Sabah, Borneo

11th – 28th November 2013

Leader: James Eaton and Mark Villa

Participants: David Cohen, Susanne Cohen, James Graham and Susan Graham

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. This tour was a little longer than usual, to incorporate additional time in the lowlands and thus maximise the chances of more species, higher chance of certain endemics and a broader range of habitats. The focal point of Sabah, Mount Kinabalu didn’t disappoint – 4 Whitehead’s Trogon, several Whitehead’s Spiderhunters, Everett’s Thrush, displaying Bare-headed Laughingthrushes and an ever-so friendly Friendly Bush Warbler being the highlights before we descended to the steamy, and rather wet lowlands due to typhoon Haiyan brushing the edges of Sabah. Following a broad range of sundaic species at Sepilok, and hunting Bat Hawks at Gomantong Caves, the Kinabatangan River was superb – hornbills, Bristleheads and a last-gasp Bornean Ground Cuckoo. We finished at the centrepiece of any trip to Sabah, the Borneo Rainforest Lodge within the Danum Valley Conservation Area for all four endemic pittas, and a whole range of forest-dwelling endemics. Add to that a final mornings birding in peatswamp forest for the highly localised Hook-billed Bulbul and Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker and it had the makings of a fantastic, and thoroughly enjoyable tour. It is impossible to ignore the mammals of course which included superlative views of mother and baby Bornean Orang-utan, unusually docile Bornean Gibbons, boisterous Proboscis Monkeys, a whole
range of squirrels and two rare mammals seen wonderfully – a group of Oriental Small-clawed Otter and two young Binturong.

Arriving in the afternoon after a long journey from the east midlands we were eager to get out, stretch the legs and breathe in that tropical air so we headed to Tanjung Aru park near the capital Kota Kinabalu. Nice and easy birding in a pleasant setting resulted in several lifers despite it being dusk already – after a few introduced Blue-naped Parrots making a racket we found some Long-tailed Parakeets feeding quietly in a corner along with a pair of Pied Triller, several White-breasted Woodswallow, Dollarbird peered down from their lofty positions and a pair of Oriental Pied Hornbill hopped around the tree-tops. Our first morning was also spent in and around Kota Kinabalu. First, we headed off at dawn to Manukan island, just offshore from the city for three, select species. Within thirty minutes of being on the island we had them under the belt, a rustle in the leaf-litter had us peering through the undergrowth at our first of two pairs of Tabon Scrubfowl, though while watching them our attentions turned to the sweet song of a Mangrove Blue Flycatcher – a regular feature of our early morning walk and then just minutes later we had a stationary Mangrove Whistler belting out his melodic notes. As is usual on these small offshore islands, birdlife was sparse with just a small number of other species encountered. Olive-winged and Yellow-vented Bulbuls were noted, though not admired!

Wader-watching at this time of year can be rewarding, especially for those of us used to Western Palearctic birds so a couple of hours scanning the exposed mud on the out-going tide was enjoyed with several unfamiliar waders mixed in with the more familiar species reminding us of home. Grey-tailed Tattler, Greater and Lesser Sandpipers, and a fine pair of Malaysian Plovers eventually located, along with the highly sought-after, regal Chinese Egret though the rarest bird of the region was a vagrant Common Ringed Plover!

Pale-faced Bulbul and Everett’s Thrush, Mount Kinabalu

As fun as the morning had been, we were getting itchy for some endemics so we headed to the hills, and to a road that slices through the Crocker Range at over 1000m. It was quite an afternoon with the endemics coming thick-and-fast soon after our arrival; scope views of both Bornean and Mountain Barbets chonking away, Temminck’s Sunbird, a tiny gem of a bird was encountered for the first time, as was Black-sided Flowerpecker, Bornean Treepie, Bornean Spiderhunters, Bornean Whistler, Sunda and Rufous-hooded Laughingthrushes, Cinereous Bulbuls, Sunda Cuckooshrikes, Brown Barbet, Orange-backed Woodpecker, surprisingly numerous Bornean Leafbird though a pair of Fruit-hunter were frustratingly brief while at dusk several Hair-crested Dronto came out of the woods, sallying high for emerging termites along with the Ashy Drongos. It was a good afternoon, getting familiar with so many new birds in such a short space of time was a good reason to return, early, the following morning!

The Crocker range is quite an extensive mountain range extending west into Sarawak and culminating in the east to the beacon of south-east Asia, Mount Kinabalu, which stands at a mighty 4095m. Before heading across to that endemic-rich mountain we returned to the Rafflesia Reserve in the morning, kicking off from where we left off the previous evening. We concentrated on different areas this time as we had more-or-less mopped up on the frugivores already. A prominent dawn-caller, Temminck’s Babbler was surprisingly co-operative and rather than skulking about actually revealed itself on a couple of occasions, typically nestled among a roving group of Grey-throated Babbler. Our first endemic popped up, a noisy, quick-moving flock of Chestnut-crested Yuhina while further up the road we found what we assumed was a disused old Long-tailed Broadbill nest only for 5 minutes later a pair of broadbills, looking for all the world like they were wearing crash helmets, came hurtling in, flicking their electric blue tails up-and-down, obviously not keen on our presence. Conforming with our visit here thus far, no sooner had we been enjoying scope views of the broadbill then the next target appeared, this time a pair of Bornean Bulbuls. With a notable omission we headed to a different area and during our second (or third?!?) field coffee James’s constant attention to some canopy flowers paid off as not one, but two Whitehead’s Spiderhunters suddenly appearing and over the next
hour there were often up to five present, certainly quite a sight of one of the more highly desired of the islands endemics. While enjoying these we were also waiting for the mid-morning raptor-rush though smaller passerines kept getting in our way – a flock of Pygmy White-eye kept returning to the same flowering tree, mixed in with Black-capped White-eye and a vagrant Zappey’s Flycatcher – possibly a first confirmed for Borneo of this recent split from the much more numerous Black-and-white Flycatcher. Long-tailed Broadbills, Bornean Spiderhunters, more bulbuls and barbets also revealed themselves before, right on cue, raptors started to appear. First up, predictably, was a Blyth’s Hawk Eagle and five minutes later the long whining call alerted us to look directly above as a pair of Mountain Serpent Eagles, one of the islands more difficult endemics, rose up circling and displaying above us. It was now hot, and we were starting to wilt, the perfect time to drive across to Mount Kinabalu and recharge the batteries.

