

Sabah, Borneo

18-27 February 2007



Great Argus

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General

This was a combined family holiday and birding trip and my third trip to this fascinating island. My first trip was a birding trip in 1991 and then we went on a family holiday 1.5 years ago (covering e.g. Kinabatangan River). This time we started off with two nights in Singapore as a stop-over to Kota Kinabalu on Borneo. Then it was five nights at a resort in Kota Kinabalu, nice indeed, but no birds. I managed to squeeze in a full morning at Gunung (Mount) Kinabalu, which proved highly successful in that I saw a pair of both Everett's Thrushes and Whitehead's Trogons as well as the endemic Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher. Another morning I birded Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and scored on a few more endemics like Mountain Serpent-Eagle, Bornean Bulbul and Leafbird as well as hearing Bornean Barbet. At the end of the trip I stayed behind a few days when my family flew back to China. These days were spent at Bornean Rainforest Lodge at Danum Valley. This lodge was not built at the time of my previous visit and proved highly productive in terms of birding. Top of the pops was my second last family, Bornean Bristlehead, which in all honesty was one of the reasons we went to Borneo at all. Other goodies were four species of Pittas seen exceptionally well with Blue-banded as the crown jewel. Great Argus and Bornean Crested Fireback and a nice selection of other lowland species like Flycatchers and Wren-Babblers made the stay especially memorable.

Itinerary

16/2

Early morning flight from Beijing to Singapore. As it was difficult to get hotel rooms in Kota Kinabalu for the first two days, we opted to stay two nights in Singapore as a start of the Borneo trip. A quick beer with Oz birder Chris and some dude sightseeing in the evening.

17/2

All day in Singapore with some general sightseeing along the river and topped it off with eth night safari.

18/2

After a two-nights stop-over in Singapore we arrived at Kota Kinabalu in the late morning. We stayed at the pre-booked resort Tanjung Aru Shangri-La and relaxed by the poolside for the next couple of days.

19/2

A lazy day by the poolside...

Good to meet up with ex-Beijing birding pal Brian for a coupe of beers.

20/2

Me and Tobias went for a quick late morning exploration of Likas Nature Reserve in the northeastern parts of Kota Kinabalu. As it was not prime time for birding, we did not see very much. I would not rate the site as really worth visiting anyway, unless there are a couple of hours to kill. The most interesting stuff we found were an extraordinary variety of crabs that attracted our interest. The rest of the day was spent by the poolside.

21/2

I left the hotel in Kota Kinabalu at 3.30 in the morning for the a 1.5 hour drive to Gunung Kinabalu. The drive was quicker than promised and I spend the last hour before sunrise walking around the visitor center. The first hour of daylight I spent just outside the visitor center, hoping for Whitehead's Broadbill to show off, which it certainly did not. I then walked the Silau Silau trail back and forth and was greatly rewarded with fabulous views of a pair of Everett's Thrushes and a pair of Whitehead's Trogons. Both are normally rather difficult species and I was almost surprised to

connect so easily. An Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher feeding a young was another endemic lifer I forgot to pick up during my previous visit. By 10, the driver had gone back to KK and picked up my family and we together walked the Mempening and Silau Silau trails. After lunch we drove to Poring Hot Springs, which is another 45 minutes drive from Gunung Kinabalu. During the heat of the day it was only time for a tourist visit and at least I and Tobias walked the canopy walk. Needless to say there was no sign of Hose's Broadbills...

In the evening we returned to Kota Kinabalu.

22/2

This morning I volunteered to go to the Tambunan Rafflesia reserve in order to check if there were any Rafflesias flowering. Had there been, the driver would quickly have gone back and make sure my family could twitch it. As it turned out, the last one was flowering several days ago and was not to be seen. Instead I birded the area and bagged the hoped-for and recently split Bornean Bulbul and Leafbird as well as heard Bornean Barbets. In the good weather two Mountain Serpent-Eagles decided to perform and make some display flights. By lunch-time I was back by pool-side, quite content with the morning session.

23/2

I left the hotel early for a short drive to the airport and the flight to Lahad Datu. The rest of the family took the morning flight back to Beijing via Singapore.

At Lahad Datu airport I was picked up by the staff from Bornean Rainforest Lodge and we arrived at the lodge at 11.00 after 2.5 hrs drive. After lunch, my allocated and pre-booked guide Wang Kong arrived and between 13.00-18.00 we walked Hornbill trail and canopy walk twice. A short rain shower in the late afternoon was only a brief interruption.

The post-dinner night drive along the entrance road, did not really produce any thing except for some deers.

