



BIRD TOURS

David Bishop

BORNEO 2015



Green Broadbill © K. David Bishop



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This bespoke departure was specially designed to find for Tim the Bornean Bristlehead together with several other new families and distinctive genera such as the Green Broadbills, Malaysian Rail-babbler, Pygmy White-eye and Mountain Black-eye. Any tour to Borneo is by definition special and this one was no exception. The immensely rich and fascinating biodiversity of this huge island's fauna and flora has kept me wanting to go back and explore, year after year since the late 1970s. Despite the awful smoke emanating from the horrendous fires in Indonesian Borneo we still managed to enjoy a wonderful assortment of whatever came our way, whether it was spectacular storms; electrically coloured millipedes; spiders of every size and shape; a night safari in the Danum Valley during which we encountered an amazing range of nocturnal mammals and birds including the peculiar Western Tarsier and of course some absolutely stunning birds. As if all that wasn't enough there were huge pitcher plants, ferns, some exquisite orchids and a rarely seen Star Fungus in full bloom. Add to this some magnificent landscapes including vast primeval forests that are literally soul-rejuvenating; delicious food – and some good wine, and a charming, gracious and genuinely friendly people and you have all the ingredients of a very special tour. However, this time it was extra special in that it was graced by two delightful participants who made the trip a sheer joy to lead. Thank you Tim and Eliza.

I think it safe to say that we all enjoyed a magnificent tour with some truly outstanding highlights. How can you go wrong when you commence the tour with the spectacle of thousands of shorebirds at Buntal Bay; crunchingly close views of the globally threatened Chinese Egret on its wintering grounds; repeated views of many Pygmy White-eyes feeding at eye-level; a lifer Gray-breasted Babbler for KDB at point blank range; a memorable encounter with a Malaysian Rail-babbler; a close encounter with one of the world's largest flowering plants *Rafflesia keithi*; at least two of the increasingly elusive and very spectacular Whitehead's Broadbills; wonderfully exciting mixed flocks, full of great birds in the lovely montane forests of Mt Kinabalu; Adrian the perfect escort as we explored Mt Kinabalu's gem of a botanical gardens full of so many blooming orchids; a fruiting tree right next to the Sepilok canopy walkway, buzzing with birds including such gems as male Red-throated Sunbird; all eight species of Bornean hornbills including fine views of the often

elusive White-crowned Hornbill; birding along the lovely Menangal River where Hooded Pittas were ridiculously common and easy to see; and the Danum Valley, just being in those immense forests was a wonder and a privilege. Thanks to the historical absence of hunting in areas such as the Danum Valley, primates and many other mammals and large birds are notably common and easy to see. This trip in particular was especially good for hornbills including both Rhinoceros and Helmeted Hornbill. Proboscis Monkeys were almost de rigueur and Bornean Gibbons accompanied us with their evocative calls almost constantly. And so it went day after day of wonderful natural history/birding experiences. There just were no more adjectives.

Sometimes I have to pinch myself to realize just how fortunate I am to return each year to this extraordinary island. Exploring Borneo is without doubt among the finest natural history experiences anywhere on our planet. This is largely because Borneo is undoubtedly one of the most exciting, vibrant and biologically diverse places on earth. The combination of immense forests replete with a fabulous array of towering trees, plants, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates serviced by some of the most comfortable and attractive accommodations to be enjoyed anywhere in the tropics together with some truly sumptuous meals guarantees an unforgettable experience.

Recent genetic studies have underscored, more than ever, just how distinctive Borneo is. For example new studies now indicate that the Bornean Pygmy Elephant is indeed a very distinct taxon; the Borneo population of Orang-utan should be treated as a separate species and most recently studies of the Clouded Leopard show that it too is a separate species from mainland Asia. And so it is with birds, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates too. Clearly Borneo exhibits more than its share of the weird and wonderful creatures and our experiences exemplify what a wonderful tour this is.

It was a real joy to share a place I love so much with such an appreciative audience. My aim as always is for each and every client to see each and every species well and ideally on more than one occasion and in this I believe we were very successful. Possessing an intimate knowledge of the calls of the birds and where to find them is a key to our success and has been built upon over many years of studying the birds of Borneo and the surrounding regions of Asia. I cannot wait until my next trip!

Thanks to you Tim and Eliza for helping to make this tour such a great success! Thanks too especially to Adrian and Theo and all our various boatmen, drivers, local guides and the many other people who help make our stay in Borneo so safe, friendly and fulfilling. It was a pleasure travelling and birding with you and I look forward to travelling with you again soon.

David Bishop

DIARY

19 September 2015: **Sarawak** - Early am to Kg Buntal and the Damai Peninsula. Fabulous shorebird spectacle, Chinese Egret, Gray-rumped Treeswift and Common Flameback. After lunch drive to Highland Resort and commence exploration of the forests on the slope of Mt Penerissen (an important bird area = IBA) including wonderful views from the escarpment southwards over the Kalimantan forests of Indonesian Borneo. Exceptional studies of the very localized Pygmy White-eye.

20 Sept.: One of my best morning's birding ever in Borneo. Entire morning along the border track through glorious upland forest. Highlights included – Red-bearded Bee-eater, Malaysian Rail-babbler and, astonishingly Gray-breasted Babbler. Afternoon in degraded forest below the Highland Resort.

21 Sept.: A sad and appalling contrast to the previous day with dense, choking smoke from Indonesia's fires suffocating almost everything. Too horrible to even think about now. However, we did manage fine views of Green Broadbill.

22 Sept.: Heavy smoke all night hurried us away from this very attractive resort and down to the lowlands where we garnered good looks at Gray-rumped Treeswift before heading to Kuching airport and our flight to Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. A few hours birding the late afternoon around our lovely hotel on the outskirts of the city produced a veritable bevy of birds including some 80 Pink-necked Pigeons feeding on cauliflorous fruit.

23 Sept.: Very early departure for the Tempasuk Plain where we added a good number of species we would not see elsewhere on this trip including: Javan Pond-Heron, Cinnamon Bittern and Oriental Pratincole. After lunch a long drive up to Mt Kinabalu and on to a flowering *Rafflesia keithii* - well worth the effort to see such an extraordinary plant. Settled into our attractive cabins looking onto the mountain summit.

24 Sept.: Arguably the best day's birding I have enjoyed in many years on Mt Kinabalu. Perfect conditions and good luck gave us non-stop birding with highlights including: sensational views of two Whitehead's Broadbills; great noisy, immense and confiding mixed flocks; male Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, and Bornean Green Magpie.

