

FIELD REPORT

BORNEO

MARCH 12–31, 2025



Whitehead's Trogon - one of the star endemics from Mount Kinabalu

LEADER: SCOTT BAKER
LIST COMPILED BY: SCOTT BAKER

VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746
VENTBIRD.COM

The island of Borneo is literally one of the most biodiverse corners of the globe, a tropical luxuriant land teeming with bizarre and beautiful wildlife, represented by many

endemic varieties. This tour was essentially an exploration of the northeastern province of Sabah (Malaysian Borneo) and proved to be another incredible chapter in what has become a regular fixture on the VENT tour calendar.



View of Mount Kinabalu, highest mountain in SE Asia.

Despite an unseasonably wet March, we tallied almost 300 species and, importantly, most of the key targets. Some of the highlights included Crimson-headed Partridge, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, Storm's Stork, Whitehead's Trogon, Whitehead's Broadbill, Blue-headed Pitta, Bornean Bristlehead, Straw-headed Bulbul, Crested Jayshrike, Bornean Green-Magpie, and Everett's Thrush (to name a few). We also had 5 separate Bornean Orangutan encounters, plus sightings of Proboscis Monkey, Saban Grizzled Langur, Sunda Colugo, Horsfield's Tarsier, and Sunda Leopard Cat. Our action-packed 16-day adventure revealed new and wonderful wildlife at every turn.

Our group of 6 slightly jet-lagged but very enthusiastic participants arrived in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah) where we enjoyed the services at the luxurious Shangri La resort, a welcome respite from the distinctly tropical atmosphere. Even birding the grounds and nearby Tanjung Aru beach had provided some valuable sightings—species such as Blue-naped Parrot, Long-tailed Parakeet, Sunda Pygmy-Woodpecker, Pink-necked Green-Pigeon, and Pied Triller were easily sighted here, some of which we were unlikely to see elsewhere.

Day 1 was an opportunity for some relaxed local birding in a rural area northeast of the capital, known as Tempasuk Plain. The irrigated rice fields at this location provide

habitat for many shorebirds and wetland species. Black-winged Stilt, Marsh Sandpiper, Wood Sandpiper, and Long-toed Stint were numerous. We also enjoyed sightings of Oriental Pratincole, Common Snipe, Temminck's Stint (rare), Yellow Bittern, Buff-banded Rail, and Watercock (briefly). While raptors were scarce, a juvenile Eastern Marsh Harrier was a welcome addition.

The following day we departed Kota Kinabalu, ascending to the cooler montane zone of the Crocker Range. We started at the Gunung Alab substation where, in the early morning misty light, some birds began to emerge. First up was a pair of Bornean Shortwings, a shy but charismatic endemic. Our luck continued with sightings of several flycatchers (Blue-and-white, Indigo, Snowy-browed, Mugimaki, and Little Pied) and memorable encounters with Bornean Green-Magpie, Mountain Blackeye, Golden-naped Barbet, and pair of Crimson-headed Partridges. A solid start. Further along, towards Tambunan, we ticked off Bornean Bulbul, Bornean Leafbird, and Pygmy Heleia—bringing up a respectable 12 endemics for the trip list.



Bornean Green-Magpie was voted 'best-dressed'

Our next stop was Mt Kinabalu—the highest mountain in southeast Asia (outside of the Himalayas) and a biodiversity hotspot. The montane rainforest here harbors over 5,000

species of plants and an exceptional array of unique flora and fauna, including several high value target birds. It is one of the key sites.

Our accommodation at Hill Lodge, in the national park itself, had some advantages and started on a very positive note with unbelievable views of the scarce and rarely observed Everett's Thrush (in fact, 3 birds) feeding on the roadside. Later, a search of the Silau Silau trail revealed 2 of the star attractions with both Whitehead's Trogon (4 birds) and a stunning male Whitehead's Broadbill putting in appearances. Some of the group also managed views of the elusive Whitehead's Spiderhunter—the famous trio all recorded in a single morning.



Stakeout for the Whitehead's Spiderhunter (Mt Kinabalu)

Additional highlights over a 3-day period included the diminutive Bornean Stubtail, Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher, Mountain Wren-Babbler, Golden-naped Barbet, and Bornean Whistling-Thrush (all endemics). The exquisite Bornean Forktail required some additional effort but eventually proved a cooperative subject.

We also had a rare opportunity to visit a rafflesia in full display. This is the world's largest (and stinkiest) flower. These enormous

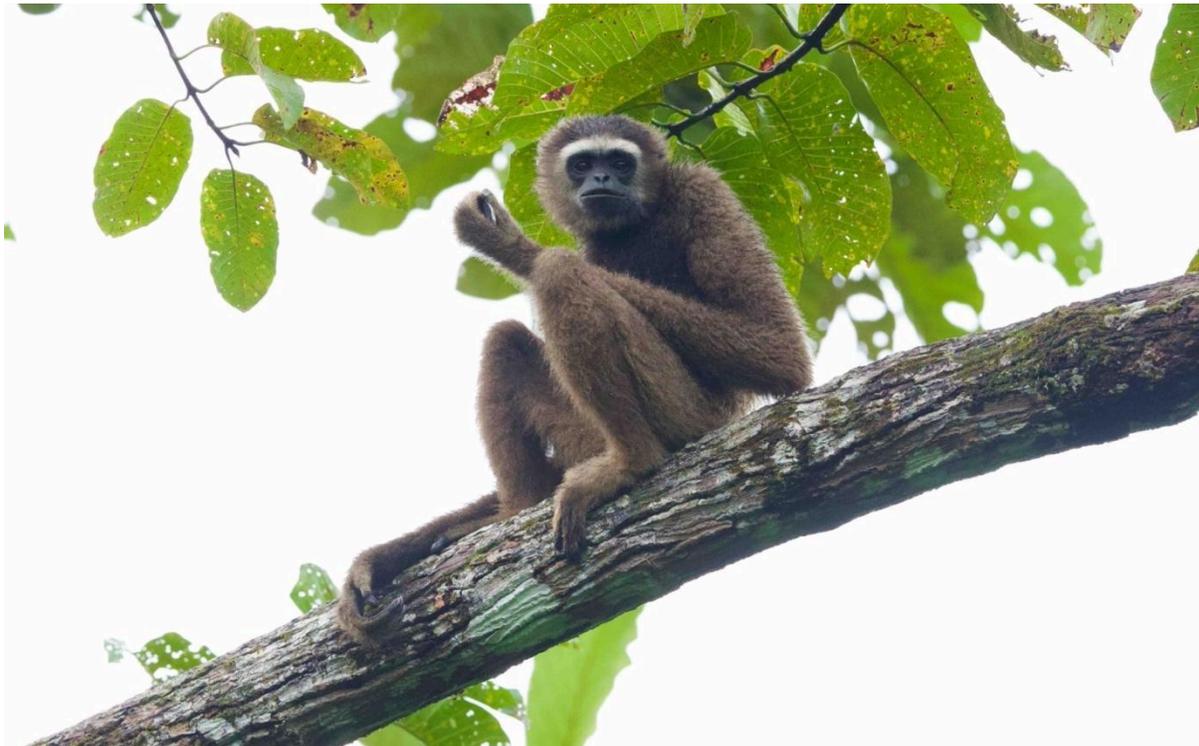


parasitic blooms take years to develop on the forest floor, opening briefly and emitting a foul odor (approximating the smell of rotten meat) to attract flies for the purpose of pollination. Delightful!

Next, we departed the highlands and embarked on the long drive eastward to the Sepilok Nature Resort. On this journey we traversed a very different landscape (much of it dominated by Palm Oil plantation!), but there were also patches of remnant lowland rainforest, promising a suite of new and very different birds.

The Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC) in Sepilok is a must-visit site for any nature lover. The facility provides educational resources, promoting conservation and forest ecology, and a well-maintained trail system including the famous 'skywalk' canopy walkway, enabling an incredible bird's-eye view of the forest.

Despite having to navigate some 'weather events,' we did quite well. Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, Diard's Trogon, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Charlotte's Bulbul, and Buff-necked Woodpecker were all showing well. There were also some primates of note, in particular, a close-up encounter with a North Bornean Gray Gibbon, views of the very rare Saban Grizzled Langur (a lifer for all!), and, thankfully, our first wild Bornean Orangutan.



North Bornean Gray Gibbon – from canopy walkway (Sepilok)

A special mention here for tour participant Pat Martin, who, at this location, achieved an outstanding milestone—that is, bird number 5,000 (the Plain Sunbird), from the canopy walkway. Well done Pat!

