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Kerinci-Seblat National Park, Sumatra

2nd – 6th August 2011

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Participants: Hans Jornvall



Sumatran Trogon, Bukit Tapan

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The intention of this whistle-stop tour of Sumatra was to target a select list of endemics, in particular Sumatran Trogon, and the endemic leafbirds and bulbuls. Dividing our time between Mount Kerinci and Bukit Tapan we not only connected with all 14 targets but had two additional bonuses in the form of Sumatran Frogmouth and Graceful Pitta.

Following an early morning arrival into Padang we drove through plantations, farmland and degraded habitat, struggling to find any lunch or coffee as Ramadan was well underway! Arriving at our homestay at the base of Mount Kerinci for a belated lunch we managed to sneak into the forest for a couple of hours. All thoughts of a nail-biting few days were laid to rest during our hour of daylight birding as a party of 3 Sumatran Trogon – Hans' most wanted bird – showed up, perching close-by though the light wasn't ideal for picking out its diagnostic maroon rump! Trying our luck as dusk fell, it took a mere two minutes before a hairy-faced Sumatran Frogmouth appeared silently before calling away in the spotlight – not bad for a travelling day!

With one full day on the mountain we knew it wasn't a day for slacking so we hit the trail for the full day. Birding was productive throughout the day; our first two targets were easy enough, Sumatran and Shiny Whistling Thrushes, both endemics, perched up for easy viewing. Next up were two consecutive sightings of pairs of Rusty-breasted Wren Babbler, in full view singing 'hot wet tea' over-and-over again. A fruiting tree full of Sumatran Green Pigeons also contained a pair of Sumatran Trogon and another Sumatran Whistling Thrush. The actual trail was quiet though, with just Sunda Blue Robin and Lesser Shortwing while duetting Red-billed Partridge kept their distance. A little further on a Sumatran Wren Babbler (or was it just a miniature kiwi?!) peered at us inquisitively before settling down to call from the dense undergrowth.

Higher up, the occasional feeding flock composed of Sunda Minivet, Blue Nuthatch, White-throated Fantail, Sunda Warbler, Blyth's Shrike Babbler, Long-tailed Sibia, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Black-capped White-eye and Indigo Flycatcher. Eventually the deep booms of Pink-headed Fruit Doves could be heard and we found one, rather distantly, before being blown-away by an adult that flew in to perch just over our heads and begin to call away for the next hour, as it was still booming away on our return after hiking a little higher to add Mountain White-eye and Oriental Honey Buzzard.

A rather humorous late picnic lunch was also enjoyed with White-browed Shortwings and the ultra-confiding Three-striped Ground Squirrels desperate to steal our food at any opportunity!

The following morning required an early morning though Rajah Scops Owl frustratingly called just the once, just out of reach. With nothing new on the trail and watching the forest shake from the tremors of a 5.8 earthquake offshore we decided to head off to Bukit Tapan for our remaining targets.



Pink-headed Fruit Dove, Mount Kerinci

Our afternoon on the upper-reaches of the Tapan road, situated at 1200m was a mixed bag. Both endemics bulbuls, Cream-striped and Spot-necked, required little searching, along with some Sumatran Bulbuls – soon to be separated from 'Javan Bulbul' as a two-way split of Sunda Bulbul. A couple of feeding flocks contained noisy Silver-breasted Broadbill, both Fire-tufted and Black-browed Barbets were very numerous and some Sumatran Treepies sat up for us once the sun disappeared. Unfortunately the rather gloomy-looking clouds caught up with us as we enjoyed an iconic species of the sunda rainforest – a pair of Rhinoceros Hornbill – so we headed back to town for an early night and prepared ourselves for the following days birding along one of the finest birding roads in Asia.

