Sabah, Borneo

26th February - 11th March 2013

Leader: James Eaton

Participants: Ian Austin, Peter Barto, Brian Coleman, Doug Nail and David Tomb

It is little wonder that Borneo is one of our most popular destinations with an irresistible combination of amazing birds which include a fine collection of endemics, the finest mammal-watching in Asia, a diverse range of habitats, superb food and comfortable lodgings throughout.

The birds certainly didn’t disappoint us this time, from the ‘Whitehead’s trio’, Bornean Green Magpies admiring a displaying Bare-headed Laughingthrush, Everett’s Thrush and other endemics of the mountains, the Kinabatangan River where we enjoyed superlative views of Bornean Ground Cuckoo and plenty of hornbills, to the lowland rainforests of Sepilok and Danum Valley where the unique Bristlehead didn’t disappoint, and neither did the plethora of exciting pittas, broadbills, trogons and other forest wonders.

Mention must also go to the special mammals which we encountered including the iconic Orang-utan, Bornean Gibbon, Sunda Colugo and an incredible variety of squirrels! Though perhaps the most amazing part of the trip, bearing in mind it was during the tail-end of the rainy season, no rain hampered our birding throughout!

This shortened Sabah tour was designed to maximise our time searching for the star-studded endemics that grace the islands. After arriving at lunch-time, most of us having travelled for over a day from California, we were eager to seek out our first endemics so we opted to spend the afternoon at the Rafflesia Reserve in the Crocker Range. The roadside birding here gives access to an area of submontane forest for several endemics difficult elsewhere on the tour. As Brian and Doug had arrived the previous day they had spent the morning here, notching up some of the commoner species, along with a pair of cracking Long-tailed Broadbill. Much of the afternoon was spent listening to distant barbets with the odd endemic springing up. Several Mugimaki
Flycatchers, a pair of Blyth’s Shrike Babbler, flocks of Chestnut-crested Yuhina and Bornean Bulbul kept things moving along until we found a wonderful fruiting tree, the answer to our prayers! Spending the late afternoon here we were soon notching up the endemics – Mountain Barbets were here in numbers, coming and going, with Bornean and Gold-whiskered Barbets also in the mix. Then a familiar buzzy sound overhead led us to a Whitehead’s Spiderhunter that circled above us, perching briefly a couple of times before buzzing off. Then attention was back to the fruiting tree where groups of Sunda and Rufous-hooded Laughingthrushes joined the party, as did a Blue-and-white Flycatcher and a few Cinereous Bulbuls. As dusk approached one of the most distinctive noises of the Sunda region, the machine gun-rattling of Crested Jay, which gave mind-blowing views as they continually perched up on exposed branches by the roadside with crests erect. Although this was the avian highlight, the drifting clouds at sunset driving back to Kota Kinabalu produced a wonderful scene – we were all very excited about the next two weeks!

Bare-headed Laughingthrush and Whitehead’s Trogon, Mount Kinabalu

We returned the following morning to the fruiting tree, though our relaxed picnic breakfast was interrupted by immediate excitement as a Whitehead’s Broadbill was found in the tree, but with the light poor the bird was largely an unsatisfactory silhouette – some of us couldn’t even work out which way the bird was facing – better views desired would be an understatement! We spent a fruitful 2-3 hours by the tree, notching up much the same as yesterday and plenty more – Bornean Leafbirds were showy, Bornean Spiderhunter (now split from Streaky-breasted), along with Spectacled and Whitehead’s Spiderhunter again showed, a Red-throated Barbet joined the other three barbet species, Hair-crested Drongo (the Bornean birds being highly distinctive, unsurprisingly!) and a male Thick-billed Green Pigeon. Around us birds were aplenty; an immature Sunda Cuckoo fed right next to us at one point, searching for caterpillars, a feeding flock contained Grey-chinned and Scarlet Minivets, Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Black-capped White-eye, Blyth’s Shrike Babbler, and our first of many gorgeous Temminck’s Sunbird came by, though a Temminck’s Babbler proved rather more elusive. A glorious blue sky looked so inviting for raptors, and this proved to be case as first a Blyth’s Hawk Eagle circled up, as did a Black Eagle, then what we had all hoped for – a displaying Mountain Serpent Eagle at first distant before coming overhead, vocalising. This species is trickier than many realise, as a pair of Crested Serpent Eagle also occur here, and we had the latter vocalising nearby not long after. Some dead snags above the road were continually checked as Whitehead’s Spiderhunter has a tendency to sing from them, instead we were delighted to find the diminutive White-fronted Falconet perched here.