25 Sept.: An incredibly quiet morning with very few birds stirring; drove to via Ranau to Sepilok Rainforest Lodge where we spent a few hours birding the lodge gardens.

26 Sept.: Entire morning birding the Sepilok canopy walkway and adjacent trails; pm birding the lodge gardens. Highlights: a fruiting tree at eye-level alive with birds including the infrequently seen Red-throated Sunbird plus Rhinoceros Hornbill and Black-and-yellow Broadbill.

27 Sept.: Early am on the canopy walkway followed by a visit to the Orangutan feeding station; after lunch drive to Sukau and transfer to Maliau Lodge. Late PM birding the Menanggal River.

28 Sept.: Entire day birding the Menanggal and Kinabatangan rivers with our focus on finding the Bornean Bristlehead.

29 Sept.: Entire morning birding the Menanggal River; after lunch drive to Lahad Datu transfer to large four-wheel drive and bird our way into Borneo Rainforest Lodge. The undoubted highlight was a pair of courting Crested Firebacks brilliantly spotted by Eliza.

30 Sept.: Entire day birding from the canopy walkway in an attempt to find the ever-elusive Bornean Bristlehead.

1 October: Entire day birding from the canopy walkway and nearby trails in an attempt to find the ever-elusive Bornean Bristlehead. Fantastic encounter with a Black-capped Babbler and a pair of amazingly confiding Bornean Ground-Babblers. An extended night safari produced Sunda Colugo, Brown Wood Owl, Malay Civet, Small-toothed Palm Civet, Great Mouse Deer, Slow Loris, Western Tarsier, and Black, Red and Thomases' flying squirrels.

2 Oct.: Final morning but still no longer with the Bornean Bristlehead. After an early lunch drive to Lahad Datu and fly to KK for tour end.

Annotated List of Birds

(Taxonomy follows Clement's Checklist of Birds of the World)

(H) = Heard only

Families in blue = New families for Tim

Species in bold red = endemic to Borneo

Genera in bold blue = endemic to Borneo

Sub-species in bold = endemic to Borneo

Kg = Kampong or village

NON-PASSERINES

ANATIDAE

Wandering Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna a. arcuata* Circa 160 on small wetlands within the Tempasuk Plain.

PHASIANIDAE

(H) **Red-breasted Partridge** *Arborophila hyperythra erythrophrys* Heard a number of times on Mt Kinabalu.

(H) Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni* **NT** Heard along the Menangal R and in the Danum Valley.

(H) Great Argus *Argusianus argus grayi* **NT** Heard on the forested slopes below Mt Penerissen, Sarawak, Sepilok and in the Danum Valley.

(H) **Crimson-headed Partridge** *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* Heard duetting regularly on Mt Kinabalu.

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis* Thanks to some great spotting by Eliza we enjoyed fabulous views of a pair courting and subsequently mating in roadside forest as we drove in to the Danum Valley.

CICONIDAE

Lesser Adjutant *Leptotilus javanicus* **T** One soaring over the Menangal R.

ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* **NT** We saw three of this globally Near Threatened species on a small wetland within the Tempasuk Plain; one in flight over Sepilok; singles and a total of three along the Menangal R and one in the Danum Valley.

Lesser Adjutant *Leptotilus javanicus* **T** One soaring over the Menangal R.

ARDEIDAE

Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus* A total of six, all adults seen in flight, within the Tempasuk Plain.

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea manillensis* Fourteen counted on the Tempasuk Plain and a total of 12 along the Kinabatangan R and Menangal R.

Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta* Widespread and locally common with a total of circa 50 on the Tempasuk Plain.

Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx i. intermedia* One at the Buntal mudflats and circa 35 on the Tempasuk Plain.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta nigripes* Widespread and locally common.
Pacific Reef Heron *Egretta s. sacra* One dark morph at the margins of our hotel grounds, outside KK. NOTE: Previously placed in *Demigretta*. Also known as Eastern Reef-Egret.

Chinese Egret *Egretta eulophotes* T A total of eight at the Buntal mudflats.

Cattle Egret *Bulbulcus ibis coromandus* Four in breeding plumage near Kuching airport; circa 100 on the Tempasuk Plain and 20 at Lahad Datu airport. NOTE: Recently some authors have suggested that differences between *B. ibis* and *B. coromandus* are consistently represented in breeding plumage, proportions and vocalizations and thus indicate they are better treated as two species. However, given how well this 'species' colonizes and has colonized different parts of the world it is hard to envisage that gene flow is not continuous.

Javan Pond-Heron *Ardeola s. speciosa* Seven including several in near-breeding plumage on the Tempasuk Plain.

Little (Striated) Heron *Butorides striatus javanica* One at the Buntal mudflats and two on two days along the Menangal R. NOTE: The A.O.U. separates North American populations of this widespread species from all other populations. Thus, birds in North America become *B. virescens* Green or Green-backed Heron. Observers would be advised to note wherever they see this species in their travels worldwide as this species is likely to be further divided into a number of allospecies. Also known as Mangrove, Striated or Green-backed Heron.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax manillensis* One immature along the Kinabatangan R.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus aeruleus hypoleucus* Two over the Tempasuk Plain.

Oriental Honey-Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus torquatus* One flew low over fields at the Tempasuk Plain.

Crested Serpent-Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus* One or two seen on daily in the lowlands of Sabah.

Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus a. alcinus* One flew over us as we returned from our first morning along the Menangal River.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus l. limnaeetus* One dark morph attending at nest in the fork of a *Koompasia excelsa* emergent along the Menangal R.

Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus alboniger* One below the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus n. nanus* **VU** Superb views of one along the Kinabatangan R.

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus m. malaiensis* One observed hunting below the Highland Resort, Sarawak, thanks to some good spotting by Peter.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus intermedius* Four adults foraging over the Tempasuk Plain.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* A maximum of three seen nicely along the Kinabatangan R.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga h. humilis* **NT** At least one pair appears to be resident on the middle reaches of the Menangal River and we enjoyed several very nice looks at this species.

RALLIDAE

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis p. phoenicurus* Notably common in open scrubby country near Kuching/Kg Buntal and on the Tempasuk Plain.

Black-backed (Purple) Swamphen *Porphyrio i. indicus* One on the Tempasuk Plain.

Eurasian Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus orientalis* Four on the Tempasuk Plain.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus* Circa 15 on the Tempasuk Plain.