Mount Kinabalu is a UNESCO site and the highest peak between the Himalaya and New Guinea. Biologically it is difficult to rival this immense massif, supporting over 5000 species of plant, 800 orchids and over 100 mammals, but more importantly to us, it hosts nearly all of Borneo’s montane endemics. After a scenic and enjoyable lunch we decided to try our luck and hit the trails, despite it looking a rather gloomy afternoon. Birding can be funny sometimes, a bird that can take 3 days to find on a previous tour, can be the very first bird you see on the next, and this is exactly what happened as we rounded the first bend in the trail to find a male Whitehead’s Trogon glowing beneath the trail! He, and his son hung around for 15 precious minutes at the trail side peering effortless over towards us every now and again in a way that only a trogon can do. Our ecstasy would be rather short lived as the heavens opened shortly afterwards but not before we had a Bornean Stubtail, the forgotten fourth Whitehead’s bobbed around in front of us, occasionally singing from the an open perch.

We had three full days to explore and enjoy the delights of the mountain. Determined to make the most of it, as the birding can be painfully slow and almost too many endemics to find here, we were in the perfect setting for our first dawn field breakfast as we were joined by one of the tougher endemics on the mountain in recent years, Bare-headed Laughingthrush. This unique bird lacks any crown feathering and performs an outrageous display, ballooning out their blue gular pouches while rocking back-and-forth on a branch, booming. Afterwards we headed back to the trails and finally heard what we were searching for, Everett’s Thrush, a bird once assumed to be extremely rare but since we recorded its song we have had an enviable recent record with this species, the closest relative to Sulawesi’s unique Geomalina. After much scanning and hearing it extremely close, eventually we located it, literally 2-3 metres away just sat motionless in the dark understorey where it remained for a good 10 minutes oblivious to our obvious excitement. Though the rest of the trail was quiet it’s quality not quantity here, and with some time left before lunch we birded an hour along the road, catching up with the Bare-headed Laughingthrushes from breakfast again but this time with several outrageously striking Bornean Green Magpies in tow. among the flock, largely made up of Sunda Laughingthrush, Susie became the envy of us all by obtaining a short, but excellent view of a male Fruit-hunter.

With the weather holding up we made an ascent of the summit trail in the afternoon. After just a couple of minutes the first target hopped into a view, Mountain Wren Babblers. This ultra-cute ball of feathers bobbed around our knee-caps for as long as we cared for, way too close for the bins on most occasions! Though it’s a hot, sweaty and quite gruelling walk up we were able to make a couple of stops for a high-altitude endemic, Mountain Black-eye, several of which were encountered before eventually, just when the lactic acid was building and our pace slowing the tell-tale high-pitched zit-zee-zee-zee-zee of Borneo’s highest, and most range-restricted endemic, Friendly Bush Warbler. Though it’s not very friendly in its choice of location once found it usually lives up to its name and it certainly did here, twice having prolonged views of it singing in full view for minutes on end, in between these bouts it was watched creeping mouse-like around us. Eventually
we were back downhill to enjoy a group of Checker-throated Woodpecker and a couple of curiously tame Bornean Whistling Thrush to end another fabulous day.

Back again on the mountain the next morning, we birded a short section of the road first. A large feeding flock contained more Black-eyes, Sunda and Rufous-hooded Laughingthrushes, Grey-chinned Minivets, Blyth’s Shrike Babblers, Temminck’s Sunbird, Aberrant Bush Warblers and Yellow-breasted Warblers. Once the flock had dispersed we finally located a couple of Golden-naped Barbet, the third and final endemic barbet. Choosing a different trail in the mid-morning we encountered a different pair of trogons almost immediately, in glorious sunshine and sitting around until we noticed the time on our watches to move on. The occasional feeding flock contained the usual bits and pieces plus a bonus Pygmy Blue Flycatcher, and finding a Bornean Green Magpie sat on nest by the trail. Further along we eventually found what we were looking for, a pair of Eye-browed Jungle Flycatchers which had been unusually elusive to this point.

Spending the afternoon walking along the quieter areas of the stream was not as productive as previous sessions but at the end we pulled out some goodies. First up was a White-browed Shortwing – a species that will soon gain more importance due to an impending taxonomic overhaul of this vocally-divergent ‘species’. After this we found a pair of Crimson-headed Partridge; the first bird shooting past was too fast for most, but we were well prepared for its partner, which eventually sauntered across the trail right on cue, perfect. On the walk back, as dusk was approaching we finally caught up with a Bornean Forktail, though not all of us had perched views, a moment of frustration as it was to be our only sighting of this usually conspicuous endemic.

As we had exceeded expectations thus far on the mountain we decided to spend a day in the steamy lowlands, encountering a whole new avifauna. Poring Hot Springs, a site with a very enviable list of rare and elusive species, though unfortunately it is usually better known as Boring Hot Springs as it can be deadly hot of us though this bird, Arctic Warbler, Chestnut-breasted Partridge, a difficult bird in Sabah perhaps a future ‘arm-chair tick’. A rather belated lunch was followed by a view of Rafflesia keithi at a nearby garden plot before our time was up and the weather closed in.

A final morning on the mountain was one chasing the remaining endemics. First served up was a pair of irate Pale-faced Bulbuls that after much coaxing eventually started displaying on the overhead wires just above us, vibrating their wings in agitation at the rather large intruders into their territory. Heading into the forest once more it was all quiet until we heard a bob-bob-bob-bob…, bob-bob’bob’bob of a Collared Owlet, and this was particularly exciting as this a rarely encountered species on the mountain, with the birds on Borneo and Sumatra sharing a unique vocalisation from elsewhere in its range – Sunda Owlet it shall be! With an hour left we made a final mad dash along a trail, finally hearing Red-breasted Partridges close by for the first time. Patience, patience and more patience despite the ticking clock was just reward for some of us as we noticed them just off the trail, scrambling around in desperation NOT to cross the trail until they realised they had to

Green Iora, Sepilok and White-crowned Hornbill, Kinabatangan

A final morning on the mountain was one chasing the remaining endemics. First served up was a pair of irate Pale-faced Bulbuls that after much coaxing eventually started displaying on the overhead wires just above us, vibrating their wings in agitation at the rather large intruders into their territory. Heading into the forest once more it was all quiet until we heard a bob-bob-bob-bob…, bob-bob’bob’bob of a Collared Owlet, and this was particularly exciting as this a rarely encountered species on the mountain, with the birds on Borneo and Sumatra sharing a unique vocalisation from elsewhere in its range – Sunda Owlet it shall be! With an hour left we made a final mad dash along a trail, finally hearing Red-breasted Partridges close by for the first time. Patience, patience and more patience despite the ticking clock was just reward for some of us as we noticed them just off the trail, scrambling around in desperation NOT to cross the trail until they realised they had to
make a bolt for it! Then, after some careful stalking we located four of them feeding quietly in the leaf-litter, scratch, scratch, look... scratch, scratch, look... even an Everett's Thrush appeared again between us and them.