As it was getting rather hot by mid-morning we walked 50m inside the forest, looking for some rafflesia, sadly only finding newly emerged bulbs, though an added bonus was a confiding Orange-breasted Trogon here – the first time I have seen it here. We then continued to the magnificent Mount Kinabalu ready for two full days birding around this amazing place. Mount Kinabalu certainly doesn’t give up its specialities easily, and this visit was no exception but with some hard work we did extremely well – in fact, my best yet, and all this in just three nights! As always, the most important bird on the mountain is THE trogon, so we started in our relentless pursuit of the bird by immediately hitting the trails. Our afternoon along the trails started with much of the expected – Yellow-breasted and Mountain Leaf Warblers, Aberrant Bush Warbler (what was previously Sunda Bush Warbler has now been lumped with the Himalayan and Chinese birds, and also become a Horornis – the taxonomy of this bird is far more interesting than its appearance!), Black-sided Flowerpecker, Temminck’s Sunbird, Bornean Whistler, Bornean Treepie and our first Golden-naped Barbet. Turning round a corner our pulses were bulging as a pair of Whitehead’s Broadbill were shrieking very loudly somewhere just in front of us, not only that but one bird started singing – a vocalisation that remains undescribed and possibly previously, and unlike the usual tame response to other recordings we were to be blown-away for the next half an hour as the birds repeatedly sat in full view at eye-level – mind-blowing! Just a shame James’s camera was in the vehicle and Ian was too excited to concentrate on getting that perfect picture!
Still jubilant following the previous afternoons birding we went back to the same trail, after a field breakfast with Sunda Laughingthrushes and Bornean Whistling Thrushes. Before we headed to the trail, we decided to pop inside the forest for a quick look for Everett’s Thrush, just in case. Fortunately we waited just 5 minutes before a couple of thrushes popped onto the trail in front of us, scratching around a bit, along with a White-browed Shortwing – it’s difficult to assure birders this is one of the mountains most difficult endemics at times like this! Though not all of us could hear the high-pitched song of a nearby Bornean Stubtail, we could all clearly see the wonderful little sprite opening his gape, moving from side-to-side as he sat on an open branch for several minutes.

The rest of the morning was fairly quiet in comparison, try as we might, no trogon turned up but a feeding flock that buzzed around us contained a very showy Whitehead’s Spiderhunter – James’s best views for 11 years! After lunch though the weather didn’t look fantastic and we wanted to get the higher elevation birding out of the way. The first higher elevation endemic was quickly noted, as four Pale-faced Bulbuls fed in the long grasses, then a short, steep hike up led us to a fantastic pair of Mountain Black-eye in full song just feet from us, and while watching these the distinctive cricket-like buzz of a Friendly Bush Warbler started up behind us. Waiting patiently the warbler soon crept up, mouse-like to us, pausing for short intervals, before scuttling across the track and creeping around us once-or-twice more before disappearing into the dense undergrowth, and giving us a sighs of relief that we didn’t have to walk up any higher! On the way down we bumped into a very curious and co-operative family of Mountain Wren Babblers – yet another endemic-filled session we could be proud of! With a couple of daylight hours remaining we birded an area of scrub close to our hotel, picking up a pair of Long-tailed Shrike – unfortunately they have moved over to Sabah from the Philippines due to the large areas of deforested habitat, and easily finding several groups of Pygmy White-eye, to begin with high up in the conifers, then finding several birds snuggled up together.

**Whitehead’s Spiderhunter and Everett’s Thrush, Mount Kinabalu**

Despite having seen so many good endemics the previous day, birding on Mount Kinabalu is relentless – there are simply too many must-see, difficult endemics here. This time we tried a different area, which proved profitable as a distant cacophony of noise led us to a the bird wave we had been searching for – Bornean Green Magpies dazzled in front of us, with another hoped-for endemic, the Bare-headed Laughingthrush performing its wonderful duet and display above us, rocking back-and-forth on their perches with gular pouches stretched as they boomed incessantly – much to the amazement of the young Green Magpies that hopped all around, giving curious glances as to what an earth the display was all about! Moving inside the forest we finally picked up the usually conspicuous Indigo Flycatcher, and while watching this pair, a pair of endemic Eye-browed Jungle Flycatcher perched right by us, and to keep the juices flowing, a Bornean Forktail quietly fed in the trackside stream.

With no trogon in sight, we extended our morning into the early afternoon, attempting a different trail that cuts through extravagant, beautiful, tall forest covered in orchids, mosses and lichens – the perfect place for a trogon and even though our stomachs were telling us it was time to turn round – ‘let’s just check round the corner’ – BINGO! A female Whitehead’s Trogon was perched right next to James, when just as he pointed it out, it flew, only for a glowing scarlet male to fly up and perch above the trail. For the next 30 minutes or so we were treated to outrageous views of the vocal male as he sallied for insects around and above us until we opted to actually walk away from him, like little kids leaving the sweetshop.

Anything after that performance would be an anti-climax, and indeed it was. We managed to find a family party of Red-breasted Partridges feeding by the trail in the afternoon, which was to be our final montane endemic, before we went to a viewpoint to watch the clouds swirl around, tantalising us with glimpses of the mountains peak before revealing it in all its glory, then a pair of Sunda Cuckoo-shrike flew by and it was time to put our feet up!

The one bad thing about doing so well on the mountain was that it meant we had time for a morning at ‘Boring Poring’, a predawn trek up the forest proved fairly futile as Poring, though having a long list of
outlandishly great birds, so often proves to be a sweaty, damp squib, and this morning was no exception – the highlight being a Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo and a predawn Kinabalu Horned Frog on the trail! An afternoon drive through plantation after plantation of Oil Palm was a thought-provoking sight, and a real reality check for us as to what Borneo has now largely become, it is no longer a vast area of untouched wilderness with Orang-utans swinging from every tree, but isolated pockets of forest surrounded by this monocultural crop from Africa.

We arrived at our next destination, Sepilok, just in time for the final hours daylight, notching up a flyby Rufous-bellied Eagle, a splendid Banded Broadbill and bizarrely looking down on a White-bellied Woodpecker from the canopy walkway before waiting for dusk to fall and Red Giant Flying Squirrels emerging from their holes to perform some of their fantastic glides from tree-to-tree, and a Brown Boobook found hawking insects on the walk back.

