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## Sabah, Borneo Custom Tour

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*Rhinoceros Hornbill, Kinabatangan River © Rob Hutchinson/Birdtour Asia*

Following straight on from our very successful scheduled tour to Peninsular Malaysia [[trip report](#)], we organized an equally successful custom tour to the east Malaysian state of Sabah in north Borneo.

The Borneo extension recorded a total of 264 species with at least 30 endemics based on current taxonomy. Highlights including the spectacular 'Whitehead's Trio' (Spiderhunter, Broadbill and Trogon) in the mountains; Storm's Stork, White-fronted Falconet, dazzling views of Blue-headed and Black-crowned Pitta were among the lowland endemics and last but not least the enigmatic Bornean Ground-Cuckoo which finally put in an appearance after several days of searching.

As always here we had several exciting mammal sightings including Leopard Cat, Colugo (Flying Lemur), fantastic encounters with Bornean Pygmy Elephants, Proboscis Monkey and of course Orang-utan.

We began our Bornean adventure close to the capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu with a late afternoon visit to the nearby coastal Lagoons at Likas Bay. As the temperature cooled the birds appeared with the Striated Grassbirds

singing in full view from the reedbed a particular attraction. Water birds also appeared including several Common Moorhen, a brief White-browed Crake and ungainly Purple Gallinules clambering in the reeds and as dusk approached, many Black-crowned Night Herons leaving their daytime roost to feed.

Early the next morning we took a flight east to Sandakan and after a brief stop for Crimson Sunbird, Long-billed Spiderhunter and Dusky Munia we were soon heading for the famous Kinabatangan River Wildlife Sanctuary. Our first stop however was at the nearby Gomantong – the huge caves here are home to literally millions of roosting bats and nesting swiftlets, and (once the initially overwhelming smell of guano is overcome!) provide a truly fascinating and spectacular spectacle. Here we were able to see four species of swiftlet – Glossy, Black-nest, Mossy-nest and Edible-nest Swiftlets, the latter 3 virtually indistinguishable in the field but easily identified by their unique nest structures. It is the nest of the Edible-nest Swiftlets that are of particular interest since they demand a high price in the Chinese market and it was amazing to discover the lengths to which locals will go to protect and harvest this valuable commodity.

In the adjacent forest we also recorded our first 'White-crowned' Shama (previously considered endemic to north Borneo but now re-lumped with White-rumped with which it freely interbreeds) and a showy Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler before continuing on to a comfortable lodge, idyllically situated on the banks of the Kinabatangan River and our home for the next 2 nights.

Most of our time here was spent exploring the forest-lined Kinabatangan and its tributaries from the comfort of our boats and the birding was both relaxing and exciting in equal measure.



*Buffed Fish-Owl, Kinabatangan River*



*Wrinkled Hornbill, Kinabatangan River*

Hornbills were particularly abundant here and we saw 6 species with excellent views of all, both perched and in flight, including the scarce and declining Wrinkled and the often elusive White-crowned which posed in the open for us in the late afternoon.

The rare Storm's Stork was seen 3 times and included close-range views of a bird feeding near to our lodge, while a group of 8 spiraling Lesser Adjutants made an impressive sight.

Raptors were also conspicuous during our boat journeys with both Lesser and Grey-headed Fish-Eagles seen daily, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle surprisingly abundant, Rufous-bellied Eagle, Crested Serpent-Eagle and a single White-fronted Falconet which proved to be the only sighting of the tour.

The riverine ecosystem is very rich in commoner lowland birds and we saw many; the diminutive Rufous Piculet close to of lodge, 'Bornean' Brown Barbet (with its pale bill and bright orange throat), Little Bronze, Violet and Drongo Cuckoos, Red-throated and Purple-naped Sunbirds, our only Bornean Black Magpies of the tour and spectacular Brown-backed Noddletails zooming overhead and even occasionally dropping down to the river to drink.

Calling pittas always manage to raise the pulse rate and we thus made several forays ashore in their pursuit – all were successful and we enjoyed great views of Hooded, an endemic Black-crowned singing from an overhead branch with red belly glowing and electric blue horns raised and best of all, a stunning Blue-headed Pitta which came in silently to investigate our impersonations but then showed at ultra-close range as he circled around us – fantastic!

Not surprisingly kingfishers were regularly encountered – Rufous-backed, Black-backed, Common, Blue-eared and Stork-billed all fairly common. Particularly memorable was our encounter with a roosting Blue-eared Kingfisher during a night-ride, which posed to within a few feet and was well photographed. A single Ruddy Kingfisher calling on 2 days was less cooperative and we had to be satisfied with flashes of colour as it twice crossed the river before again perching out of sight.

The other highlight on the night trip were excellent close views of Buffy Fish-Owls feeding from the river banks while 'closer to home' an impressive Brown Wood-Owl was seen close to the lodge in the middle of the night by those awoken by its calls.

The abundance of wildlife along the river was evident and many excellent sightings, the bizarre Proboscis Monkey was often seen, the males particularly amusing with their huge drooping noses, Orang-utan gave nice views on one occasion and we had wonderful views of a huge herd of Bornean Pygmy Elephants feeding and swimming on the river-bank right alongside our boat.



*Bornean Pygmy Elephant, Kinabatangan River*



*Proboscis Monkeys, Kinabatangan River*

It was soon time to leave but fortunately we were heading for an equally enthralling destination, the famous Danum Valley Conservation Area which protects perhaps the largest remaining area of lowland rainforest in Sabah and is home to virtually all of Borneo's lowland endemics and we were able to enjoy these in style based in our luxury eco-lodge right in the heart of the forest.