A three tick morning was the perfect way to end proceedings on the mountain, so after one final wonderful lunch back at the accommodation we headed through the never-ending Oil Palm plantations, a reality check of the travesty that is happening throughout much of lowland Sundaland. En-route, a tiny forest patch held a small colony of Long-tailed Parakeet but even more exciting, the resident White-fronted Falconets were on show, at least 3 of them, and amusingly getting chased off several perches by either a Long-tailed Macaque or a Prevost’s Squirrel!

Our next destination, Sepilok, is a patch of secondary forest protected predominately as a refuge for Bornean Orang-utan, and in particular the release of orphaned individuals. As much as we wanted to see them, we opted to concentrate on the birds and leave the hairy things for later. We had a day and a morning on-site and we spent much of our time concentrating on canopy-dwellers from the ‘canopy walkway’, situated in the mid-storey but offering a superb view of the surrounding canopy and affording views of many birds that would be impossible from the comfort of terra-firma. Though the forests most well-known avian endemic, Bristlehead is found here, only some of us obtained unsatisfactory distant and brief views during the afternoon, keeping the pressure on for a later date. The occasional feeding flock passed through – Green Iora, Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Fiery Minivet, Lesser Green Leafbird, Lesser Cuckoo-shrike and Ashy Tailorbird contained a mixed bag of other species including one of the most charismatic Sundaic species, Black-and-yellow Broadbill, and also Rufous, Banded, Orange-backed, Buff-rumped and Grey-and-buff Woodpeckers. In between the occasional flock we enjoyed the variety of non-descript bulbul, in search of the streaks, cream-vent, red eye, puff back, buff vent, hairy back and spectacle of those 6 bulbuls! Hornbills would now be an ever-present for the rest of the tour, the emblem of the Asian lowland rainforests, and there is no better introduction than a pair of huge Rhinoceros Hornbills next to the tower shortly after dawn on our first morning. Black and Bushy-crested Hornbills were also encountered regularly in the area, Bornean Black Magpies appeared on our second morning from the canopy tower, Grey-rumped Treeswift, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Blue-eared Barbet, White-bellied Woodpecker, Grey-streaked and Narcissus Flycatchers, White-bellied Munia and a pair of clown-like Black-and-red Broadbills – who’s idea was it to stick a bright blue and yellow broad-bill on a black and red bird! Sunbirds buzzed around the flowers – Ruby-cheeked, Brown-throated, Olive-backed, Red-throated, Crimson, and the scarce Copper-throated were all found at some point, as were their larger cousins, the spiderhunters, represented by four species. Obviously being up in the canopy raptors are a given up in the blue skies – ernesti Peregrine, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Grey-headed Fish Eagle, Crested Serpent Eagle, Rufous-bellied Eagle and Changeable Hawk Eagle. In the evening we waited for the Red Giant Flying Squirrels to appear, which they did although it was a stunning Malaysian Colugo which stole the show.

It was then onto the mighty Kinabatangan River but first we had an important stop en-route, but even before that we had our usual quick stop with the regular pair of Bat Hawk sat in their regular nesting tree. Next stop 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. The swiftlets were in the process of building their nests so though we found loads of Black-nest, locating a swiftlet actually on a mossy-nest took some time but eventually we found a couple of Mossy-nest Swiftlets deep inside the cave, and also hundreds of Glossy Swiftlets just inside the cave entrance. As Edible-nest is identifiable in the field we were ok without finding a nest of these. Outside the cave we were in for a treat, such is the camouflage of a motionless Orang-utan we needed the aid of one of the locals to point out not 1, but 4 of them just 20 metres away, relaxing at eye-level before they realised they were being watched by us in our muted excitement, which led to the two mothers slowly clambering along the branches with their ‘four hands’, kids in

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker and Bornean Spiderhunter, Danum Valley
tow, one of which was so small it kept crying to the mother every time it was left behind. In response the mother would turn around, offer one of her elongated arms as a friendly branch for the youngster to tepidly make its way across – a real AHH moment.

Annoyingly, just as dusk was approaching both Barred Eagle Owl and Black-crowned Pitta were calling very close to us, however, the bats won and we raced over to the viewpoint just in time to witness millions of bats emerging, in long, weaving, starling-like flocks high in the sky before chaos descended on them in the form of no less than three Bat Hawks zooming in, a seriously scary predator if you’re a bat, with a silhouette like a Peregrine on steroids.

Three nights on the Kinabatangan River followed to enjoy primates, hornbills, raptors, storks, and hopefully Borneo’s finest endemic (in my rather biased opinion!), the Bornean Ground Cuckoo. We raced off the blocks on the first morning, wanting to make the most of our fabulous time here and we started out perfectly as 3 Storm’s Storks were the first birds we laid eyes on, lazing on top of their roosting tree as the mist was still evaporating up from the river – we would go on to hit double figures each day, quite a sight. Raptors regularly perched by the riverside, multiple Wallace’s Hawk Eagle, Crested Goshawk and Lesser Fish Eagles being enjoyed with a couple Grey-headed Fish Eagles mixed in and on one occasion, a pair of Jerdon’s Baza. As we veered into a quiet tributary on the first morning a Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo was perched on the overhead wire comparing nicely with the Moustached Hawk Cuckoo 15 minutes later. While enjoying the latter a barely audible, but nonetheless distinctive WOO HOO of a ground cuckoo could be heard a long, long way away. An hour passed and though it was still audible, it was just too distant and we had to uncharacteristically turn our backs on it. Orang-utans, Proboscis Monkey, White-chested Babbler, and a few other tit-bits before returning to the still calling cuckoo, which had finally come closer to the bank. Patience, patience and more patience is what is required to see this enigmatic terrestrial beast – though perhaps we were too patient as a run of events didn’t help, though not all of it bad – the crackles of thunder became louder and closer just as three of us latched onto bits of the cuckoo, characteristically perch just off the ground, tail pumping, then behind us the unmistakable cries of Bristlehead suddenly appeared! What a dilemma… we spun the boats around, only for the heavens to well, and truly open and for the next half an hour the heaviest of tropical rains pelted down on us. As it was already lunch time, we were tempted to cut our losses but James caught sight of the strawberry-headed bird still there, through the holes in his umbrella so we waited… eventually as the rain calmed down a little, up popped the Bristleheads onto open perches in an attempt to dry out those short bristles and soggy black feathers – now it was time to call it a morning!