Next on the itinerary was an exploration of the mighty Kinabatangan River. Convening in the village of Sim Sim at the river's mouth, we traveled by boat almost 100 kms upstream to the award-winning Sukau Rainforest Lodge. We could appreciate the different habitats, starting with mangrove and Nypa Palm forest in the lower reaches and gradually transitioning to tropical rainforest as we progressed.



Birding the Kinabatangan

Birding the river was entirely by boat. We could sit back and indulge in some casual birding! Over a 3-day period we enjoyed many great sightings including 6 species of Hornbills (Rhinoceros, Black, Bushy-crested, Wrinkled, Oriental-Pied, and White-crowned); a fabulous array of barbets and kingfishers; the very rare Straw-headed Bulbul; and some nice raptors. A major drawcard species for this location is the endangered Storm's Stork, and we were not disappointed, with great views and several encounters. This is also a hotspot for the endemic Proboscis Monkey. With its comically long nose, 'pot-belly,' and mismatched fur, it is one of the strangest of all primates.



A visit to the nearby Gomantong Caves was another fascinating experience. The limestone formation here features a series of subterranean chambers that are home to many nesting Swiftlets (Plume-toed, White-nest, Black-nest, and Mossy-nest) and an estimated 250,000 bats. A walkway enables access and close up viewing of the cave ecology. Later, as the sun set, we witnessed the mesmerizing spectacle of thousands of bats as they departed the roost site, emerging in formations, attempting to evade the many raptors that had gathered for the event. There were Bat Hawks, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle, and Peregrine Falcons taking part in this incredible harvest.



The view from inside Gomantong Cave

We continued southward via Lahad Datu to the Tabin Wildlife Reserve, one of the largest protected forest reserves in Sabah. This area of lowland dipterocarp rainforest is best known for its mammal fauna, harboring populations of the Bornean (Pygmy) Elephant, Banteng, and (previously) the Sumatran Rhinoceros. A night drive rewarded us with sightings of the Small-toothed Palm Civet, Island Palm Civet, Black Flying Squirrel, and best of all—3 Leopard Cats!

Luck was on our side the following day (certainly a break in the weather was appreciated). Early on we spotted a pair of very cute White-fronted (Bornean) Falconets and a White-bellied Woodpecker. It was also nice to connect with the secretive Rufous-collared Kingfisher and the



Leopard Cat

Black-throated Wren-Babbler, a

classic skulker. The big prize, however, was a group of Bornean Bristleheads, foraging in the tree tops. This unique and sought-after endemic had proved elusive elsewhere, and it was a great relief to add it to the trip list. We did not see it again.

The final leg of our journey was something special, with four nights at the famous Borneo Rainforest Lodge—a superb facility set deep within the Danum Valley, surrounded by rainforest and overlooking the river. Luxury lodging and fine dining, and a wonderful vantage for watching wildlife. We really had saved the best for last!



The Danum Valley

There were many special sightings. An early morning encounter with a family of Bornean Crested Firebacks (one of several endemic pheasants) certainly rates as a highlight. We also enjoyed scope views of 2 elusive forest gems: the Black-crowned Pitta and the stunning Blue-headed Pitta (both endemics). The Bornean Black Magpie, Green Broadbill, and the monotypic Crested Jayshrike all put in brief but much appreciated appearances. Banded Kingfisher, Red-naped Trogon, Crimson-winged Woodpecker, Narcissus Flycatcher, Bornean Blue Flycatcher, Bornean Black-capped Babbler, Striped Wren-Babbler, Bornean Spiderhunter, and the rarely observed Chestnut-capped Thrush were some other sightings that deserve a mention.



Bornean Crested Fireback (male) on entrance road to the Bornean Rainforest Lodge

And with that we concluded our tour. We returned to Kota Kinabalu on a local flight from Lahad Datu, for a final night at the Shangri La.

I would like to thank all of the participants for a very positive dynamic that contributed to the success of this trip. Great company and some great birds really helps! Once again Borneo has produced some unforgettable wildlife experiences. A big thank you to all of the support staff, including drivers and local guides. In particular, a shout-out to my friend and co-leader, Mr. Hazwan Suban, whose deep knowledge of Borneo, its culture and wildlife, and his exceptional field skills really made all the difference.

ITINERARY

Mar 15 AM: Drive to Tempasuk Plain/ birding ricefields. PM: Return to Kota Kinabalu – Prince Philip Park.

Mar 16 Drive Kota Kinabalu – Mt Kinabalu. AM: birding Gunung Alab Substation (Crocker Range). PM: Hill Lodge (Mt Kinabalu).

Mar 17 AM: Morning at Mt Kinabalu National Park - Power Station rd/ Silau Silau trail. PM: Poring Hot Springs.

Mar 18 Full day at Mt Kinabalu National Park. Silau Silau trail – Timpohon Gate.

Mar 19 AM: Birding Mt Kinabalu. PM: Drive to Sepilok (5 hrs).

Mar 20 AM: Morning at the Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC). PM: Sepilok Nature Resort and late afternoon/evening at the RDC.

Mar 21 AM: RDC & Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. PM: Drive to Sim Sim (mouth of the Kinabatangan River) - boat to Sukau Rainforest Lodge.

Mar 22 Full day exploration of the Kinabatangan River. AM: Boat to Menanggul tributary. PM: Boat upstream incl Kinabatangan Oxbow Lake.

Mar 23 AM: Boat downstream incl tributary at Sukau. PM: Drive to Gomantong Caves.

Mar 24 Driving Sukau – Tabin Wildlife Resort via Lahad Datu. AM: local birding Sukau Rainforest Lodge. PM: Tabin Wildlife Resort

Mar 25 Full day at Tabin Wildlife Resort.

Mar 26 Driving Tabin WR – Danum Valley (Borneo Rainforest Lodge), via Lahad Datu.

Mar 27 Full day at Borneo Rainforest Lodge & surrounds

Mar 28 Full day at Borneo Rainforest Lodge & surrounds

Mar 29 Full day at Borneo Rainforest Lodge & surrounds

Mar 30 AM: Local birding BRL & canopy walkway. PM: Drive to Lahad Datu – flight to Kota Kinabalu. Tour conclusion.

For the full eBird trip report: <https://ebird.org/tripreport/341053>

BRL – Borneo Rainforest Lodge (Labuan Bajo)

RDC – Rainforest Discovery Centre (Sepilok)
Tabin WR – Tabin Wildlife Reserve

Pheasants, Grouse & Allies: Phasianidae

Red-breasted Partridge (E) (*Arborophila hyperythra*) In the 'heard-only' category at Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Crested Fireback (E) (*Lophura ignita*) 2 (briefly) on tributary of the Kinabatangan River, seen by some. We had another very satisfying encounter, early morning, on access rd to the BRL with 5 birds (2m & 3f) casually foraging on roadside.

Great Argus (*Argusianus argus*) Distant, distinctive whooping call heard at Sepilok and the BRL, was never close.

Sabah Partridge (E) (*Tropicoperdix graydoni*) Somewhat frustrating. Vocal, duetting birds at several sites incl RDC, Kinabatangan, Tabin and BRL. Despite persistent effort we never actually observed.

Crimson-headed Partridge (E) (*Haematortyx sanguiniceps*) Close up views of this stunning endemic (both m&f) from hide in the Crocker Range NP. We also encountered on roadside at Mt Kinabalu, both seen and heard.

Pigeons & Doves: Columbidae

Rock Pigeon (I) (*Columba livia*) Mostly in transit. Various urban sites.

Spotted Dove (*Spilopelia chinensis*) Common enough – powerlines and urban areas.

Little Cuckoo-Dove (*Macropygia ruficeps*) 2 (in flight) at Crocker Range NP. Another recorded at Mt Kinabalu.

Zebra Dove (I) (*Geopelia striata*) Well established in some of the coastal sites. Were common in the grounds of Shangri-La Hotel and nearby Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu), also recorded Tempasuk Plain.

Little Green-Pigeon (*Treron olax*) Roosting pairs at RDC and the Kinabatangan River, enabled scope views. Another small flock (count of 6) at Tabin Reserve.

Pink-necked Green-Pigeon (*Treron vernans*) Commonest *Treron*. Regular in Kota Kinabalu, incl Prince Philip Park. Also roosting at Kinabatangan River.

Cinnamon-headed Green-Pigeon (*Treron fulvicollis*) Roosting flock of 4 (2m & 2f) at the Sepilok Orangutan Sanctuary allowed for extended scope views. A new bird for many of us.

Green Imperial-Pigeon (*Ducula aenea*) Reasonably common and widespread in lowlands incl Kota Kinabalu, Sepilok/ RDC and daily on the Kinabatangan River.