Hooded, Banded, Black-crowned and Blue-headed Pitta were all again vocal here and our first day began in style with a pair of Blue-headed Pittas giving excellent scope views as they fed, unconcerned on the trail ahead of us. Unlike the abundant and vocal Striped Wren-Babbler, the two endemic Wren-Babblers both proved quite elusive and while we eventually tracked down a group of Black-throated feeding unobtrusively in the forest, we only managed brief views of Bornean Wren-Babbler.

Good numbers of hornbills were again seen and the spectacular Helmeted Hornbill perched and flying noisily overhead completing our tally of 8 hornbill species for the tour.

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge were often heard but typically hard to locate so we considered ourselves extremely fortunate to have prolonged views of a pair, feeding and calling from the nearby undergrowth. 'Bornean' Crested Firebacks were more conspicuous with several birds even parading themselves around the lodge in the early mornings.

Undoubtedly the highlight came one afternoon when from the canopy walkway we heard the distinctive calls of Bornean Ground-Cuckoo from deep within the forest below. The bird seemed far from the trail but we crept into the forest, gradually getting closer and closer as the bird continued calling. It was typically shy but as we tracked it we twice got tantalizing glimpses before it was finally tracked down as it peered back inquisitively from the undergrowth, the blue-green orbital skin glowing exquisitely against the black hood, an unforgettable encounter with perhaps Borneo's most enigmatic endemic.

The forest here is extremely rich in birdlife and as we quietly walked the trails spectacular Scarlet-rumped, Red-naped and Diard's Trogons frequently added splashes of colour to the forest as did striking Black-and-Yellow,

Black-and-Red, Banded and Green Broadbills – the latter with its iridescent green plumage almost filling the telescope.

Flycatchers are typically elusive in the rainforest but often betray their presence with their sweet song and in this way we added the rare Large-billed Blue Flycatcher, endemic Bornean Blue Flycatcher and Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatcher.

'White-crowned' Shama were again common in the forest but we also found its skulking relative the Rufous-tailed Shama singing from a dense thicket where with patience we all obtained great views of this elusive bird.

Other families well represented included the Malkohas with Chestnut-breasted, Raffle's and particularly good views of Red-billed, feeding high in the canopy but at eye-level from our viewpoint on the walkway. Woodpeckers included Grey-capped, Maroon, Banded, Orange-backed, Buff-rumped & Buff-necked, huge White-bellied and Great Slaty and in completely contrast the tiny fast-moving Rufous Piculet.

Other additions at Damun included Puff-backed and Yellow-bellied Bulbuls (from a total of 10 bulbul species seen), confiding Whiskered Treeswifts, White-crowned Forktail, Maroon-breasted and the commoner Rufous-winged Philentoma, Fluffy-backed Tit-babblers, Dark-throated Oriole, Lesser Cuckoo-Shrike, Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Asian Paradise-Flycatchers and a very vocal but elusive Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo high in the canopy.

A lack of fruiting trees made many species more difficult than usual so we considered ourselves fortunate not just to find Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker but to get such excellent close views while 4 species of flowerpecker included the difficult Thick-billed. Barbets were likewise scarce but most importantly our haul included both Red-crowned and an exceptionally responsive Blue-eared Barbet – both species which we had missed on the Peninsular Malaysia section of the tour.

Night-drives and walks at Danum produced some interesting mammals with Leopard Cat and Colugo (Flying Lemur) topping the bill and great views again of Brown Wood Owls and Buffy Fish Owls.



*Bornean Crested Fireback, Danum Valley*



*Blue-headed Pitta, Danum Valley*

After flying back to Kota Kinabalu our next destination was the tropical island paradise of Pulau Tiga, lying offshore just 60km south of the state capital. The first of our targets, Tabon Scrubfowl was seen easily on the extensive trail system and even around the resort in the early mornings of late afternoons. Nicobar Pigeon on the other hand was noticeably scarcer than in the past and we managed just 2 brief sightings of this nomadic species. Other species present included Germain's Swiftlet, Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, good numbers of Pink-necked Green-Pigeons, Mangrove Whistler, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher and breeding Blue-naped Parrots – the latter of uncertain provenance since both wild and introduced populations occur on the islands around Sabah. The seas off the northwest side of the island attracted good numbers of feeding and roosting terns, Greater Crested Terns predominated but we also picked out a single Whiskered, several Bridled and a surprise immature Sooty Tern.

After our final morning birding on Pulau Tiga we headed back to the mainland and headed inland getting our first views of the magnificent granite topped massif of Mount Kinabalu. At 4101m Mount Kinabalu is the highest peak in southeast Asia but more importantly for us it is the centre of distribution for almost all of Borneo's spectacular montane endemics.

Our first morning began with a fantastic rush of new birds, many of them endemics; Bornean Treepie, Bornean Whistling-Thrush, White-browed Shortwing, Eye-browed Jungle-Flycatcher, Flavescent Bulbul, Temminck's Babbler, Grey-throated Babbler, glowing-red Temminck's Sunbirds and large groups of the delightful endemic Chestnut-crested Yuhina. Our breakfast in an idyllic restaurant overlooking the mountain proved ideal for raptor-watching with Black Eagle, Changeable Hawk-Eagle then the endemic Mountain Serpent Eagle all taking advantage of the fine weather.