24/2

We left the lodge at 6.30 and walked the entrance road past the canopy walk and turned right onto Tekala trail, where we scored on the main target bird of the trip: Bornean Bristlehead. Great bird and in addition it was my second last family to go, at least before a major coming revision on family level taxonomy. Immediately after that, we stumbled upon a stunning male Great Argus in the middle of the trail. The bird almost refused to move and was strutting around completely in his own world. By late morning we walked the East trail back to the lodge. Unfortunately it was intermittently raining, although some good birds were picked up, like Rufous-tailed Shama and Bornean Wren-Babbler.

After lunch, I walked the Danum trail along the river upstream from the lodge. The forest was very quiet with only a few babblers moving and two incredible white morphs Asian Paradise-Flycatchers. At 15.00 we walked the Segama trail to the suspension bridge and returned along the Babandil trail. Highlights were an electric Blue-headed Pitta, a Bornean Blue-Flycatcher and a close encounter with a female Orangutan with a baby.

In the evening I joined a night-drive to the reserve boundary. No hoped for cats, but four species of flying squirrels and a Brown Wood-Owl.

25/2

Again it was departure at 6.30 along the entrance road, but after about an hour a car picked us up and drove us to the reserve boundary. From there we walked a boundary trail in the search for Blue-banded Pitta. After a frustrating full morning of hide-and-seek, we eventually gave up and walked back along the entrance road. I stayed for a while at the canopy walk and was rewarded with superlative views of a Red-bearded Bee-eater, a bird I had especially in mind.

After lunch and a torrential rain-storm, we set off again at 15.00, this time on the Jacuzzi trail.

Rather quiet, but a showy Black-headed Pitta brightened up the walk, as did a female Orangutan.

26/2

I was in for the final morning and as Giant Pittas seemed non-responsive, I opted for another go at the Blue-banded Pitta. This time we arrived somewhat earlier and were greeted with a duetting Black-headed and Blue-banded, both with confusingly similar songs. Simultaneously I also recognized a Rufous-collared Kingfisher, which posed instantly for us. Again it was a hide-and-seek game with the Blue-banded until we eventually struck gold, or actually ruby, emerald and sapphire. Happy with this success we left the area and walked back along the entrance road, seeing a responsive pair of Helmeted Hornbills. Finally I walked the Hornbill trail back to the lodge in a last attempt for Giant Pitta. I reach the lodge at 13.00 and packed up and had a quick lunch before leaving at 13.30. It was then a quick and uneventful drive back to Lahad Datu, where I stayed at a hotel overnight.

27/2

Early morning 8.30 flight from Lahad Datu to Kota Kinabalu for further transport via Singapore to Beijing.

Weather

End of February is supposed to be just at the end of the rainy season. On the other hand, the occasional rain-shower should always be taken into account in this part of the world. In Danum Valley it rained at least once every day, but seldom more than 30-60 minutes at a time and the birding was hardly affected at all. We had some wonderful weather when we visited Gunung Kinabalu and Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Logistics

Logistics is very simple in Sabah. Taxis are affordable, although rental cars might be cheaper if going farther away. As I had forgotten my driver's license, we had to stick to car+driver set-up. Domestic flights are frequent, easily booked in advance and reasonably priced. For the Danum part of the trip I booked everything through www.BorneanRainforestLodge.com. Everything but cheap, but there are some real good birds out there...

Site descriptions

Likas Nature Reserve, Kota Kinabalu

Likas is a small mangrove wetland in the northern parts of Kota Kinabalu about 20 minutes drive from Tanjung Aru. There is a boardwalk and a couple of hides. It is not a fantastic place for birding, but could be worth visiting for a couple of hours for the more common birds.

Gunung Kinabalu

Mount Kinabalu is one of the real famous birding sites in Sabah and is thoroughly described in many other reports. From Tanjung Aru it takes 2-2.5 hours to drive.



