

BORNEO

June 17, 2010 to July 4, 2010

Guided by
Rose Ann Rowlett

Where to start? The vast range of natural riches that we experienced in the forests of Borneo, even during our short sampling, is not easily condensed. We made delightful discoveries each time we set foot in the field. (Okay, there were a few quiet outings at Kinabalu when we had to make do with Trilobite Beetles or a fat, fuzzy caterpillar, or a blossoming rhododendron, or a fancy white-net mushroom, or just another spectacular view of Gg. Kinabalu or...) Especially for our group, most of whom were new to birding tropical Asia, there really were wonderful discoveries to be made with every ounce of energy we could muster. (And when we got punchy, we laughed!) In the end, after two weeks afield, we had encountered some 30 species of mammals, around 250 birds, an impressive array of exotic herps and invertebrates, and countless fascinating plants--from parasitic Rafflesias and carnivorous pitcher plants to ephemeral orchids in synchronous bloom and ancient dipterocarps, whose endlessly fascinating winged seeds were spiraling gently, slowly, downward from the tallest forest canopy in the world.

Despite the dramatic scenery and the high proportion of endemics at Kinabalu Park, this year it was the lowland rivers and forests that captured our hearts. Johnny's cover photo (inspired by Shari, I hear) of the moody Menanggul River, and some of its inhabitants, reflects something of our cumulative sense of the essence of Borneo--of riches endlessly alluring.

To recall a few of our favorite impressions of Borneo, remember:

- the excitement of our first morning in the canopy of the lowland rainforest, at the Rainforest Discovery Center, when the Great Slaty Woodpeckers (largest Old World woodpecker) were flying about calling even as a big White-bellied Woodpecker landed in a pink-barked Mangaris (or bee tree, *Koompassia excelsa*, Borneo's tallest tree) right beside a Red Giant Flying Squirrel that was poking its head out of a cavity; and that was just before we were watching the stunning Red-bearded Bee-eater when a tiny Gray-and-buff Woodpecker landed right beside it; only to be followed by a close bird party with our first Black-naped Monarchs, Black-and-red Broadbills, Raffles's and Chestnut-breasted malkohas, and both Buff-necked and Buff-rumped woodpeckers right below us! It was quite a woodpecker morning.

- that amazing evening at Sukau that started with dinner on the deck under a full moon in partial eclipse (see Johnny's photo) and continued through sleeping kingfishers and tailorbirds to a fantastic Flat-headed Cat (Johnny's photo again), a Slow Loris, and a Buffy Fish-Owl right beside the boat! It was to be followed the next night by terrific looks at a difficult-to-see Oriental Bay-Owl!

- We had equally good luck by night in the Danum Valley, seeing Leopard Cats at close range, a Colugo sailing from one tree to another, a similar "flight" of Thomas's Flying Squirrel, beautiful File-eared Frogs, and, most amazingly, both Blue-headed Pitta and White-crowned Forktail asleep on their roost perches, where they turned into almost featureless (save for the colors) balls of fluff. I'll remember this trip for the greatest number and variety of sleeping birds I've ever seen.

Of course the days were full of birds and mammals as well. Remember

- our long hunt for--and then our finding!--the tiny Bornean Stubtail at Kinabalu? It was singing (with its whole body!) its high-pitched song (that tests one's hearing), eye to eye along the trail. Or that Whitehead's Broadbill and the handsome male Crimson-headed Partridge along the most beautiful

forest trail on Kinabalu?

- our "pheasant morning" at BRL? First came the striking pair of Crested Firebacks that crossed the trail beside us; to be followed by that male Great Argus that lured us (twice!) to his display court to gasp at his long train that trailed to the ground as he emitted his far-carrying calls.
- those fabulous White-crowned Hornbills that flew in to the edge of the Menanggul? Or that long-awaited Helmeted Hornbill that uttered its maniacal call and then whooshed in right above us at the BRL canopy walkway?
- our first Orangutan, a mother with a baby (see Johnny's cover photo), along the Gomantong entrance road? Or that huge male inside the forest along the Hornbill Trail?
- those thousands of Wrinkle-lipped Bats emerging in spiraling columns from the Gomantong Caves and being predated by Bat Hawks, Peregrines, and Brahminys?
- those dazzling pittas? First was the burst of color that was the Hooded Pitta responding to playback in the Kinabatangan; then came the elegant Blue-headed Pittas (see Johnny's cover photo) foraging and sleeping at BRL; and then that last fabulous Black-headed Pitta that circled below and then sang from a mossy log in full view. Be careful; pittas are addictive.

I can't close without mentioning our big bird party along the Jacuzzi Trail, complete with Green and Banded broadbills, woodpeckers, philentomas, drongos, babblers, and three species of trogons (including my lifer Cinnamon-rumped!). All of this on top of our having seen the scarce Chestnut-naped Forktail. That was the flock of the trip. But it was almost matched by a smaller flock, along the Menanggul, of Dusky Broadbills and two Bornean Bristleheads, bizarre and unique bushshrike relatives in a monotypic family.

The annotations below should revive some additional memories of a trip that was sensational--and enormous fun!--from my point of view. We owe special thanks to our hosts, our captains, and our terrific local guides: Hamit, Paul, and JJ. Thanks to Gaylan & Jan for the group photo on the cover and to Johnny for all of his photos.

In the list below, I have used the following abbreviations:

S = Sundaland specialty, i.e., a species whose range is restricted to the Thai-Malay Peninsula and the Greater Sundas.

