



birdtour**ASIA**

specialists in asian birding tours

Peninsular Malaysia

20th – 23rd June 2017

Leader: Wilbur Goh

Participants: Bill Grossi and Easy Patterson



Barred Eagle-Owl

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This short, four-day custom tour was planned for Bill and Easy to see Mountain Peacock-Pheasant while on a stopover in Kuala Lumpur and also to plug some gaps for the other species in the region. The two main sites that we visited were a hill station located on the Titiwangsa Range and Malaysia's largest national park, the primary lowland rainforest of Taman Negara.

Highlights include the aforementioned Peacock-Pheasant, Large Frogmouth, Barred Eagle-Owl, Large Green Pigeon, Green Broadbill, Garnet Pitta and Straw-headed Bulbul. We also had a mammal lifer for all of us, in the form of a Marbled Cat, an elusive beast that we were very lucky to encounter.

The tour started immediately after arriving in the airport in the mid-morning, driving to a local stake out for some night birding. We arrived with a calling Large-tailed Nightjar greeting us and was duly seen perched out in the open, on a pole. Later, a short foray into the forest brought us our first target, a Large Frogmouth, which was seen very well. The drive up to the mountains thereafter was uneventful but the thought of connecting with the frogmouth so quickly after arrival left a good feeling for us all.

The next morning, we drove up the hill and set up our vigil for the Mountain Peacock-Pheasant. Ochraceous Bulbul, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Buff-breasted Babbler, White-rumped Shama and a surprise Green Broadbill were seen foraging around us. Also of interest were two Horse-tailed Squirrels chasing each other and we enjoyed these sightings while we patiently waited for the star(s). And they duly obliged with first, the female and her young, cautiously coming out into the open to feed, the juvenile staying close to mom at all times. They eventually moved back into cover but it didn't take long before 2 males appeared. We were enjoying its markings especially the large turquoise ocelli on the tail before the female and juvenile decided to join them. A family gathering of Mountain Peacock-Pheasants enjoying breakfast!



Juvenile, Female and Male Mountain Peacock-Pheasants



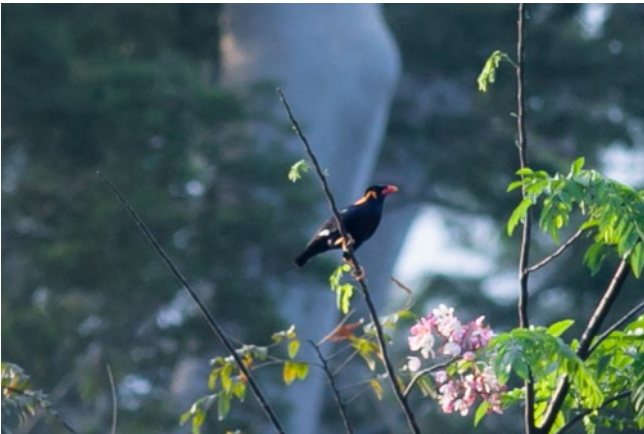
White-bellied Woodpecker and Large Green Pigeon

Having seen the family of Peacock-Pheasants, we set our sights to the steamy lowlands of Taman Negara. We arrived at the resort at midday and were lucky to have a fruiting tree next to the restaurant. Bulbuls, namely Streaked, Buff-vented, Red-eyed and Stripe-throated frequented it. A Yellow-crowned Barbet joined the feast, more often heard in the canopy than seen, as was a pair of Greater Green Leafbirds, a species less frequently encountered in other parts of its range due to the rampant pet bird industry that has obliterated the population of this species. A walk along the trails brought the endangered Straw-headed Bulbul, Banded Woodpecker and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha. Thereafter, we spent some time in the nearby hide and this proved fruitful with sightings of a pair of Large Green Pigeons, a flock of its smaller cousin Thick-billed Green Pigeon, a single foraging Puff-backed Bulbul, flyby Great Slaty Woodpeckers and a family of cute Black-thighed Falconets. Returning to the resort, we had a male White-bellied Woodpecker working a dead tree trunk and a pair of Rufous Woodpeckers foraging nearby. We headed for dinner shortly but a thunderstorm prevented us from a night birding foray.