View of the ca 4100 meter high Mount Kinabalu

Poring Hot Springs

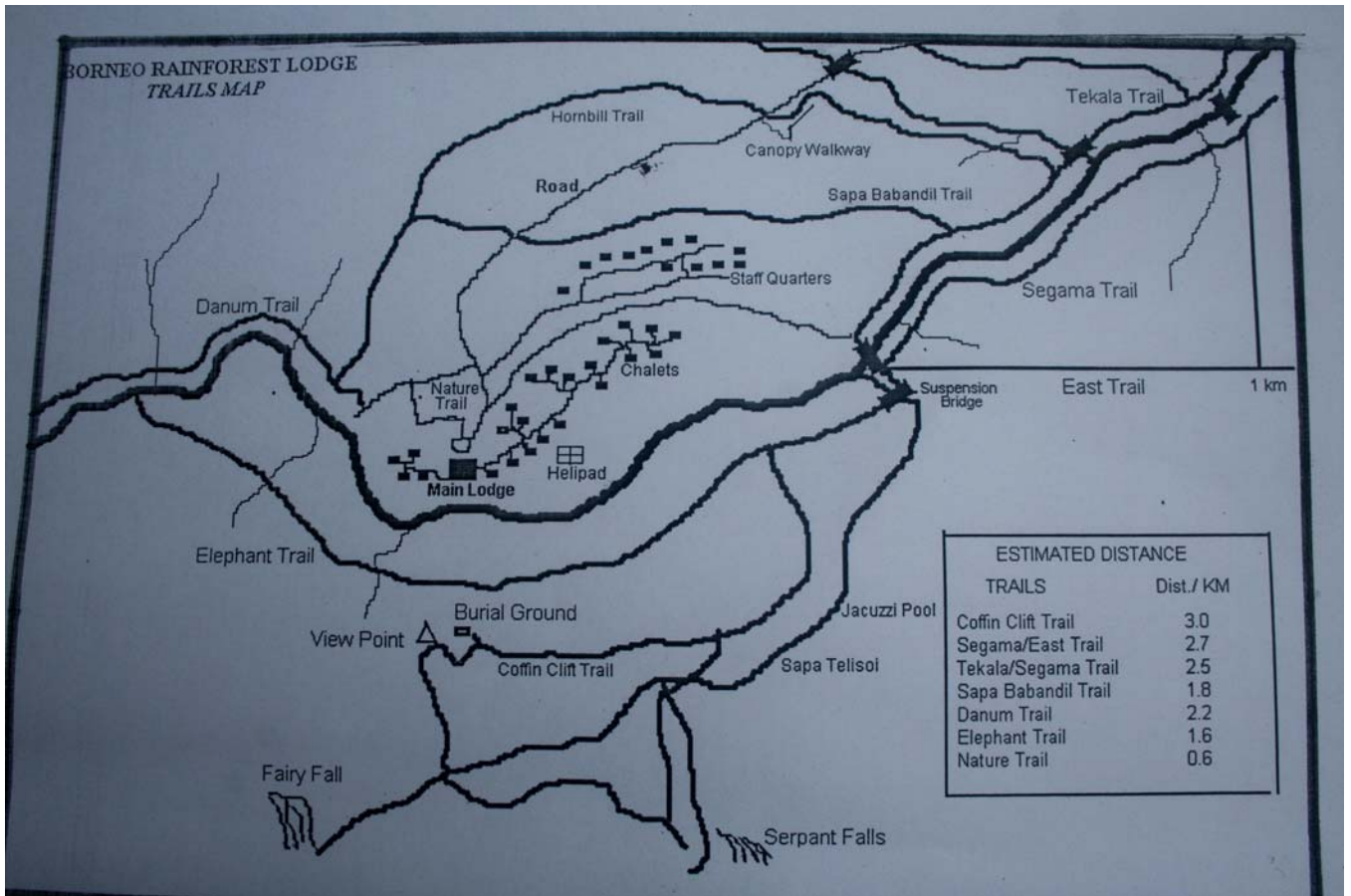
Another of these famous birding (and tourist) sites in Sabah. From Gunung Kinabalu it is another 45 minutes drive. The site is most well-known for Hose's Broadbill and Blue-banded Pitta. We did not do any birding at this site as we only spent a couple of afternoon hours there.

Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve

The Rafflesia reserve near Tambunan is 1.5 hours drive from Tanjung Aru. From the visitor centre there is a small trail that seems to lead down through the forest. I birded only along the main road, which was productive, but frustrating due to all the traffic. Key species were Bornean Barbet, Bornean Bulbul, Bornean Leafbird and Mountain Serpent-Eagle.

Danum Valley

Danum Valley with its Bornean Rainforest Lodge is the flag-ship birding site in Sabah. Easily booked through internet, but exceedingly expensive. Wang Kong is the key birding guide and if a special guide is wanted, he should be asked (and paid extra...) for in advance. 15 years ago I stayed at the Field Centre, which is still in operation and some 45 minutes drive from BRL.



Bornean lowland rainforest on the road...

Birds

Darter, *Anhinga melanogaster melanogaster*

One at the main river at Danum Valley.

Purple Heron, *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Eight at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Great Egret, *Ardea alba modesta*

Five at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Intermediate Egret, *Egretta intermedia intermedia*

Ten at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta nigripes*

Common at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Pacific Reef-Heron, *Egretta sacra sacra*

Up to five at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

Cattle Egret, *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*

Commonly seen around Kota Kinabalu.

Striated Heron, *Butorides striatus javanicus*

One at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

Oriental Honey-buzzard, *Pernis ptilorhynchus torquatus*

One between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley, two at Danum Valley.