RDC = Rainforest Discovery Center at Sepilok

BRL = Borneo Rainforest Lodge and the Danum Valley

Taxonomy follows the Clements Checklist and online supplements, and conservation status is drawn from the publications of BirdLife International. It's shocking to realize how many of the Sundaland specialties are Near Threatened or worse. We'll hope our little contributions to ecotourism can help to preserve some of Borneo's fabulous forests. It was a genuine pleasure sharing them with you. ---Rose Ann

List total: 248 bird taxa and 30 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

Triplist file: bor10rar

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

WANDERING WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna arcuata*)

We forgot to write this one in, but we had great views of them, at a marshy roadside pond amid the acres and acres of palms. Only relatively recently has this species become regular in Sabah.

Phasianidae (Pheasants, Grouse, and Allies)

E* RED-BREASTED PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila hyperythra*)

Always too distant, darnit!

* CHESTNUT-NECKLACED PARTRIDGE (*Arborophila charltonii*)

S

E CRIMSON-HEADED PARTRIDGE (*Haematortyx sanguiniceps*)

Tom spotted a male of this handsome endemic right in the Liwagu Trail. Amazingly, it cooperated for all to see!

CRESTED FIREBACK (*Lophura ignita nobilis*)

S - That was a fabulous male that crept through the understory and then crossed the road at BRL; the female with him never came across. But then we saw her sleeping above the road on one of our night drives. We saw the race nobilis, of northern Borneo. Both Bornean races have cinnamon-buff, rather than white, central tail feathers, and I've heard talk of their being considered for a split from the peninsula populations. Both populations are considered Near Threatened.

GREAT ARGUS (*Argusianus argus*)

S - One of the highlights of the trip was watching a male of this dramatic Sundaland specialty delivering his far-carrying call repeatedly from his display court at BRL. We had tiptoed in to view the court after hearing its calls, but it was AWOL, until Shari spotted it sneaking away behind us. Still no luck until we left and then climbed back up after it started hollering again. But then it was good! Johnny got a couple of terrific photos, but I had already done the triplist cover before I saw the best one (or I would have included it for sure). I bet Greg's video will be terrific. The folks on last year's tour would be jealous if they knew! Considered Near Threatened.

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

DARTER (ORIENTAL) (*Anhinga melanogaster melanogaster*)

Common in the Kinabatangan and seen at BRL as well, the relative of our Anhinga.

Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)

LESSER FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata ariel*)

Well, they were some kind of frigatebird, all 11 of them, sailing eastward high overhead, over the largest remaining tract of rainforest left in Borneo! At least some of them were juves or immatures with rufous-brown heads and considerable white below. But exactly the configuration of the white was very difficult to decipher, even in the photos (given the distance and the backlighting). Lesser is generally the most common on the coast of Sabah, but like all three possibilities is a non-breeding visitor, largely absent from April to mid-July.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

GREAT-BILLED HERON (*Ardea sumatrana*)

This generally scarce (but widespread) heron was seen a few times flying along the Danum River right behind BRL.

PURPLE HERON (*Ardea purpurea*)

Some real beauties.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

Common and widespread.

LITTLE EGRET (*Egretta garzetta*)

Likas Bay at KK

CATTLE EGRET (ASIAN) (*Bubulcus ibis coromandus*)

A few scattered birds. There is talk of splitting this race from the New World birds. Will they then call it Water Buffalo Egret?

Ciconiidae (Storks)

STORM'S STORK (*Ciconia stormi*)

S - We had nice views of two of these small, rare storks, sitting side by side in a dead tree above the Kinabatangan, their worldwide stronghold. Classified as Endangered by BirdLife International, the species has declined throughout its limited range, and its overall population is now estimated to number 250-500 birds, mostly in Borneo and Sumatra. It's a real specialty along the lower Kinabatangan, where a breeding population of 40+ individuals was censused between 1999 and 2002.

LESSER ADJUTANT (*Leptoptilos javanicus*)

We saw more of its larger cousin, the Lesser Adjutant, mostly as singles high above the river. It is considered Vulnerable over its wide Asian range.

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

ORIENTAL HONEY-BUZZARD (*Pernis ptilorhynchus*)

We were happy with our IDs of this species a couple of times at BRL.

BAT HAWK (*Macheiramphus alcinus*)

Our first was a bird on a roost at Sepilok, but we later watched 2-3 birds hunting bats emerging from Gomantong Caves. They would fly through the dense, meandering columns, often emerging with a bat in their talons, which they sometimes consumed on the wing. Pretty amazing spectacle!

BRAHMINY KITE (*Haliastur indus*)

At least one Brahminy was partaking of the Gomantong bats as well. Others were seen along the Kinabatangan.

WHITE-BELLIED SEA-EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*)

Great views at Sukau.

LESSER FISH-EAGLE (*Ichthyophaga humilis*)

This Near-Threatened Species was also seen well along the river.

CRESTED SERPENT-EAGLE (*Spilornis cheela*)

We had various good views, starting at the Rainforest Discovery Center.

CRESTED GOSHAWK (*Accipiter trivirgatus*)

Our best was perched and scoped one late afternoon along the BRL entrance road.

BLACK EAGLE (*Ictinaetus malayensis*)

Seen by Greg at BRL.

RUFIOUS-BELLIED EAGLE (*Lophotrioichis kienerii*)

A pair circled higher and higher over the Sepilok canopy towers, and another was seen in the Kinabatangan.

WALLACE'S HAWK-EAGLE (*Nisaetus nanus*)

S - We had a number of sightings of this declining species (or so we think! ID versus Blyth's is so difficult) in the Kinabatangan and at BRL. Considered Vulnerable.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

E WHITE-FRONTED FALCONET (*Microhierax latifrons*)

Our first flew into the dead tree with the Blue-eared Barbet at Gomantong and stayed for nice scope views. Our second was perched above the Menanggul River. What a fabulous, tiny raptor! Considered Near Threatened.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

One was hunting bats over Gomantong Caves.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-BREASTED WATERHEN (*Amaurornis phoenicurus*)

One bird Jan spotted along the Kinabatangan was seen well by all.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

LITTLE TERN (*Sternula albifrons*)

A bird seen flying over Likas Bay (as we drove past) would have been a non-breeding lingerer.