After a gloomy dawn we were treated to superb weather and a bird-packed day along this road that cuts through beautiful forest from 200m to 1300m. We spent our day birding from 1200m down to 800m. Our first successful target of the day was the endemic Blue-masked Leafbird, a species we would have repeated sightings throughout the morning and afternoon, just as a flock of Black Laughingthrushes boomed and croaked around us. A need for feeding flocks sent us scurrying the moment we heard any of the carrier species and this led us to a spectacular flock of 44 (!) Long-tailed Broadbill flying across the road in front of us, tailed by another major target, Sumatran Drongo. Each time we came across a flock of Black Laughingthrush, they were tailed by Sumatran Drongos, and also Greater and Lesser Yellownapes, Sumatran Treepie, Long-tailed Broadbill and Sumatran Trogon. Stepping just off the road at one point, a quiet whistle led us to the glowing red belly of an inquisitive Graceful Pitta that hopped around us. The birds kept flowing throughout the day, though our remaining target, Sumatran Leafbird was notable by its absence, we would have to wait for the early morning sunshine tomorrow!

A bright dawn hit the surrounding hillsides, but not our chosen starting place for the morning, so we hastily retreated upwards to find the sunlight. By the time we did, birds were all around the clearing; Blue-masked Leafbird, Sumatran Treepie, barbets, Fire-breasted Flowerpecker, Hill Prinia, Spectacled

Laughingthrush, and... a pair of Sumatran Leafbird, BINGO! We had barely finished congratulating ourselves on completing our mission when a short snatch of song from the undergrowth revealed a bonus bird that soon appeared for us – a singing Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher. As we had a long drive ahead of us, we headed down this the wonderful road, with a stop for a family of Bushy-crested Hornbills and some other lowland species, and drove back along the coast to Padang to celebrate a short but highly successful visit to one of Asia's finest birding areas.

For information regarding our scheduled tours to Sumatra please click [here](#). Alternatively please contact us via [e-mail](#) regarding organising a custom tour to Sumatra or elsewhere in Indonesia.

Photos from the tour:



Sumatran Trogon and Sumatran Drongo, Bukit Tapan



Shiny Whistling Thrush and Sumatran Frogmouth, Mount Kerinci



***Spot-necked Babbler and Sumatran Wren Babbler, Mount Kerinci (top)
White-browed Shortwing and Pink-headed Fruit Dove, Mount Kerinci (middle)
Three-striped Ground Squirrel and Small-toothed Palm Civet (bottom)***



***Spot-necked Bulbul and 'Sumatran' Bulbul, Bukit Tapan (top)
Barred Cuckoo Dove and Bushy-crested Hornbill, Bukit Tapan (middle)
Black Laughingthrush and Blue Nuthatch, Bukit Tapan (bottom)***

Systematic Bird List

FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae

Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
Blyth's Hawk Eagle	<i>Nisaetus alboniger</i>

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Red-billed Partridge	<i>Arborophila rubrirostris</i>	heard only
Sumatran Peacock Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron chalcurum</i>	heard only
Great Argus	<i>Argusianus argus</i>	heard only

GRUIFORMES: Rallidae

Slaty-breasted Rail	<i>Gallirallus striatus</i>
White-breasted Waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>

CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae

Dusky Woodcock	<i>Scolopax saturata</i>	heard only
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COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Spotted Dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	
Barred Cuckoo Dove	<i>Macropygia unchall</i>	
Little Cuckoo Dove	<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>	
Sumatran Green Pigeon	<i>Treron oxyura</i>	
Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon	<i>Treron sphenura</i>	heard only
Pink-headed Fruit Dove	<i>Ptilinopus porphyreus</i>	
Mountain Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Green-billed Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus tristis</i>
Lesser Coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Mountain Scops Owl	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	heard only
Rajah Scops Owl	<i>Otus [brookii] solokensis</i>	heard only
Collared Owlet	<i>Glaucidium brodiei peritum</i>	heard only

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Salvadori's Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus pulchellus</i>	heard only
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APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Glossy Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
Black-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>
Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
Silver-rumped Needletail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>
Asian Palm Swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>
House Swift	<i>Apus [affinis] nipalensis</i>

APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae

Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>
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TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

Sumatran Trogon	<i>Harpactes mackloti</i>
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CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus chloris</i>
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CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae

Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>
Helmeted Hornbill	<i>Buceros vigil</i>
Bushy-crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>