We also encountered our first feeding flocks with core species such as Black-capped White-eye, Mountain Tailorbird, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Yellow-breasted Warbler, Indigo Flycatcher, Black-and Crimson Oriole, White-throated Fantail, Sunda & Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes,

During the next 7 days we made many visits to the mountain, exploring the extensive road and trail networks in the park which allow access to the wonderful montane forest filled with orchids, pitcher plants and of course birds. During our explorations tiny Bornean Stubtail was often heard giving its extremely high pitched call and we were lucky to enjoy great views of this skulker as it sang from an open perch just meters away, groups of Bare-headed Laughingthrushes flashed their bright blue neck pouches as they boomed out their song in unison and we eventually tracked down a calling Oriental Cuckoo after hearing them regularly. Our two biggest targets were proving elusive however and we were starting to fret when on our fourth day we heard the distinctive song of a Whitehead's Trogon from far down the valley below. Amazingly we found the bird almost immediately and after some distant views made our way along the trail to try to get closer views, this worked perfectly and within minutes the stunning male trogon appeared at close range right in front of us. The bright red crown and belly, contrasting with a subtle slate-grey breast which merges into a black throat surely make this the finest of all Asian trogons and this bird certainly drew some excited expletives as we watched the bird feeding nearby. Amazingly the day was to get even better for as we enjoyed yet another feeding flock, the huge shape of an electric-green Whitehead's Broadbill appeared at eye-level. A second bird soon appeared and we had great views of these immense birds flying around and bobbing their heads frantically as they uttered their distinctive maniacal cackled song.



*Golden-naped Barbet, Mount Kinabalu*



*'White-crowned' Shama, Poring Hot Springs*

Our forays higher up the mountain produced Mountain Black-eyes, a surprise Mountain Barbet (uncommon at high altitudes), some very confident Golden-naped Barbets and higher still along the narrow summit trail the endemic Kinabalu Friendly Warbler, which proved true to its name by wandering around on feet!

Other species recorded included Bornean Whistler, Short-tailed Green Magpie, Crimson-winged and Checker-throated all regularly joining the roving feeding flocks, Black-sided Flowerpecker, a single Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike and a pair of Pygmy Blue Flycatchers which responded to playback of their high pitched and barely audible song by flying in right above our heads.

On one morning we visited the forest at Poring where the avifauna shifted noticeably. Here in the hot, humid sub-montane forest we found our first Black-throated Babblers skulking in the undergrowth, spectacular views of Diard's Trogon, Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, White-bellied Yuhina, Purple-naped Sunbird and more sightings of the distinctive 'Bornean' Brown Barbet.

Our two morning visits further a field to the Rafflesia reserve near Tabunan added several species that are difficult or absent from the Kinabalu. These included two recently elevated to full species; Bornean Leafbird (split from Blue-winged) and Bornean Bulbul (split from Black-crested). Spiderhunters were abundant with Spectacled the commonest, our only Bornean's of the tour and wonderful brown-and-white streaked Whitehead's Spiderhunters flashing their bright yellow rumps and under-tails in the canopy completed our set of Whitehead's trio of endemics. We also saw several Mountain Barbets here (contrary to the name, much commoner here than higher on the mountain) and a single, rather elusive Bornean Barbet.

We again saw Mountain Serpent Eagle here, 2 birds showing well soaring right over the road and the endemic Black-sided Flowerpecker was not uncommon.

Other interesting species recorded included Orange-backed Woodpecker, 'Bornean' Brown Barbets, Wreathed Hornbills, Large Woodshrike, Velvet-fronted Nuthatches, Long-tailed Broadbill, furtive Crested Jays, Drongo and Violet Cuckoos.

We finished the tour as we began with a visit to the marshes of Likas Bay where water-birds again included Purple Swamphean and Common Moorhen but Cinnamon Bittern was new for the tour list and against a wonderful backdrop as the sun set over Kota Kinabalu Bay we picked out two Rufous Night Herons among the commoner Black-crowned Night Herons flying out of their roosts to feed.

## Systematic bird list

Tabon Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii*  
Common on Pulau Tiga where 10+ seen daily.

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii*  
Heard once along the Kinabatangan River and commonly at Danum Valley where we had excellent views of a pair.

Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hyperythra* - Heard only  
Regularly heard at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps* - Heard only  
Regularly heard at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

'Bornean' Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita*  
Regularly seen at Danum Valley with some great views particularly around the lodge in the early mornings and evening

Great Argus *Rheinardia argus* - Heard only  
Heard daily at Danum Valley but always distant.

Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*  
Single close to our lodge along the Kinabatangan River, total of 6 seen at Danum Valley.

Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*  
2 singles at Danum Valley.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*  
1 along the Kinabatangan river, seen twice at Danum Valley with particularly good views of a noisy pair there.

Banded Woodpecker *Picus mineaceus*  
Single bird seen at Danum Valley.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*  
2 birds at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and 2 sightings at Mount Kinabalu.

Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*  
Seen once with a large feeding flock at Mount Kinabalu.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*  
One at Likas Bay on the first evening of the tour.

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*  
Singles seen twice at Danum Valley and once at Poring.

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus*  
Pair at Danum Valley, single at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and 2 at Mount Kinabalu.

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*  
Seen on 3 occasions at Danum Valley and 2 birds at Poring.

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*

Single at Danum Valley.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus*  
Often heard at Danum Valley with 2 seen in flight on one occasion.

**Mountain Barbet** *Megalaima monticola*

Endemic to Borneo.

At least 3 seen during our first visit to Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and one on the higher parts of the road at Mount Kinabalu.

**Golden-naped Barbet** *Megalaima pulcherrima*

Endemic to Borneo.

Regular sightings at Mount Kinabalu particularly along the higher parts of the road and we enjoyed some fantastic close views of these unobtrusive birds.

**Bornean Barbet** *Megalaima eximia*

Endemic to Borneo.

One calling in the early morning during our second visit to Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve was very elusive and showed only briefly.

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon*

Heard at Danum Valley, Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and Poring, with 1 seen at the latter site.

Red-crowned Barbet *Megalaima rafflesii*

One seen at Danum Valley.