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

I ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*)

SPOTTED DOVE (*Streptopelia chinensis*)

If you don't have something nice to say,

LITTLE CUCKOO-DOVE (*Macropygia ruficeps*)
Seen nicely repeatedly, at Tambunan and Kinabalu.

EMERALD DOVE (*Chalcophaps indica*)
A few fly-by's at BRL, where we heard them regularly.

I ZEBRA DOVE (*Geopelia striata*)
KK

LITTLE GREEN-PIGEON (*Treron olax*)
S - We had dynamite views of these little beauties, at Sepilok, Sukau, and especially Gomantong.

THICK-BILLED PIGEON (*Treron curvirostra*)
Seen only from the Sepilok canopy walkway.

JAMBU FRUIT-DOVE (*Ptilinopus jambu*)
S - Mostly heard, but we saw two of them shoot past at Kinabalu, at their upper-elevation limit. Considered Near Threatened.

GREEN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula aenea*)
Common throughout the forested lowlands.

MOUNTAIN IMPERIAL-PIGEON (*Ducula badia*)
Kinabalu

Psittacidae (Parrots)

BLUE-RUMPED PARROT (*Psittinus cyanurus*)
S - We had lovely scope looks at a perched pair near eye level from the BRL canopy walkway. When they flew, we could see their red underwing coverts. Considered Near Threatened.

LONG-TAILED PARAKEET (*Psittacula longicauda*)
S - Seen flying and then perched in the Kinabatangan. This one gets into Myanmar as well as Sundaland, but it's also considered Near Threatened.

BLUE-CROWNED HANGING-PARROT (*Loriculus galgulus*)
Commonly heard and seen zipping past in the lowlands; views for some from the Sepilok tower were not too bad.

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

MOUSTACHED HAWK-CUCKOO (*Cuculus vagans*)
Heard well and seen flying back and forth overhead along the Menanggul River; then seen well by Tom, Gaylan, and Jan at the Jacuzzi Pool. Considered Near Threatened.

SUNDA CUCKOO (*Cuculus lepidus*)
S - One of the highlights of our very nice morning up the Summit Trail was watching this species perched and calling at close range, with Mt. Kinabalu in the background.

PLAINTIVE CUCKOO (*Cacomantis merulinus*)
Heard often and seen perched up along the Menanggul.

VIOLET CUCKOO (*Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*)
A singing male interrupted our lunch one day at BRL and was seen beautifully right beside our table!

ASIAN DRONGO-CUCKOO (*Surniculus lugubris*)
Remember "one-two-three-four-five"?

BLACK-BELLIED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus diardi*)
S - Seen twice in the canopy at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

RAFFLES'S MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*)
S - We had some super encounters with pairs of these striking cuckoos, starting at the Rainforest Discovery Center (RDC) towers, where the male on the cover was photographed. It's quite reminiscent of a Squirrel Cuckoo from the New World tropics.

RED-BILLED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus javanicus*)
S - Often the toughest of the malkohas to find, it was a regular in the BRL canopy this trip.

CHESTNUT-BREASTED MALKOHA (*Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*)
S - Striking and seen well from canopy towers at RDC and BRL.

- E** BORNEAN GROUND-CUCKOO (*Carpococcyx radiatus*)
Aye, yay, yay! Well, at least four lucky folks had good looks at this super-shy and spectacular Bornean endemic, in the Kinabatangan. That's the best we've done so far. We all heard them well several times. Considered Near Threatened.
- GREATER COUCAL (*Centropus sinensis*)
Most memorable was the deep, booming voice.
- LESSER COUCAL (*Centropus bengalensis*)
Seen nicely along the Kinabatangan.
- Tytonidae (Barn-Owls)**
- ORIENTAL BAY-OWL (*Phodilus badius*)
Wow! Thanks to Hamit, we all had wonderful views (and listens!) of this normally difficult-to-see relative of our Barn Owl; in the Kinabatangan. What a treat!
- Strigidae (Owls)**
- * MOUNTAIN SCOPS-OWL (*Otus spilocephalus*)
 BUFFY FISH-OWL (*Ketupa ketupu*)
Another nocturnal highlight along the Menanggul.
- * BROWN WOOD-OWL (*Strix leptogrammica*)
Not much in evidence this trip at BRL.
- Apodidae (Swifts)**
- SILVER-RUMPED NEEDLETAIL (*Rhaphidura leucopygialis*)
S - Seen nicely at BRL.
- WATERFALL SWIFT (*Hydrochous gigas*)
S - Once again, our luck held: We had good views of a couple of these scarce and little known swifts in the sunset sky at Poring, where we compared them to big Gray-rumped Treeswifts and to the smaller echo-locating swiftlets that were flittering about nearby. A.k.a. Giant Swiftlet. It is considered Near Threatened.
- N** GLOSSY SWIFTLET (*Collocalia esculenta*)
Common throughout.
- N** CAVE SWIFTLET (*Collocalia linchi*)
The ones with the green gloss (or so we think!). These swiftlets are tough to ID. Cave Swiftlet, as included in Clements, includes several races occurring from Sumatra and Java to Bali and Lombok. The Bornean race dodger is elevated to full-species status by some (including Meyers and Phillipps), in which case it would be a montane endemic.
- N** MOSSY-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus salangana*)
S - The three echo-locating swiftlets can be identified safely only by their nests, which are quite distinctive indeed. All three nest at Gomantong Caves, where we matched the swiftlets with their nests.
- N** BLACK-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus maximus*)
Gomantong Caves. There were some incredible price tags on their cleaned nests in the KK airport. Occurring mostly in Sundaland, this species reaches SE Vietnam and Palawan.
- N** EDIBLE-NEST SWIFTLET (*Aerodramus fuciphagus*)
S - Gomantong Caves. A.k.a. White-nest Swiftlet.
- HOUSE SWIFT (*Apus nipalensis*)
Seen by some from the upper floors of our hotel in KK, where they swooped about, but mostly before the official start of the tour.
- Hemiprocnidae (Treeswifts)**
- GRAY-RUMPED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne longipennis*)
One of our first birds of the tour! We scoped a bird perched up at Tambunan Rafflesia Center and then saw a few more here and there.
- WHISKERED TREESWIFT (*Hemiprocne comata*)
A real favorite! Seen repeatedly at Danum Valley, where they joined us for breakfast and were extremely confiding along the canopy walkway.
- Trogonidae (Trogons)**