Sepilok, in the steamy lowlands is an area of selectively logged forest preserved primarily for the survival of Bornean Orang-utan, with a rehabilitation centre on-site. We spent a large part of our time, over a day and an early morning on the marvellous canopy walkway here, as this offers unrivalled views of a number of Sundac canopy birds, though one of the other reasons for being here, the Bristlehead was a let-down, with us hearing them just once, distantly – our time would come for this, but we would have to sweat it out first! The highlight was without doubt the stunningly close views of cute Black-and-yellow Broadbill, with a supporting cast of Bornean Black Magpie, Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike, Fiery and Scarlet Minivets, Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, Brown Barbet, stunning Van Hasselt’s and Red-throated Sunbirds, Greater and Lesser Green Leafbirds, Grey-and-buff Woodpecker, Violet Cuckoo, plenty of fly-over Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots and Long-tailed Parakeets, and a variety of bulbuls, including Streaked were perhaps not so much of a highlight, but new nevertheless. We spent a shorter period of time on the trails which though slow produced an enviable set of species, all of which showed marvellously; Red-bearded Bee-eater, Black-and-red Broadbill, Rufous-backed Kingfisher and two male Red-naped Trogon which just refused to budge from view.

‘Big things’ were fairly thin on the ground here, with just Black Hornbill noted, so off we went to the River Kinabatangan River to improve our stats – and we certainly did! On-route to the river, we stopped at the mighty Gomantong Caves, a huge series of caves on a limestone outcrop, we overcame the smell, guano, cockroaches and other very large creepy crawlies inside to walk around this fabulous cave. Fortunately the swiftlets were in the process of building their nests so we easily found all three echo-locating swiftlet species – 99% being Black-nest Swiftlets, but also several Mossy-nest and a small colony of Edible-nests, the most highly prized of this lucrative market. We also jammed in on our first pitta, as a Black-crowned Pitta stole our hearts, perching just metres away at eye-level to call continually, the electric blue flashes and scarlet belly penetrating through the tangles and shade, and a pair of Bat Hawk were perched in their usual tree.

It was then onto the Kinabatangan River to settle into our comfortable and friendly lodge and enjoy the first delicious meal, while watching our first of many Storm Storks and a family of Bearded Pigs. In the late afternoon we set out for our first boat ride along the river, and hearing the rivers (and one of the islands!) most enigmatic birds, the Bornean Ground Cuckoo. Frustratingly as we went in for the kill, the largest troop of Proboscis Monkey’s James h – our time would come for this, but we would have to sweat it out first! The highlight – this was great to witness but it wasn’t very helpful for cuckoo-watching! As time was getting on we headed downstream to a particular viewing point, which couldn’t have been better timed, a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo flew past and into a riverside bush but refused to show when a group of White-crowned Hornbill flew across the river, with 3 males and a lone female it was an odd ratio but they performed impeccably, as did the icon of the rainforests – a pair of Rhinoceros Hornbill, dwarfing the nearby, more numerous Oriental Pied and Black Hornbills.

After dinner, and ridiculously close views of the resident Malaysian Civet we headed back out for a night-cruise, notching up several Buffy Fish Owl, roosting Malaysian Blue Flycatcher and Blue-eared Kingfisher but a calling Oriental Bay Owl shut up just when we were nearly there – close, but no cigar...
Breakfast the next morning was interrupted by a Gibbon foraging nearby the lodge before we headed for a different area and forest-lined tributary, which was very pleasant and we continued notching up an impressive set of species despite the lack of bird song. The first birds we put our binoculars on was a noisy group of Dusky Broadbill – broadbill no. 6! Flashes of colours were everywhere – Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, Blue-eared Kingfisher, sunbirds, flowerpeckers, Bushy-crested Hornbills, Moustached Hawk Cuckoo, Long-tailed Parakeets, Diard’s Trogon, Black-and-red Broadbills nesting above the water at regular intervals, and the daddy of the kingfishers – Stork-billed blew us all away, on a regular basis! Raptors were filling the air too, Lesser and Grey-headed Fish Eagles, Crested Serpent, White-bellied Sea and Wallace’s Hawk Eagles, displaying Crested Goshawks and an excellent Jerdon’s Baza along with several grotesque Lesser Adjutants and a number of Storm’s Stork.

Returning to the boats in the afternoon provided much of the same, but this time it was a troop of Sunda Pig-tailed Macaques which disturbed the calling ground-cuckoo in the same spot as the previous afternoon! We were starting to sense this wasn’t going to end well..! Our hornbill-searches were going decidedly better as we soon picked off a colourful pair of Wrinkled Hornbill, and like London buses, we would see a further pairs on our return for dinner.

Another night-time cruise brought about the usual array of species but our search for Bay Owl was halted by something more exciting for us – a herd of Pygmy Elephants tramping through the forest, a mammal the group were very keen to see.

With one final morning on the river we were fully focussed, and things got off to a good start – a big male Orang-utan fed by the river, under the watchful eye of hoards of smile less tourists, a flock of Large Green Pigeons flew-by, then a pair of Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeons were perched up, a big surprise seeing these as sightings here tend to be of birds flying-by heading for more preferable feeding grounds; and Ruddy Kingfishers flashed across us on three occasions. As we sat patiently in our boats, waiting, he finally heard the call that sends shivers down James’s spine, this, his personal favourite – WOOH WOO! Though distant the sound of a Bornean Ground-Cuckoo, on this occasion a dueting pair, is an exciting experience and we quickly manoeuvred our boats into an ideal position, ready. Though the birds were already before us, calling just inside the forest having run a long way in a very short space of time – we quickly located the diagnostic tail-pumping of a calling bird, perched just off the ground and after an anxious few minutes getting the boats positioned we were all fixated on the pair. Once our eyes were locked in on their movements and behaviour we were treated to mind-blowing views of the pair as they regularly paraded in front of us, both walking on the ground and perching up to call, often very close to the boats. It was a magical moment, and one that wouldn’t be forgotten, and a sigh of relief for James, keeping up his 100% record with this species.