CHARADRIDAE

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva* Five on a sandbar just offshore from our hotel on the outskirts of KK. Ten on the Tempasuk Plain.

Lesser Sand-Plover *Charadrius mongolus* subsp? One on the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak.

Large Sand-Plover *Charadrius l. leschenaultii* Two on the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak.

Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius curonicus* Three on the Tempasuk Plain.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus* Ten on the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak. .

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* Widespread and moderately common.

Gray-tailed Tattler *Tringa brevipes* Good looks at one adjacent to our KK hotel.

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola* Circa 60 on the Tempasuk Plain.

Common Redshank *Tringa t. totanus* Two on the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus variegatus* Circa 12 on the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak and two near our KK hotel.

Curlew sp *Numenius* sp – Huge numbers swarming on the far side of Buntal Bay, Sarawak, unfortunately too far for us to identify specifically.

Godwit sp *Limosa* sp Huge numbers swarming on the far side of Buntal Bay, Sarawak, unfortunately too far for us to identify specifically.

Long-toed Stint *Calidris subminuta* Circa 40 on the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak.

Sanderling *Calidris alba* Three on the beach at Buntal Bay, Sarawak.

Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura* One seen very well in flight on the Tempasuk Plain.

GLAREOLIDAE

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum* Fine views of circa 20 of these elegant birds on the Tempasuk Plain.

STERNIDAE

Little Tern *Sternula albifrons sinnesis* Six at the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak and circa 30 on a small sandbar off the coast from our KK hotel.

Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica affinis* Circa 15 at the Buntal mudflats, Sarawak.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrid javaicus* Circa 30 on the Tempasuk Plain and small numbers daily along the Kinabatangan R.

White-winged Tern *Chlidonias hybrida* One along the Kinabatangan R.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo longipennis* Eight on a small sandbar off our KK hotel.

Great Crested Tern *Thalasseus bergii cristatus* Circa five fishing along the coast adjacent to our KK hotel.

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Dove *Columba livia* **FERAL** Small numbers around Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan and Lahad Datu.

Spotted Turtle-Dove *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina* Widespread and moderately common in the lightly wooded lowlands.

Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps nana* Small numbers on Mt Kinabalu.
Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps i. indica* Much to our surprise a single bird flew in, circa 20 minutes before first light and crashed into KDB's door of his cabin, overlooking Mt Kinabalu.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata* **Introduced** Many in and around our hotel, KK, Tempasuk Plain, and Sandakan.

Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax* Fine views of a male at the margins of tall mangroves and the Damai Peninsula golf course; two at the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

Pink-necked Pigeon *Treron vernans* Circa 40 counted feeding on cauliflorous fruits in the grounds of the Tanjung Aru Beach Hotel, KK and ten in woods on the Tempasuk Plain.

Thick-billed Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* Ten at Sepilok and then 6, 10 and 90 seen in flight from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Treron sp A flock of 30 along the Menangal R.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula a. aenea* Notably widespread and common (maxima 20 per day), seen and heard daily throughout the forested lowlands and in the coastal areas of KK.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula b. badia* Small numbers seen well on Mt Kinabalu.

CUCLIDAE

(H) Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx vagans* **NT** Heard commonly along the Menanggol River where heard commonly. NOTE: Retained in *Cuculus* by some authorities.

(H) Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus m. micropterus* Heard just once from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

(H) Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii fasciolatus* Heard throughout the Borneo lowlands.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus threnodes* One seen nicely in the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Lodge. Several heard widely in the lowlands.

(H) Brush Cuckoo *Cacomantis variolosus sepulcralis* Heard during our first afternoon on the slopes Mt Penerissen, Sarawak.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus cleis* Heard in the forests on the slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx x. xanthorhynchus* Superb views of a very dapper and most confiding male along the Sepilok canopy walkway. Elsewhere heard regularly in the lowlands.

(H) Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris brachyurus* Heard just once in the forest on the border track on the slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak.

Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus c. chlorophaeus* Seen daily from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus* Fabulous encounter with one bird in the Danum Valley on our last morning.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus* Good looks at this striking 'cuckoo' in the forest on the slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak and the Danum Valley.

(H) Short-toed Coucal *Centropus rectunguis VU* Heard most days in the Danum Valley.

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis bubutus* One on the Tempasuk Plain.

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis javensis* Six on the Tempasuk Plain.

STRIGIDAE

(H) Reddish Scops-Owl *Otus R. rufescens* My nemesis. We heard one deep in the forest at Sepilok.

(H) Mountain Scops-Owl *Otus spilocephalus luciae* Heard regularly on Mt Kinabalu.

(H) Sunda Scops-Owl *Otus lempiji lemurum* Heard at Sepilok Rainforest Lodge.

(H) Barred Eagle Owl *Bubo sumatranus strepitans* One heard persistently shortly after dawn from the Sepilok canopy walkway

Buffy Fish-Owl *Ketupa k. ketupu* Stunning views of as many as three along the Kinabatangan and Menanggal rivers.

Brown Wood-Owl *Strix leptogrammica vaga* Fabulous views of this large and striking owl at BRL.

Brown Hawk-Owl *Ninox scutulata borneensis* Nice views outside our rooms in the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Lodge. Several others heard.

PODARGIDAE

(H) Large Frogmouth *Batrachostomus auritus* NT Heard within the forest at Sepilok.

(H) Sunda Frogmouth *Batrachostomus c. cornutus* Heard within the forest at Sepilok.

APODIDAE

Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis* One or two of these very attractive swifts constantly fed over the lake at our Sepilok lodge and one virtually daily over the Danum River at BRL affording us wonderful in-flight views.

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila* Modest numbers at the Highland Resort, Sarawak; also nesting in our lovely KK hotel and a colony of circa 50 under an overhang along the Kinabatangan R.

Bornean Swiftlet *Collocalia dodgei* Lovely views of a single individual nesting on the road up Mt Kinabalu.

The taxonomy and field identification of swiftlets represents some of the most challenging and most complex taxonomic problems in the Oriental region. For a helpful and up to date discussion of the situation, see Smythies and Davison (1999 Birds of Borneo).

White-nest (Edible-nest) Swiftlet *Aerodramus fuciphagus* Observed nesting in the coastal lowlands of Sarawak. The value of these bird's nests is so great that communities are increasingly providing prefabricated buildings in which for this species to nest.

Swiftlet sp NOTE: The three species: Black-nest, Edible-nest and Mossy-nest swiftlets are impossible to differentiate in the field but can be safely identified on the nest. We observed all dark swiftlets daily from 23 September.