Black-shouldered Kite, *Elanus caeruleus hypoleucos*

One in Kota Kinabalu.

Brahminy Kite, *Haliastur indus intermedius*

Two at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

White-bellied Sea-Eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

Two at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, one at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Mountain Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis kinabaluensis*

A pair in display flight at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve. The birds were photographed and tape-recorded at an altitude of ca 1400 masl.



Mountain Serpent-Eagle (top two in display flight)

Crested Serpent-Eagle, *Spilornis cheela pallidus*

One between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley and two sightings at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Crested Goshawk, *Accipiter trivirgatus microstictus*

One between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley.

Black Eagle, *Ictinaetus malayensis malayensis*

One between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley.

White-fronted Falconet, *Microhierax latifrons*

One perched in the typical way on top of a dead canopy branch half-way between the canopy walk and the lodge at Danum Valley. Also one seen between Danum Valley and Lahad Datu.

Red-breasted Partridge, *Arborophila hyperythra erythroprys*

Heard once at the higher end of Mempening trail at Gunung Kinabalu and three pairs heard calling frequently at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge, *Arborophila charltonii graydoni*

One heard at the border trail and heard very close at the far end of Hornbill trail (responded to the playback, but never approached) at Danum Valley.

Bornean Crested Fireback, *Lophura [ignita] nobilis*

Three males and a female at the lodge and one male and two females at the canopy walk at Danum Valley. The Bornean forms are perhaps best treated as a separate species, although intermediate birds on Sumatra complicate the picture.



Crested Fireback, a few birds are strutting around the lodge like chicken, but fortunately there are also “real” birds in the forest...

Great Argus, *Argusianus argus grayi*

One heard and more importantly one stunning male seen for ever at point blank distance at Tekala trail and one heard calling at length both mornings near the border trail at Danum Valley.

White-breasted Waterhen, *Amaurornis phoenicurus phoenicurus*

Pair with three chicks at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Pacific Golden-Plover, *Pluvialis fulva*

Ten at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus variegatus*

One at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Whiskered Tern, *Chlidonias hybridus javanicus*

A few at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu. Also many unidentified distant terns at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

Spotted Dove, *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*

A few seen in Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu.

Ruddy/Little Cuckoo-Dove, *Macropygia emiliana/ruficeps*

Several unidentified Cuckoo-Doves at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Zebra Dove, *Geopelia striata*

A few at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu.

Green Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula aenea aenea*

Small flocks at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and four at Danum Valley.

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon, *Ducula badia badia*

Two heard at Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu and heard and at least ten seen at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

- Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, *Loriculus galgulus*
Two at the canopy walk and two at the entrance road at Danum Valley.
- Large Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus sparveroides bocki*
Two heard at Gunung Kinabalu.
- Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, *Cuculus vagans*
One seen at Jacuzzi trail and two heard at the entrance road at Danum Valley.
- Indian Cuckoo, *Cuculus micropterus concretus*
One seen at Poring Hot Springs, and three heard at Danum Valley.
- Plaintive Cuckoo, *Cacomantis merulinus threnodes*
One heard near Ranau, on the way from Poring Hot Springs and a few at Danum Valley.
- Brush Cuckoo, *Cacomantis variolosus sepulcralis*
Two heard at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve
- Violet Cuckoo, *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus xanthorhynchus*
One male seen at the entrance road.
- Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, *Surniculus lugubris brachyurus*
One heard at Poring Hot Springs and a few at Danum Valley.
- Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus*
One pair at the entrance road at Danum Valley.
- Greater Coucal, *Centropus sinensis bubutus*
One heard at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu and two heard and one seen at Danum Valley. Or was one calling in a strange way actually a Short-toed???
- Mountain Scops-Owl, *Otus spilocephalus luciae*
One heard pre-dawn just above the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu. Slower and deeper in voice than my recordings from China. I wonder how many of these I will hear-only before I actually see one?
- Brown Wood-Owl, *Strix leptogrammica vaga*
One at the entrance road at Danum Valley during a night drive.
- Glossy Swiftlet, *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila*
Common around Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu, between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley and around Danum Valley itself.
- Linchi (Cave) Swiftlet, *Collocalia linchi dodgei*
Common at Gunung Kinabalu and Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.
- Silver-rumped Needletail, *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
About 50 over the lodge at Danum Valley after a heavy mid-day rain-storm and one between Danum Valley and Lahad Datu.
- Brown-backed Needletail, *Hirundapus giganteus giganteus*
Three at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.
- Asian Palm-Swift, *Cypsiurus balasienis infumatus*
A few at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.
- House Swift, *Apus nipalensis subfurcatus*
A few at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.
- Grey-rumped Treeswift, *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*
Two at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.
- Whiskered Treeswift, *Hemiprocne comata comata*
Three between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley and one at the entrance road at Danum Valley.