Cuckoos: Cuculidae

Bornean Ground-Cuckoo (E) (*Carpococcyx radiceus*) Scarce and secretive endemic. Distant bird, calling from forest on tributary of the Kinabatangan R our only record.

Short-toed Coucal (*Centropus rectunguis*) Heard only at the Tabin WR.

Greater Coucal (*Centropus sinensis*) Several encounters – mostly single birds, calling or roosting in lowlands incl Sepilok, Kinabatangan and BRL.

Lesser Coucal (*Centropus bengalensis*) Several observed in grassland at Tempasuk Plain, where they are reasonably common.

Raffles's Malkoha (*Rhinortha chlorophaea*) Smallest of the Malkohas. Single and pairs regular in the lowland forest sites incl RDC, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Red-billed Malkoha (*Zanclostomus javanicus*) Twice observed. Pair at Tabin WR and perched bird at the BRL provided clear viewing opportunity.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*) Endemic ssp *microhinus* featured at several sites incl Kinabatangan R(briefly), Tabin WR and BRL. A large and striking bird, but rarely conspicuous.

Black-bellied Malkoha (*Phaenicophaeus diardi*) Twice recorded, including a very cooperative, eye-level bird on access road to the BRL.

Violet Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*) Not uncommon but our experience was (mostly) of birds in flight, identified on call. Recorded RDC, Kinabatangan R, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo (*Chrysococcyx minutillus*) Single observation. Perched at the BRL.

Plaintive Cuckoo (*Cacomantis merulinus*) Common on call but rarely observed. Recorded most days in lowland sites throughout, from Kota Kinabalu to the BRL.

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (*Surniculus lugubris*) Also widespread in the lowland forest sites (and for the most part in the 'heard only' category). Recorded Kinabatangan R, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (*Hierococcyx nasicolor*) Scarce and secretive migrant - previously conspecific with Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo and status unclear. A bird that we observed (and photographed) on the Kinabatangan River represents only 10th Ebird record for Sabah. A lifer for all, including Hazwan!

Indian Cuckoo (*Cuculus micropterus*) The 'one-more-bottle' bird – recorded most days in lowland sites incl RDC, Kinabatangan R, Tabin WR and BRL. Mostly heard-only, we did manage to observe on 3 occasions.

Sunda Cuckoo (*Cuculus Lepidus*) Heard daily at Hill Lodge/ Mt Kinabalu, where we also managed to scope up perched bird. For most part were inconspicuous.

Frogmouths: Podargidae

Blyth's Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus affinis*) Twice 'heard-only' on night-drives at BRL. Despite persistent attempts, were not strongly responsive to playback and remained out of view.

Swifts: Apodidae

Silver-rumped Spinetail (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*) Several observations. A smart and distinctive swift when seen well. Hawking over water at Sepilok Nature Resort, also recorded at the BRL.

Plume-toed Swiftlet (*Collocalia affinis*) Formerly part of 'Glossy Swiftlet' complex. Widespread, recorded most days incl several breeding colonies. Not unusual to observe feeding flocks of 100+, often

associating with various 'dark nest swiftlet' sp. Be aware that very similar (almost indistinguishable) Bornean Swiftlet does also occur at higher altitude sites (above 1800mts).

Mossy-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus salangana*) One of several echo-locating *Aerodramus* that breed in colony at Gomantong Caves. Can only be identified at the nest, most of which were unoccupied.

Black-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus maximus*) The most numerous *Aerodramus* breeding/incubating at Gomantong The saliva nests of this species (and *A. fuciphagus* White-nest Swiftlet) are harvested for consumption.

White-nest Swiftlet (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*) Another *Aerodramus* sp breeding at Gomantong The pure white saliva nest is most valuable variety. We observed several unoccupied nests. It was a determined effort by Pat and Hazwan to record a single bird, returning to the site after sun had set.

House Swift (*Apus nipalensis*) Single bird at Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu), several others (count of 6) part of active breeding colony in the Crocker Range.

Treeswifts: Hemiprocnidae

Gray-rumped Treeswift (*Hemiprocne longipennis*) Small numbers. Overhead at both RDC and Tabin WR.

Whiskered Treeswift (*Hemiprocne comata*) Singles, daily at Tabin WR and BRL.

Rails, Gallinules & Coots: Rallidae

Buff-banded Rail (*Gallirallus philippensis*) Previously scarce in Borneo/Sabah, now well established (and expanding range) in certain areas. We observed 2 in rice fields at Tempasuk Plain and another on airfield at Lahad Datu.

Eurasian (Common) Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) Count of 5 at Tempasuk Plain.

Black-backed Swamphen (*Porphyrio indicus*) Recorded Tempasuk Plain. Formerly part of 'Purple Swamphen' complex, *P. indicus* now recognised as distinct taxa, occupying range within Indonesia and Borneo.

Watercock (*Gallixrex cinerea*) Scarce (and skittish) migrant Rallid. We had 3 separate birds, flushed from marshland at Tempasuk Plain.

White-breasted Waterhen (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*) Locally common, incl Tempasuk Plain (several). Also recorded on the Kinabatangan River.

Stilts & Avocets: Recurvirostridae

Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus Himantopus*) Count of 30 in mixed flock on Tempasuk Plain.

Plovers & Lapwings: Charadriidae

Pacific Golden-Plover (*Pluvialis fulva*) 3 roosting in mixed flock of shorebirds on Tempasuk Plain.

Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) Several observed in the Tempasuk Plain region.

Kentish Plover (*Anarhynchus alexandrines*) 2 on shallow mudflat at Tempasuk Plain.

Sandpipers & Allies: Scolopacidae

Common Snipe (*Gallinago gallinago*) Single bird feeding on paddy edge, Tempasuk Plain.

Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) Early morning in carpark at the RDC and 'flock' of 7 birds in flight on the Kinabatangan River.

Marsh Sandpiper (*Tringa stagnatilis*) Count of 16, part of mixed flock at Tempasuk Plain.

Wood Sandpiper (*Tringa glareola*) Common *Tringa* at Tempasuk Plain, est 55+, but numbers obscured, more likely in the hundreds.

Common Greenshank (*Tringa guttifer*) Count of 5 at Tempasuk Plain.

Sharp-tailed Sandpiper (*Calidris acuminata*) Single bird (briefly) at Tempasuk Plain. A rare visitor to Sabah.

Temminck's Stint (*Calidris temminckii*) Uncommon migrant. We had good views/photos of single bird at Tempasuk Plain.

Long-toed Stint (*Calidris subminuta*) Numerous *Calidrid*. Est 30+ in rice fields at Tempasuk Plain

Red-necked Stint (*Calidris ruficollis*) Smaller numbers, 2 separate groups, est total of 25 birds at Tempasuk Plain.

Pratincoles & Coursers: Glareolidae

Oriental Pratincole (*Glareola maldivarum*) Several birds (est 12) both roosting and hawking over marshland at Tempasuk Plain.

Gulls, Terns & Skimmers: Laridae

Whiskered Tern (*Chlidonias hybrida*) Also recorded at Tempasuk Plain. 2 separate groups, working over fields – est 40-50 in total.

Black-headed Gull (*Chroicocephalus ribibundus*) Uncommon migrant (according to Myers) count of 25 at the port of Sim Sim, mouth of the Kinabatangan River our only record.

Storks: Ciconiidae

Storm's Stork (*Ciconia stormi*) Rare and poorly known and listed as endangered with a total world population estimated at only 260-330 mature individuals. Kinabatangan River, however, is one of the few remaining strongholds – we had 3 encounters, a total of 7 birds.

Lesser Adjutant (*Leptoptilos javanicus*) Several observations on the Kinabatangan River. All single birds in flight.

Anhingas: Anhingidae

Oriental Darter (*Anhinga melanogaster*) Small numbers. Daily on the Kinabatangan River.

Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns: Ardeidae

Yellow Bittern (*Ixobrychus sinensis*) Widespread but very shy. Several flushed from rice fields on the Tempasuk Plain – all flight views. Another from tributary of the Kinabatangan River.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) Twice observed, incl group of 3 in flight on Kinabatangan River.

Little Egret (*Egretta garzetta*) Probably most numerous of local 'Egrets'. Reportedly both ssp *nigripes* and *garzetta* occur in roughly equal numbers. Congregation of 100+ at Tempasuk Plain and various wetland sites.

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) Single birds at RDC and Kinabatangan River.

Chinese Pond-Heron (*Ardeola bacchus*) A bird in partial breeding plumage, with diagnostic chestnut head and neck was photographed at Tempasuk Plain. It should be noted that several other (non-breeding) *Ardeola* sp, also present at the same location could not be identified with certainty.