House (Little) Swift *Apus nipalensis subfurcatus* Several nesting around Sandakan.

HEMIPROCNIDAE

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti* Superb views of as many as 26 in the coastal lowlands of Sarawak. Small numbers daily in the Danum Valley.

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne c. comata* Two of these delightful birds were first seen in the Sarawak lowlands. One or two were seen daily in the Danum Valley. This was a favourite bird and it is not hard to see why. From watching a pair sallying from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley to close-up and

personal views of the Fu-Manchu facial plumage of this bird we really had some wonderful encounters with this darling bird.

TROGONIDAE

(H) Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba impavidus* Heard a couple of times in the Danum Valley.

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes d. diardii* NT Heard along the Menangal R. and seen nicely in the Danum Valley.

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii* NT Two seen superbly along the Menangal R and then again superbly in the Danum Valley.

BUCEROTIDAE

White-crowned Hornbill *Berenicornis comatus* NT Fabulous views of one during the late afternoon along the Menangal R. It is always special seeing this weird and wonderful hornbill.

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil* E Fantastic views of one along the Kinabatangan R and at least three heard daily in the Danum Valley. Sadly this species is now being poached for its unique ivory casque AND HENCE IT IS NOW CLASSIFIED AS ENDANGERED.

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis* NT Sabah's faunal emblem and one of the world's most spectacular birds, we were fortunate to see this species so frequently including one at a roost during our night safari in the Danum Valley. Fabulous to constantly hear this demonstrative species and observe pairs thundering over the forest or quietly feeding at a fruiting fig.

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus* Notably common this year with 2-10 seen and heard daily at Sepilok, along the Kinabatangan R and its tributaries and in the Danum Valley. Often in flocks of 6-7. Great fun to watch.

Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus* NT One of the more commonly recorded of the many hornbill species we encountered. We saw this great bird several times from the canopy walkway at Sepilok; and along the Kinabatangan and Menangal rivers and in the Danum Valley.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus* One as we drove from Ranau to Sepilok and then common along the Kinabatangan and Menangal rivers including a total of 15 one morning.

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus* Ones and twos seen well on several days along the Menangal R and in the Danum Valley.

Wrinkled Hornbill *Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus* NT Single males seen on three days along the Menangal R and in the Danum Valley.

ALCEDINIDAE

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis bengalensis* This Palearctic migrant was heard on the Tempasuk Plain and seen well along the Kinabatangan R.

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii* Seen commonly throughout the Sepilok area and along the narrower tributaries of the Kinabatangan R especially along the Menangal R. What a stunner.

Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa* Fabulous views of a pair digging a nest hole at Sepilok and others seen along the Menangal R.

(H) Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella melanops* A pair heard calling persistently from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis innominata* A truly magnificent bird; we saw 2-3 daily along the Kinabatangan R and its tributaries and in the Danum Valley. Heard elsewhere.

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris laubmannianus* Common in all coastal areas such as Buntal Bay, Sarawak and in the grounds of our KK hotel.

MEROPIIDAE

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus* Fine views of a male on our superb morning along the border track, on the slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak and again from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis* This SE Asia migrant was observed in small numbers in the Sarawak lowlands and along the Kinabatangan R and its tributaries.

EURYSTOMIDAE

Dollarbird *Eurystomus o. orientalis* 1-2 over Sepilok and common along up the Kinabatangan R including a noisy convocation of circa ten over the Menangal R.

MEGALAIMIDAE

Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius* This unusual looking and sounding barbet was observed widely in small numbers throughout the lowland forests of Borneo. NOTE: Recently separated from populations in Sumatra and mainland SE Asia (Sooty Barbet) and thus now regarded as endemic to Borneo.

Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon d. duvaucelii* Typically heard and seen commonly throughout Borneo's forested lowlands and hills and two seen well from the canopy walkway at Sepilok and in the Danum Valley. NOTE: Recently separated from populations in Java and Bali.

(H) **Bornean Barbet *Psilopogon e. eximius*** Heard commonly in the forests on the slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak.

(H) Red-crowned Barbet *Psilopogon rafflesii* Heard in low numbers in the forests on the slope of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak.

Red-throated Barbet *Psilopogon m. mystacophanos* **NT** Heard commonly in the forests on the slope of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak. and one finally seen on the slopes below. Subsequently seen superbly and heard regularly from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Golden-naped Barbet *Psilopogon pulcherrimus* Several heard daily on Mt Kinabalu and one seen very nicely with a mixed flock.

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Psilopogon henrici brachyrhynchus* **NT** Superb views of one from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley and others heard in the Bornean lowland forests.

Gold-faced Barbet *Psilopogon chrysopsis* Heard commonly and one seen superbly in the forests on the slope of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak; several seen and heard in the Danum Valley. NOTE: Recently separated from populations in Sumatra and mainland SE Asia and thus now regarded as endemic to Borneo.

PICIDAE

Rufous Piculet *Sasia a. abnormis* Singles seen all too briefly in degraded forest below the Highland Resort, Sarawak and along the Menangal R, Sabah.

Gray-capped (Pygmy) Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus aurantiiventris* Singles seen and heard from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus j. javensis* Superb views of a male observed from the Sepilok canopy walkway and an amazing group of three along the Menangal R.

(H) Banded Woodpecker *Picus miniaceus malaccensis* Heard regularly but this individual just would not respond to tape playback at Sepilok.

Common Flameback *Dinopium j. javanense* Fabulous views of a pair at the interface of a golf course and tall swampy mangrove forest on the Damai Peninsula. This appears to be a very good site for what is a rather localized species on Borneo as I have observed a pair or more here at this very location on several previous occasions.

Rufous Woodpecker ***Micropternus (Celeus) brachyrurus badius*** Fine views of this handsome species along the Menangal R and on several occasions from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax* Widespread and relatively common throughout Sabah's lowland forests.

(H) Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes t. tukki* NT Heard on the slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak and along the Menangal R, Sabah.

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus* One seen poorly with a mixed flock on Mt Kinabalu.

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus xanthopygius* A female seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway and a pair of this very distinctive monotypic genus seen superbly along the Menangal R.

Gray-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus sordidus* Several wonderful encounters with this endearing species along the Sepilok canopy walkway and along the Menangal R.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus p. pulverulentus* A group of three observed in flight over the Kinabatangan R. This is Asia's largest woodpecker and declining as primary lowland forest continues to be destroyed.