Even after nine days in Borneo there was still plenty new to see at Danum. Our stay here was typically fantastic, though at the same time it soon became clear that just about everything was breeding, with birds carrying food, recently fledged chicks and a real lack of vocal activity making it very tough going for us, but we got there in the end!

We spent much of our first days birding along the road as Bristlehead was our main target, at the same time we were soon notching up other endemics and specialities; Bornean Blue Flycatcher, White-crowned Forktail, a pair of agitated Rufous-tailed Shama came in for close inspection, White-crowned Shama, more Bornean Black Magpies and Dusky Broadbills while inside the forest along the trail we came across two male Great
Argus in the space of 10 minutes, the first running towards us at speed, passing by within touching distance and disappearing over the ridge! Wren Babblers and pittas were very quiet, though Ian and David enjoyed whistling in their own Black-crowned Pitta. We spent quite a bit of time on the canopy walkway without much success other than watching a pair of Banded Broadbill coming-and-going from their nest and a wonderful Maroon-breasted Philetornia, along with the usual array of other sundac species and confiding Whiskered Treeswift perched at eye-level, continually swivelling their heads around and sallying for prey. At the lodge a flowering tree regularly held an array of spiderhunters.

We ventured up on the second morning to an ancient Kadazan-Dusan burial site, which was fascinating to see, especially given the view once up there, overlooking endless forested ridges, and though the birding was hard-going we picked up several new species – Large-billed Blue, Grey-chested Jungle and White-tailed Blue Flycatchers feeding young, a wonderful male Banded Kingfisher carrying prey, Moustached Babbler, an inquisitive Short-tailed Babbler, more Rhinoceros Hornbills and Bornean Gibbons. In the afternoon we decided to use a different tactic, and follow the Segama River which though scenic was quiet, bar a Great-billed Heron feeding in the shallow waters. Going off trail in search of pittas we located a lone Black-throated Wren Babbler (and another Large-billed Blue Flycatcher) which gave us the run around until finally settling for periods of time to sing from surprisingly high-up, when we heard a Helmeted Hornbill close-by – now this may have seemed very odd at the time but I told everyone to run quickly to the hornbill, as that was the signal from our local guide Paul, that he had located Bristlehead! A mad dash ensued and after a few tense moments there they were, quietly feeding across the river in the canopy – a family of strawberry-headed Bristleheads. Delight, excitement, ecstasy, panic and relief – too many emotions to put into words, but the smiles and sweat said it all – this is why birding is so great!

Once again, the rest of the afternoon would be an anti-climax, and it was, I can’t remember what we saw after these but it would have involved a few new babblers and bulbuls no doubt! During the evenings, we took the daily night-drive, though it was quiet most evenings we still notched up several new mammals for us – Sunda Colugo, Thomas’s Flying Squirrel, more Malaysian Civets, and an attractive Banded Palm Civet on one evening. A small herd of elephant one night soon retreated back into the bush. Bird-wise it was quiet, with just a Brown Wood Owl to show for our regular attendance.

**Giant Pitta, Danum Valley and Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker, Kota Kinabalu**

With pittas lacking and remaining quiet, we focussed our third morning on these, though failing miserably, with just a single Blue-headed calling for a short while, their testosterone was certainly lacking during our stay here. We did however find a wonderful fruiting tree, and with it, a pair of massive Helmeted Hornbills, along with more Rhinoceros, Bushy-crested, Black and surprisingly, another pair of Wrinkled. Another big bird – Great Slaty Woodpecker flew overhead, four of them in total. The chorus of barbet noise emanating from the tree was bewildering considering how few we were actually seeing! Eventually we got hold of a Yellow-crowned or two, along with the masses of Blue-eared, and a close-by Finsch’s Bulbul was a welcome addition. Inside the forest we picked up plenty of babblers; Rufous and Scaly-crowned, Chestnut-rumped, Chestnut-backed Scimitar and Scarlet-rumped Trogon, while scope views of an exquisitely marked Striped Wren Babbler was pleasing but otherwise it was quiet, so in the afternoon we tried yet another different area.

Our usual places for Blue-headed Pitta had drawn up blanks or just merely brief disinterested responses so with the light (and our hopes!) diminishing we opted for a different area. Amazing how birding works sometimes, as it was London bus syndrome all over again – a brief response from a Blue-headed Pitta had us sat quietly on the trail in hope, when suddenly a flash of blue in the undergrowth grabbed James’s attention, with everyone completely motionless (well done guys, nobody peering down at the leeches!) and looking far down the trail, out popped the male pitta and onto the trail, to rather nonchalantly hop around less than 10 feet from us in open view on the trail – we were all a gasp, struggling to contain our excitement until he popped back into the undergrowth, and eventually disappeared from view. Our muted excitement turned to handshakes all round but that jewel of the forest had a contender, as just two minutes further on a wailing whistle from the forest drew our attention to the big boy – a Giant Pitta was calling close. With some strategic positioning and pre-empting what the pitta would do, within five tense minutes we had a male Giant Pitta fly
up, off the forest floor and sit on an open branch ahead of us, and not only that, it would proceed to sit on a variety of lianas and branches above the dense foliage for the next 20 minutes, offering scope-filling views (how many people can say they had scope views of Giant Pitta!) for us all before we walk away from the bird as it was still on show!