Eastern Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus coromandus*) Common in wetland/ open fields, particularly lowland sites. Often recorded in transit.

Great Egret (*Ardea alba modesta*) A familiar sight on wetlands and coastal areas. Recorded Tanjung Aru beach (Kota Kinabalu), Sepilok and the Kinabatangan River.

Medium Egret (*Ardea intermedia*) Formerly part of 'Intermediate Egret' complex, a recent split. This, essentially the south Asian species. Small numbers at Tempasuk Plain, RDC and Lahud Datu airfield.

Gray Heron (*Ardea cinerea*) Uncommon migrant. A single bird at Tempasuk Plain our only record.

Purple Heron (*Ardea purpurea*) Several observations incl Tempasuk Plain, also daily on the Kinabatangan River.

Hawks, Eagles & Kites: Accipitridae

Black-winged Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*) 1 bird over grassland at Tempasuk Plain.

Crested Serpent-Eagle (*Spilornis cheela*) Common in the lowlands. Several encounters, mostly single birds on Kinabatangan River, Gomantong, Tabin WR and BRL.

Bat Hawk (*Macheiramphus alcinus*) A very specialised raptor, almost exclusively crepuscular (in some case nocturnal). Watching 2-3 birds at Gomantong in late afternoon light, harvesting bats as they emerge from caves (in the thousands) rates as a trip highlight.

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus nanus*) Several observations, mostly single birds, regular in lowland forests incl RDC, Kinabatangan, Gomantong, Tabin WR and BRL.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle (*Nisaetus cirrhatus*) Recorded both pale and dark morph birds, various sites incl Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and access road to BRL.

Rufous-bellied Eagle (*Lophotriorchis kienerii*) A pair circling high above the BRL, our only observation.

Black Eagle (*Ictinaetus malaiensis*) Single bird, with pair of RB Eagle above the BRL.

Eastern Marsh Harrier (*Circus spilonotus*) Passage migrant. We observed dark plumaged, adult female at Tempasuk Plain.

Crested Goshawk (*Accipiter trivirgatus*) A pair of birds from skywalk at the BRL.

Brahminy Kite (*Haliastur indus*) Reasonably common and widespread. Recorded Tempasuk Plain, Kota Kinabalu, RDC and the Kinabatangan River.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle (*Ichthyophaga leucogaster*) Singles, daily on the Kinabatangan River.

Lesser Fish-Eagle (*Ichthyophaga humilis*) Resident bird at the BRL, several encounters

Gray-headed Fish-Eagle (*Ichthyophaga ichhyaetus*) roosting bird at Kinabatangan River allowed close approach.

Owls: Strigidae

Reddish Scops-Owl (*Otus rufescens*) Calling from same site over 2 nights, on access road to BRL. Despite our effort was unable to locate.

Mountain Scops-Owl (*Otus spilocephalus*) Heard only. From Hill Lodge – Mt Kinabalu.

Buffy Fish-Owl (*Ketupa ketupu*) Count of 4 birds on Kinabatangan River (night cruise) and approachable pair on sport field at the BRL. Attracted to lights. Most common of the large forest owls.

Brown Wood-Owl (*Strix leptogrammica vaga*) Recently fledged juvenile roosting near the BRL. And later, nearby, whilst spotlighting (presumably same bird).

Brown Boobook (*Ninox scutulata*) Individual observed/photographed, at night, from the RDC canopy walkway. Care required to distinguish from very similar Northern Boobook (*N. japonica*).

Trogon: Trogonidae

Red-naped Trogon (*Harpactes kasumba*) Recorded (heard and observed) from Danum Valley/BRL.

Diard's Trogon (*Harpactes diardii*) Several encounters. Incredible view of male at Sepilok RDC, 1 of the best Trogon sightings. Also daily at BRL.

Whitehead's Trogon (E) (*Harpactes whiteheadi*) The only truly montane (and endemic) Trogon of Borneo. Can be elusive, certainly a priority target for any visiting birder. We had 2 encounters and nice scope views with multiple birds (up to 4) on the Silau Silau trail, Mt Kinabalu.

Scarlet-rumped Trogon (*Harpactes duvaucelii*) Several sightings, incl cooperative female on the Menanggal tributary of Kinabatangan River. Also recorded Tabin WR and the BRL.

Hornbills: Bucerotidae

White-crowned Hornbill (*Berenicornis comatus*) Extended close-up encounter with pair on Menanggal tributary (Kinabatangan River) a real highlight. We also recorded at Tabin WR and the BRL.

Helmeted Hornbill (*Rhinoplax vigil*) Shy and critically endangered, in part due to illegal trade in casque and body parts. Far-carrying call was heard at BRL, but never close. Remained in the 'heard-only' category.

Rhinoceros Hornbill (*Buceros rhinoceros*) Most frequently recorded Hornbill. Daily in the lowland forest sites, often calling in the morning. Recorded Sepilok/RDC, Kinabatangan, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Bushy-crested Hornbill (*Anorrhinus galeritus*) A familiar sight on the Kinabatangan River. Also recorded Gomantong,.

Black Hornbill (*Anthracoceros malayanus*) Most of the lowland forest sites. Small groups/pairs most days in Sepilok/RDC, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and BRL.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill (*Anthracoceros albirostris*) Several encounters. Most of those on the Kinabatangan River, another single bird from Tabin WR.

Wrinkled Hornbill (*Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus*) Pairs and small groups daily on the Kinabatangan River.

Kingfishers: Alcedinidae

Common Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) Single bird residing at the Sepilok Nature Resort.

Blue-eared Kingfisher (*Alcedo meninting*) Recorded at some of the freshwater sites (incl RDC & BRL) often heard rather than seen. Spotted 2 roosting birds on the Kinabatangan River.

Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher (*Ceyx rufidorsa*) Previously 'Oriental Dwarf-Kingfisher', now split. Singles and pairs at lowland forest sites incl RDC, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Banded (black-faced) Kingfisher (*Lacedo pulchella melanops*) Calling at RDC. Eventually we did manage scope views of a male, perched high, at BRL. Thank you Hazwan!

Stork-billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*) Various sites. A regular at the Sepilok Nature Resort, also daily on the Kinabatangan River (multiple birds) and the BRL.

Black-capped Kingfisher (*Halcyon pileate*) Uncommon migrant. Single bird on tributary of the Kinabatangan River, provided some memorable, close-up and eye-level views.

Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus chloris*) Reasonably common, various sites. Were active at Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu), Kinabatangan River and Tabin WR. Many observations in transit – often roosting on powerlines.

Rufous-collared Kingfisher (*Actenoides concretus*) Shy rainforest inhabitant. Heard-only at the RDC, we had a more satisfying encounter (incl scope views) at Tabin WR.

Bee-eaters: Meropidae

Red-bearded Bee-eater (*Nyctyornis amictus*) Combination of features incl bright green plumage, red 'beard' and yellow eye, responsible for this distinctive variety. Certainly a crowd favourite. Twice observed at the RDC, and again at BRL.

Blue-throated Bee-eater (*Merops viridis*) Widespread in lowlands, various sites. Observed at the RDC, Kinabatangan River and BRL.

Rollers: Coraciidae

Dollarbird (*Eurystomus orientalis*) Widespread, singles & pairs, often perched. Recorded at Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu), RDC, Kinabatangan, Tabin WR and BRL.

Asian Barbets: Megalaimidae

Brown Barbet (E) (*Caloramphus fuliginosus tertius*) Until recently conspecific with *C. hayii* (Sooty Barbet) now recognised as full species, and now a Borneo endemic. Small numbers (2-4 birds) at the RDC, Kinabatangan River and Gomantong Caves.

Black-eared Barbet (*Psilopogon duvaucelii*) Perhaps most common barbet on call. Recorded all of the lowland forest sites incl Poring Hot Springs, RDC, Kinabatangan, Gomantong, Tabin and BRL. Good views with feeding flock of mixed barbets on tributary of the Kinabatangan.

Red-throated Barbet (*Psilopogon mystacophanos*) Several encounters incl Kinabatangan River, Gomantong and BRL.

Golden-naped Barbet (E) (*Psilopogon pulcherrima*) Endemic barbet of the montane zone - reasonably common on call. Pair feeding at eye-level, at the Gunung Alab Substation (Crocker Range) provided best viewing opportunity.

Yellow-crowned Barbet (*Psilopogon henricii brachyrhynchus*) Regularly calling at BRL, close to lodge. Despite some persistent effort on our part it was flight views only.

Gold-whiskered Barbet (*Psilopogon chrysopogon*) Heard only at Poring Hot Springs and RDC. Finally managed scope views at BRL.