FALCONIDAE

Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius* A pair seen very nicely at the forest edge below the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* A male seen, much to our surprise, perched on a power line within a vast area of Oil Palm plantations between Ranau and Sandakan. A pair seen nicely from the Sepilok canopy walkway and again along the Menangal R where we saw a group of four the following morning.

PSITTACULIDAE

Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus c. cyanurus* As many as 12 seen daily, foraging in and flying low over the canopy above the canopy walkway within the Danum Valley. A rare opportunity to actually STUDY this distinctive species including some fine 'scope views.

Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus lucionensis cf salvadorii* As many as six in the trees surrounding the Tanjung Aru Beach Resort. NOTE: There is some question as to whether or not this species is introduced to Sabah, Borneo.

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula l. longicauda* NT Heard at the interface of Damai Peninsula golf course and tall swampy mangrove forest. Quite common this year with as many as 25 seen around the Sepilok area and along the Menangal R.

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot *Loriculus galgulus* Widespread, heard and seen daily, except on Mt Kinabalu, invariably in flight but occasionally perched for 'scope views.

PASSERINES

CALYPTOMENIDAE

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena v. viridis* NT Fine views of a gorgeous male on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak. NOTE: Now treated by Cornell (Clement's checklist) as belonging to the African and Green Broadbills Calyptomenidae separate from the Asian Broadbills Eurylaimidae.

Whitehead's Broadbill *Calyptomena whiteheadi* Exceptional views of a pair of this increasingly elusive endemic on Mt Kinabalu. Surely one of THE most spectacular members of this spectacular family.

EURLAIMIDAE

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus m. macrorhynchos* Four of these wonderful birds observed along the Menangal R, Sabah.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus* After hearing this species on several occasions we finally enjoyed close but brief views of one along the Menangal R, Sabah.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus* NT Seen and heard daily in Borneo's lowland and hill forest. This is one of the most endearing of Asia's many attractive broadbills

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus orientalis* A group of three seen beautifully along the Menangal R and a very confiding group of five from the canopy walkway within the Danum Valley. Broadbill is most certainly an appropriate appellation for this species.

PITTIDAE

(H) **Black-crowned Pitta** *Pitta ussheri* T Heard at Sepilok and in the Danum Valley.

(H) **Blue-headed Pitta** *Pitta baudii* T Small numbers heard daily in the Danum Valley.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida muelleri* Astonishingly common and easy to see along the Menangal R.

ACANTHIZIDAE

(H) Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone s. sulphurea* Heard one song bout every morning from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley, Sabah. This is the sole member of this predominantly Australo-Papuan family, the Acanthizidae, to cross Wallace's Line to the west. Interestingly this species that, west of Wallace's Line is largely confined to mangroves and marginal lowland habitats has now found its way into the forest in the Danum Valley.

VANGIDAE

Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike *Hemipus picatus intermedius* One or two daily on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen,, Sarawak.

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus* A pair seen well from the Sepilok canopy walkway, Sabah.

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma p. pyrrhopterum* One seen well from the Sepilok canopy walkway, Sabah.

Maroon-chested Philentoma *Philentoma velatum* Fine views of a male with a mixed flock and, then another, the following morning on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* Common in open country throughout the lowlands in both Sarawak and Sabah.

AEGITHINIDAE

Common lora *Aegithina tiphia aequanimis* Two seen superbly from the Sepilok canopy walkway, Sabah.

Green lora *Aegithina viridissima* **NT** One seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway; and groups of 2-5 seen and heard daily from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley, Sabah. This noisy, active species appears to function as a nucleus species for mixed canopy flocks.

CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus i. igneus* **NT** Small numbers (2-5) seen daily from the canopy walkway at Sepilok, along the Menangal R and in the Danum Valley, Sabah.

Gray-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula* A total of twelve seen on Mt Kinabalu.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus insulanus* One male seen superbly, from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley. NOTE: Rasmussen & Anderton (2005) show that southern India populations should be treated as a separate species, consequently northern populations adopt the specific name *speciosus*.

(H) Sunda Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina larvata normani* Heard on Mt Kinabalu.

Lesser Cuckoo-shrike *Lalage fimbriata schierbrandi* One seen nicely, daily from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

PACHYCEPHALIDAE

Bornean Whistler *Pachycephala h. hypoxantha* As many as 15 with a large mixed flock on Mt Kinabalu.

VIREONIDAE

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni* Fine views of the striking male with a mixed flock on Mt Kinabalu.

(H) White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca* Heard in degraded forest below the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

ORIOLIDAE

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus* A juvenile seen in the forest on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak; heard along the Menangal R and two seen twice from the canopy walkway within the Danum Valley.

DICRURIDAE

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops* One in degraded forest below the Highland resort, Sarawak and three on Mt Kinabalu.

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis* One in degraded forest below the Highland Resort, Sarawak; two as we drove into the Danum Valley and two along the BRL entrance road, at the same place they have been for 15 years in the Danum Valley, Sabah.

(H) Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis* We heard three on Mt Kinabalu.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus* We saw our first along the Menangal R and then two more with a mixed flock in the Danum Valley. Several others were heard at a variety of lowland forest sites in Sabah.

RHIPIDURIDAE

Malaysian Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica longicauda* Widespread and common in the lowlands and coastal areas but outside areas of contiguous forest.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu* Seen commonly, daily on Mt Kinabalu. This replaces the following species at higher altitudes.

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata* A very territorial individual, seen nicely along the border track on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

MONARCHIDAE

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea prophata* Heard in the forest on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak; two seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway; an adult male bathing at the edge of the Menangal R provided a memorable experience; we saw two there the following morning.

Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis borneensis* Absolutely fantastic views of a displaying silver male (albeit without much of a tail) seen at very close quarters from the canopy walkway on our last morning in the

Danum Valley, Sabah. NOTE: The taxon previously known as Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *T. paradise* has now been split into three species: Amur P-F *T. incei* China, Manchuria and Japan, migrating during the northern winter to Malaysia and Sumatra; Indian P-F *T. paradisi* Indian sub-continent, migrating during the northern winter to Sri Lanka and Malaysia; and Blyth's P-K *T. affinis* Myanmar, S China to S Thailand, Indochina, Malay Peninsula, the Greater Sundas and the Lesser Sundas.

CORVIDAE

Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus coronatus* **NT** Fine views of a pair in the forest on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and heard in the Danum Valley.

Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus* **NT** This is a great bird, not least because it possesses an extraordinarily beautiful song. We observed a group of three on the border track on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and again several times in the Danum Valley. NOTE: This is a distinctive Bornean taxon with no white in the wings and a short crest, which is increasingly being regarded as a separate endemic species.

Bornean Green Magpie *Cissa jefferyi* For such a spectacular and brightly coloured bird, this magpie is surprisingly difficult to see, however, this year we were treated to several superb views of this species on Mt Kinabalu, perhaps totaling six birds.

Bornean Treepie *Dendrocitta cinerascens* Seen and heard daily, commonly on Mt Kinabalu.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca compiler* Common in most lowland forest areas.

EUPETIDAE

Malaysian Rail-babbler *Eupetes macrocerus borneensis* A superbly memorable experience with one the world's more charismatic and most indubitably elusive forest denizens. After one of the finest morning's birding imaginable along the border track on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak we finally happened on this forest sprite. Uttering its distinctive, high-pitched whistle from, as is characteristic of the species, within a dense rattan thicket we enticed him to within millimeters of being seen as he walked and scurried across the forest floor sadly eluding all but KDB.

HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis* This taxon winters in large numbers throughout Sarawak and Sabah, Borneo. We observed two at Kg Buntal, circa 40 on the Tempasuk Plain; a total of circa 50 between Ranau and Sandakan; more than 300 between Sepilok and the Kinabatangan R and several between the Kinabatangan R and Lahad Datu.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica javanica* Widespread, several, sometimes many seen daily throughout the trip except in the Danum Valley.

STENOSTIRIDAE

Gray-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis calochrysea* Six in the border track forest, Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and one or two seen daily in the Danum Valley.

SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis corralipes* Unbelievably close views of a pair of this gorgeous bird from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

PYCNONOTIDAE

Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus leucops* Two seen well with a mixed flock in the Danum Valley.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens leucops* Six seen well on Mt Kinabalu. NOTE: Sometime split as Pale-faced Bulbul *P. leucops*.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini* Widespread and common (noticeably so around Kuching and Kg Buntal) in open and semi-open areas throughout Sarawak and Sabah.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus hutzi* Two below the Borneo Highland Resort, Sarawak and two observed from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex perplexus* One observed from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus b. brunneus* Widespread and common in the lowland and hill forests of both Sarawak and Sabah. Given the extreme similarity of this species in Borneo with that of Cream-vented Bulbul *P. simplex* it is possible that a proportion of the birds seen were actually the previous species

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos salvadorii* Two seen well from the Sepilok canopy walkway and small numbers seen most days from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus ruficrissus* Two with a mixed flock on Mt Kinabalu.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres gutturalis* Two in the Danum Valley.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectans* Two of these rather quiet, mid-storey bulbuls were seen feeding quietly along the trail at Sepilok.

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea* **NT** Six seen from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

Ashy Bulbul *Hemixos flavala* **connectans** One seen well on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

CETTIDAE

(H) Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* **schwaneri** Heard in bamboo below the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

(H) Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates (Orthotomus) cuculatus* **cinereicollis** Heard commonly on Mt Kinabalu. NOTE: No longer regarded as a Tailorbird

Sunda Bush-Warbler *Horornis (Cettia) vulcania* **oreophilus** Fairly common and nicely tape responsive, providing good views on Mt Kinabalu.

PHYLLOSCOPIIDAE

Mountain Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus* **kinabaluensis** Common on Mt Kinabalu.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* subsp? A single example of this Boreal migrant was seen very nicely, from the canopy walkway, as it foraged in the upper canopy of the mid-story of the Danum Valley.

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus m. montis* This delightful little imp with such a high-pitched voice was common on Mt Kinabalu.

LOCUSTELIDAE

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus p. palustris* The world's largest species of warbler was seen perched and exhibiting its song flight among the farmland and rice-fields of the Tempasuk Plain.

CISTICOLIDAE

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps* **borneoensis** A common bird of lowland areas, often near water. Observed nest building from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus s. sericeus* Fine views of a pair below the Highland resort, Sarawak.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* **latrunculus** The Bornean subspecies of this species is confusingly plain, seemingly lacking any yellow! We saw two at Sepilok.

ZOSTEROPIDAE

Chestnut-crested Yuhina *Yuhina everetti* One of the commonest birds at higher altitudes, we saw many large and mobile flocks on Mt Kinabalu and along the birder track on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

Pygmy White-eye *Oculocincta squamifrons* Impressively common and easy to observe as they fed on tiny fruits borne by a forest edge tree on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

Mountain Blackeye *Chlorocharis emiliae* At least ten on Mt Kinabalu; a rather interesting endemic.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus auriventer* Common (6, 12, 2 on three days) in degraded forest below the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

(H) Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops a. atricapilla* Heard commonly on Mt Kinabalu.

TIMALIIDAE

Bold Striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis b. bornensis* Widespread and common throughout the lowlands and hills of Borneo. NOTE: Following the Bornean population of Striped Tit-Babbler *M. gularis*, from which this taxon differs strikingly, in both voice and appearance, is now treated as a separate species.

(H) Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus reclusus* **NT** What a great name for a bird! Heard in the Danum Valley.

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Cyanoderma erythroptera bicolor* One of the most common and conspicuous birds in the lowland rainforests of Borneo, its distinctive vocalizations were heard constantly and we had a great sighting of four on the border track on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

Rufous-fronted Babbler *Cyanoderma rufifrons sarawacense* Fine, close views of a very responsive pair from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus bornensis* Several seen superbly on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and with a mixed flock observed from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris m. maculata* **NT** This is a highly social babbler that is usually highly responsive but sadly not this trip. We heard it at Sepilok and daily in the Danum Valley.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps borneensis* One on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and a flock of five foraging very confidently in stream-side vegetation on Mt Kinabalu.

Gray-headed Babbler *Stachyris poliocephala* We enjoyed good views of a group of four as they foraged in dense secondary forest on the slopes below the Highland resort, Sarawak. This lovely sounding and looking species is rather infrequently encountered.

PELLORNEIDAE

(H) Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron c. cinereum* Commonly heard at dawn along the Menangal R. Astonishingly not encountered elsewhere.

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum saba* **NT** A very vocal pair observed daily from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Gray-breasted Babbler *Malacopteron albogulare moultoni* An astonishing find. We observed this distinctive, flycatcher-like babbler as it perched sideways on to the trunk of a tree along the birder track on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak. This is an exceptionally high elevation for this species which is rather rare, local and more typically inhabits swamp lowland forest or forest on ultrabasics. An extremely rare lifer in Borneo for KDB.