Whiskered Treeswift

Red-naped Trogon, *Harpactes kasumba impavidus*

One at Hornbill trail and two heard at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Diard's Trogon, *Harpactes diardii diardii*

One heard at Jacuzzi trail and one heard at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Whitehead's Trogon, *Harpactes whiteheadi*

A splendid pair was seen at the 500m marker at Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu. Others have stated that this is the most beautiful Trogon in Asia, and I am tempted to agree. Having seen the Spiderhunter on my first trip, I will hopefully complete the Whitehead hat-trick next trip.



Mrs and Mr Whitehead's Trogon

Scarlet-rumped Trogon, *Harpactes duvaucelii*

One pair at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Rufous/Black-backed Kingfisher, *Ceyx rufidorsa/erithacus*

One shooting past a couple of times near the lodge at Danum Valley.

Stork-billed Kingfisher, *Pelargopsis capensis inominata*

One seen twice at the main river at Danum Valley.

Collared Kingfisher, *Todirhamphus chloris laubmanniana*

Seen a few times at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and one at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Rufous-collared Kingfisher, *Actenoides concretus borneanus*

One responsive bird immediately shot in and showed brilliantly at close range at the border trail. This was when we just heard the Blue-banded Pitta, so it was fortunate that it was a well-behaved bird.

Red-bearded Bee-eater, *Nyctornis amictus*

One at the canopy walk at Danum Valley. I took a quick mid-day rest at one of the canopy platforms, when I suddenly "felt" something was watching me. I looked up, and 3 meters away from me is this lifer perched on the wire. We both watched each other for several minutes and I could even raise my bins and watch it at absolutely close focus distance.

Dollarbird, *Eurystomus orientalis deignani*

Three near Lahad Datu.

Oriental Pied-Hornbill, *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*

Two in Lahad Datu.

Black Hornbill, *Anthracoceros malayanus*

Heard at Hornbill trail and a small group seen at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Rhinoceros Hornbill, *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis*

Heard a few times at the lodge and at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Helmeted Hornbill, *Buceros vigil*

One heard at Hornbill trail and two plus two heard both mornings at the border trail at Danum Valley. One of these pairs responded to playback from a huge distance and nicely flew in to the highest trees and after having had a look at us (and the reverse) they majestically flew back over the ridge from where they came. Good to finally see this mega Hornbill after having heard them so many times before.

Bushy-crested Hornbill, *Anorrhinus galeritus*

One heard at Segama trail at Danum Valley.

Wreathed Hornbill, *Aceros undulates*

Three pairs, another flock of six at Danum Valley and four between Danum Valley and Lahad Datu.

Gold-whiskered Barbet, *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis*

A few heard at Danum Valley.

Red-throated Barbet, *Megalaima mystacophanos mystacophanos*

A few heard at Danum Valley.

Mountain Barbet, *Megalaima monticola*

One heard at Poring Hot Springs and at least five heard and seen at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Yellow-crowned Barbet, *Megalaima henricii brachyrhyncha*

A few heard at Danum Valley.

Golden-naped Barbet, *Megalaima pulcherrima*

Three heard at Gunung Kinabalu and three heard at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Blue-eared Barbet, *Megalaima australis duvaucelii*

Frequently heard at Danum Valley.

Bornean Barbet, *Megalaima eximia*

Two heard at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Brown Barbet, *Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius*

Four at the canopy walk at Danum Valley.

Rufous Piculet, *Sasia abnormis abnormis*

Two sightings at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Brown-capped Woodpecker, *Dendrocopos moluccensis moluccensis*

One at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Crimson-winged Woodpecker, *Picus puniceus observandus*

Two at Poring Hot Springs.

Maroon Woodpecker, *Blythipicus rubiginosus*

One at Hornbill trail and one at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Buff-necked Woodpecker, *Meiglyptes tukki tukki*

One at xx trail at Danum Valley.

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker, *Hemicircus concretus sordidus*

Two at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Dusky Broadbill, *Corydon sumatranus brunnescens*

One heard at Hornbill trail and one seen at canopy walk at Danum Valley.

Black-and-red Broadbill, *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos*

One heard near the lodge at Danum Valley.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill, *Eurylaimus ochromalus ochromalus*

Two seen at the canopy walk and several heard elsewhere at Danum Valley.

Green Broadbill, *Calyptomena viridis viridis*

One heard at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Banded Pitta, *Pitta guajana schwaneri*

Two good sightings and another heard at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Blue-headed Pitta, *Pitta baudii*

One heard at Hornbill trail, one heard at Tekala trail and one showy male at Segama trail at Danum Valley.