Woodpeckers: Picidae

Rufous Piculet (*Sasia abnormis*) Tiny and unobtrusive, easily overlooked. First observed in vine thicket on tributary of the Kinabatangan River. Also, several encounters at BRL.

Gray-and-buff Woodpecker (*Hemicircus concretus*) Singles on the Kinabatangan River and BRL.

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker (*Yungipicus moluccensis*) Single bird at Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu) our only record.

Gray-capped Pygmy Woodpecker (*Yungipicus canicapillus aurantiiventris*) Observed from viewing platform at BRL. This being endemic ssp *aurantiiventris*.

Maroon Woodpecker (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*) 2 observations incl 1 bird excavating hole in tree at the BRL, eye-level, with scopes. A memorable encounter.

Rufous Woodpecker (*Micropternus brachyurus*) Mostly 'heard-only' birds. Recorded Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and BRL.

Buff-necked Woodpecker (*Meiglyptes tukki*) Nice views of bird working dead tree from canopy walkway (RDC), also heard at BRL.

Buff-rumped Woodpecker (*Meiglyptes grammithorax*) Singles at the Sepilok RDC, Tabin WR and BRL.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker (*Picus puniceus*) Calling/heard-only at the Kinabatangan River and Tabin WR. Thankfully, another spotted from the viewing tower (well done Tara) on final day at BRL.

Banded Woodpecker (*Chrysophlegma miniaceum*) Heard-only at Kinabatangan River

Checker-throated Woodpecker (*Chrysophlegma mentale*) One of few Picids recorded in the montane zone. Daily at Mt Kinabalu, both heard and observed.

White-bellied Woodpecker (*Dryocopus javensis*) Pair of birds at Sepilok, RDC and another that we observed at Tabin WR, being harassed by pair of White-fronted Falcons.

Falcons & Caracaras: Falconidae

White-fronted Falconet (E) (*Microhierax latifrons*) One of world's smallest raptors and NE Borneo endemic. We enjoyed extended views of pair at Tabin WR, engaging a White-bellied Woodpecker in the same tree. Another recorded on the BRL access road, the following day.

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) 3 separate encounters. A pair at the Gunung-Alab Substation (Crocker Range) were local resident ssp *ernesti*. They may in fact be nesting on the tower. Another, on the Kinabatangan River, a migratory taxa, likely ssp *calidus*.

Old World Parrots: Psittaculidae

Long-tailed Parakeet (*Psittacula longicauda*) Several observations. Recorded at Prince Philip park (Kota Kinabalu), RDC and Kinabatangan River.

Blue-naped Parrot (I) (*Tanygnathus lucionensis*) Introduced, now established in some parts of Sabah. We observed 2 birds at Prince Philip park (Kota Kinabalu).

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot (*Loriculus galgulus*) Daily in the lowland forest sites incl RDC, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and BRL. Common enough but mostly in flight, overhead.

African & Green Broadbills: Calyptomenidae

Green Broadbill (*Calyptomena viridis*) Several encounters at BRL. Vocal but shy – some brief views only.

Whitehead's Broadbill (E) (*Calyptomena whiteheadi*) One of star endemics from Mt Kinabalu, and far from guaranteed. It took some effort. Eventually rewarded when a vivid green male flew in and perched, allowing for scope views (and some celebration).

Asian & Grauer's Broadbills: Eurylaimidae

Long-tailed Broadbill (*Psarisomus dalhousiae*) 2-3 birds at sub-montane forest site near Tambunan.

Black-and-red Broadbill (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*) Contender for 'best dressed'. Combination of striking plumage features and aqua blue bill demands attention. Up to 6 birds observed on the Menanggul Tributary of the Kinabatangan River, some engaged in nest building activity. Also recorded Tabin WR and BRL.

Banded Broadbill (*Eurylaimus javanicus*) Heard several times at BRL. Never actually observed.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) Widespread in lowlands and the sub-montane sites. Most days (regularly heard), was recorded Poring Hot Springs, RDC, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and BRL.

Pittas: Pittidae

Black-crowned Pitta (E) (*Erythropitta ussheri*) Bornean endemic. Was active and calling, heard at RDC and BRL (most days). Very shy, we did however, eventually, manage views and some ID shots.

Blue-headed Pitta (E) (*Hydrornis baudi*) One of top endemics. Some luck with a stunning adult male at BRL, perched and calling for an extended period, allowing for scope views and photographs. Definitely a highlight.

Western (Sunda) Hooded Pitta (*Pitta sordida mulleri*) 'Heard-only' at the RDC and Tabin WR. Neither bird responding to playback.

Cuckooshrikes: Campephagidae

Fiery Minivet (*Pericrocotus igneus*) Small numbers (1-4 birds) in some of the lowland sites incl RDC, Tabin WR and BRL.

Gray-chinned (Gray-throated) Minivet (*Pericrocotus solaris*) Montane resident. Endemic ssp *cinereigula* recorded from Mt Kinabalu and the Crocker Range.

Bar-bellied (Roving) Cuckooshrike (*Coracina striata sumatrensis*) Local ssp *sumatrensis*. 3 (briefly) at Tabin WR.

Sunda Cuckooshrike (*Coracina larvata*) Montane only. Endemic ssp *normani* was showing well at Hill Lodge, Mt Kinabalu.

Pied Triller (*Lalage nigra*) A single bird at Prince Philip park, (Kota Kinabalu) our only encounter.

Lesser Cuckooshrike (*Lalage fimbriata*) Observed from canopy walkway at BRL.

Vireos, Shrike-Babblers & Erpornis: Vireonidae

White-browed Shrike-Babbler (*Pteruthius aeralatus*) Watched a pair (m&f) from the Power Station rd at Mt Kinabalu. This is endemic ssp *robinsoni*.

White-bellied Erpornis (*Erpornis zantholeuca*) Endemic ssp *brunnescens* recorded at Tabin WR and BRL.

Whistlers & Allies: Pachycephalidae

Bornean Whistler (E) (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*) Common montane endemic. Daily at Mt Kinabalu, also recorded at the Crocker Range.

Old World Orioles: Oriolidae

Ventriloquial Oriole (*Oriolus consobrinus*) Formerly conspecific with Dark-throated Oriole, this taxa, recently recognised as a full species endemic to north Borneo and Palawan (Philippines). Heard-only at Tabin WR, we did observe at BRL.

Black-and-crimson Oriole (*Oriolus consanguineus*) Endemic ssp *vulneratus* observed at Mt Kinabalu.

Woodswallows, Bellmagpies & Allies: Artamidae

White-breasted Woodswallow (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) Various sites incl Tempasuk Plain, Prince Philip Park and Kinabatangan River.

Vangas, Helmetshrikes & Allies: Vangidae

Large Woodshrike (*Tephrodornis virgatus*) Endemic ssp *frenatus* recorded at Tabin WR and BRL.

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*) Single birds at Sepilok RDC and Tabin WR.

Rufous-winged Philentoma (*Philentoma pyrhoptera*) Good views from the canopy walkway at RDC, also a heard-only at BRL.

Maroon-breasted Philentoma (*Philentoma velata*) Male observed in forest at the Gomantong Caves, our only encounter.

Bristlehead: Pityriasisidae

Bornean Bristlehead (E) (*Pityriasis gymnocephala*) Monotypic family and perhaps most sought-after of the Bornean endemics. Also – becoming increasingly scarce. We were fortunate to observe 3-4 birds at Tabin WR, feeding high in canopy (having missed at Sepilok). Another calling at BRL.

Ioras: Aegithinidae

Common Iora (*Aegithina tiphia*) Mostly single birds, various sites. Probably overlooked at times. Recorded at Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu), RDC and Kinabatangan River.

Green Iora (*Aegithina viridissima*) Singles/pairs at Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and BRL.

Fantails: Rhipiduridae

Malaysian Pied-Fantail (*Rhipidura javanica*) Common lowland resident. Widespread, various habitats – recorded Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu), Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and daily at BRL.

White-throated Fantail (*Rhipidura albicollis*) Endemic ssp *Kinabalu*, a montane specialist. Recorded at the Crocker Range and Mt Kinabalu.

Drongos: Dicruridae

Ashy Drongo (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*) 2 at forest site near Tambunan, our only encounter. This is endemic ssp *stigmatops*.

Bronzed Drongo (*Dicrurus aeneus*) Bird observed from canopy walkway at BRL.