In the late afternoon, after more rain everything was a bit of an anti-climax in comparison as we just sat back and enjoyed more of the commoner species – flocks of Blue-throated Bee-eater, a plethora of hornbills – loads of Oriental Pied and Black, a Rhinoceros, brief Wrinkled and a stunning, tame male White-crowned perching right next to us, calling away.

On the second day we started off with a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo uncharacteristically hopping around in full view, and a pair of Little Green Pigeons just above us. After that start the morning was a rather more relaxed affair with much the same as the previous morning, minus the sounds of the cuckoo but we picked up some new bulbuls and babblers and enjoyed some of the wildlife, including more Proboscis Monkey and a huge Saltwater Crocodile sat on the bank for 5 minutes before we nervously watched him slip into the murky water in front of us.

Back at the lodge for lunch the main event of the day was our attempt to noose a well-grown piglet to remove some plastic caught around its snout – we enticed the 7, wild Bearded Pigs close in with watermelon and left-overs, luring them in with a false sense of security, though despite the torrential rain, leaving James absolutely drenched, we failed despite several very close attempts, though at one point the resident Water Monitor got caught up in the noose!
The afternoon was a very wet and dark one with very few noteworthy moments - another Chestnut-winged Cuckoo was perhaps the highlight. In a brief dry moment we heard the alarm call of a ground cuckoo close by but being on the main river makes for difficult viewing and by the time we found a perfect position, down came the rains and off went both the bird and us!

We went out on two post-dinner night cruises during our stay picking up several riverside Buffy Fish Owls – how they are able to catch frogs and fish in the murky, fast running waters in the pitch black is one of nature’s wonders. A Brown Wood Owl was also seen on our first trip. Roosting diurnal birds included 3 ultra-cute Black-and-red Broadbills cuddled up together, Stork-billed and Blue-eared Kingfishers. Mammals were thin on the ground with just a Malay Civet, falling asleep in the spotlight noteworthy.

So, we had one final mornings short boat trip out – a male Wrinkled Hornbill perched up by the lodge was a good start, followed by a perched pair, and two Asian Drongo Cuckoos. Choosing a different tributary this time we enjoyed the usual variety of hornbills and other riverine birds once more though with time pressing, we had to leave by 10.30, things were looking rather ominous with the ground cuckoo – one last check at an old reliable site just before 10.00 revealed no response so we moved on before turning round just to double check – incredibly one was calling, and not too far away either. Fortunately we were able to drift down a tiny side-stream, the recent rains swelling the stream just enough for us to paddle down and find a nice spot to view in front of us. The bird was calling not more than 50 metres away now, and then all went silent... KEE-uu, the alarm call of the cuckoo penetrated our ear-drums it was so close, we all looked left and there was the boy, running up a diagonal branch from the ground to perch just 10 metres from us, tail-pumping, looking left and-right, peering across at us in a blood-rushing minutes worth of viewing of one of Borneo’s most treasured endemics and James’s favourite bird was now firmly under the belt and in the bag!

It was now time to say good-bye to the river, and hello to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, set in the heart of the huge, one million hectare logging concession and on the edge of the famed Danum Valley Conservation Area. The drive, through the forest is a spectacular one, especially when it also includes 3 Helmeted Hornbills and a flock of 21 Rhinoceros Hornbills!

**Hook-billed Bulbul, Kota Kinabalu and Bornean Ground Babbler, Danum Valley**

We had five nights at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, with plenty to search and seek, particularly all the endemic pittas and other lowland endemics. We were blessed with fine weather and great bird activity throughout our stay, and as a result virtually cleaned-up on all the available species here. Our first day was the finest James has ever spent in the Bornean lowlands, the sheer number and diversity of birds was, at times, overwhelming.

We started along the road, a White-crowned Forktail was taking a bath in a small pool before a pair of rather scraggy-looking ‘Bornean’ Firebacks waltzed across the road completely oblivious to our presence, our first Black-capped Babbler was found quietly walking along the forest floor though a vocal Straw-headed Bulbul remained tantalising out of view. Further up the road a flowering tree was full of Pygmy White-eyes, 49 in all, and a nearby umbrosa brown flycatcher, a little endemic taxon that occurs in both Borneo and part of west Malaysia which is currently subsumed within Brown-streaked Flycatcher but will probably become a species in its own right. After a pair of frisky Rufous-winged Philentoma our attentions turned to another target mournfully calling from the dark under storey and after several patient minutes Susanne picked up the singing Black-throated Wren Babbler which perched just above head-height for several minutes. We were then dragged back off the road and onto the trail by a calling Black-crowned Pitta, our first endemic pitta which was found with ease as it continually perched up in full view, the glowing crimson belly and electric blue ‘horns’ cutting through the dense, dark foliage. A Blue-headed Pitta then called, one of several during the day but this time remained out of view. A small feeding flock passed through, containing our first Dark-throated Orioles and another Chestnut-breasted Malkoha.
Back out in the afternoon and our very first bird was a huge surprise, a Bornean Banded Pitta, a bird of the hill-forest and only normally found in the more distant areas of the lodges surroundings called right next to the lodge, hardly believing what we heard, we raced over to the sound and found the male actually sat on the boardwalk railing, big Feeding flocks were the most notable white bellied, Asian Brown and Dark-capped being numerous on most days, Grey-headed Whiskered Tit Babblers in the roadside scrub though Ferruginous was not seen well until the last day. The ground-dwelling skulkers - Horsfield's, Short-tailed and Black-capped being seen a couple of times each.

Raptors were thin on the ground (or in the air!), though a perched Besra perfectly concealed in the dark mid-canopy was most welcome. Wallace's and Changeable Hawk Eagles, resident torquatus 'Sunda' Honey-Buzzard and finally, on the last morning the unmistakable, long-fingered silhouette of a pair of Black Eaglescircling high over the road.