Blue-headed Pitta, poor shots of a splendid bird...

Blue-banded Pitta, *Pitta arquata*

One was heard intermittently for a couple of hours at the border trail. In spite of great efforts, we never saw it, although a good recording was made. It was therefore set for another quest the day after and this almost became a repeat performance. We quickly heard the bird as it was calling "against" a Black-headed Pitta. The latter became the winner, so the target bird went quiet for a while. Then it started up again at close range, but never showed. We then walked slowly through the forest and when I was watching a just-Banded Pitta about five meters behind Wang Kong, he saw the real-Banded Pitta right out in the open. By the time I moved those few meters, I was only rewarded with a flight view. For a long time this seemed to be it, but then it started calling again higher up the slope. We followed the source of the sound, but it stopped after a while. We continued walking and suddenly it appeared right in front of us. Now it decided that we deserved a decent look, as it stayed in full view for probably 20 minutes! The books do not really do this bird real justice; in fact it is one of the most charming and brilliantly coloured Pittas. Like a strawberry on two legs, it is really a tiny Pitta. The back was emerald, the crown orange and the underparts scarlet. The iridescent blue on the wings and head-stripe made a final touch and the breast-band seemed to be a necklace of gleaming blue feathers. It was certainly worth all the effort and a good repair since my heard-only at Poring 15 years ago.



Blue-banded Pitta, almost looking artificial when the rays of sun hit it

Black-headed Pitta, *Pitta ussheri*

Three heard at Hornbill trail, three at the entrance road, one heard, seen and photographed at Jacuzzi trail and one heard at the border trail at Danum Valley.



Black-headed Pitta

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica* ssp

Two at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and several near Lahad Datu.

Pacific Swallow, *Hirundo tahitica abbotti*

A few at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and common at Danum Valley.

Gray Wagtail, *Motacilla cinerea robusta*

One at Gunung Kinabalu and two at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Sunda Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina larvata normani*

One at Gunung Kinabalu.

Pied Triller, *Lalage nigra chilensis*

One at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Grey-chinned Minivet, *Pericrocotus solaris cinereigula*

One at Gunung Kinabalu and one at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Black-and-white Bulbul, *Pycnonotus melanoleucus*

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Black-headed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus atriceps atriceps*

Two between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley.

Bornean Bulbul, *Pycnonotus montis*

One pair at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve. This species is separated from Black-crested Bulbul on the basis of strikingly different morphology including a pure yellow throat, dark eye and shorter crest.

Yellow-vented Bulbul, *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini*

Common at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and at Lahad Datu.

Red-eyed Bulbul, *Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus*

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley, where unidentified brown bulbuls were frequently seen mostly in the canopy.

Spectacled Bulbul, *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos salvadorii*

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Ochraceous Bulbul, *Alophoixus ochraceus ruficrissus*

Four at Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul, *Alophoixus bres gutteralis*

Two at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and two at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul, *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens*

One at Hornbill trail at Danum Valley.

Hairy-backed Bulbul, *Tricholestes criniger viridis*

Two at Hornbill trail and two at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Streaked Bulbul, *Ixos malaccensis*

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Greater Green Leafbird, *Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops*

Two at the canopy walk at Danum Valley.

Lesser Green Leafbird, *Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon*
 One at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Bornean Leafbird, *Chloropsis kinabaluensis*
 A total of seven at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve. This species is separated from Blue-winged Leafbird on the basis of strikingly different morphology on the females as they are having a dark throat like the males.

Everett's Thrush, *Zoothera everetti*
 A pair seen feeding at close range at Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu. They were about 70 m from the top end of the trail along a flat muddy area around the highest small stream crossing and above the highest "bridge". The birds were not seen when I returned to the area twice later in the morning.

White-browed Shortwing, *Brachypteryx montana erythrogyna*
 One heard and probably the same seen. All blue with no trace of pale eyebrow.

Yellow-bellied Prinia, *Prinia flaviventris latrunculus*
 One near Poring Hot Springs, two at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and three at Danum Valley.

Sunda Bush-Warbler, *Cettia vulcania oreophila*
 One at Gunung Kinabalu. Below Mempening trail reaching the main road.

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, *Orthotomus sericeus sericeus*
 At least two at the entrance road at Danum Valley, may have been overlooked.

Arctic Warbler, *Phylloscopus borealis ssp*
 One at the lodge at Danum Valley.

Yellow-breasted Warbler, *Seicercus montis montis*
 Four at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias umbratilis*
 One at Segama trail and a showy one both mornings at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Eyebrowed Jungle-Flycatcher, *Rhinomyias gularis*
 At least one adult feeding at least one juvenile at the start of Silau Silau trail just above the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu.