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos* - Heard only

Heard on two days at Danum Valley.

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii* - Heard only

Heard just once at Danum Valley where frugivores were noticeably scarce during our visit.

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*

Fantastic views of one bird at Danum Valley which responded exceptionally well to playback of its song by appearing in low bushes right beside us.

'Bornean' Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus*

1 near Sandakan, 4 on the Kinabatangan River, 2 at Danum Valley, 3 at Poring and 2 at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris*

Common along the Kinabatangan River and on Pulau Tiga.

Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*

Several sightings along the Kinabatangan River, one seen at Danum Valley.

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*

Common along the Kinabatangan River and at Danum Valley.

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*

Finally seen at Danum Valley where 2 birds seen on 2 dates, the birds flying directly overhead calling loudly were particularly memorable.

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*

Heard only at Danum Valley and Poring but excellent views of several noisy groups at Danum Valley.

White-crowned Hornbill *Aceros comatus*

Wonderful views of 2 birds along the banks of the Kinabatangan River in the evening.

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*

Quite common along the Kinabatangan River, one of the best sites to enjoy this declining species.

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulates*

Sightings of 6 and 2 birds on separate dates at Mount Kinabalu, 2 at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

**Whitehead's Trogon** *Harpactes whiteheadi*

Endemic to Borneo.

Mega prolonged views of a spectacular male at Mount Kinabalu during a particularly memorable morning was probably the highlight of the tour.

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba*

A pair and a single male at Danum Valley where heard daily.

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*  
 One male at Danum Valley, 3 together (Male and 2 immature birds) at Poring.

Cinnamon-rumped Trogon *Harpactes orrhophaeus* - Heard only  
 Heard on one occasion at Danum Valley but we couldn't track down this elusive bird.

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*  
 Often heard at Danum where we had sightings of single male and female birds.

Common Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*  
 Daily along the Kinabatangan River and on Pulau Tiga.

Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
 Singles on the Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and on Pulau Tiga.

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting*  
 3 seen along the Kinabatangan River included point blank views of a roosting bird during a night cruise.

Black-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus*  
 Daily sightings of 1-2 birds along the Kinabatangan River and at Danum Valley.

Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*  
 1 seen well perched in the forest near our lodge on the Kinabatangan River.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*  
 Regular along the Kinabatangan River, 1 seen at Danum Valley.

Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda*  
 A bird calling along the Kinabatangan River on 2 dates was elusive only showing in flight as it flew from one side to the other.

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris*  
 Common on Pulau Tiga and regularly seen along roadsides when traveling between sites.

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*  
 Regular during cruises along the Kinabatangan River and seen by the roadside between Kuala Penyu and Kota Kinabalu.

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo *Cuculus vegans*  
 A bird calling from high in the canopy at Danum Valley was difficult to view. Also heard along the Kinabatangan River.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* - Heard only  
 Heard daily at Danum Valley.

Sunda Cuckoo *Cuculus lepidus*  
 Often heard at Mount Kinabalu where we eventually tracked one down and enjoyed excellent views. Also heard at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii* - Heard only  
 Heard along the Kinabatangan River, at Danum Valley and at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*  
 Often heard in the lowlands. Singles seen along the Kinabatangan River and at Likas Bay.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* - Heard only  
 Heard at the Kinabatangan River.

Little Bronze-Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus*  
 Singles seen twice along the Kinabatangan River.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*  
 Singles seen along the Kinabatangan River, at Danum Valley and at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*  
 Often heard in the lowlands, singles seen along the Kinabatangan River, at Danum Valley and at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Asian Koel *Eudynamis scolopacea* - Heard only  
 Heard at the Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and in Kota Kinabalu.

Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*  
 Several sightings along the Kinabatangan River and at Danum Valley

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*

2 from the canopy walkway at Danum Valley.

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha      *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*  
1 seen at Danum Valley.

**Bornean Ground-Cuckoo**      *Carpococcyx radiceus*

1 heard calling from the canopy walkway at Danum Valley one afternoon was eventually tracked down in the forest was very shy but showed well on one occasion. The sighting was particularly appreciated after the no-show at the Kinabatangan River where birds have been seen regularly in recent years. This species still ranks as one of Borneo's most enigmatic and exciting endemics.

Greater Coucal      *Centropus sinensis*  
Seen at Likas Bay, Kinabatangan River and at Danum Valley.

Lesser Coucal      *Centropus bengalensis*  
One sighting at Danum Valley.

Blue-naped Parrot      *Tanygnathus lucionensis*  
Daily sightings of 1-2 birds on Pulau Tiga.

Blue-rumped Parrot      *Psittinus cyanurus*  
3 near Sandakan.

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot      *Loriculus galgulus*  
Daily at Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and Pulau Tiga.

Waterfall Swift      *Hydrochous gigas*  
An opportune photo stop at Mount Kinabalu produced the incredible sight of a group of 80+ of this little known swiftlet. The birds had presumably roosted nearby and gave great views before disappearing en-mass.

Glossy Swiftlet      *Collocalia esculenta*  
Common in the lowlands.

Cave Swiftlet      *Collocalia linchi*  
This species is difficult to separate from the Glossy Swiftlet in the field but most if not all birds in the mountains appear to be Cave Swiftlets. Birds nesting on our hotel at Mount Kinabalu clearly showed the green-tinged upperparts of this species.

Mossy-nest Swiftlet      *Collocalia salangana*  
*Collocalia* swiftlets were commonly seen in the lowlands but field separation from the next two species is difficult (or impossible). Only birds seen at Gomantong caves were positively identified where they can be easily separated by their distinctive nest structures.

Edible-nest Swiftlet      *Collocalia fuciphaga*  
Identified at Gomantong caves.