The famed night-drives from the lodge seem to have produced less and less over the past couple of years and unfortunately that trend continued with us obtaining plenty of sightings of both Red Giant, and endemic Thomas's Flying Squirrels but little else, other than the usual Malay Civet and roosting Crested Serpent Eagle and Yellow-bellied Prinia. The increased vehicle usage on the road no doubt playing a part.

Other notables during our stay were plenty, and varied. A roosting family of Brown Wood Owl along a quiet stream on one day, the same morning as a pair of Chestnut-naped Forktail for half of us was replaced by a group of rarely-encountered Oriental Short-clawed Otter on another; though it was a shame that a brief Flat-headed Cat was visible only to James for a brief moment. In the deep, dark tangles a Short-toed Coucal finally broke cover, though for little more than a few seconds before melting back away, after we had been waiting for over half an hour, listening to his sombre notes. Fruiting trees were scarce, though we still managed to pin down repeated views of both Gold-whiskered and Red-throated Barbets, Finsch’s Bulbul twice, and all the usual Sundaic species were found such as Lesser and Greater Green Leafbirds, Silver-rumped Spinetails, and ultra-cute Whiskered Treecreeper. The dining balcony, especially during the post-lunch thunderstorms. Other mammals during our stay including Maroon Langur and a lazy family of Bornean Gibbon scratching and preening each other in the heat of the day while peering over towards us every now and again. One of our final endemics, and increasingly difficult to find, was Bornean Ground Babbler. Renowned for its skulking habitats and brief, jigsaw views we were all, including James, blown-away by this particular pair, feeding and calling right in the middle of the trail, and then at the trail-side for 15 minutes before we all decided to leave by mutual consent, a thrilling occasion. Moments like this make it difficult to tear yourself away from this treasured area, and despite us doing exceedingly well, left us wanting to return again.

With one final morning remaining we bided not far from Kota Kinabalu at a small, remaining pocket of drained, peatswamp forest. It was quiet for the most part but we did get several new species, including our 8th species of barbet of the tour, Red-crowned, the only place it’s possible on the itinerary. Our main focus for visiting this unique habitat is surprising a bulbul, and not a particularly bright one either, though Hook-billed Bulbul is a scarce bird and a real peat-swamp specialist. It took some time but by mid-morning we eventually heard its diagnostic call and found one following a pair of Chestnut-winged Babblers, which they so often do. A female Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker completed the trio of important birds at the site so everything else was just a bonus. In keeping with the previous two weeks, we excelled ourselves and ended up with a
surprise bird nicking the bird-of-the-day prize. Just when we thought it was too late a roosting Barred Eagle Owl located by Mark was shooed away by Greater Racket- before the rest of us saw it, he went and found another one! This second bird just sat and stared straight across at us, his big black beady eyes underneath huge, old-man’s eyebrows. A huge Reticulated Python was also found lying right next to the boardwalk, waiting for its prey to cross the deadly trail.

With just a couple of hours at our disposal in the afternoon we took to the paddies for some casual birding that wouldn’t ruin the flight clothes or shoes (or make-up!). Though few birds were new, it was very pleasant birding – over 100 Black-winged Stilts, flocks of Whiskered and White-winged Black Terns, Striated Grassbird, Yellow Bittern, Sunda Woodpecker, and a surprisingly co-operative Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler made for a fine finale, and just as the sun began to drop it was time to head to the airport and look back on a fabulous 18 days in the wilds of Borneo.

Bornean Orang-utan, Gomantong Caves © James Eaton / Birdtour Asia

The tour finished with an impressive total of 343 species of which just 9 were heard only. Amongst them were 45 endemics and numerous other specials that made this tour so memorable.

More photos from the tour:

Bornean Green Magpie and Sunda Laughingthrush, Mount Kinabalu
Eye-browed Jungle Flycatcher and Mountain Black-eye, Mount Kinabalu (top) 
Mountain Wren Babbler, Mount Kinabalu and Hill Blue Flycatcher, Poring (middle) 
Buff-necked Woodpecker and Buff-rumped Woodpecker, Sepilok (bottom)
Blue-eared Kingfisher and Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo, Kinabatangan (top)
Black Hornbill and Storm’s Stork, Kinabatangan (middle)
Bearded Pig and Malay Civet, Kinabatangan (bottom)
Crested Goshawk, Kinabatangan and Whiskered Treeswift, Danum Valley (top)
Bornean Blue Flycatcher and Rufous-chested Flycatcher, Danum Valley (middle)
Binturong and Bornean Gibbon, Danum Valley (bottom)
Spotted Fantail and Rufous-winged Philentoma, Danum Valley (top)
Brown Wood Owl, Danum Valley and Barred Eagle Owl, Kota Kinabalu (bottom)

**Bird-of-the-tour**

1. Bornean Ground Cuckoo
2. Blue-banded Pitta
3. Black-crowned Pitta
4. Bornean Ground Babbler
5. Black-and-yellow Broadbill

**Systematic List**

**PELECANIFORMES: Anhingidae**

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

**CICONIIFORMES: Ardeidae**

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*
Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*
Eastern Great Egret *Casmerodius modestus*
Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia intermedia*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Chinese Egret
Pacific Reef Heron
Javan Pond Heron
Eastern Cattle Egret
Striated Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
Yellow Bittern

**CICONIIFORMES: Ciconiidae**

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*

**FALCONIFORMES: Pandionidae**

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus haliaetus*

**FALCONIFORMES: Accipitridae**

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni*
Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus torquatus*
Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus alcinus*
Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indus*
White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*
Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*
Grey-headed Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus*
Mountain Serpent Eagle *Spilornis kinabaluensis*
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*
Crested Goshawk *Tachyspiza trivirgatus*
Besra *Tachyspiza virgatus*
Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*
Rufous-bellied Eagle *Aquila kienerii*
Changeable Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus limnaetus*
Blyth's Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus alboniger*
Wallace's Hawk Eagle *Nisaetus nanus*

**FALCONIFORMES: Falconidae**

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons*
Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus calidus*
*Falco peregrinus ernesti*

**GALLIFORMES: Phasianidae**

Great Argus *Argusianus argus*
Red-breasted Partridge *Arborophila hypertyra*
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii*
Crimson-headed Partridge *Haematortyx sanguiniceps*
Bornean [Crested] Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis*