RED-NAPED TROGON (*Harpactes kasumba*)

S - We finally caught up with these beauties along the Jacuzzi Trail. All four of the forest trogons that we saw are considered Near Threatened.

DIARD'S TROGON (*Harpactes diardii*)

S - Seen in the Kinabatangan and heard at BRL.

CINNAMON-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes orrhophaeus*)

S - This scarce trogon was my only life bird of the trip. It was thrilling to encounter it with a mixed big-bird flock and hear its distinctive song. That was quite a flock!

SCARLET-RUMPED TROGON (*Harpactes duvaucelii*)

S - Seen and heard near Sukau and then heard again at BRL, where it was seen by some.

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

BLUE-EARED KINGFISHER (*Alcedo meninting*)

Fascinating to see them sleeping, with their bills held upward, along the Kinabatangan.

RUFIOUS-BACKED KINGFISHER (*Ceyx rufidorsa*)

One bird flew along the bank while we were working on a Bornean Ground-Cuckoo in the Kinabatangan, and Tom had a quick look at another that perched briefly in Danum Valley while we were watching for the Black-headed Pitta. We heard them from the Sukau boardwalk as well. Apparently, this and the black-backed form intergrade and are lumped by most authors.

BANDED KINGFISHER (*Lacedo pulchella*)

A generally tough bird in Borneo, but thanks to Tom's spotting, we had a terrific view of one at Poring.

STORK-BILLED KINGFISHER (*Pelargopsis capensis*)

You guys have gotta see Johnny's photo of the roosting bird in the Kinabatangan! What a view!

RUDDY KINGFISHER (*Halcyon coromanda*)

A calling bird, of the brilliant race minor, responded to playback along the Menanggul by flying back and forth across the river in lovely light. A scarce bird of the coastal lowlands in Borneo.

COLLARED KINGFISHER (*Todiramphus chloris*)

Kinabatangan

Meropidae (Bee-eaters)

RED-BEARDED BEE-EATER (*Nyctyornis amictus*)

Indeed, one of the handsomest birds of Borneo; and that's saying a LOT! My cover photo was taken near where we first saw it this year, from the RDC canopy walkway. We later saw birds at BRL as well.

BLUE-THROATED BEE-EATER (*Merops viridis*)

Our common (and striking!) companion throughout the lowlands.

Coraciidae (Rollers)

DOLLARBIRD (*Eurystomus orientalis*)

Common along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries.

Bucerotidae (Hornbills)

ORIENTAL PIED-HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros albirostris*)

First seen at Sepilok and then common in the Kinabatangan.

BLACK HORNBILL (*Anthracoceros malayanus*)

S - A male variant, with a long white stripe over the eye, had taken up residence in the vicinity of the BRL canopy towers, sometimes perching right on the walkway itself! Their harsh calls were often heard, and we saw them at RDC and in the Kinabatangan as well as at BRL. While most of the hornbills we saw seemed reasonably common (or perhaps uncommon), all but Bushy-crested, Oriental Pied-, and Wreathed (which have much wider ranges) are considered Near Threatened.

RHINOCEROS HORNBILL (*Buceros rhinoceros*)

S - Perhaps the handsomest of all the hornbills, it was seen well both at Sukau and BRL.

HELMETED HORNBILL (*Buceros vigil*)

S - This most bizarre hornbill can be hard. We finally caught up with it when we heard its maniacal calling from the BRL canopy walkway and managed to call in a male, which flew past several times and ultimately landed overhead. A real highlight!

BUSHY-CRESTED HORNBILL (*Anorrhinus galeritus*)

S - We had repeated encounters with flocks of this social hornbill.

WHITE-CROWNED HORNBILL (*Aceros comatus*)

S - This is usually the toughest of the hornbills to find. We were lucky to have a responsive pair along the Menanggul our first morning out of Sukau. What a bird!

WRINKLED HORNBILL (*Aceros corrugatus*)

S - A female flew across the Kinabatangan River one afternoon, and another was seen at BRL, at least by some.

WREATHED HORNBILL (*Aceros undulatus*)

First at Gomantong and then at BRL. Their dramatic whooshing is caused by a lack of underwing coverts and their modified outer primaries, through which the air rushes during flight.

Megalaimidae (Asian Barbets)

BROWN BARBET (*Calorhamphus fuliginosus*)

S - This aberrant, monotypic barbet (of the race tertius, with the bright-red legs) was seen at RDC and Sukau.

GOLD-WHISKERED BARBET (*Megalaima chrysopogon*)

S - We heard its staccato song on our afternoon at Poring and managed to call it in close for good views. Also heard at BRL.

RED-THROATED BARBET (*Megalaima mystacophanos*)

S - Surprisingly easy to see this trip, coming in for close views along the river near Sukau and at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

* YELLOW-CROWNED BARBET (*Megalaima henricii*)

S - By contrast, this one was exceptionally tough this trip. Considered Near Threatened.