Black-nest Swiftlet      *Collocalia maxima*  
Identified at Gomantong caves.

Germain's Swiftlet      *Collocalia germani*  
1 on Pulau Tiga.

Silver-rumped Swift      *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*  
1 along the Kinabatangan River, good numbers daily at Danum Valley and at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Brown-backed Needletail      *Hirundapus giganteus*  
Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

House Swift      *Apus nipalensis*  
Seen at Kota Kinabalu, Lahad Datu, Pulau Tiga and near Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Grey-rumped Treeswift      *Hemiprocne longipennis*  
Likas Bay, Kinabatangan River and en-route to Mount Kinabalu.

Whiskered Treeswift      *Hemiprocne comata*  
Several sightings at Danum Valley where we enjoyed some great views.

Reddish Scops-Owl      *Otus rufescens*      - Heard only  
Heard during one of the night drives at Danum Valley.

Buffy Fish-Owl      *Ketupa ketupu*  
3 during a night cruise along the Kinabatangan River and 1 during a night drive at Danum Valley

Brown Wood-Owl      *Strix leptogrammica*

1 close to our lodge at the Kinabatangan River, pair at Danum Valley.

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*  
Often seen around settlements or along roadsides while traveling between sites.

Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*  
Several sightings at Danum Valley.

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*  
Several sightings.

Nicobar Pigeon *Caloenas nicobarica*  
Brief sightings of singles on 2 separate dates at Pulau Tiga.

Pink-necked Green-Pigeon *Treron vernans*  
Seen in Kota Kinabalu town and common on Pulau Tiga.

Thick-billed Green-Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*  
Common along the Kinabatangan River.

Green Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula aenea*  
Common along the Kinabatangan River and several sighting at Danum Valley and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon *Ducula badia*  
Flocks seen on 2 dates at Mount Kinabalu.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*  
Seen at Likas Bay and along the Kinabatangan River.

White-browed Crake *Porzana cinerea*  
1 at Likas Bay.

Black-backed Swamphen *Porphyrio indicus*  
At least 3 on our first visit to Likas Bay on 1 on our return visit.

Common Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
Several at Likas Bay.

Oriental Pratincole *Glareola maldivarum*  
On at Kuala Lumpur International Airport while waiting for our flight to Sabah.

Great Crested-Tern *Sterna bergii*  
60+ daily off Pulau Tiga.  
Bridled Tern *Sterna anaethetus*  
4+ seen from Pulau Tiga, other more distant Bridled/Sooty terns remained unidentified.

Sooty Tern *Sterna fuscata*  
1 Imm fishing offshore from Pulau Tiga.

Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*  
1 Imm bird seen during our outward boat trip to Pulau Tiga.

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis ptilorhyncus*  
1 seen along the Kinabatangan River.

Black-Shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*  
6 between Kuala Penyu and Kota Kinabalu, 1 near Kota Kinabalu.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus*  
Seen at Likas Bay, Kinabatangan River and Pulau Tiga.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*  
Singles along the Kinabatangan River and at Pulau Tiga.

Lesser Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*  
1 at Likas Bay, 2 along the Kinabatangan River.

Grey-headed Fish-Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*

Up to 2 birds seen on 3 dates along the Kinabatangan River.

Crested Serpent-Eagle                    *Spilornis cheela*  
Seen along the Kinabatangan River and at Danum Valley.

**Mountain Serpent-Eagle**                ***Spilornis kinabaluensis***  
Endemic to Borneo.  
1 from the restaurant at Mount Kinabalu and 2 soaring together at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Crested Goshawk                    *Accipiter trivirgatus*  
2 along the Kinabatangan River and singles on 2 dates at Danum Valley.  
Besra                                    *Accipiter virgatus*  
A pair were nesting close to the roadside at Mount Kinabalu with 1 bird seen well.

Black Eagle                            *Ictinaetus malayensis*  
Seen at Danum Valley and Mount Kinabalu.

Rufous-bellied Eagle                *Hieraaetus kienerii*  
2 along the Kinabatangan River.

Changeable Hawk-Eagle    *Spizaetus cirrhatus*  
1 adult at Mount Kinabalu and an immature near Poring.

Blyth's Hawk-Eagle                *Spizaetus alboniger*  
1 at Danum Valley.

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle    *Spizaetus nanus*  
Common along the Kinabatangan River where several seen daily.

**White-fronted Falconet** ***Microhierax latifrons***  
Endemic to Borneo.  
1 along the Kinabatangan River was the only record.

Oriental Darter                    *Anhinga melanogaster*  
Common along the Kinabatangan River, several sightings of single birds at Danum Valley.

Little Egret                            *Egretta garzetta*  
Seen at Likas Bay and between Kuala Penyu and Kota Kinabalu.

Pacific Reef-Egret                *Egretta sacra*  
3 at Likas Bay, single bird on Pulau Tiga.

Purple Heron                        *Ardea purpurea*  
Common at Likas Bay and along the Kinabatangan River.

Intermediate Egret                *Mesophoyx intermedia*  
Common at Likas Bay, along the Kinabatangan River and between Kuala Penyu and Kota Kinabalu.

Cattle Egret                        *Bubulcus ibis*  
Seen driving to the Kinabatangan River and to Poring.

Striated Heron                    *Butorides striatus*  
Pulau Tiga and Likas Bay.

Black-crowned Night-Heron    *Nycticorax nycticorax*  
Common at Likas Bay, several along the Kinabatangan River.

Rufous Night-Heron                *Nycticorax caledonicus*  
2 at dusk flying off from their daytime roost at Likas Bay lagoons.

Cinnamon Bittern                *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus*  
2 at Likas Bay.