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli* An amazingly confiding individual walked and talked its way all around us to within just a few feet in the Danum Valley.

Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys canicapillus* One seen in the botanical gardens on Mt Kinabalu.

Short-tailed Babbler *Pellorneum malaccense saturatum* **NT** One seen nicely and several others heard along the border track of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak. One seen and several others heard in the Danum Valley.

White-chested Babbler *Pellorneum rostratum macropterum* **NT** A common and conspicuous songster in riparian habitat along the Menangal River and in the Danum Valley.

(H) Ferruginous Babbler *Pellorneum bicolor* Heard along the border track of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

(H) Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata* **NT** Heard in the Danum Valley.

Bornean Ground-Babbler *Ptilocichla leucogrammicus* Surely one of the world's greatest forest birds. We were treated to exceptional views of a pair of these birds as they uttered their antiphonal duet in response to our tape and approached to within just a few feet providing the most endearing and prolonged views of this Bornean endemic in the Danum Valley.

(H) **Black-throated Wren-Babbler *Turdinus atrigularis*** Heard along the Menangal R and in the Danum Valley.

Mountain Wren-Babbler *Turdinus crassus* Fine views, eventually, of a group of three on Mt Kinabalu.

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda eriphaea* **NT** Notably common in the forests and on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen and below the Highland Resort, Sarawak but only two seen in the Danum Valley.

Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus schistochlamys* A total of 20 seen on one day on Mt Kinabalu Park.

Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush *Rhinocichla t. treacheri* Common on Mt Kinabalu Park, where they form large and raucous mixed flocks with other laughingthrushes as well as various other species. NOTE: What was previously known as Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus* is now split into two species: Spectacled Laughingthrush *Rhinocichla mitrata* of Sumatra and the Malay Peninsula and *R. treacheri* of Borneo.

IRENEIDAE

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella crinigera* This striking and quintessentially lovely Oriental bird was seen in ones and twos, usually at THE fruiting fig in the Danum Valley. Also seen in degraded forest below the Highland Resort, Sarawak.

MUSCICAPIDAE

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa s. sibirica* One of these Palearctic migrants was seen nicely in the Danum Valley.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa latirostris* One or two of these Palaearctic migrants were seen on two mornings at the edge of forest and on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and one along the Menangal R and one in the Danum Valley.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis problematicus* Widespread and common throughout the lowlands and hills of both Sarawak and Sabah. In the east we saw subspecies *adamsi*. Quite a contrast to neighbouring Indonesia where this species is being trapped out of existence.

Rufous-tailed Shama *Copsychus pyrropygus* This rather unusual and sparsely distributed species was seen from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii* This lovely songster is still common and widespread in lowland and hilly tropical rainforest throughout Malaysian Borneo. NOTE: The specific status of this species is still hotly debated and several authors treat *stricklandii* as a separate species.

Pale Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis unicolor harterti* A singing, territorial male was observed superbly in the canopy above the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley. Likely this species is overlooked in the tropical forests of Borneo because it appears to be confined to the canopy of tall forest.

Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis t. turcosus* **NT** A gorgeous male was seen superbly along the Menangal R.

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo cerviniventris* Six on one day on Mt Kinabalu.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus thalassoides* One juvenile male seen at the edge of forest and on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen. Not Pale Blue Flycatcher as originally identified.

(H) Eye-browed Jungle-Flycatcher *Vauriella gularis* Frustratingly only heard on Mt Kinabalu.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx montana erythrogyna* Heard and seen briefly on Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus borneensis* Super views of this endemic on Mt Kinabalu, including as many as eight on one morning. NOTE: Recently split from Sunda Whistling-Thrush *Myiophonus glaucinus*.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaultia borneensis* One seen very nicely along the stream on Mt Kinabalu.

Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher *Ficedula hodgsoni sonaica* A lovely male of this rather scarce species was seen unusually well with a mixed flock within forest on Mt Kinabalu.

(H) Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni* Heard on Mt Kinabalu.

STURNIDAE

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis strigata* (west) **eustathis** (west) Very common around all the cities and towns we passed through and in open country along the coast – Kuching and environs, Kota Kinabalu, Ranau, Sandakan, and Lahad Datu and Kuching.

Common Hill Myna *Gracula r. religiosa* Widespread and moderately common throughout the lowlands and hills of Sabah.

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus* **Introduced** Several in and around KK and common between the Belura turn-off and Sandakan with smaller numbers en route Lahad Datu.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus* **Introduced** One immature seen in the grounds of our hotel on the outskirts of KK.

CHLOROPSEIDAE

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops* Fine views of a male at the edge of forest and on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis c. cyanopogon* **NT** Common in the forest upper midstorey adjacent to the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley. Our observations included as many as ten on one day. Smaller numbers (2) observed from the Sepilok canopy walkway

DICAEIDAE

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus m. maculatus* Singles on two days as we ate a magnificent luncheon at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge in the Danum Valley.

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius* A pair observed at length at very close quarters at Sepilok

Brown-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum e. everetti* We enjoyed exceptional views of one of these very rare flowerpeckers as it fed at a fruiting tree adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum* Notably this trip scarce with just ones and twos seen daily at the edge of secondary forest near the Highland Resort, Sarawak and just a single bird in the Danum Valley.

Black-sided Flowerpecker *Dicaeum monticolum* Superb looks at the handsome male on Mt Kinabalu Park.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis borneana* Several great looks at this lovely bird from the Sepilok canopy walkway and in the Danum Valley.

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex* One seen well at the edge of forest on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and as many as six adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway.

Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis borneensis* Fairly common at the edge of forest and on the slopes of Gunung Penrissen and in degraded forest below the Highland Resort, Sarawak. Two in the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Lodge.

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaemus* **NT** A total of eight feeding at a fruiting / flowering tree adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway. This is an infrequently encountered species, most likely because it is confined to the canopy of tall forest.

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma b. brasiliana* We saw a male of this fabulous sunbird feeding at a fruiting / flowering tree adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway. This too is an infrequently encountered species

Copper-throated Sunbird *Leptocoma calcostetha* Fabulous views of a pair in the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus* Four at the edge of swampy, mangrove forest adjacent to the Damai Peninsula golf course, Sarawak and two in the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Resort.

(H) Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii* Astonishingly only one or two heard on Mt Kinabalu.