Siberian Flycatcher, *Muscicapa sibirica sibirica*
 One at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Brown-streaked Flycatcher, *Muscicapa williamsoni umbrosa*
 One at Hornbill trail and one at Segama trail at Danum Valley.

Narcissus Flycatcher, *Ficedula narcissina*
 One male at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Mugimaki Flycatcher, *Ficedula mugimaki*
 One male in the canopy at Mempening trail at Gunung Kinabalu and one male at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Snowy-browed Flycatcher, *Ficedula hyperythra sumatrana*
 One pair at the start of Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.

Rufous-chested Flycatcher, *Ficedula dumetoria muelleri*
 One heard at Segama trail and one male seen at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Blue-and-white Flycatcher, *Cyanoptila cyanomelana ssp*
 Two males at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Indigo Flycatcher, *Eumyias indigo cerviniventris*
 One or two near the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu.

Long-billed Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis caerulatus caerulatus*
 One at Tekala trail at Danum Valley.

Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis turcosus turcosus*
 One or two at the lodge at Danum Valley.

Bornean Blue-Flycatcher, *Cyornis superbus*
 One at the suspension bridge at the far end of Babandil trail and one heard at the border trail with a female seen there the second morning, at Danum Valley.

Siberian Blue Robin, *Luscinia cyane cyane*
 One male at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Oriental Magpie-Robin, *Copsychus saularis adamsi*
 Several at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

White-crowned Shama, *Copsychus stricklandii stricklandii*
Frequently seen at Danum Valley.



White-crowned Shama

Rufous-tailed Shama, *Trichixos pyrropyga*

One heard at Hornbill trail and one seen nicely at East trail at Danum Valley.

Chestnut-naped Forktail, *Enicurus ruficapillus*

One seen briefly at Jacuzzi trail at Danum Valley.

White-crowned Forktail, *Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis*

A pair with nesting material half-way up Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.

White-throated Fantail, *Rhipidura albicollis kinabalu*

Three at Gunung Kinabalu and one at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Pied Fantail, *Rhipidura javanica longicauda*

One at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and one at Danum Valley.

Spotted Fantail, *Rhipidura perlata*

Three at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher, *Terpsiphone paradisi borneensis*

Two amazing white morph males at the Danum trail at Danum Valley.

Bornean Whistler, *Pachycephala hypoxantha hypoxantha*

One at Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.

Sunda Laughingthrush, *Garrulax palliatus schistoclamys*

A total of ten at Gunung Kinabalu and three at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Bare-headed Laughingthrush, *Garrulax calvus*

A total of five around Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu. This species is separated from Black Laughingthrush on the basis of strikingly different morphology.

Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, *Garrulax mitratus treacheri*

A total of 15 around Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu and five at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Ferruginous Babbler, *Trichastoma bicolor*

Two at the border trail and one at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Short-tailed Babbler, *Malacocincla malaccensis poliogenys*

Three at Hornbill trail and two sightings at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Black-capped Babbler, *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli*

Two at Hornbill trail and one heard and another seen at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Moustached Babbler, *Malacopteron magnirostre cinerecapillum*

Two at Hornbill trail at Danum Valley.

Sooty-capped Babbler, *Malacopteron affine phoeniceum*

Common at Danum Valley.

Scaly-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron cinereum cinereum*

Common at Danum Valley.

Rufous-crowned Babbler, *Malacopteron magnum saba*

Two at the Danum trail and one at the border trail at Danum Valley, may have been overlooked.

Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler, *Pomatorhinus montanus bornensis*

Two at Hornbill trail at Danum Valley.

Bornean Wren-Babbler, *Ptilocichla leucogrammica*

One seen extremely well at East trail and one heard at the start of the border trail at Danum Valley.

Striped Wren-Babbler, *Kenopia striata*

One at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Black-throated Wren-Babbler, *Napothera atrigularis*
 Three heard at the entrance road and one heard and seen at the border trail with two more heard the second morning at Danum Valley.

Mountain Wren-Babbler, *Napothera crassa*
 One seen between Silau Silau and Mempening trails at Gunung Kinabalu.

Grey-throated Babbler, *Stachyris nigriceps borneensis*
 One plus two seen along Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.

Chestnut-rumped Babbler, *Stachyris maculata maculata*
 One at the entrance road and one heard at Segama trail at Danum Valley.

Chestnut-winged Babbler, *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor*
 Common at Danum Valley.

Striped Tit-Babbler, *Macronous gularis bornensis*
 A few heard and two seen at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

White-browed Shrike-Babbler, *Pteruthius flaviscapis robinsoni*
 One heard at Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu and two heard at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Brown Fulvetta, *Alcippe brunneicauda eriphaea*
 Two seen at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Chestnut-crested Yuhina, *Yuhina everetti*
 10-15 seen at Gunung Kinabalu and ten at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Golden-bellied Gerygone, *Gerygone sulphurea sulphurea*
 One heard at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve and one heard at Danum Valley.