**MEGAPODIDAE: Megapodes**

Tabon Scrubfowl *Megapodius cumingii*

**GRUIFORMES: Rallidae**

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Recurvirostridae**

Black-winged Stilt *Himantopus himantopus*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Charadriidae**

Pacific Golden Plover *Pluvialis fulva*
Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
Lesser Sandplover *Charadrius mongolus atrifrons*
Greater Sandplover *Charadrius leschenaultii*
Kentish Plover *Charadrius alexandrinus*
Malaysian Plover *Charadrius peronii*
Common Ringed Plover *Charadrius hiaticula*
Little Ringed Plover *Charadrius dubius*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Scolopacidae**

Common Snipe *Gallinago gallinago*
Marsh Sandpiper *Tringa stagnatilis*
Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*
Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*
Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus*
Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*
Grey-tailed Tattler *Heteroscelus brevipes*
Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*
Red-necked Stint *Ereunetes ruficollis*

**CHARADRIIFORMES: Sternidae**

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*
Little Tern *Sternula albifrons sinensis*
Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybridus*
White-winged Black Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus*

**COLUMBIFORMES: Columbidae**

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis*
Little Cuckoo Dove *Macropygia ruficeps nana*
Asian Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica indica*
Peaceful Dove *Geopelia striata*
Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax*
Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*
Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*
Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia* heard only

**PSITTACIFORMES: Psittacidae**

Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*
Blue-naped Parrot *Tanygnathus lucionensis* (introduced)
Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*

**CUCULIFORMES: Cuculidae**

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus*
Bock's Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus bocki* heard only
Moustached Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus vagans*
Malaysian Hawk Cuckoo *Cuculus fugax*
Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* heard only
Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis* heard only
Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
Asian Drongo Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris brachyrurus*
Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea malayana*
Raffles's Malkoha *Rhinothera sinensis butilus*
Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*
Cheestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
Bornean Ground Cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiatus*
Short-toed Coucal *Centropus rectunguis*
Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis butilus*
Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis javanicus*
Barred Eagle Owl
Bubo sumatranus

Buffy Fish Owl
Bubo ketupu

Brown Wood Owl
Strix leptogrammica leptogrammica

Brown Boobook
Ninox scutulata borneensis

Sunda' Collared Owlet
Glaucidium [brodiei] borneense

**APODIFORMES: Apodidae**

Giant Swiftlet
Hydrochous gigas

Glossy Swiftlet
Collocalia [esculenta] cyanoptila

Bornean Swiftlet
Collocalia dodgei

Mossy-nest Swiftlet
Aerodramus salangana natunae

Black-nest Swiftlet
Aerodramus maximus lowi

Edible-nest Swiftlet
Aerodramus fuciphagus vestita

Germain's Swiftlet
Aerodramus germani

Silver-rumped Spinetail
Rhiphidura leucopygialis

Brown-backed Needletail
Hirundapus giganteus

Asian Palm Swift
Cypsiurus balasiensis

Pacific Swift
Apus pacificus pacificus

House Swift
Apus [affinis] nipalensis

**APODIFORMES: Hemiprocnidae**

Grey-rumped Treeswift
Hemiprocne longipennis harterti

Whiskered Treeswift
Hemiprocne 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

**CORACIIFORMES: Alcedinidae**

Common Kingfisher
Alcedo atthis bengalensis

Blue-eared Kingfisher
Alcedo meninting verreauxii

Blue-banded Kingfisher
Alcedo euryzona peninsulae

Rufous-backed Kingfisher
Ceyx rufidorsa motleyi

Banded Kingfisher
Lacedo pulchella melanops

Stork-billed Kingfisher
Pelargopsis capensis inominata

Collared Kingfisher
Todirhamphus chloris laubmannianus

Rufous-collared Kingfisher
Actenoides concretus borneanus

**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

Wreathed Hornbill
Rhyticeros undulatus

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

**PICIFORMES: Picidae**

Rufous Piculet  
*Sasia abnormis*  
Sunda Woodpecker  
*Dendrocopos moluccensis*  
Rufous Woodpecker  
*Celeus brachyurus badiosus*  
White-bellied Woodpecker  
*Dryocopus javensis javensis*  
Banded Woodpecker  
*Picus mineaceus malaccensis*  
Crimson-winged Woodpecker  
*Picus puniceus observandus*  
Checker-throated Woodpecker  
*Picus mentalis humii*  
Maroon Woodpecker  
*Blythicmus 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*

**PASSERIFORMES: Eurylaimidae**

Dusky Broadbill  
*Corydon sumatranus*  
Black-and-red Broadbill  
*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*  
Banded Broadbill  
*Eurylaimus javanicus*  
Black-and-yellow Broadbill  
*Eurylaimus ochromalus*  
Long-tailed Broadbill  
*Psarisomus dalhousiae*  
Green Broadbill  
*Calyptomena viridis*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pittidae**

Bornean Banded Pitta  
*Hydrornis schwaneri*  
Blue-headed Pitta  
*Hydrornis baudii*  
Hooded Pitta  
*Erythropitta sordida mulleri*  
Blue-banded Pitta  
*Erythropitta arquata*  
Black-crowned Pitta  
*Erythropitta ussherii*

**PASSERIFORMES: Hirundinidae**

Barn Swallow  
*Hirundo rustica gutturalis*  
Pacific Swallow  
*Hirundo tahitica*

**PASSERIFORMES: Motacillidae**

Eastern Yellow Wagtail  
*Motacilla tschutschensis simillima*  
Grey Wagtail  
*Motacilla cinerea cinerea*  
Paddyfield Pipit  
*Anthus rufulus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Campephagidae**

Sunda Cuckoo-shrike  
*Coracina larvata normani*  
Lesser Cuckoo-shrike  
*Coracina fimbriata schierbrandii*  
Pied Triller  
*Lalage nigra nigra*  
Fiery Minivet  
*Pericrocotus igneus igneus*  
Scarlet Minivet  
*Pericrocotus speciosus insulanus*  
Grey-chinned Minivet  
*Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula*  
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike  
*Hemipus picatus intermedius*  
Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike  
*Hemipus hirundinaceus*