Storm's Stork                        *Ciconia stormi*  
Seen daily along the Kinabatangan River, with a maximum of 3 birds. Excellent views of one feeding close to our lodge.

Lesser Adjutant                *Leptoptilos javanicus*  
8 circling low overhead along the Kinabatangan River were a spectacular sight.

**Blue-headed Pitta**                    ***Pitta baudii***  
Endemic to Borneo.

A stunning male at close range in riverine forest along the Kinabatangan River and prolonged scope views of a pair feeding on the trail at Danum Valley.

Banded Pitta *Pitta guajana* - Heard only  
Heard just once at Danum Valley.

Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida*  
Great views of one along the Kinabatangan River, others heard there and at Danum Valley.

**Black-crowned Pitta** *Pitta ussheri*

Endemic to Borneo.

Great views of one calling from an exposed branch along the Kinabatangan River. frequently heard here and at Danum Valley.

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*  
Several seen along the Kinabatangan River and one at Danum Valley.

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*  
2 seen at Danum Valley.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*  
Several sightings at the Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae*  
1 at the Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

**Whitehead's Broadbill** *Calyptomena whiteheadi*

Endemic to Borneo.

Spectacular views of a pair of this huge luminous-green broadbill at Mount Kinabalu as they 'cackled' at us from the canopy. 1 the following day was associated with a mixed feeding flock. Also heard at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*  
2 singles seen at Danum Valley.

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*  
1 at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve where several heard.

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*  
2 at the Kinabatangan River where our only sighting.

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*  
2 at Danum Valley.

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*  
Several sightings daily at Danum Valley.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*  
1 at Danum Valley.

**Bornean Leafbird** *Chloropsis flavocincta*

Endemic to Borneo.

5+ at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve with 10+ there on our second visit.

Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala grisola*  
Commonly heard and several seen on Pulau Tiga.

**Bornean Whistler** *Pachycephala hypoxantha*

Endemic to Borneo.

A common bird at Mount Kinabalu.

Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus*  
Singles on several dates at Danum Valley and once at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

'Bornean' Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrumus*  
Just one seen this year along the Kinabatangan River.

Short-tailed Magpie *Cissa thalassima*  
Several sightings daily at Mount Kinabalu.

**Bornean Treepie** *Dendroticca cinerascens*

Endemic to Borneo.

Common and conspicuous at Mount Kinabalu.

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*  
Several sightings along the Kinabatangan River, heard only at Danum Valley.

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* - Heard only  
Heard on 2 occasions at Danum Valley but we never managed to tempt them close enough to see.

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorynchus*  
Recorded at every site except Danum valley.

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*  
Seen on 2 dates at Danum Valley.

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*  
1 in Kota Kinabalu.

Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus*  
Several seen at Mount Kinabalu.

Sunda Cuckooshrike *Coracina larvata*  
Just one sighting at Mount Kinabalu.

Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata*  
Single males on 2 dates at Danum Valley.

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*  
2 near Lahad Datu, several at Likas Bay.

Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris*  
Fairly common at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*  
Recorded at the Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*  
5+ birds at Danum Valley.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu.

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*  
Seen at Likas Bay, Kinabatangan River and Pulau Tiga.

Ashy Drongo *Dicrurus leucophaeus*  
Fairly common at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Hair-crested Drongo *Dicrurus hottentotus*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*  
Fairly common at Danum Valley.

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*  
Common at Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and Pulau Tiga.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*  
Several sightings at Danum Valley.

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*  
2 at Likas Bay.

Green Iora *Aegithina viridissima*  
Several at the Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhopterum*  
Up to 4 birds seen daily at Danum Valley.

Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velatum*  
1 seen at Danum Valley.

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*  
2 during our second visit to Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

**Bornean Whistling-Thrush** *Myophonus borneensis*

Endemic to Borneo.

Nice views on 3 dates at Mount Kinabalu.

White-browed Shortwing *Brachypteryx Montana*

Heard commonly on Mount Kinabalu and singles seen there on 3 dates.

**Eye-browed Jungle-Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias gularis*

Endemic to Borneo.

An unobtrusive and easily overlooked bird, we saw them on 2 dates at Mount Kinabalu, with 5 birds followed by a single.

Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatcher *Rhinomyias umbratilis*

1 seen well in the scope at Danum Valley where several others were heard.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher *Ficedula hyperythra*

Common at Mount Kinabalu where seen daily in good numbers.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Several at Mount Kinabalu.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina*

Just one seen – at Danum Valley.

Indigo Flycatcher *Eumyias indigo*

Common at Mount Kinabalu.

Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*

Several sightings at Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigaster*

Seen on 2 dates along the Kinabatangan River.

**Bornean Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis superbus*

Endemic to Borneo.

Seen twice at Danum Valley; a pair and a single male.

Large-billed Blue Flycatcher *Cynoris caerulatus*

2 sightings at Danum Valley; a male and a pair with juvenile.

Pygmy Blue-Flycatcher *Muscicapella hodgsoni*

Pair seen very well at Mount Kinabalu.

Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Seen on single dates at Danum Valley, Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve. Also heard at the Kinabatangan River.

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

Seen at Likas Bay, Pulau Tiga, Sukau, Poring and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

**White-crowned Shama** *Copsychus stricklandi*

Endemic to Borneo.

Regularly heard and seen at Gomantong Caves, Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and Poring.

This form is variously treated as an endemic species or a subspecies of White-rumped Shama *C. malabaricus* with which it interbreeds in areas of contact.

Rufous-tailed Shama *Trichixos pyrropyga*

An elusive singing bird was eventually seen well at Danum Valley, also heard on one other date.

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*

Singles at Danum Valley on 3 dates. Up to 5 birds seen on 4 dates at Mount Kinabalu included a recently fledged juvenile.