Hair-crested (Bornean) Drongo (*Dicrurus hottentottus*) Endemic ssp *borneensis*, part of Hair-crested complex, and subject to ongoing taxonomic review & discussion. Common montane resident, observed daily at Mt Kinabalu.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) Most of the lowland forest sites incl RDC, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Monarch Flycatchers: Monarchidae

Black-naped Monarch (*Hypothymis azurea*) A few encounters. Pair observed on Menanggul tributary of the Kinabatangan River. Others at the BRL.

Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher (*Terpsiphone affinis*) Another endemic taxa, ssp *borneensis* recorded at Tabin WR and the BRL.

Crested Jayshrike: Platylophidae

Crested Jayshrike (*Platylophus galericulatus*) Monotypic family of Sundaic region and a priority target for our group. We did connect with group of 3-4 bird on access road to the BRL. Shy - only briefly emerging from vegetation.

Shrikes: Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike (*Lanius schach*) Local resident ssp *bentet* recorded at Tempasuk Plain. Others in transit, likely also this taxa.

Crows, Jays & Magpies

Bornean Black Magpie (*Platysmurus aterrimus*) Recent split from Black Magpie (*P. leucopterus*), so now endemic. Tricky rainforest inhabitant, rarely seen well. Single birds at Sepilok RDC, Tabin WR ad BRL.

Bornean Green-Magpie (E) (*Cissa jefferyi*) Stand-out endemic of the montane region. Bright green plumage, black mask and red bill are pretty much unmistakable. A memorable encounter with this species at the Crocker Range. Also recorded Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Treepie (E) (*Dendrocitta cinerascens*) Common montane endemic. Daily at Mt Kinabalu.

Sunda Crow (*Corvus enca*) A recent split - formerly part of the 'Slender-billed Crow' complex. Regular in lowland forest sites incl Kinabatangan River and the BRL.

Fairy Flycatchers: Stenostiridae

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher (*Culicicapa ceylonensis*) Common resident, single observation at the BRL.

Cisticolas & Allies: Cisticolidae

Dark-necked Tailorbird (*Orthotomus atrogularis*) Single birds, several observations at the BRL.

Ashy Tailorbird (*Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis*) Widespread, most of the lowland sites.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird (*Orthotomus sericeus sericeus*) Singles at Poring Hot Springs and Tabin WR, and daily at BRL.

Yellow-bellied Prinia (*Prinia flaviventris latrunculus*) 2 records: observed at Tempasuk Plain and riverside, at the BRL.

Reed Warblers & Allies: Acrocephalidae

Oriental Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus orientalis*) A single encounter on tributary of the Kinabatangan River.

Grassbirds & Allies: Locustellidae

Striated Grassbird (*Megalurus palustris*) Several birds, some perched prominently in grassland at Tempasuk Plain. Also recorded at Lahad Datu airport.

Martins & Swallows: Hirundinidae

Pacific Swallow (*Hirundo tahitica*) Common and widespread. Recorded daily, both montane and lowlands sites.

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) Passage migrant. Recorded at Tempasuk Plain, Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu) and the Kinabatangan River.

Bulbuls: Pycnonotidae

Hairy-backed Bulbul (*Tricholestes criniger*) Lowland rainforests - several observations. First encountered on the Kinabatangan River, also twice at BRL.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul (*Alophoixus phaeocephalus*) Lowland/ sub-montane forest sites incl Poring Hot Springs, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Gray-cheeked Bulbul (*Alophoixus tephrogenys*) Regular, in small numbers at Tabin WR and the BRL.

Penan Bulbul (*Alophoixus ruficrissus*) Just once, on the Power Station road, Mt Kinabalu.

Charlotte's Bulbul (*Iole charlottae*) Previously conspecific with Buff-vented Bulbul (*I. olivacea*). Recorded at RDC and daily at the BRL. Common in garden area surrounding lodge.

Cinereous Bulbul (*Hemixos cinereus*) Endemic *ssp connectens*, a montane specialist. Just a single encounter at site near Tambunan.

Streaked Bulbul (*Ixos malaccensis*) The common Bulbul from canopy walkway at the RDC. Daily at this location.

Puff-backed Bulbul (*Microtarsus eutilotus*) Twice recorded. Single bird, part of mixed feeding flock at Gomantong Cave. Another observed at BRL.

Black-headed Bulbul (*Microtarsus melanocephalos*) 2 separate observations, both single birds on the Kinabatangan River.

Spectacled Bulbul (*Rubigula erythroptalmos*) Recorded at Tabin WR and daily at the BRL.

Gray-bellied Bulbul (*Rubigula cyaniventris*) Endemic *ssp paroticalis*. Single encounter of 3 birds at the BRL.

Bornean Bulbul (E) (*Rubigula montis*) Montane endemic. 3 birds at site near Tambunan was our only observation.

Olive-winged Bulbul (*Pycnonotus plumosus*) Single at entrance to Sepilok RDC.

Red-eyed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus brunneus*) One of several relatively nondescript brown Bulbuls that occur throughout SE Asia, incl Borneo. Daily at the RDC. Also recorded the Kinabatangan River and Tabin WR.

Straw-headed Bulbul (*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*) Critically endangered. Extirpated from much of former range, attributed (in part) to the illegal trapping and wildlife trade. Fortunate to observe a pair on the Kinabatangan River, calling and perched in early morning light.

Yellow-vented Bulbul (*Pycnonotus goiavier*) More likely in urban areas. We encountered at Tempasuk Plain and Prince Philip Park (Kota Kinabalu).

Leaf Warblers: Phylloscopidae

Yellow-breasted Warbler (*Phylloscopus montis*) Endemic *ssp montis* a montane endemic. A regular component of mixed species flocks at Mt Kinabalu.

Mountain Leaf Warbler (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*) Endemic *ssp kinabaluensis*, also montane. Recorded at the Crocker Range and Mt Kinabalu.

Bush Warblers & Allies: Scotocercidae

Bornean Stubtail (E) (*Urosphena whiteheadi*) Small and inconspicuous montane endemic. Easily overlooked. Single observation, a bird calling from low perch in the shadowy understory at Mt Kinabalu (well spotted Beverly!) provided an extended viewing opportunity.

Yellow-bellied Warbler (*Abroscopus superciliaris schwaneri*) A pair in bamboo at Poring Hot Springs, also. Recorded BRL.

Mountain Tailorbird (*Phyllergates cucullatus cinereicollis*) Montane only. Recorded at Crocker Range and Mt Kinabalu.

Aberrant (Sunda) Bush Warbler (*Horornis flavolivaceus*) Another endemic taxa, *ssp oreophilus*. Occupies dense veg at higher elevation. We had a single vocal bird at the Gunung Alab Substation in the Crocker Range. Brief views only.

White-eyes, Yuhinas & Allies: Zosteropidae

Chestnut-crested Yuhina (E) (*Staphida everetti*) Common endemic of montane zone, often a component of mixed species flocks. Recorded at Crocker Range and daily at Mt Kinabalu.

Pygmy White-eye (E) (*Heleia squamifrons*) Montane endemic. Single bird observed at a forest site near Tambunan.

Black-capped White-eye (*Zosterops atricapilla*) A couple of records, both Crocker Range and Mt Kinabalu.

Mountain Black-eye (E) (*Zosterops emiliae*) Distinctive montane endemic. A single bird at Gunung Alab Substation in the Crocker Range, our only observation.

Tree & Scimitar-Babblers & Allies: Timaliidae

Bold-striped Tit-Babbler (*Mixornis bornensis*) Widespread. Heard more often than seen. Recorded on the Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and BRL.

Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler (*Macronus ptilosus reclusus*) Encountered twice at the BRL, small groups – up to 5 birds.

Gray-hooded Babbler (E) (*Cyanoderma bicolor*) Formerly conspecific with Chestnut-winged Babbler (*C. erythropterum*), now a Bornean endemic. Observed at the RDC and Tabin WR.

Rufous-fronted Babbler (*Cyanoderma rufifrons*) Singles at Tabin WR and canopy walkway at the BRL.

Sunda Scimitar-Babbler (E) (*Pomatorhinus bornensis*) Formerly conspecific with Javan Scimitar Babbler (*P. montanus*), taxonomy not fully resolved.

Chestnut-rumped Babbler (*Stachyris maculata*) Feeding flock, 4-5 birds at Tabin WR.

Gray-throated Babbler (*Stachyris nigriceps*) Several encounters. Endemic ssp *borneensis* at the Gunung Alab Substation, Crocker Range and Mt Kinabalu.

Gray-headed Babbler (*Stachyris poliocephala*) 3 birds, briefly, at the BRL.

Ground Babblers & Allies: Pellorneidae

Black-throated Wren-Babbler (E) (*Turdinus atrigularis*) Large endemic skulker. A pair at Tabin WR circled our position and provided brief views. Another heard-only at the BRL.