The next morning, we headed out pre dawn with only a distant Oriental Bay Owl calling. After breakfast, we took a boat ride to another part of Taman Negara. The misty and dark conditions didn't help and birds were generally quiet and inactive. We did connect with Roving Cuckooshrikes (a good split from the Philippine endemic, Bar-bellied in the Indonesian Archipelago field guide), Black-and-yellow Broadbill and Sunda Scimitar Babbler before the distinctive song of a Garnet Pitta, heard off the trail, provided us a little excitement. This gorgeous gem of a bird gave us a bit of a work around but was eventually seen well, giving off its 'pop-pop' sound as it hops away out of sight. After lunch, a check around the resort brought us perched views of Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot, more often seen zooming across the sky, and Tickell's Blue Flycatcher. The trails added Maroon and Buff-necked Woodpeckers to the growing list of woodpeckers seen.

Back in the hide, Black-and-Red Broadbill provided some colour while a Malayan Brown Barbet sallied back and forth, showing some breeding behavior. At dusk, Common Hill Mynas were singing from the highest perches and Blue-rumped Parrots zoomed by in the sky as they head back to their roost.

Early the next morning, a Reddish Scops Owl was heard closely but frustratingly out of view while the Oriental Bay Owl again preferred to keep its distance. In our last morning, the fruiting tree next to the restaurant added Red-throated Barbet to the list and along the trails we encountered the elegant Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher along with Grey-cheeked Bulbuls, Chestnut-winged Babblers and foraging Purple-naped Spiderhunters. As we reached the picnic spot by the river, Bill flushed a mammal, which jumped straight into the river and swam to the other side. A long tail protruding out of the water was thought to be a monkey at first but with better views with the binoculars, lo-and-behold, a Marbled Cat was making its way across the river. We enjoyed its impressive markings and the thickness of its tail was well seen – such a rarely encountered species in the field, especially outside of Danum Valley in Sabah, or Way Kambas in Sumatra. After that, it was time to say goodbye to the magnificent forest of Taman Negara and we still had time for a final stakeout spot before reaching the airport. After some searching and a lucky turn of events, we had close views of a singing Pale Blue Flycatcher and the main target, a Barred Eagle-Owl on a daytime perch. The sighting of this magnificent owl in the daytime was very much enjoyed before we said our farewells to Malaysia.



Common Hill Myna and Marbled Cat



Pale Blue Flycatcher and Ochraceous Bulbul

Systematic List

GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae

Mountain Peacock-Pheasant

Polyplectron inopinatum

Great Argus

Argusianus argus

Heard only

COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae

Asian Emerald Dove

Chalcophaps indica indica

Thick-billed Green Pigeon

Treron curvirostra

Large Green Pigeon

Treron capellei

CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae

Asian Drongo Cuckoo

Surniculus lugubris brachyurus

Heard only

Raffles's Malkoha

Rhinortha chlorophaea

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus curvirostris

Raffles's Malkoha (Rhinortha)