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Seen between Sukau and Lahad Datu and between Kuala Penyu and Kota Kinabalu.

Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

2 at Danum Valley.

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Seen around Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan and Lahad Datu.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Seen at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and Mount Kinabalu.

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*  
Common and widespread, the only species seen on every day of the tour.

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*  
4 seen at the Kinabatangan River and a single at Danum Valley.

**Bornean Bulbul** *Pycnonotus montis*  
Endemic to Borneo.  
10+ seen during both visits to Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.  
A recent split from Black-crested Bulbul.

Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus*  
2 in a fruiting tree at Danum Valley.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*  
Seen at Likas Bay, Sukau, Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and Poring.

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*  
Seen in Kota Kinabalu and at Danum Valley.

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*  
Seen at Danum Valley and Poring.

Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*  
Seen at Danum Valley, Pulau Tiga and Poring.

Flavescent Bulbul *Pycnonotus flavescens*  
Common at higher altitudes at Mount Kinabalu.

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*  
Seen daily at Danum Valley.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus*  
Several seen daily at Mount Kinabalu.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*  
2 seen on one occasion at Danum Valley.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*  
2 birds on 2 dates at Danum Valley.

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*  
Singles on 2 dates at Danum Valley, heard at Poring.

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea*  
Single seen at Danum Valley.

Striated Grassbird *Megalurus palustris*  
Excellent scope views of a singing bird at Likas Bay.

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*  
Several sightings at Likas Bay, Danum Valley and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Black-capped White-eye *Zosterops atricapilla*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu.

Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus*  
2 seen at the Kinabatangan River and a single at Danum Valley.

Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*  
2 at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Mountain Black-eye *Chlorocharis emilliae*  
Some nice views at higher altitudes on Mount Kinabalu.

Mountain Tailorbird *Orthotomus cuculatus*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*  
Several sightings at the Kinabatangan River, 2 seen at Danum Valley.

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*

Common at Likas Bay, Sandakan, Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and in Kota Kinabalu.

Mountain Leaf-Warbler *Phylloscopus trivirgatus*  
Fairly common at Mount Kinabalu.

Yellow-breasted Warbler *Seicercus montis*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

**Bornean Stubtail** *Urosphena whiteheadi*

Endemic to Borneo.

An inconspicuous skulker with a barely audible high pitched song. We them just twice at Mount Kinabalu but this included prolonged views of one calling from an exposed perched at just a few meters distance.

Sunda Bush Warbler *Bradypterus seebohmi*  
Common species is rank vegetation along the roadsides higher up on Mount Kinabalu.

**Friendly Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus accentor*

Endemic to Borneo.

Excellent views of one bird in the bamboo and mossy forest zone high up on Mount Kinabalu, typically good views as it crept around close to the ground often right at our feet!

**Bare-headed Laughingthrush** *Garrulax calvus*

Endemic to Borneo.

Small groups seen on 2 dates at Mount Kinabalu, excellent views of one group flashing bright blue neck patches as they boomed-out their distinctive territorial calls.

A split from the Black Laughingthrush *Garrulax lugubris* of Peninsular Malaysia and Sumatra.

Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus*  
Daily, often in large flocks, at Mount Kinabalu.

Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum*  
Several along the river banks at the Kinabatangan River.

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*  
Up to 5 on 3 dates at Danum Valley.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*  
Seen on 2 dates at Danum Valley.

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*  
2 on one date at Danum Valley.

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis*  
Seen daily in small numbers at Danum Valley.

Temminck's Babbler *Pellorneum pyrrogenys*  
A group of 4 birds at Mount Kinabalu and 2 birds at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*  
Singles on 3 dates at Danum Valley.

Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre*  
Daily at Danum Valley and Poring.

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*  
Just one seen at Danum Valley.

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*  
Several daily at Danum Valley.

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum*  
Daily in small numbers at Danum Valley.

Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus*  
Singles seen at Gomantong Caves and Poring. Also heard at Danum Valley.

**Bornean Wren Babbler** *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*

Endemic to Borneo.

Calling bird gave brief views at Danum Valley and heard only on one other date.

**Black-throated Wren Babbler** *Napothera atrigularis*

Endemic to Borneo.

After frustrating close encounters with birds calling close by we finally located a group of 3 birds which fed unconcerned in the leaf litter nearby offering great views.

Striped Wren-Babbler *Kenopia striata*

Commonly heard at Danum Valley where we had some great views of this striking bird.

**Mountain Wren-Babbler** *Napothera crassa*

Endemic to Borneo.

Group of 4 seen very well at Mount Kinabalu.

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*

Common at Mount Kinabalu.

Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*

One bird seen at Poring.

Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*

Up to 4 birds recorded on 3 dates at Danum Valley.

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera*

Common at Danum Valley, 4 seen at Poring.

Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous bornensis*

Several sightings at Kinabatangan River and Danum valley. Also heard at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

This species which occurs in Borneo and Java is a recent split from 'Striped Tit-Babbler', the species occurring throughout mainland south-east Asia and Sumatra is now called Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*.

Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler *Macronous ptilosus*

Singles seen on 3 dates at Danum Valley.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

Several sightings at Mount Kinabalu where often heard.

**Chestnut-crested Yuhina** *Yuhina everetti*

Endemic to Borneo.

A common species in large, active parties at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*

Several sightings at Danum Valley, single seen at Poring.

Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus percussus*

2 seen at Poring.

**Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker** *Prionochilus xanthopygius*

Endemic to Borneo.

Excellent views of a confiding Pair along the roadside at Danum Valley with a female still there the next day.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

Singles at Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley, 2 at Poring.

**Black-sided Flowerpecker** *Dicaeum monticulum*

Endemic to Borneo.