Sooty-capped Babbler (*Malacopteron affine*) Common lowland forest inhabitant, often heard. Almost daily at Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Scaly-crowned Babbler (*Malacopteron cinereum*) Single observation at Tabin WR.

Moustached Babbler (*Malacopteron magnirostre*) Heard-only at the BRL.

Bornean Black-capped Babbler (E) (*Pellorneum capistratoides*) Recent split. Formerly part of 'Black-capped Babbler' complex, now a Bornean endemic. Ground dweller. We encountered at Tabin WR and the BRL.

Short-tailed (Leaf litter) Babbler (*Pellorneum malaccense*) Still some unresolved taxonomic issues. Presently, endemic ssp *poliogene*. Pair, well-observed, from blind at Tabin WR.

Temminck's Babbler (*Pellorneum pyrrogenys*) Small groups, daily at Mt Kinabalu.

White-chested (Bornean Swamp) Babbler (*Pellorneum rostratum*) Endemic ssp *macropterum* recorded on tributary of Kinabatangan (3 birds) and by river at the BRL.

Ferruginous Babbler (*Pellorneum bicolor*) Twice, heard-only, at the BRL.

Striped Wren-Babbler (*Kenopia striata*) Single bird calling and showing well at BRL.

Horsfield's Babbler (*Malacocincla sepiaria harterti*) 2-3 birds at the BRL

Mountain Wren-Babbler (E) (*Gypsophila crassa*) Montane endemic. Small groups both days on Power Station rd, Mt Kinabalu.

Laughingthrushes & Allies: Leiothrichidae

Brown Fulvetta (*Alcippe brunneicauda eriphaea*) Small numbers (2-3 birds) part of mixed flocks at the BRL.

Sunda Laughingthrush (*Garrulax palliatus*) Endemic ssp *schistchlamys* daily at Mt Kinabalu, usually associating with CH Laughingthrush.

Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush (E) (*Pterorhinus treachery*) Montane endemic. Reasonably common, recorded daily at the Crocker Range and Mt Kinabalu.

Nuthatches: Sittidae

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch (*Sitta frontalis*) Singles in forest near Tambunan and Tabin WR.

Starlings: Sturnidae

Asian Glossy Starling (*Aplonis panayensis*) More common in coastal lowlands. Flocks (up to 20 birds) recorded Prince Philip Park, Kota Kinabalu, RDC and Kinabatangan River.

Common Hill Myna (*Gracula religiosa*) Pairs and small groups, daily in Sepilok, RDC. Also recorded Kinabatangan River and Tabin WR.

Chestnut-cheeked Starling (*Agropsar philippensis*) Uncommon migrant. Single bird feeding with flock of Asian Glossy Starling in fruiting tree on tributary of the Kinabatangan River a notable record.

Javan Myna (I) (*Acridotheres javanicus*) Common, introduced – mostly urban area. Many observations in transit.

Thrushes & Allies: Turdidae

Everett's Thrush (E) (*Zoothera everetti*) Rare, shy and range-restricted montane endemic. Extended early morning encounter with 3 birds on the Power Station road, below Hill Lodge, a tour highlight.

Chestnut-capped Thrush (*Geokickla interpres*) Rare and secretive. Roosting bird in spotlight on the access road to the BRL an unexpected bonus.

Old World Flycatchers: Muscicapidae

Dark-sided Flycatcher (*Muscicapa sibirica*) Singles at RDC, Tabin WR and BRL.

Asian Brown Flycatcher (*Muscicapa latirostris*) All single birds incl Power Station rd, Mt Kinabalu and the BRL.

Oriental Magpie-Robin (*Copsychus saularis*) Several encounters, recorded at Prince Philip Park, Poring Hot Springs, Kinabatangan River and Tabin WR.

White-crowned Shama (E) (*Copsychus stricklandii*) Commonly heard, also observed, singles and pairs at many of the lowland forest sites incl Poring Hot Springs, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and daily at Danum, BRL.

Blue-and-white Flycatcher (*Cyanoptila cyanomelana*) Photogenic male at Gunung Alab Substation provided excellent viewing opportunity, another at Hill Lodge, Mt Kinabalu.

Indigo Flycatcher (*Eumyias indigo*) Endemic ssp *cerviniventris*. Singles and pairs daily at Mt Kinabalu.

Sunda Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis caerulatus*) Heard-only at Tabin WR.

Malaysian Blue Flycatcher (*Cyornis turcosus*) Female on Menanggul tributary of Kinabatangan and a male, briefly at Tabin WR.

Bornean Blue Flycatcher (E) (*Cyornis superbus*) Endemic *Cyornis*, nice view of male on access road to the BRL.

Gray-chested Jungle Flycatcher (*Cyornis umbratilis*) Calling at Gomantong Caves, unfortunately could not be located.

Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher (*Cyornis olivaceus*) Single bird showing well at Poring Hot Springs our only observation.

Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher (E) (*Vauriella gularis*) A taxonomic enigma. Previously conspecific with several *Vauriella* sp, all now elevated to full species status and therefore a Bornean endemic, confined to understory in montane areas. Single birds, daily at Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Shortwing (E) (*Brachypteryx erythrogyna*) Another montane endemic. A memorable early morning encounter with m & f at creek crossing in the Crocker Range. Also heard at Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Whistling-Thrush (E) (*Myophonus borneensis*) Montane endemic. Singles and pairs, daily at Mt Kinabalu incl Hill Lodge.

White-crowned Forktail (*Enicurus leschenaulti*) Singles and pairs, often roadsides, seen at Tabin WR and daily at BRL.

Bornean Forktail (*Enicurus borneensis*) Montane endemic. A bird on creekline of the Silau Silau trail showing well. Observed by most of the group.

Narcissus Flycatcher (*Ficedula narcissina*) Passage migrant. Adult male at BRL our only encounter.

Mugimaki Flycatcher (*Ficedula mugimaki*) Single bird at Gunung Alab Substation, Crocker Range and another at Mt Kinabalu.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher (*Ficedula hyperythra*) A pair from blind at Gunung Alab Substation, Crocker Range. Also recorded Mt Kinabalu.

Little Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula westermanni*) Single bird at Gunung Alab Substation, Crocker Range. Also recorded on the Power Station road, Mt Kinabalu.

Flowerpeckers: Dicaeidae

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker (*Prionochilus maculatus*) Daily at BRL, a regular in garden area at the resort.

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker (E) (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*) Common lowland resident and Bornean endemic. Recorded RDC, Kinabatangan River and daily at the BRL.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) Various sites incl Poring Hot Springs, Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley – BRL.

Black-sided (Bornean) Flowerpecker (*Dicaeum monticolum*) Montane endemic. Daily at Mt Kinabalu incl garden area at Hill Lodge.

Sunbirds & Spiderhunters: Nectariniidae

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) Endemic ssp *borneana*. Single birds on the Kinabatangan River and BRL.

Plain Sunbird (*Anthreptes simplex*) 2 observations, incl on canopy walkway at the RDC. This, importantly, was bird number 5000 for Pat Martin.

Brown-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes malacensis borneensis*) Common (at least 4 birds) at Prince Philip Park, Kota Kinabalu, also recorded Sepilok Nature Resort and the Kinabatangan River.

Red-throated Sunbird (*Anthreptes rhodolaemus*) Several observations incl Poring Hot Springs, Tabin WR and 2 birds at the BRL.

Ornate Sunbird (*Cinnyris ornatus*) Previously part of Olive-backed Sunbird complex. Observed Tempasuk Plain and Crocker Range area.

Temminck's Sunbird (*Aethopyga temminckii*) Mostly montane – submontane. Recorded at the Gunung Alab Substation (Crocker Range) and daily at Mt Kinabalu.

Crimson Sunbird (*Aethopyga siparaja*) Most likely *Aethopyga* in lowlands. Recorded Tabin WR and the BRL.

Purple-naped Spiderhunter (*Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum*) Several encounters incl Poring Hot Springs, RDC and BRL.

Thick-billed Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera crassirostris*) Single observation from the canopy walkway at the BRL.

Little Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera longirostra*) Endemic ssp *buettikoferi* , common and widespread, mostly lowlands. Recorded daily in Sepilok RDC, Sukau Rainforest Lodge (Kinabatangan River) and the BRL.

Whitehead's Spiderhunter (E) (*Arachnothera juliae*) Sought-after endemic, and, (from our experience) most challenging of the 'Whitehead's trio'. A single bird calling and briefly observed in flowering tree on Power Station, Mt Kinabalu – our only encounter.

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera chrysogenys*) Bird showing really well on access road to the BRL.