Rhinortha chlorophaea

Heard only

Greater Coucal

Centropus sinensis

APODIFORMES: Apodidae

Silver-rumped Spinetail

Rhaphidura leucopygialis

House Swift

Apus [affinis] nipalensis

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Podargidae

Large Frogmouth

Batrachostomus auritus

CAPRIMULGIFORMES: Caprimulgidae

Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus

STRIGIFORMES: Strigidae

Reddish Scops Owl

Otus rufescens malayensis

Heard only

Barred Eagle Owl

Bubo sumatranus

TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

Diard's Trogon

Harpactes diardii sumatranus

Scarlet-rumped Trogon

Harpactes duvaucelii

TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae

Black Hornbill

Anthracoceros malayanus

Heard only

Wrinkled Hornbill

Aceros corrugatus

Heard only

Wreathed Hornbill

Rhyticeros undulatus

PICIFORMES: Megalaimidae

Red-throated Barbet

Psilopogon mystacophanos mystacophanos

Yellow-crowned Barbet

Psilopogon henricii

Malayan Brown Barbet

Caloramphus fuliginosus hayii

PICIFORMES: Picidae

Rufous Woodpecker

Celeus brachyurus squamigularis

White-bellied Woodpecker

Dryocopus javensis javensis

Banded Woodpecker

Chrysophlegma miniaceum malaccensis

Checker-throated Woodpecker

Chrysophlegma mentale humii

Heard only

Maroon Woodpecker

Blythipicus rubiginosus

Buff-rumped Woodpecker

Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax

Buff-necked Woodpecker

Meiglyptes tukki tukki

Great Slaty Woodpecker

Mulleripicus pulverulentus

CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis malaccensis* Heard only
White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis perpulchra*

CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae

Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius*

PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*
Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*

PASSERIFORMES: Calyptomenidae

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*
Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus* Heard only
Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae

Garnet Pitta *Erythropitta granatina*

PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae

Blyth's Shrike Babbler *Pteruthius faeralatus cameroni* Heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus* Heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Vangidae

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhoptera* Heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae

Roving [Bar-bellied] Cuckooshrike *Coracina [striatan] sumatrensis*

PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae

Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis affinis*

PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae

Crested Jay / Jay Shrike *Platylophus galericulatus ardesiacus* Heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae

Malayan Black Magpie	<i>Platysmurus leucopterus</i>	Heard only
House Crow	<i>Corvus splendens</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Stenostiridae

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	Heard only
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PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae

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

Straw-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>	
Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps</i>	
Puff-backed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus eutilotus</i>	
Stripe-throated Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus finlaysoni</i>	
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier personatus</i>	
Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus</i>	
Spectacled Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos</i>	
Ochraceous Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus ochraceus sordidus</i>	
Grey-cheeked Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus bres tephrogenys</i>	
Yellow-bellied Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus phaeocephalus</i>	
Buff-vented Bulbul	<i>Iole olivacea</i>	
Streaked Bulbul	<i>Ixos malaccensis</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae

Pin-striped Tit Babbler	<i>Mixornis gularis</i>	Heard only
Chestnut-winged Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma erythroptera</i>	
Chestnut-rumped Babbler	<i>Stachyris maculata</i>	Heard only
Sunda Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus montanus occidentalis</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Pellorneidae

Sooty-capped Babbler	<i>Malacopteron affine affine</i>	
Scaly-crowned Babbler	<i>Malacopteron cinereum cinereum</i>	
Buff-breasted Babbler	<i>Pellorneum tickelli</i>	
Black-capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum capistratum nigrocapitatum</i>	Heard only
Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Pellorneum malaccense malaccense</i>	Heard only
Abbott's Babbler	<i>Turdinus abbotti obscurior</i>	

PASSERIFORMES: Cettidae

Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris sakaiorum</i>	
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PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus hesperius</i>	Heard only
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PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae

Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	
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Javan Myna

Acridotheres javanensis

PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae

Oriental Magpie Robin

Copsychus saularis musicus

White-rumped Shama

Copsychus malabaricus

Tickell's Blue Flycatcher

Cyornis tickelliae

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae

Greater Green Leafbird

Chloropsis sonnerati

Lesser Green Leafbird

Chloropsis cyanopogon

Blue-winged Leafbird

Chloropsis [cochinchinensis] moluccensis

PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae

Asian Fairy-bluebird

Irena puella

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Brown-throated Sunbird

Anthreptes malacensis

Purple-naped Spiderhunter

Arachnothera hypogrammica

PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Passer montanus

MAMMALS

Common Treeshrew

Tupaia glis longipes

Long-tailed Macaque

Macaca fascicularis

White-handed Gibbon

Hylobates lar

Heard only

Marbled Cat

Felis marmorata

Eurasian Wild Pig

Sus scrofa

Sunda Black-banded Squirrel

Callosciurus nigrovittatus

Grey-bellied Squirrel

Callosciurus caniceps concolor

Western Striped Squirrel

Tamiops maclellandii

Horse-tailed Squirrel

Sundasciurus hippurus

Slender Squirrel

Sundasciurus tenuis

Three-striped Ground Squirrel

Lariscus insignis