The first half of our final morning was spent watching the same fruiting tree, locking in on several barbets species, including one particularly vocal Red-throated, along with Puff-backed Bulbul being a new addition. We were also finally connecting with all the flowerpeckers zipping back-and-forth, finding some perches they were using to digest their ample takings, though these were largely made up of Thick-billed Flowerpeckers, closer scrutiny revealed several Brown-backed Flowerpeckers – a very rarely encountered species (only James’s third ever time), noting their thicker-bill, paler iris, browner colouration and unstreaked, brown-washed flanks – a nice comparison. We then headed into the forest, largely off trail, seeking out any remaining endemics, and though we had a brief response from a Blue-banded Pitta, it was obviously not as keen as we were, we had to be content with more of the same from the previous days plus a Spotted Fantail. It was then time to bid farewell to this marvellous area, but not without yet another look at more elephants on the way out, and catching our flight back to Kota Kinabalu.

With one final morning for those of us remaining we birded not far from the city in a small, remaining pocket of drained, Peatswamp Forest. It was quiet for the most part but we did get several new species, firstly a Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and finally only our second (or first for some!) Malkoha of the trip – Red-billed. Further along we located a singing Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker – another rarely encountered species that gave outstanding views, and a few nice sunbirds including Brown-throated and Crimson. After observing some lowland pitcher plants and new dragonflies we headed back for a late lunch, and a bit of souvenir shopping for our families back home (and natural history books for ourselves!) then off to the airport to finish what had been a wonderful time in Borneo.

The tour finished with an impressive total of 284 species of which just 13 were heard only. Among them were 51 endemics and numerous other specials that made this tour so memorable.

A special mention should be made to the fantastic work David, Peter and Ian are doing through http://jeepneyprojects.org/ - Art for Conservation. Please do check out their website, and also their Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/jeepneyprojects to find out more, and to help support their conservation projects.

For information regarding our tours to Borneo please click here. Alternatively please contact us via e-mail or phone +44 1332 516254 regarding organising a custom tour to Borneo.

More photos from the tour:

Prevost’s Squirrel, Sepilok and Malayan Civet, Kinabatangan
Pygmy White-eye and Mountain Black-eye, Mount Kinabalu (top)
Bare-headed Laughingthrush & Bornean Green Magpie, and Eye-browed Jungle Flycatcher
Rafflesia keithii, Poring and White-crowned Hornbill, Kinabatangan (bottom)
Brown Barbet and Red-naped Trogon, Sepilok (top)
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker and Van Hasselt’s Sunbird, Sepilok (middle)
Bearded Pig and Bornean Gibbon, Kinabatangan (bottom)
Rhinoceros Hornbill and Wrinkled Hornbill, Kinabatangan (top)
Buffy Fish Owl, Kinabatangan and Brown Wood Owl, Danum Valley (middle)
Banded Kingfisher and Bristlehead, Danum Valley (bottom)
Finsch’s Bulbul and Bornean Blue Flycatcher, Danum Valley (top)
Crested Goshawk and Whiskered Treeswift, Danum Valley (middle)
Pygmy Elephant and Bornean Anglehead Lizard, Danum Valley (bottom)
# Systematic List

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<td>White-bellied Sea Eagle</td>
<td>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lesser Fish Eagle</td>
<td>Ichthyophaga humilis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grey-headed Fish Eagle</td>
<td>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mountain Serpent Eagle</td>
<td>Spilornis kinabaluensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crested Serpent Eagle</td>
<td>Spilornis cheela</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crested Goshawk</td>
<td>Tachyspiza trivirgatus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black Eagle</td>
<td>Ictinaetus malayensis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rufous-bellied Eagle</td>
<td>Aquila kienerii</td>
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<tr>
<td>Changeable Hawk Eagle</td>
<td>Nisaetus limnaetus</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blyth's Hawk Eagle</td>
<td>Nisaetus alboniger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wallace's Hawk Eagle</td>
<td>Nisaetus nanus</td>
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<td><strong>FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>White-fronted Falconet</td>
<td>Microhierax latifrons</td>
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<td>Peregrine Falcon</td>
<td>Falco peregrinus calidus</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Falco peregrinus ernesti</td>
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<td><strong>GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae</strong></td>
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<td>Great Argus</td>
<td>Argusianus argus</td>
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<td>Red-breasted Partridge</td>
<td>Arborophila hypertyra</td>
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<td>Crimson-headed Partridge</td>
<td>Haematortyx sanguiniceps</td>
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<td><strong>GRUIFORMES: Railidae</strong></td>
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<td>White-breasted Waterhen</td>
<td>Amaurornis phoenicurus</td>
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<td><strong>CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Black-winged Stilt</td>
<td>Himantopus himantopus</td>
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<td><strong>CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Common Sandpiper</td>
<td>Actitis hypoleucos</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**CHARADRIIFORMES:** Sternidae

| Whiskered Tern | Chlidonias hybridus |

**COLUMBIFORMES:** Columbidae

| Spotted Dove | Streptopelia chinensis |
| Little Cuckoo Dove | Macropygia ruficeps nana |
| Little Green Pigeon | Treron olax |
| Pink-necked Green Pigeon | Treron vernans |
| Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon | Treron fulvicollis |
| Thick-billed Green Pigeon | Treron curvirostra |
| Large Green Pigeon | Treron capellei |
| Green Imperial Pigeon | Ducula aenea |
| Mountain Imperial Pigeon | Ducula badia |