Spectacled Spiderhunter (*Arachnothera flavigaster*) Recorded at Tabin WR, and pair at the BRL.

Bornean Spiderhunter (E) (*Arachnothera everetti*) Previously conspecific with Streak-breasted Spiderhunter, now recognised as Bornean endemic. 1-2 birds frequenting fruiting trees next to lodge at the BRL provided some nice viewing opportunities.

Fairy-bluebirds: Irenidae

Asian Fairy-bluebird (*Irena puella*) Some observations from the canopy walkway at the RDC and BRL.

Leafbirds: Chloropseidae

Greater Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis sonnerati*) Single birds at Sepilok, RDC and the BRL.

Lesser Green Leafbird (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*) Several encounters. Pair observed at the RDC and almost daily at the BRL.

Bornean Leafbird (E) (*Chloropsis kinabaluensis*) Montane endemic. Very satisfying, eye-level views of male at forest site near Tambunan. Also recorded at Hill Lodge, Mt Kinabalu.

Waxbills & Allies: Estrildidae

Scaly-breasted Munia (*Lonchura punctulata*) Small numbers, part of mixed Munia flocks at Tempasuk Plain.

Dusky Munia (E) (*Lonchura fuscans*) Endemic estrildid. Observed at Prince Philip Park, Kota Kinabalu, Poring Hot Springs and (daily) at Tabin WR.

White-bellied Munia (*Lonchura leucogastra*) Single encounter, flock of 6 in grassland at Tabin WR.

Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura atricapilla*) Common in grassland/ricefields in the Tempasuk Plain district, incl flocks of 50+. Also recorded Kinabatangan River.

Old World Sparrows: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow (I) (*Passer montanus*) Common throughout, in particular urban areas, also recorded Tempasuk Plain, RDC, Gomontong Caves and Tabin WR.

Wagtails & Pipits: Motacillidae

Eastern Yellow Wagtail (*Motacilla tschutschensis*) Passage migrant. 3 birds, likely nominate ssp *tschutschensis*, on mudflat at Tempasuk Plain.

Olive-backed Pipit (*Anthus hodgsoni*) Rare migrant. Single bird observed at Gunung Alab Substation, Crocker Range, represents 1 of a handful of records for Sabah. Photographs taken confirm ID.

MAMMALS

Tree Shrews: Tupaiidae

Bornean Smooth-tailed Treeshrew (*Dendrogale melanura*) Briefly at creek crossing in the Crocker Range.

Colugos (Flying Lemurs) Cynocephalidae

Sunda Colugo (*Galeopterus variegatus*) Aka the 'Flying Lemur'. Twice observed, spotlighting at BRL.

Old World Fruit Bats: Pteropidae

Large Flying-Fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*) Feeding in trees at the Sukau Rainforest Lodge (Kinabatangan River).

Tarsiers: Tarsiidae

Horsfield's Tarsier (*Cephalopachus bancanus*) Single nocturnal encounter at the BRL.

Old World Monkeys: Cercopithecidae

Saban Grizzled Langur (*Presbytis sabana*) Getting views of this endangered (and endemic) primate on the RDC canopy walkway a real highlight. Probably mammal of the trip.

Maroon Leaf Monkey (*Presbytis rubicunda*) Observations at Gomantong Caves and the BRL.

Silvered Leaf Monkey (*Trachypithecus cristatus*) Recorded on the Kinabatangan River.

Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*) This distinctive species confined to Borneo and favours the riparian zone. Observed daily on Kinabatangan River.

Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*) Daily on the Kinabatangan River, also recorded on access road to the BRL.

Southern Pig-tailed Macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*) Widespread in lowlands. Observed various sites incl Sepilok, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Gibbons: Hylobatidae

North Bornean Gray Gibbon (*Hylobates funereus*) Far-carrying call a feature of many lowland forest sites. Seen well from canopy walkway at the RDC, also recorded Tabin WR and the BRL.

Orangutans: Pongidae

Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) Much loved but critically endangered endemic ape. We had some luck - several encounters, observed at Sepilok, Kinabatangan River, Gomantong Caves and Tabin WR.

Squirrels: Sciuridae

Pale Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa affinis*) With a head-tail length of 80cm, is one of largest Sciurids of SE Asia. Observed from the canopy walkway at the RDC and the BRL.

Prevost's Squirrel (*Callosciurus prevostii*) Common lowland variety. Daily in Sepilok (incl RDC) and the BRL.

Plantain Squirrel (*Callosciurus notatus*) A couple of observations. On powerlines, Prince Philip Park, Kota Kinabalu and the Gomantong Caves.

Borneo Black-banded Squirrel (*Callosciurus orestes*) Montane endemic. Several encounters at Mt Kinabalu.

Kinabalu Squirrel (*Callosciurus baluensis*) Scarce montane endemic. Briefly – single observation on Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel (*Sundasciurus everetti*) From hide in the Crocker Range.

Jentink's Squirrel (*Sundasciurus jentinki*) Twice recorded at Mt Kinabalu.

Low's Squirrel (*Sundasciurus lowii*) Single observation from Tabin WR.

Tufted Pygmy Squirrel (*Exilisciurus whiteheadi*) Tiny, charismatic montane endemic. Feeds on bark and moss, we observed on several occasions at Mt Kinabalu.

Least Pygmy Squirrel (*Exilisciurus exilis*) Several encounters at Tabin WR and the BRL.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*) Common in lowlands. Enjoyed views (incl gliding) spotlighting the canopy walkway at Sepilok, RDC, Tabin WR and the BRL.

Black Flying Squirrel (*Aeromys tephromelas*) Several animals at Tabin WR (all nocturnal).

Civets, Genets, and Oyans: Viverridae

Malay Civet (*Viverra zibetha*) 1 sighting – at night on entrance road to the BRL.

Philippine Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus philippinensis*) Briefly, at Tabin WR.

Small-toothed Palm Civet (*Arctogalidia trivirgata*) Aka '3-striped Palm Civet' is a common lowland resident. Observed feeding on fruit tree on the Kinabatangan River and Tabin WR.

Banded Civet (*Hemigalus derbyanus*) Strictly old-growth lowland forest inhabitant and therefore becoming rare. A nocturnal sighting, briefly, on access road to the BRL.

Felids (Cats): Felidae

Sunda Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus javanensis*) 3 separate sightings on night-drive at Tabin WR.

Chevrotains (Mouse Deer): Tragulidae

Greater Oriental Chevrotain (*Tragulus napu*) Chevrotain photographed near lodge at the BRL appears to be this species.

Deer: Cervidae

Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*) Several observations at the BRL, in forest and river edge

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS

Snakes: Serpentes

Brown Whip Snake (*Dryophiops rubescens*) Seen on decking at the BRL, after rain.

Painted Bronzeback (*Dendralaphis pictus*) Several, coiled on vegetation at river edge. Kinabatangan River.

Orange-bellied Snake (*Gongylosoma baliodeira*) Small, beautifully patterned specimen spotted on path at Poring Hot Springs.

Black Copper Rat Snake (*Coelognathus flavolineatus*) Crossing road in Sepilok, near RDC. (Scott only)

Lizards: Sauria

Flat-tailed House Gecko (*Hemidactylus platyurus*) Photographed from shelter at the Sukau Rainforest Lodge. Others at Sepilok RDC were likely this species.

Indo-Pacific House Gecko (*Hemidactylus garnotti*) Probably the common *Hemidactylus*. Can confirm ID of individual from Sukau Rainforest Lodge (Kinabatangan River).

Double-spotted Gecko (*Gekko monarchus*) On lodge walls at the BRL.

Rough Mabuya (*Eutropis rudis*) Common skink of leaf-litter and logs at the BRL.

Green Crested Lizard (*Bronchocela cristatella*) Single observation, in tree near BRL.

Borneo Forest Dragon (*Gonocephalus bornensis*) Several individuals, same tree near the BRL

Roughneck Monitor (*Varanus rudicollis*) A large specimen resting high in tree on access road at the BRL. A rare reptile - one of the highlights.

Southeast Asian Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator macromaculatus*) A common variety. Daily at Sepilok Nature Resort, Kinabatangan River, Tabin WR (incl several juveniles) and the BRL.

Frogs & Toads: Anura

Harlequin Tree Frog (*Rhacophorus pardalis*) Several spotted in pond near the BRL

Dulit Flying Frog (*Zhangixalus dulitensis*) Single specimen photographed in garden area at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Kinabatangan River.

File-eared Tree Frog (*Polypedates otitophus*) Observed both Tabin WR and the BRL.

Montane Large-eyed Litter Frog (*Leptobrachium montanum*) Several after rain on roadside at Mt Kinabalu.