E GOLDEN-NAPED BARBET (*Megalaima pulcherrima*)

This species gets the award for the most birder-friendly of the barbets this trip. The pair that owned the red-fruited tree at the end of the road to the Summit Trailhead afforded excellent views to anyone aware of their presence.

BLUE-EARED BARBET (*Megalaima australis*)

By voice one of the commonest of the barbets on our route; but they were heard much more often than seen. We had decent looks at them at RDC and at Gomantong Caves.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

RUFOUS PICULET (*Sasia abnormis*)

S - This tiny woodpecker was quite responsive along the Menanggul and heard at BRL.

WHITE-BELLIED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus javensis*)

We had wonderful views of this big beauty from the RDC tower, where one vied for our attention with a pair of Great Slaty's!

CRIMSON-WINGED WOODPECKER (*Picus puniceus*)

S - We heard this woodpecker calling loudly along the Tenangang, but we had only glimpses there. Some folks may have seen one then with our big mixed flock at BRL, but I was never convinced that we weren't seeing the Checker-throated's poorly; the latter were definitely with that flock.

CHECKER-THROATED WOODPECKER (*Picus mentalis*)

S - We had very nice looks at a pair with a big mixed flock on the Jacuzzi Trail.

OLIVE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Dinopium rafflesii*)

S - This was the one that flew back and forth BELOW us at the BRL canopy tower. Considered Near Threatened.

MAROON WOODPECKER (*Blythipicus rubiginosus*)

After having heard them frequently at Kinabalu and RDC, we finally connected well at BRL.

ORANGE-BACKED WOODPECKER (*Reinwardtipicus validus*)

S - This Sundaland specialty is easily missed, but we had good luck with them on this tour. Greg saw one along the Sukau boardwalk during a break, and then the rest of us had nice pairs along the Hornbill Trail and from the BRL canopy tower.

BUFF-RUMPED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tristis*)

S - Seen well on our "woodpecker morning" at the RDC canopy walkway, where it came in right under us, offering direct comparisons with the next species.

BUFF-NECKED WOODPECKER (*Meiglyptes tukki*)

S - We watched a family group right below us at the RDC canopy walkway. Considered Near Threatened.

GRAY-AND-BUFF WOODPECKER (*Hemicircus concretus*)

S - A personal highlight for me was seeing so well this tiny woodpecker with the short tail and long crest, especially at the RDC canopy, where we saw the first of several. A Sundaland specialty that can be easily missed on the peninsula.

GREAT SLATY WOODPECKER (*Mulleripicus pulverulentus*)

What a treat! Hamit said he had seen them at the RDC, but we weren't expecting them to hang around for so long, chasing each other through the subcanopy. Fortunately, they did stop long enough for repeated great scope views of the largest woodpecker in the Old World. Its numbers have declined, and it's now considered Vulnerable.

Eurylaimidae (Broadbills)

GREEN BROADBILL (*Calyptomena viridis*)

S - We had nice looks at (at least) two birds along the Jacuzzi Trail at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

E WHITEHEAD'S BROADBILL (*Calyptomena whiteheadi*)

Big cousin of the last species, this scarce Bornean endemic, usually the toughest of the Whitehead's trio, was seen well by most folks along the Liwagu Trail, thanks to Shari's spotting.

BLACK-AND-RED BROADBILL (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*)

This dazzling broadbill (see Johnny's cover photo) was seen extremely well, starting at the RDC. We even saw a fluffy ball of 5 birds roosting side by side, with bills and tails sticking out in opposite directions, on a branch above the Kinabatangan River.

BANDED BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus javanicus*)

After hearing it a couple of times, and seeing it high in the fading light at Gomantong, we finally had a good look at a young bird along the Jacuzzi Trail at BRL.

BLACK-AND-YELLOW BROADBILL (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*)

S - This beauty is much more common than the last, and we had lovely views repeatedly in the lowlands. But, as Greg pointed out, its seeming abundance in Borneo's remaining forest patches has not kept it from being listed as Near Threatened.

DUSKY BROADBILL (*Corydon sumatranus*)

We had nice views, from the boats, of a group of noisy, responsive Dusky Broadbills along the Menanggul River in Sukau. They have truly BROAD bills!

Pittidae (Pittas)

*** GIANT PITTA** (*Pitta caerulea*)

S - It was distant and non-responsive at BRL.

E BLUE-HEADED PITTA (*Pitta baudii*)

One of the highlight birds of Borneo; we saw it on various occasions at BRL--foraging (see Johnny's photo on the cover) as well as SLEEPING! When roosting, it transforms into a fluffy, big ball of colorful feathers, with no protrusion of any part! Considered Vulnerable.

E BLACK-HEADED PITTA (*Pitta ussheri*)

This gorgeous pitta presents strong competition with the last for aesthetic bird highlight. We heard it well off the trail; Paul got us positioned for good viewing, and we called it in for fabulous looks at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

HOODED PITTA (*Pitta sordida*)

Perhaps equally beautiful, but more widespread, this was still a favorite. We had some lovely views of a bird along the Menanggul at Sukau.

Prionopidae (Helmetshrikes and Allies)

LARGE WOODSHRIKE (*Tephrodornis gularis*)

Seen well along the entrance road at BRL.

MAROON-BREASTED PHILENTOMA (*Philentoma velata*)

S - After Hal spotted it, we all ultimately saw it well with our big mixed flock along the Jacuzzi Trail. Considered Near Threatened.

Pityriaseidae (Bristlehead)

E BORNEAN BRISTLEHEAD (*Pityriasis gymnocephala*)

After having heard distant (and unresponsive) birds at Sepilok, we lucked into two birds moving with Dusky Broadbills along the Menanggal at Sukau. Yip! Yip! Yip! Usually placed in a monotypic family, it's one of the most distinctive and bizarre birds of Borneo--and usually on everyone's most-wanted list. Its closest relatives are thought to be the bushshrikes and vangas.

