Junglefowl

*

▶ 1 1

ADDITIONAL TAXA

- 1543

dark swiftlet sp.

▶ 1 10
- 7

Greater/Lesser Green Leafbird

▶ 1 2