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga s. siparaja* Great looks at single males on the Damai Peninsula; within the grounds of the Sepilok Rainforest Lodge and at BRL in the Danum Valley.

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera r. robusta* Exceptional views of a single bird collecting arthropods adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway and another adjacent to the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi* Ones and twos seen almost daily in the lowland forest.

Purple-naped Sunbird *Arachnothera h. hypogrammicum* Heard in the forest on the slopes of slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak and a pair seen well adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway. NOTE: Previously placed in the monotypic genus *Hypogrammica* and treated as a sunbird.

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys harrissoni* Fine views of one on two days adjacent to the Sepilok canopy walkway.

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster* Superb views of one from the canopy walkway in the Danum Valley.

Bornean (Streaky-breasted) Spiderhunter *Arachnothera everetti* Two in the forest on the slopes of slopes of Gunung Penrissen, Sarawak.

MOTACILLIDAE

Eastern Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla tschutschensis subsp?* Circa 50 on wet fields on the Tempasuk Plain.

Grey Wagtail *Motacilla c. cinerea* This Palearctic migrant was seen widely in small numbers.

PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus* **Introduced** Recorded widely.

ESTRILDIDAE

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans* Widespread and common except at high elevations.

Scaly-breasted Munia *Lonchura punctulata cabinisi* 'A rare resident', we observed a flock of ten on the Damai Peninsula golf course and a second similar sized flock on the Tempasuk Plain.

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla jagori* Common to abundant in the lowlands and hills in open areas.

MAMMALS

TUPAIIDAE

Lesser Tree Shrew *Tupaia minor* One seen well clambering around in the forest below the Sepilok canopy walkway.

CYNOCEPHALIDAE

Malayan Colugo Malayan Colugo *Cynocephalus variegatus* One seen superbly as we set out on our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

PTEROPIIDAE

Large Fruit-Bat *Pteropus vampyrus* One observed from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

LORISIDAE

Slow Loris *Nycticebus coucang* Fine views of one on our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

TARSIDAE

Western Tarsier *Tarsius bancanus* How our guide ever spotted this I will never know. Unlike most nocturnal species tarsiers' reflect very little eye-shine so spotting them especially from a moving vehicle is especially tricky. Observed during our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

CERCOPITHECIDAE

Maroon Langur *Presbytis rubicunda* This very attractive primate was notably uncommon this year, fortunately Eliza found two for us in the Danum Valley.

Sunda Silvered Leaf-Monkey *Presbytis cristata* One or two along the Menanggal River.

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus* One of the most remarkable mammals of Borneo, this strictly riparian species is very common along the Kinabatangan River and its tributaries and we were treated to exceptional views of many groups, including one very pugnacious male.

Long-tailed (Crab-eating) Macaque *Macaca fascicularis* Widespread and locally common.

Southern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemistrina* A huge troop of 60+ were heard and glimpsed along the border track on the slopes of Mt Penderissen, Sarawak. We finally saw one along the Menanggal River.

HYLOBATIDAE

Bornean Gibbon *Hylobates muelleri* A wonderfully charismatic animal whose calls are one of the most evocative sounds of the Bornean rainforests. We observed a pair leap out of a tree and then free fall 60 feet into the forest canopy below in the Danum Valley. Simply amazing!

PONGIDAE

Bornean Orang-Utan *Pongo pygmaeus* One or two seen in the forest at Sepilok. NOTE: The Bornean population is now treated as a separate species from that in Sumatra.

SCIURIDAE

Pale Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis* Fine views of two at Sepilok.

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii* Several of the especially attractive subspecies *caroli* were seen along the border track on the forested slopes of Mt Penerissen, Sarawak. We found the all black Bornean subspecies *pluto* to be notably widespread and common in Sabah.

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus* Singles seen at Sepilok and along the Menangal River.

Bornean Black-banded Squirrel *Callosciurus orestes* Common on Mt Kinabalu.

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundascirus hippurus* Exceptional views of this uncommon species as it bounded over the ground within primary forest at Sepilok.

Jentink's Squirrel *Sundascirus jentinki* Very common on Mt Kinabalu.

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti* Common, especially around the garbage pits on Mt Kinabalu.

Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi* Fabulous views of this superb endemic on Mt Kinabalu.

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis* Widespread common and seen almost daily throughout the lowlands of Sabah.

Black Flying-Squirrel *Aeromys tephrolemas* Three during our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi* Three during our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

Red Giant Flying-Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista* Fantastic close views of one gliding at the edge of our Sepilok Rainforest Lodge and gain in the Danum Valley.

VIVERRIDAE

Malay Civet *Viverra zibellina* Great looks at one during our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

Small-toothed Palm Civet *Arctogalidia trivirgata* Two seen superbly during our extended night safari in the Danum Valley.

SUIDAE

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus* Notably common this year with good numbers seen along the Menanagal River and throughout the Danum Valley. Females with young were seen on a couple of occasions at the latter site.

TRAGULIDAE

Greater Mouse Deer *Tragulus napu* Wonderful views of this intriguing forest dwelling 'deer' in the Danum Valley.

BUTTERFLIES

Great Mormon	<i>Papilio memnon</i>
Blue Glassy Tiger	<i>Ideopsis vulgaris</i>
Clipper	<i>Parthenos sylvia</i>
Common Birdwing	<i>Troides Helena</i>
Common Bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>
Common Bush Brown	<i>Mycalesis janardana</i>
Common Four-ring	<i>Ypthima ceylonica</i>
Common Three-ring	<i>Ypthima pandocus</i>
Common Lancer	<i>Neptis duryodana</i>
Common Tiger	<i>Anosia genutia</i>
Cruiser	<i>Vindula dejone</i>
Great Orangetip	<i>Hebomoia glaucippe</i>
Harlequin	<i>Taxila haquinus</i>
Island Rustic	<i>Cupha arias</i>
Lemon Emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pomona</i>
Rajah Brooke's Birdwing	<i>Trogonoptera brookiana</i>
Striped Blue Crow	<i>Euploea mulciber</i>
White Eggfly	<i>Hypolimnys misippus</i>
Malayan Lacewing	<i>Cethosia hypsea</i>
Club Beak	<i>Libythea myrrha</i>
Mottled Emmigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>
Grey Pansey	<i>Junonia atlites</i>
Common Grass Yellow	<i>Eurema hecabe</i>
Common Small Orange Mapwing	<i>Chersonesia rahria</i>
Tree (Wood) Nymph	<i>Idea stollii</i>