PICIFORMES: Capitonidae

Fire-tufted Barbet	<i>Psilopogon pyrolophus</i>	
Gold-whiskered Barbet	<i>Megalaima chrysopogon</i>	
Red-throated Barbet	<i>Megalaima mystacophanos</i>	heard only
Black-browed Barbet	<i>Megalaima oorti</i>	
Coppersmith Barbet	<i>Megalaima haemacephala</i>	heard only

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Speckled Piculet	<i>Picumnus innominatus</i>
Banded Woodpecker	<i>Picus mineaceus</i>
Lesser Yellownape	<i>Picus chlorolophus</i>
Greater Yellownape	<i>Picus flavinucha</i>
Maroon Woodpecker	<i>Blythipicus rubiginosus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

Long-tailed Broadbill	<i>Psarisomus dalhousiae</i>
Silver-breasted Broadbill	<i>Serilophus lunatus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae

Graceful Pitta	<i>Pitta venusta</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Sunda Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina larvata</i>
Sunda Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus miniatus</i>
Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae

Cream-striped Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucogrammicus</i>
Spot-necked Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus tympanistrigus</i>
Orange-spotted Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus bimaculatus</i>
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
Spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos</i>
Ochraceous Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus ochraceus</i>
Sumatran Bulbul	<i>Ixos [virescens] sumatrana</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae

Blue-winged Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cochinchinensis</i>
Sumatran Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis media</i>
Blue-masked Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis venusta</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae

Shiny Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus melanurus</i>
Sumatran Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus castaneus</i>
Lesser Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx leucophrys</i>
White-browed Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx montana saturata</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Hill Prinia	<i>Prinia atrogularis</i>
Bar-winged Prinia	<i>Prinia familiaris</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae

Sunda Bush Warbler	<i>Cettia vulcania</i>
Mountain Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cuculatus</i>
Mountain Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus trivirgatus</i>
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	<i>Seicercus castaniceps</i>
Sunda Warbler	<i>Seicercus grammiceps</i>
Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus supercilialis</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

Fulvous-chested Jungle Flycatcher	<i>Rhinomyias olivacea</i>
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>
Indigo Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias indigo</i>
Rufous-vented Niltava	<i>Niltava sumatrana</i>
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
Sunda Blue Robin	<i>Cinclidium diana sumatrana</i>
Sunda Forktail	<i>Enicurus velatus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae

White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

Black Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax lugubris</i>	
Spectacled Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax mitratus</i>	
Sumatran Wren Babbler	<i>Rimator albobstriatus</i>	
Rusty-breasted Wren Babbler	<i>Napothera rufipectus</i>	
Eye-browed Wren Babbler	<i>Napothera epilepidota</i>	heard only
Pygmy Wren Babbler	<i>Pnoepyga pusilla</i>	
Golden Babbler	<i>Stachyris chrysaea</i>	
Spot-necked Babbler	<i>Stachyris striolata</i>	
White-browed Shrike Babbler	<i>Pteruthius flaviscapis cameroni</i>	
Long-tailed Sibia	<i>Heterophasia picaoides</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone	<i>Gerygone sulphurea</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Blue Nuthatch	<i>Sitta azurea</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Plain Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes simplex</i>
Temminck's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga temminckii</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum ignipectus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Oriental White-eye	<i>Zosterops palpebrosus</i>
Black-capped White-eye	<i>Zosterops atricapillus</i>
Mountain White-eye	<i>Zosterops montanus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Black-and-crimson Oriole	<i>Oriolus cruentus</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae

Asian Fairy Bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Sunda [Ashy] Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus leucophaeus</i>
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus remifer</i>
Sumatran Drongo	<i>Dicrurus sumatranus</i>

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Common Green Magpie	<i>Cissa chinensis</i>	heard only
Sumatran Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta occipitalis</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
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PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

MAMMALS

Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>
Black-striped Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus nigrovittatus</i>
Three-striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Lariscus insignis</i>
Low's Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus lowii</i>
Slender Squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus tenuis</i>
Small-toothed Palm Civet	<i>Arctogalidia trivirgata</i>
Mitrid Leaf Monkey	<i>Presbytis cruciger</i>
Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macca nemestrina</i>
Siamang	<i>Hylobates syndactylus</i>

112 species recorded including 13 heard only

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