Aegithinidae (Ioras)

COMMON IORA (*Aegithina tiphia*)

Seen in roadside trees at Likas Bay and heard in the Kinabatangan.

GREEN IORA (*Aegithina viridissima*)

S - We had nice, close views of this one from the BRL canopy. Considered Near Threatened.

Campephagidae (Cuckoo-shrikes)

FIERY MINIVET (*Pericrocotus igneus*)

S - Stunning and seen well at RDC and BRL. Even this species is considered Near Threatened.

GRAY-CHINNED MINIVET (*Pericrocotus solaris*)

The regular minivet in the highlands, it was seen well repeatedly, near the Rafflesia Center and at Kinabalu.

N BAR-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus picatus*)

Nesting at the Tambunan Rafflesia Center.

BLACK-WINGED FLYCATCHER-SHRIKE (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*)

S - Widespread in low density in the lowlands, it was seen well along the Tenangang and at BRL.

Pachycephalidae (Whistlers and Allies)

E BORNEAN WHISTLER (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*)

Fairly common at Kinabalu, often with forest flocks.

Oriolidae (Old World Orioles)

DARK-THROATED ORIOLE (*Oriolus xanthonotus*)

S - First at Sukau and then repeatedly in the canopy at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

BLACK-AND-CRIMSON ORIOLE (*Oriolus cruentus*)

S - A stunning, big oriole of the higher elevations, it was seen well at the Rafflesia Center and Kinabalu.

Dicruridae (Drongos)

ASHY DRONGO (*Dicrurus leucophaeus*)

Common at Tambunan and Kinabalu, where we particularly enjoyed them near the power station. We saw the endemic race stigmatops.

BRONZED DRONGO (*Dicrurus aeneus*)

A pair with the big flock--perhaps the leaders?--on the Jacuzzi Trail was seen quite well.

HAIR-CRESTED DRONGO (*Dicrurus hottentottus*)

Kinabalu

GREATER RACKET-TAILED DRONGO (*Dicrurus paradiseus*)

Two birds, below us, at the RDC canopy tower were our only encounter with this dramatic drongo.

Rhipiduridae (Fantails)

WHITE-THROATED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura albicollis*)

Common and confiding at Kinabalu.

PIED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura javanica*)

Equally confiding in the lowlands.

SPOTTED FANTAIL (*Rhipidura perlata*)

S - But our favorite fantail was this beauty, which allowed such a close approach at BRL that we could take photos with our point-and-shoot cameras.

Monarchidae (Monarch Flycatchers)

BLACK-NAPED MONARCH (*Hypothymis azurea*)

Our first one, with a flock at the RDC canopy tower, was shockingly blue! A real beauty.

ASIAN PARADISE-FLYCATCHER (*Terpsiphone paradisi*)

Seen wonderfully at BRL. Most of the males in Borneo (race borneensis) are beautiful white morphs.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

CRESTED JAY (*Platylophus galericulatus*)

S - Of the brown race, coronatus, this fancy but shy forest jay was seen well on our final morning at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

E BLACK MAGPIE (*Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus*)

This endemic, all-black race is usually elevated to full-species status nowadays, making it another Bornean endemic. We first saw it atop a riverside tree on the Kinabatangan, where it was singing shortly after dawn. Some folks later had a quick, close view of 3 birds eating fruit in a tree right beside the BRL canopy walkway. Considered Near Threatened.

SHORT-TAILED MAGPIE (*Cissa thalassina*)

S - Confined to Java and Borneo, this beauty was a real treat to watch at Kinabalu, where Johnny captured it eating a fat, fuzzy caterpillar that looked like the one we photographed near the Nepenthes.

E BORNEAN TREEPIE (*Dendrocitta cinerascens*)

Fairly common in the mountains, both at Tambunan and Kinabalu.

SLENDER-BILLED CROW (*Corvus enca*)

Encountered daily in the lowlands.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

N PACIFIC SWALLOW (*Hirundo tahitica*)

The only swallow in Borneo this time of year, this widespread species was seen daily, including nesting.

Cettiidae (Bush-Warblers and Allies)

E BORNEAN STUBTAIL (*Urosphena whiteheadi*)

The highlight of our final morning at Kinabalu was watching this scarce little target singing away with all its might at such close range. Its bill is opened widely, exposing its yellow mouth lining. Its song is the one that tests a birder's hearing. Should be added to the Whitehead's trio to make it Whitehead's quartet!

SUNDA BUSH-WARBLER (*Cettia vulcania*)

S - This one is both friendly and common in the mountains of north-central Borneo, and we had some wonderful interactions with it at Kinabalu. Our first one even sang from the wooden fence as we photographed it!

YELLOW-BELLIED WARBLER (*Abroscopus superciliaris*)

S - Seen well by all in the bamboo at the Tambunan Rafflesia Center.

MOUNTAIN TAILORBIRD (*Phyllergates cuculatus*)

Recently shown to be very distantly related to other tailorbirds, this cutie has been placed in a new genus and family (Cettiidae). We saw it well several times at Kinabalu, especially on our final morning along the Silau-Silau.

Sittidae (Nuthatches)

VELVET-FRONTED NUTHATCH (*Sitta frontalis*)

Seen both in the mountains (up the Kinabalu Summit Trail) and in the lowlands (at Sukau and BRL). Another charmer!

Pycnonotidae (Bulbuls)

BLACK-HEADED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus atriceps*)

Gomantong & BRL

E BLACK-CRESTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus melanicterus montis*)

Split by some authorities (including Meyers & Phillipps) from Black-crested Bulbul (& called Bornean Bulbul), this yellow-throated form inhabits the lower montane forests of north-central Borneo. We saw it well near the Rafflesia Center.