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch, *Sitta frontalis corralipes*
 One or two near the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu.

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird, *Chalcoparia singalensis borneana*
 One female at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Plain-throated Sunbird, *Anthreptes malacensis borneensis*
 One at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and one at Likas Nature Reserve in Kota Kinabalu.

Purple-naped Sunbird, *Hypogramma hypogrammicum hypogrammicum*
 One at Danum trail and two sightings at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Olive-backed Sunbird, *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*
 A few at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

Temminck's Sunbird, *Aethopyga temminckii*
 One near the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu and one at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Spectacled Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera flavigaster*
 One at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Little Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi*
 Three at Danum Valley.

Grey-breasted Spiderhunter, *Arachnothera modesta ssp*
 One at the canopy walk and one at the lodge at Danum Valley.

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus maculatus maculatus*
 One at the entrance road and one at the canopy walk at Danum Valley.

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker, *Prionochilus xanthopygius*
 One male at the lodge at Danum Valley.

Black-sided Flowerpecker, *Dicaeum monticolum*
 One near the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu.

Black-capped White-eye, *Zosterops atricapillus atricapillus*
 One at Gunung Kinabalu.

Dark-throated Oriole, *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus*
 Several heard and seen at Danum Valley.

Black-and-crimson Oriole, *Oriolus cruentus vulneratus*
 One at the start of Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.

Large Woodshrike, *Tephrodornis gularis frenatus*
 One at the canopy walk and a few at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Rufous-winged Philentoma, *Philentoma pyrhopterum pyrhopterum*
 One heard and seen at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Ashy Drongo, *Dicrurus leucophaeus stigmatops*
 Three at Tambunan Rafflesia Reserve.

Bronzed Drongo, *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*
 One at the border trail at Danum Valley and one between Danum Valley and Lahad Datu.

Hair-crested Drongo, *Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis*
 Three at Gunung Kinabalu.

White-breasted Woodswallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus leucorhynchus*

Ten at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu.

Bornean Bristlehead, *Pityriasis gymnocephala*

Two seen together in the canopy at Tekala trail at Danum Valley. The major reason for going to Borneo was seeing this odd bird, currently treated as a separate family.

Crested Jay, *Platylophus galericulatus coronatus*

Two or three together at the start of the canopy walk and one heard at Jacuzzi trail at Danum Valley. Rich chocolate colour and different shape of the crest makes it strikingly different from the mainland forms.

Short-tailed Magpie, *Cissa thalassina jeffreyi*

Two or three pairs (one nest-building) around Silau Silau trail at Gunung Kinabalu.



Short-tailed Magpie

Bornean Treepie, *Dendrocitta cinerascens*

Three near the restaurant at Gunung Kinabalu.

Slender-billed Crow, *Corvus enca compiler*

Small flocks regularly heard and seen at Danum Valley.

Asian Glossy Starling, *Aplonis panayensis eustathis*

Common at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley.

Hill Myna, *Gracula religiosa religiosia*

Six between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley.

Crested Myna, *Acridotheres cristatellus ssp*

Common in Kota Kinabalu, where it occurs as an introduced species.

Dusky Munia, *Lonchura fuscans*

Common along the road towards Danum Valley.

Chestnut Munia, *Lonchura atricapilla jagori*

Common at Tanjung Aru Shangri-La Hotel in Kota Kinabalu and around Lahad Datu.

Mammals

Thomas's Flying-Squirrel

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley during a night drive.

Spotted Giant Flying-Squirrel

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley during a night drive.

Red Giant Flying-Squirrel

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley during a night drive.

Black Giant Flying-Squirrel

One at the entrance road at Danum Valley during a night drive.

Yellow-throated Marten

One at the border trail at Danum Valley.

Maroon Langur

One at the far end of Segama trail and three at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Long-tailed Macaque

About 20 at the far end of Segama trail at Danum Valley.

Pig-tailed Macaque

One between Danum Valley and Lahad Datu.

Orangutan

One female with a 2 week old young at Segama trail and one female almost across the river from the lodge (but seen from the bridge) at Danum Valley.



Greater Mouse-Deer

Five at Danum Valley.

Sambar Deer

Several sightings at Danum Valley.

Bornean Elephant

Two seen and more heard in the same group at the entrance road at Danum Valley.

Snakes

Twin-banded Bronze-back

One at the lodge at Danum Valley.

Dog-toothed Cat-snake

One, 1.5+ meter long, at the underside of the restaurant floor at the lodge at Danum Valley.