**PSITTACIFORMES:** Psittacidae

| Long-tailed Parakeet | Psittacula longicauda |
| Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot | Loriculus galgulus |

**CUCULIFORMES:** Cuculidae

| Chestnut-winged Cuckoo | Clamator coromandus |
| Bock’s Hawk Cuckoo | Cuculus [sparverioides] bocki |
| Moustached Hawk Cuckoo | Cuculus vagans |
| Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo | Cuculus fugax |
| Sunda Cuckoo | Cuculus lepidus |
| Indian Cuckoo | Cuculus micropterus |
| Banded Bay Cuckoo | Cacomantis sonneratii |
| Plaintive Cuckoo | Cacomantis merulinus |
| Little Bronze Cuckoo | Chrysococcyx minutilius aheneus |
| Violet Cuckoo | Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus |
| Asian Drongo Cuckoo | Surniculus lugubris brachyurus |
| Red-billed Malkoha | Phaenicophaeus javanicus |
| Chestnut-breasted Malkoha | Phaenicophaeus curvirostris |
| Bornean Ground Cuckoo | Carposoccyx radiatus e |
| Short-toed Coucal | Centropus rectunguis heard only |
| Greater Coucal | Centropus sinensis bubutus |

**STRIGIFORMES:** Tytonidae

| Oriental Bay Owl | Phodilus badius badius heard only |

**STRIGIFORMES:** Strigidae

| Reddish Scops Owl | Otus rufescens rufescens heard only |
| Barred Eagle Owl | Bubo sumatranus heard only |
| Buffy Fish Owl | Bubo ketupu |
| Brown Wood Owl | Strix leptogrammica leptogrammica |
| | Strix leptogrammica vaga |
| Brown Boobook | Ninox scutulata borneensis |

**CAPRIMULGIFORMES:** Caprimulgidae

| Grey Nightjar | Caprimulgus jotaka |

**APODIFORMES:** Apodidae

| Glossy Swiftlet | Collocalia [esculenta] cyanoptila |
| Bornean Swiftlet | Collocalia dodegi |
| Mossy-nest Swiftlet | Aerodramus salangana natunae |
| Black-nest Swiftlet | Aerodramus maximus lowi |
| Edible-nest Swiftlet | Aerodramus fuciphagus vestita |
| Silver-rumped Needletail | Rhaphidura leucopygialis |
| Brown-backed Needletail | Hirundapus giganteus |
| Asian Palm Swift | Cypsiurus balasiensis |
**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**
- Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocnus longipennis harterti*
- Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocnus comata comata*

**TROGONIFORMES: Trogonidae**
- Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba impavidus*
- Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardi diardi*
- Whitehead's Trogon *Harpactes whiteheadi*
- Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*
- Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios dutilensis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**
- Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis bengalensis*
- Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii*
- Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa motleyi*
- Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella melanops*
- Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis inominata*
- Ruddy Kingfisher *Halcyon coromanda minor*
- Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris laubmannianus*
- Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus borneanus* heard only

**CORACIIFORMES: Meropidae**
- Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*
- Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis viridis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Coraciidae**
- Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

**CORACIIFORMES: Bucerotidae**
- Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*
- Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*
- Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis*
- Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil*
- Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*
- White-crowned Hornbill *Berenicornis comatus*
- Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*

**PICIFORMES: Capitonidae**
- Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis*
- Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos*
- Red-crowned Barbet *Megalaima rafflesii* heard only
- Mountain Barbet *Megalaima monticola*
- Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henricii*
- Golden-naped Barbet *Megalaima pulcherrima* e
- Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis duvaucelii*
- Bornean Barbet *Megalaima eximia* e
- Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius*

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**
- Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*
- Grey-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus*
- White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis javensis*
- Banded Woodpecker *Picus mineaceus malaccensis*
- Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus observandum*
- Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis humii*
- Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
- Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus xanthopygius*
- Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax*
- Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki tukki*
- Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus sordidus*
Great Slaty Woodpecker

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae
Dusky Broadbill
Black-and-red Broadbill
Banded Broadbill
Black-and-yellow Broadbill
Long-tailed Broadbill
Green Broadbill
Whitehead’s Broadbill

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae
Giant Pitta
Blue-headed Pitta
Hooded Pitta
Blue-banded Pitta
Black-crowned Pitta

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
Barn Swallow
Pacific Swallow

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
Grey Wagtail

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae
Sunda Cuckooshrike
Fiery Minivet
Scarlet Minivet
Grey-chinned Minivet
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike
Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae
Black-headed Bulbul
Bornean Bulbul
Scaly-breasted Bulbul
Puff-backed Bulbul
Pale-faced Bulbul
Yellow-vented Bulbul
Cream-vented Bulbul
Red-eyed Bulbul
Spectacled Bulbul
Finsch's Bulbul
Ochraceous Bulbul
Grey-cheeked Bulbul
Yellow-bellied Bulbul
Hook-billed Bulbul
Hairy-backed Bulbul
Buff-vented Bulbul
Streaked Bulbul
Cinereous Bulbul

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae
Greater Green Leafbird
Lesser Green Leafbird
Bornean Leafbird

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae
Green Iora

PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae
Corydon sumatranus
Eurylaimus javanicus
Eurylaimus ochromalus
Psarisomus dalhousiae
Calyptomena viridis
Calyptomena whiteheadi

PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae
Hydrornis caerulea hoesi
Hydrornis baudii
Erythropitta sordida mulleri
Erythropitta arquata
Erythropitta ussheri

PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae
Hirundo rustica gutturalis
Hirundo tahitica

PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae
Motacilla cinerea cinerea

PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae
Coracina larvata normani
Pericrocotus igneus igneus
Pericrocotus speciosus insulanus
Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula
Hemipus picatus intermedius
Hemipus hirundinaceus

PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae
Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps
Pycnonotus montis
Pycnonotus squamatus borneensis
Pycnonotus eutilotus
Pycnonotus [flavescens] leucops
Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini
Pycnonotus simplex perplexus
Pycnonotus bruneus bruneus
Pycnonotus erythropthalmos
Alophoixus finschii
Alophoixus ochraceus ruficrissus
Alophoixus bres gutturalis
Alophoixus phaeocephalus
Setornis criniger
Tricholestes criniger
Iole olivacea charlottae
Ixos malaccensis

PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae
Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops
Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon
Chloropsis kinabaluensis

PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae
Aegithina viridissima
### PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae
- **Bornean Whistling Thrush** *Myophonus borneensis*
- **Everett's Thrush** *Zoothera everetti*
- **Eye-browed Thrush** *Turdus obscurus*

### PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae
- **Bornean Stubtail** *Urosphena whiteheadi*
- **Aberrant Bush Warbler** *Horornis flavolivacea oreophila*
- **Friendly Bush Warbler** *Bradypterus accentor*
- **Mountain Tailorbird** *Phyllogetes cuculatus cinereicollis*
- **Dark-necked Tailorbird** *Orthotomus atrogularis borneensis*
- **Ashy Tailorbird** *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis*
- **Arctic Warbler** *Phylloscopus borealis*
- **Mountain Leaf Warbler** *Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis*
- **Yellow-breasted Warbler** *Seicercus montis floris*
- **Striated Grassbird** *Megalurus palustris*

### PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae
- **Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias umbratilis*
- **Eye-browed Jungle Flycatcher** *Rhinomyias gularis*
- **Grey-streaked Flycatcher** *Muscicapa griseisticta*
- **Dark-sided Flycatcher** *Muscicapa sibirica*
- **Ferruginous Flycatcher** *Muscicapa ferruginea*
- **Mugimaki Flycatcher** *Ficedula mugimaki*
- **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** *Ficedula hyperythra sumatrana*
- **Little Pied Flycatcher** *Ficedula westermanni*
- **Blue-and-white Flycatcher** *Cyanoptila cyanomelana*
- **Indigo Flycatcher** *Eumyias indigo*
- **White-tailed Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis concretus everetti*
- **Pale Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis unicolor herterti* heard only
- **Large-billed Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis caeruleus caeruleus*
- **Malaysian Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis turcosus*
- **Bornean Blue Flycatcher** *Cyornis superbus*
- **Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher** *Culicicapa ceylonensis*
- **Oriental Magpie Robin** *Copsychus saularis adamsi*
- **White-crowned Shama** *Copsychus stricklandii*
- **Rufous-tailed Shama** *Trichixos pyrropyga*
- **White-crowned Forktail** *Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*
- **Bornean Forktail** *Enicurus borneensis*
- **White-browed Shortwing** *Brachypteryx montana erythrogyra*

### PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae
- **White-throated Fantail** *Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu*
- **Pied Fantail** *Rhipidura javanica*
- **Spotted Fantail** *Rhipidura perlata*

### PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae
- **Black-naped Monarch** *Hypothymis azurea prophata*
- **Asian Paradise Flycatcher** *Terpsiphone paradisi borneensis*

### PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae
- **Bornean Whistler** *Pachycephala hypoxantha*

### PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae
- **Sunda Laughingthrush** *Garrulax palliatus*
- **Bare-headed Laughingthrush** *Melanocichla calvus*
- **Rufous-hooded Laughingthrush** *Rhinocichla treheri treheri*
- **White-chested Babbler** *Trichastoma rostratum macropterus*
- **Ferruginous Babbler** *Trichastoma bicolor*
Horsfield's Babbler  
*Malacocincla sepiarium harterti*

Short-tailed Babbler  
*Malacocincla malaccensis poliogenys*

Temminck's Babbler  
*Pellicorneum pyrrogenys canicapidillus*

Moustached Babbler  
*Malacopteron magnirostre cinereocapilla*

Sooty-capped Babbler  
*Malacopteron affine phoeniceum*

Scaly-crowned Babbler  
*Malacopteron cinereum cinereum*

Rufous-crowned Babbler  
*Malacopteron magnum saba*

Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler  
*Pomatorhinus montanus bornensis*

Striped Wren Babbler  
*Kenopia striata*

Black-throated Wren Babbler  
*Turdinus atrigularis*

Mountain Wren Babbler  
*Napothera crassa*

Grey-throated Babbler  
*Stachyris nigriceps borneensis*

White-necked Babbler  
*Stachyris leucotis obscurata*  
heard only

Black-throated Babbler  
*Stachyris nigricolor*

Chestnut-rumped Babbler  
*Stachyris maculata maculata*

Chestnut-winged Babbler  
*Cyanoderma erythroptera bicolor*

Bold-striped Tit Babbler  
*Mixornis bornensis*

Brown Fulvetta  
*Alicipe bruneicauda*

Chestnut-crested Yuhina  
*Yuhina everetti*

PASSERIFORMES: Acanthizidae

Golden-bellied Gerygone  
*Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*

PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch  
*Sitta frontalis corallipes*

PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird  
*Chalcoparia singalensis*