Several sightings at Mount Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*

Several at Danum Valley.

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

Common at Likas Bay, Sandakan, Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley, Pulau Tiga, Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and around Kota Kinabalu.

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*

2 seen at Kinabatangan River, 1 at Danum Valley.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*

Common along the Kinabatangan River.

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum*

Singles seen at the Kinabatangan River and at Poring.

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*  
Seen at Likas Bay, Kinabatangan River, Pulau Tiga and Kinabatangan River.  
Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*  
1 in our hotel grounds in Kota Kinabalu, several at the Kinabatangan River.

Temminck's Sunbird *Aethopyga temminckii*  
Common at Mount Kinabalu.

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*  
Common at Kinabatangan River, Danum Valley and at Poring.

Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*  
1 at Danum Valley.

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera robusta*  
1 seen in a small forest patch near Sandakan.

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*  
2 seen at Mount Kinabalu, common at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys*  
1 at Danum Valley, common at Poring.

**Bornean Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera everetti*  
Endemic to Borneo.  
The only birds positively identified were 4+ at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis*  
Several at Danum Valley where seen daily.

**Whitehead's Spiderhunter** *Arachnothera whiteheadi*  
Endemic to Borneo.  
Great views at Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve where we saw one bird on our first visit and 4+ the second time around.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*  
Seen throughout except at Danum and Mount Kinabalu.

**Dusky Munia** *Lonchura fuscans*  
Endemic to Borneo.  
Several daily at Kinabatangan River. Other seen near Lahad Datu, Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve and at Poring.

Black-headed Munia *Lonchura malacca*  
Commonest munia, seen at Likas Bay, Sandakan, Kinabatangan River, between Kuala Penyu and Kota Kinabalu and Tabunan Rafflesia Reserve.

264 species seen (including 30 endemics), additional 12 species heard only.

### Systematic mammal list

Common Treeshrew *Tupaia glis*  
Seen once at Danum Valley.

Mountain Treeshrew *Tupaia Montana*  
One sighting at Mount Kinabalu.

Striped Treeshrew *Tupaia dorsalis*  
Seen near Sandakan and at Poring.

Smooth-tailed Treeshrew *Dendrogale melanura*  
1 sighting at Mount Kinabalu.

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida mops*  
The commonest bat species at Gomantong Caves.

Colugo (Flying Lemur) *Cynocephalus variegates*  
1 during a night-drive at Danum Valley.

Maroon Langur *Presbytis rubicunda*  
Seen once at Kinabatangan River and daily at Danum Valley.

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata*  
Daily at the Kinabatangan River.

Banded Langur *Presbytis melalophos*  
Seen on one date at the Kinabatangan River.

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*  
Seen daily at Kinabatangan River where we enjoyed fantastic views of these bizarre primates.

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*  
Common along the Kinabatangan River, at Danum Valley and on Pulau Tiga.

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*  
Seen once along the Kinabatangan River and twice at Danum Valley.

Bornean Gibbon *Hylobates muelleri*  
3 sightings at Danum Valley of 1, 4 and 3 individuals respectively.

Bornean Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus*  
Seen well once during our cruises along the Kinabatangan River.

Sunda Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis*  
Singles on 2 occasions at Mount Kinabalu.

Kinabalu Squirrel *Callosciurus baluensis*  
Seen on 2 dates at Mount Kinabalu, 1 and 2 individuals respectively.

Provost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii*  
Daily at Danum Valley.

Bornean Black-banded Squirrel *Callosciurus orestes*  
Seen daily at Mount Kinabalu.

Plaintain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*  
Recorded on 2 dates at Danum Valley.

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus*  
Identified once at Danum Valley.

Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowi*  
Identified on one date at Danum Valley.

Jentinks Squirrel *Sundasciurus jentinki*  
Seen on 3 dates at Mount Kinabalu.

Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel *Dremomys everetti*  
Daily at Mount Kinabalu.

Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus whiteheadi*  
Singles of this charming species on 2 dates at Mount Kinabalu, both were associating with mixed bird feeding flocks.

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus excilis*  
Several sightings at Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista*  
1 during a night-drive at Danum Valley.

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi*  
1 during a night-drive at Danum Valley.

Malaysian Field Rat *Rattus tiomanicus sabae*  
1 feeding on fallen fruit on Pulau Tiga.

Hairy-nosed Otter *Lutra sumatrana*  
Seen twice along the river close to the Rainforest Lodge at Danum Valley.

Malay Civet *Viverra zangalunga*  
1 at Danum Valley.

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*  
1 during a night-cruise along the Kinabatangan River.

Short-tailed Mongoose *Herpestes brachyurus*  
1 crossing the road at Danum Valley mid-morning.

Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis*  
1 during a night-drive at Danum Valley.

Bornean Pygmy Elephant *Elephas sumatrensis*  
Wonderful views of 30+ swimming and feeding along the Kinabatangan River. 20+ during our drive into Danum Valley.

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*  
Kinabatangan River and Danum Valley.

Greater Mouse-Deer *Tragulus napu*  
Excellent views of 2 together in broad daylight at Danum Valley.

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor*  
Several at night at Danum Valley.

Freshwater Crocodile  
1 seen very well feeding on a dead Bearded Pig along the banks of the Kinabatangan River.



*Temminck's Sunbird, Mount Kinabalu © Rob Hutchinson/Birdtour Asia*

For further information on our scheduled or custom tours to Borneo please contact us via e-mail at [info@birdtourasia.com](mailto:info@birdtourasia.com) or visit our website at <http://www.birdtourasia.com> to see a complete list of our scheduled departure dates.

\*All the photos contained in this report were taken during the tour and are © Rob Hutchinson / Birdtour Asia.