PUFF-BACKED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus eutilotus*)

S - This big bulbul was seen well briefly by some from the BRL walkway. Considered Near Threatened.

E FLAVESCENT BULBUL (*Pycnonotus flavescens leucops*)

The pale-faced race leucops, elevated to full-species status by most authorities, is restricted to the mountains of north-central Borneo. We saw it nicely up the Summit Trail at Kinabalu.

YELLOW-VENTED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus goiavier*)

One of several species that are conspicuous in disturbed habitats, from the oil palm plantations to the second growth near Kundasang.

OLIVE-WINGED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus plumosus*)

Restricted to Sundaland and the western Philippines, this one's a rather dull bulbul; seen this year at Gomantong, Sukau, and BRL.

RED-EYED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus brunneus*)

S - The default bulbul of the lowland forest edge, it was seen throughout the lowlands.

SPECTACLED BULBUL (*Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*)

S - Seen well, its yellow ring around the red eye showing well, once at BRL.

FINSCH'S BULBUL (*Alophoixus finschii*)

S - Generally scarce on the peninsula, this bulbul with the distinctive call is fairly regular at BRL. We had great looks, at birds with their throats puffed out, along the entrance road. Considered Near Threatened.

OCHRACEOUS BULBUL (*Alophoixus ochraceus*)

This big, puff-throated bulbul was seen well below the Rafflesia Center (at the waterfall) and at Kinabalu. In addition to Sundaland, it ranges to Vietnam and sw. Thailand.

GRAY-CHEEKED BULBUL (*Alophoixus bres*)

This one reaches the Philippines as well as all of Sundaland. We saw it only at Sukau on this trip.

YELLOW-BELLIED BULBUL (*Alophoixus phaeocephalus*)

S - Seen from the boats at Sukau and then at BRL.

HAIRY-BACKED BULBUL (*Tricholestes criniger*)

This distinctive bulbul, with the whiny call and big yellow spectacle, was seen well at BRL.

STREAKED BULBUL (*Ixos malaccensis*)

S - Seen by some at BRL while we were working on the Black-throated Wren-Babbler. Considered Near Threatened.

ASHY BULBUL (*Hemixos flavala connectens*)

As split by some from the race flavala, with the greenish-yellow wing patches, connectens would be a Sundaland specialty, called Cinereous Bulbul. We saw it well near the Rafflesia Center.

Phylloscopidae (Leaf-Warblers)

MOUNTAIN WARBLER (*Phylloscopus trivirgatus*)

A.k.a. Mountain Leaf-Warbler. Found in montane forests of Sundaland and the Philippines, this species was fairly common and quite vocal on Kinabalu.

YELLOW-BREASTED WARBLER (*Seicercus montis*)

S - This pretty warbler, with the high-pitched song, was quite common in the forests of the Crocker Range and Kinabalu.

Megaluridae (Grassbirds and Allies)

E FRIENDLY BUSH-WARBLER (*Bradypterus accentor*)

I walked up the Summit Trail playing the high-pitched, buzzy song of this secretive endemic, and Greg heard it respond behind me. It then sneaked in very close for great naked-eye views. This was near the 2100m. distance marker along the trail.

STRIATED GRASSBIRD (*Megalurus palustris*)

Seen by some in the grasses along Likas Bay.

Cisticolidae (Cisticolas and Allies)

DARK-NECKED TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus atrogularis*)

BRL

RUFOUS-TAILED TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus sericeus*)

This cutie was especially confiding along the boardwalk to our chalets at BRL. Its range is Sundaland plus the Philippines.

ASHY TAILORBIRD (*Orthotomus ruficeps*)

S - Common throughout the lowlands; especially memorable were the sleeping birds above the water of the Kinabatangan.

YELLOW-BELLIED PRINIA (*Prinia flaviventris*)
Kundasang & Sukau.

Trenidae (Fairy-bluebirds)

ASIAN FAIRY-BLUEBIRD (*Irena puella*)

Surprisingly, our only encounter on this trip was with one fly-by at the Sepilok RDC canopy.

Muscicapidae (Old World Flycatchers)

E EYEBROWED JUNGLE-FLYCATCHER (*Rhinomyias gularis*)

Also surprisingly, this distinctive endemic was seen only by Johnny & Shari the afternoon the rest of us went to Poring; it was on the Silau-Silau trail, where we looked for it afterward to no avail. It's usually uncommon but not rare.

SNOWY-BROWED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula hyperythra*)

We all saw this one nicely--along the Liwagu trail.

RUFIOUS-CHESTED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula dumetoria*)

S - A little beauty, this specialty was seen well along the Segama Trail at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

LITTLE PIED FLYCATCHER (*Ficedula westermanni*)

Males and females were seen well at Kinabalu.

VERDITER FLYCATCHER (*Eumyias thalassinus*)

One was seen at the Rafflesia Center and one at the RDC walkway.

INDIGO FLYCATCHER (*Eumyias indigo*)

S - Restricted to Sumatra and Borneo, this pretty flycatcher is fairly common at Kinabalu.

LONG-BILLED BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis caerulatus*)

S - Almost a Bornean endemic, this one occurs only in Borneo and Sumatra. We had nice studies of a responsive, singing male at the Jacuzzi Pool at BRL. Considered Vulnerable.

MALAYSIAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis turcosus*)

S - This one was common along the Kinabatangan tributaries, where we saw males and females; also seen at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

E BORNEAN BLUE-FLYCATCHER (*Cyornis superbus*)

A singing male along the Jacuzzi trail at BRL was quite cooperative.