Plain Sunbird  
*Anthreptes simplex*

Brown-throated Sunbird  
*Anthreptes malacensis*

Red-throated Sunbird  
*Anthreptes rhodolaema*

Purple-naped Sunbird  
*Hypogramma hypogrammicum*

Van Hasselt's Sunbird  
*Leptocoma brasilianna*

Olive-backed Sunbird  
*Cinnyris jugularis*

Crimson Sunbird  
*Aethopyga siparaja*

Temminck's Sunbird  
*Aethopyga temminckii*

Thick-billed Spiderhunter  
*Arachnothera crassirostris*

Spectacled Spiderhunter  
*Arachnothera flavigaster*

Little Spiderhunter  
*Arachnothera longirostra*

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter  
*Arachnothera chrysogenys*

Bornean Spiderhunter  
*Arachnothera everetti*

Whitehead's Spiderhunter  
*Arachnothera juliae*

PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker  
*Prionochilus maculatus maculatus*

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker  
*Prionochilus xanthopygius*  
heard only

Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker  
*Prionochilus thoracicus*

Brown-backed Flowerpecker  
*Dicaeum everetti*

Thick-billed Flowerpecker  
*Dicaeum [agile] modestum*

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker  
*Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum*

Black-sided Flowerpecker  
*Dicaeum monticolum*  
heard only

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker  
*Dicaeum cruentatum nigrimentum*

PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae

Black-capped White-eye  
*Zosterops atricapillus*

Pygmy White-eye  
*Oculocincta squamifrons*  
heard only

Mountain Black-eye  
*Chlorocharis emiliae*  
heard only

PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae

Black-and-crimson Oriole  
*Oriolus cruentus vulneratus*
**PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae**  
Asian Fairy Bluebird  
*Irena puella crinigera*

**PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae**  
Long-tailed Shrike  
*Lanius schach*

**PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae**  
Large Woodshrike  
*Tephrodornis gularis frenatus*  
Rufous-winged Philentoma  
*Philentoma pyrhopterum*  
Maroon-breasted Philentoma  
*Philentoma velatum*

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicruridae**  
Sunda [Ashy] Drongo  
*Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops*  
Bronzed Drongo  
*Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*  
Hair-crested Drongo  
*Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*  
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo  
*Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**  
White-breasted Woodswallow  
*Artamus leucorynchus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pityriaseidae**  
Bristlehead  
*Pityrias gymnocephala*  
*Pityrias gymnocephala e*

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**  
Crested Jay  
*Platylophus galericulatus coronatus*  
Bornean Black Magpie  
*Platysmurus aterrimus*  
Bornean Green Magpie  
*Cissa jefferyi*  
Bornean Treepie  
*Dendrocitta cinerascens*  
Slender-billed Crow  
*Corvus enca compilator*

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**  
Asian Glossy Starling  
*Aplonis panayensis*  
Common Hill Myna  
*Gracula religiosa*  
Javan Myna  
*Acridotheres javanicus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**  
Dusky Munia  
*Lonchura fuscans*  
Black-headed Munia  
*Lonchura atricapilla jagori*  
*Lonchura atricapilla jagori e*

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**  
Eurasian Tree Sparrow  
*Passer montanus malaccensis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae**  
Blyth's Shrike Babbler  
*Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni*  
Erpornis  
*Erpornis zantholeuca*

**MAMMALS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Common Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Treeshrew</td>
<td><em>Tupaia minor minor</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Large Treeshrew</td>
<td><em>Tupaia tana paitana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunda Colugo</td>
<td><em>Cynocephalus variegatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maroon Leaf Monkey</td>
<td><em>Presbytis rubicunda</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunda Silvered Leaf Monkey</td>
<td><em>Presbytis cristata</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Proboscis Monkey</td>
<td><em>Nasalis larvatus</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Long-tailed Macaque</td>
<td><em>Macaca fascicularis</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque</td>
<td><em>Macca nemestrina</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bornean Gibbon</td>
<td><em>Hylobates muelleri</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bornean Orang-utan</td>
<td><em>Pongo pygmaeus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale Giant Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Ratufa affinis</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prevost's Squirrel</td>
<td><em>Callosciurus prevostii pluto</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Plantain Squirrel          Callosciurus notatus
Bornean Black-banded Squirrel  Callosciurus orestes e
Jentink’s Squirrel          Sundasciurus jentinki e
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel  Dremomys everetti e
Plain Pygmy Squirrel         Exilisciurus exilis e
Whitehead’s Pygmy Squirrel   Exilisciurus whiteheadi e
Thomas’s Flying Squirrel     Aeromys thomasi e
Red Giant Flying Squirrel    Petaurista petaurista
Yellow-throated Martin       Martes flavigula saba
Malay Civet                  Viverra tangalunga
Common Palm Civet            Paradoxurus hermaphroditus
Banded Palm Civet            Hemigalus derbyanus
Asian [Pygmy] Elephant       Elephas maximus borneensis e
Bearded Pig                  Sus barbatus
Lesser Mouse-Deer             Tragulus kanchil
Sambar Deer                  Cervus unicolor

284 species recorded including 51 endemics and 13 heard only

**Bird-of-the-tour**

1  Blue-headed Pitta
2  Bornean Ground Cuckoo
3  Whitehead’s Broadbill
4  Whitehead’s Trogon
5  Giant Pitta

_Sunset over Cocker Range_ © James Eaton /Birdtour Asia

For information regarding our tours to Borneo please click [here](#). Alternatively please contact us via [e-mail](#) or phone +44 1332 516254.