**PASSERIFORMES: Pycnonotidae**

Straw-headed Bulbul  
*Pycnonotus zeylanicus*  
Heard only
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bornean Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus montis</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Puff-backed Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus eutilotus</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pale-faced Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus [flavescens] leucops</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-vented Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus goiavier gourndini</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olive-winged Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus plumosus plumosus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cream-vented Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus simplex perplexus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red-eyed Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus brunneus bruneus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spectacled Bulbul</td>
<td>Pycnonotus erythropthalmos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finsch's Bulbul</td>
<td>Alophoixus finschii</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ochraceous Bulbul</td>
<td>Alophoixus ochraceus ruficrissus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-cheeked Bulbul</td>
<td>Alophoixus bres gutturalis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Bulbul</td>
<td>Alophoixus phaeocephalus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hook-billed Bulbul</td>
<td>Setornis criniger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hairy-backed Bulbul</td>
<td>Tricholestes criniger</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buff-vented Bulbul</td>
<td>Iole olivacea charlottae</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Streaked Bulbul</td>
<td>Ixos malaccensis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cinereous Bulbul</td>
<td>Hemixos cinereus connectens</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Chloropseidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Greater Green Leafbird</td>
<td>Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Green Leafbird</td>
<td>Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bornean Leafbird</td>
<td>Chloropsis kinabaluensis</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Aegithinidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Common Iora</td>
<td>Aegithina tipha aequanimis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Iora</td>
<td>Aegithina viridissima</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Turdidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bornean Whistling Thrush</td>
<td>Myophonus borneensis</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chestnut-capped Thrush</td>
<td>Zoothera interpres</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everett’s Thrush</td>
<td>Zoothera everetti</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit-hunter</td>
<td>Chlamydochaera jefferyi</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Cisticolidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Prinia</td>
<td>Prinia flaviventris latrunculus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Sylviidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bornean Stubtail</td>
<td>Urosphena whitehead</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aberrant Bush Warbler</td>
<td>Horornis flavilivacea orephila</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendly Bush Warbler</td>
<td>Locustella accentor</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pallas’s Grasshopper Warbler</td>
<td>Locustella certhiola</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Reed Warbler</td>
<td>Acrocephalus orientalis</td>
<td>heard only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Tailorbird</td>
<td>Phyllergates cuclatus cinereicollis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark-necked Tailorbird</td>
<td>Orthotomus atrogularis atrogularis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rufous-tailed Tailorbird</td>
<td>Orthotomus sericeus sericeus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashy Tailorbird</td>
<td>Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arctic Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus borealis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mountain Leaf Warbler</td>
<td>Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-breasted Warbler</td>
<td>Seicercus montis floris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow-bellied Warbler</td>
<td>Abroscopus superciliaris schwaneri</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Striated Grassbird</td>
<td>Megalurus palustris</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PASSERIFORMES: Muscicapidae**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common Name</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
<th>Subspecies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Grey-chested Jungle Flycatcher</td>
<td>Rhinomyias umbratilis</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eye-browed Jungle Flycatcher</td>
<td>Rhinomyias gularis</td>
<td>e</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grey-streaked Flycatcher</td>
<td>Muscica griseisticta</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dark-sided Flycatcher</td>
<td>Muscica sibirica</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Brown Flycatcher</td>
<td>Muscica daurica daurica</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brown-streaked Flycatcher</td>
<td>Muscica [williamsoni] umbrosa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ferruginous Flycatcher  
Narcissus Flycatcher  
Mugimaki Flycatcher  
Snowy-browed Flycatcher  
Rufous-chested Flycatcher  
Little Pied Flycatcher  
Blue-and-white Flycatcher  
Zappey’s Flycatcher  
Verditer Flycatcher  
Indigo Flycatcher  
White-tailed Blue Flycatcher  
Hill Blue Flycatcher  
Large-billed Blue Flycatcher  
Malaysian Blue Flycatcher  
Bornean Blue Flycatcher  
Mangrove Blue Flycatcher  
Pygmy Blue Flycatcher  
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher  
Oriental Magpie Robin  
White-crowned Shama  
Rufous-tailed Shama  
Chestnut-naped Forktail  
Bornean Forktail  
White-browed Shortwing  
Siberian Blue Robin  

**PASSERIFORMES: Rhipiduridae**

White-throated Fantail  
Pied Fantail  
Spotted Fantail  

**PASSERIFORMES: Monarchidae**

Black-naped Monarch  
Asian Paradise Flycatcher  

**PASSERIFORMES: Pachycephalidae**

Bornean Whistler  
Mangrove Whistler  

**PASSERIFORMES: Timaliidae**

Sunda Laughingthrush  
Bare-headed Laughingthrush  
Rufous-hooded Laughingthrush  
White-chested Babbler  
Ferruginous Babbler  
Abbott’s Babbler  
Horsfield’s Babbler  
Short-tailed Babbler  
Temminck’s Babbler  
Black-capped Babbler  
Moustached Babbler  
Sooty-capped Babbler  
Scaly-crowned Babbler  
Rufous-crowned Babbler  
Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler  
Bornean Ground Babbler  
Striped Wren Babbler  
Black-throated Wren Babbler  
Eye-browed Wren Babbler
Mountain Wren Babbler \textit{Napothera crassa} e
Rufous-fronted Babbler \textit{Stachyridopsis rufifrons sarawacensis}
Grey-throated Babbler \textit{Stachyris nigriceps borneensis}
Grey-headed Babbler \textit{Stachyris poliocephala}
Chestnut-rumped Babbler \textit{Stachyris maculata maculata}
Chestnut-winged Babbler \textit{Stachyris erythroptera bicolour}
Bold-striped Tit Babbler \textit{Macronous bornensis}
Fluffy-backed Tit Babbler \textit{Macronous ptilosus reclusus}
Brown Fulvetta \textit{Alcippe brunneicauda}
Chestnut-crested Yuhina \textit{Yuhina everetti} e

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Acanthizidae}
Golden-bellied Gerygone \textit{Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea} heard only

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Sittidae}
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch \textit{Sitta frontalis corallipes}

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Nectariniidae}
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird \textit{Chalcoparia singalensis}
Plain Sunbird \textit{Anthreptes simplex}
Brown-throated Sunbird \textit{Anthreptes malacensis}
Red-throated Sunbird \textit{Anthreptes rhodolaema}
Purple-naped Sunbird \textit{Hypogramma hypogrammicum}
Copper-throated Sunbird \textit{Leptocoma calcostetha}
Olive-backed Sunbird \textit{Cinnyris jugularis}
Crimson Sunbird \textit{Aethopyga siparaja}
Temminck's Sunbird \textit{Aethopyga temminckii}
Thick-billed Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera crassirostris}
Spectacled Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera flavigaster}
Long-billed Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera robusta}
Little Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera longirostra}
Yellow-eared Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera chrysogenys}
Bornean Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera everetti} e
Whitehead's Spiderhunter \textit{Arachnothera juliae} e

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Dicaeidae}
Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker \textit{Prionochilus maculatus maculatus}
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker \textit{Prionochilus xanthopygius} e
Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker \textit{Prionochilus thoracicus}
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker \textit{Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum}
Black-sided Flowerpecker \textit{Dicaeum monticolum} e
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker \textit{Dicaeum cruentatum nigrimentum}

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Zosteropidae}
Black-capped White-eye \textit{Zosterops atricapillus}
Everett's White-eye \textit{Zosterops everetti}
Pygmy White-eye \textit{Oculocincta squamifrons} e
Mountain Black-eye \textit{Chlorocharis emiliae} e

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Oriolidae}
Dark-throated Oriole \textit{Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus}
Black-and-crimson Oriole \textit{Oriolus cruentus vulneratus}

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Irenidae}
Asian Fairy Bluebird \textit{Irena puella crinigera}

\textbf{PASSERIFORMES: Laniidae}
Brown Shrike \textit{Lanius cristatus}
Long-tailed Shrike \hspace{1cm} \textit{Lanius schach}

**PASSERIFORMES: Prionopidae**
- Rufous-winged Philentoma \hspace{1cm} \textit{Philentoma pyrhopterum}
- Maroon-breasted Philentoma \hspace{1cm} \textit{Philentoma velatum}

**PASSERIFORMES: Dicuridae**
- Sunda [Ashy] Drongo \hspace{1cm} \textit{Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops}
- Bronzed Drongo \hspace{1cm} \textit{Dicrurus aeneus malayensis}
- Hair-crested Drongo \hspace{1cm} \textit{Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis}
- Greater Racket-tailed Drongo \hspace{1cm} \textit{Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus}

**PASSERIFORMES: Artamidae**
- White-breasted Woodswallow \hspace{1cm} \textit{Artamus leucorynchus}

**PASSERIFORMES: Pityriaseidae**
- Bristlehead \hspace{1cm} \textit{Pityriasis gymnocephala}

**PASSERIFORMES: Corvidae**
- Bornean Black Magpie \hspace{1cm} \textit{Platysmurus aterrimus}
- Bornean Green Magpie \hspace{1cm} \textit{Cissa jefferyi}
- Bornean Treepie \hspace{1cm} \textit{Dendrocitta cinerascens}
- Slender-billed Crow \hspace{1cm} \textit{Corvus enca compilator}

**PASSERIFORMES: Sturnidae**
- Asian Glossy Starling \hspace{1cm} \textit{Aplonis panayensis}
- Common Hill Myna \hspace{1cm} \textit{Gracula religiosa}
- Crested Myna \hspace{1cm} \textit{Acridotheres cristatellus} (introduced)
- Javan Myna \hspace{1cm} \textit{Acridotheres javanicus} (introduced)

**PASSERIFORMES: Estrildidae**
- Dusky Munia \hspace{1cm} \textit{Lonchura fuscans}
- White-bellied Munia \hspace{1cm} \textit{Lonchura leucogastra smythiesi}
- Black-headed Munia \hspace{1cm} \textit{Lonchura atricapilla jagori}

**PASSERIFORMES: Passeridae**
- Eurasian Tree Sparrow \hspace{1cm} \textit{Passer montanus malaccensis}

**PASSERIFORMES: Vireonidae**
- Blyth’s Shrike Babbler \hspace{1cm} \textit{Pteruthius aeralatus robinsoni}
- Erpornis \hspace{1cm} \textit{Erpornis zantholeuca}

**MAMMALS**
- Lesser Gymnure \hspace{1cm} \textit{Hylomys suillus}
- Mountain Treeshrew \hspace{1cm} \textit{Tupaia montana baluensis}
- Lesser Treeshrew \hspace{1cm} \textit{Tupaia minor minor}
- Sunda Colugo \hspace{1cm} \textit{Cynocephalus variegatus}
- Maroon Langur \hspace{1cm} \textit{Presbytis rubicunda}
- Sunda Silvered Langur \hspace{1cm} \textit{Presbytis cristata}
- Proboscis Monkey \hspace{1cm} \textit{Nasalis larvatus}
- Long-tailed Macaque \hspace{1cm} \textit{Macaca fascicularis}
- Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque \hspace{1cm} \textit{Macaca nemestrina}
- Bornean Gibbon \hspace{1cm} \textit{Hylobates muelleri}
- Bornean Orang-utan \hspace{1cm} \textit{Pongo pygmaeus}
- Pale Giant Squirrel \hspace{1cm} \textit{Ratufa affinis}
- Prevost's Squirrel \hspace{1cm} \textit{Callosciurus prevostii pluto}
- Plantain Squirrel \hspace{1cm} \textit{Callosciurus notatus}
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th>Scientific Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ear-spot Squirrel</td>
<td>Callosciurus adamsi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bornean Black-banded Squirrel</td>
<td>Callosciurus orestes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse-tailed Squirrel</td>
<td>Sundasciurus hippocrus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low's Squirrel</td>
<td>Sundasciurus lowii</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jentink's Squirrel</td>
<td>Sundasciurus jentinki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooke's Squirrel</td>
<td>Sundasciurus brookei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four-striped Ground Squirrel</td>
<td>Lariscus hosei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel</td>
<td>Dremomys everetti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plain Pygmy Squirrel</td>
<td>Exilisciurus exilis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel</td>
<td>Exilisciurus whiteheadi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas's Flying Squirrel</td>
<td>Aeromys thomasi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Giant Flying Squirrel</td>
<td>Petaurista petaurista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriental Small-clawed Otter</td>
<td>Aonyx cinerea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malay Civet</td>
<td>Viverra tangalunga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Binturong</td>
<td>Arctictis binturong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bearded Pig</td>
<td>Sus barbatus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lesser Mouse-Deer</td>
<td>Tragulus kanchil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater Mouse-Deer</td>
<td>Tragulus napu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sambar Deer</td>
<td>Cervus unicolor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

343 species recorded including 9 heard only and 45 endemics seen.

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