ORIENTAL MAGPIE-ROBIN (*Copsychus saularis*)

Our favorite encounter with this widespread edge species was finding a family sleeping at the edge of the water near Sukau. The race we saw was adamsi, with mostly black underparts but white undertail coverts.

E WHITE-RUMPED SHAMA (*Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii*)

Its exceptionally rich song was with us throughout the lowlands, but it was heard much more often than seen. We did have very nice views of it, especially on the beginning of the Sukau boardwalk, where two birds chased and showed off. If elevated to full-species status, as done by some authors, White-crowned Shama would be a Bornean endemic.

RUFIOUS-TAILED SHAMA (*Trichixos pyrropygus*)

S - A generally shy and uncommon resident of lowland rainforest, this Sundaland specialty was an exciting find along the Hornbill Trail at BRL, where we heard it singing and Paul was able to get us all on it. Considered Near Threatened.

CHESTNUT-NAPED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus ruficapillus*)

S - Our patience paid off with this beauty, at the Jacuzzi Pool at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*)

S - This is the lowland form, which we saw extremely well at BRL, as it sat sleeping on our final night walk: a black-and-white ball of fluff with its long, forked tail protruding!

E WHITE-CROWNED FORKTAIL (*Enicurus leschenaulti borneensis*)

This is the endemic, montane race, which is the one we saw along the Silau-Silau at Kinabalu. Recent molecular studies suggest that borneensis could be a distinct species, in which case it would be another Bornean endemic.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

E BORNEAN WHISTLING-THRUSH (*Myophonus borneensis*)

We had repeated good looks at this big ground-foraging thrush at Kinabalu.

- E** FRUIT-HUNTER (*Chlamydochaera jefferyi*)
This strange thrush, reminiscent of a cochoa, is one of Borneo's foremost endemics--and often one of the toughest to find. This year we dipped on seeing the calling birds at Tambunan, but we had good looks at Kinabalu. Hal saw one well near the vista point, but it got away from most of us. We then found a lovely female along the Bukit Ular Trail.
- WHITE-BROWED SHORTWING (*Brachypteryx montana*)
This songster was mostly heard, especially along the Bukit Ular trail, but some of us saw it along the lower Summit Trail, and John and Shari had a close female along the Silau-Silau.
- Timaliidae (Babblers)**
- SUNDA LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax palliatus*)
S - Found only in Sumatra and Borneo, this is another almost-endemic. We watched them foraging for insects at Kinabalu, where we had close views.
- E** BLACK LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax lugubris calvus*)
Considered a full species by most authorities (and called Bare-headed Laughingthrush), calvus is the least common of the three Bornean laughingthrushes--and the shyest. For most of us this year, it was heard only, with the big mixed flock of laughingthrushes along the Mempening Trail at Kinabalu. But I think Hal alone actually got his bins on one.
- E** CHESTNUT-CAPPED LAUGHINGTHRUSH (*Garrulax mitratus treacheri*)
This race too is split by most authorities these days, in which case it is called Chestnut-hooded and becomes another Bornean endemic of the north-central mountain ranges, where it is quite common. We enjoyed multiple encounters at Kinabalu.
- WHITE-CHESTED BABBLER (*Trichastoma rostratum*)
S - Quite common along the banks of the Kinabatangan's tributaries, where we had very nice views. Also seen on the Jacuzzi Trail at BRL. Believe it or not, this one too is considered Near Threatened.
- N** FERRUGINOUS BABBLER (*Trichastoma bicolor*)
S - Fairly common in the lowlands, it was quite vocal during our visit. Our best encounter was with the one feeding young in a nest near the ground off the Sukau boardwalk.
- HORSFIELD'S BABBLER (*Malacocincla sepiaria*)
S - Also associated with wet areas, this one was seen by (at least) Greg and me near the beginning of the Sukau boardwalk.
- SHORT-TAILED BABBLER (*Malacocincla malaccensis*)
S - This terrestrial babbler with the very distinctive song was seen well near the beginning of the Hornbill Trail and along the Jacuzzi Trail at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.
- TEMMINCK'S BABBLER (*Pellorneum pyrrogenys*)
S - We had but glimpses of this very vocal babbler in the understory above the Hill Lodge at Kinabalu. Most folks considered it heard only.
- BLACK-CAPPED BABBLER (*Pellorneum capistratum*)
S - But everyone had fantastic views of this handsome terrestrial babbler on our first morning along the entrance road at BRL, where a pair came in almost to our feet!
- MOUSTACHED BABBLER (*Malacopteron magnirostre*)
S - We tracked its song and were able to see its moustachial mark; at BRL.
- SOOTY-CAPPED BABBLER (*Malacopteron affine*)
S - Its rambling whistles were commonly heard in the lowland forests, and we had good looks at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.
- SCALY-CROWNED BABBLER (*Malacopteron cinereum*)
This one with the rising whistles occurs somewhat more widely than most; it's throughout SE Asia. We saw it well at BRL.
- RUFOUS-CROWNED BABBLER (*Malacopteron magnum*)
S - We had nice comparisons of this species to the last along the entrance road at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

- E** BORNEAN WREN-BABBLER (*Ptilocichla leucogrammica*)
This one is strange, walking on the ground like a miniature rail-babbler (and sometimes called Bornean Ground-Babbler). After much fishing at BRL, Greg picked out the song off the entrance road one hot, sunny late morning. We gambled that we could call it in close--to one little head-hole in the dense vegetation where we could see the forest floor from the road. Amazingly, it did walk in, and most folks got a quick view of one of the toughest Bornean endemics to see well. Considered Vulnerable.
- STRIPED WREN-BABBLER (*Kenopia striata*)
S - It was another example of persistence paying off: We stimulated to song a pair of these pretty wren-babblers off the Sukau boardwalk, and, eventually, we all had stellar views of a singing bird. Considered Near Threatened.
- E** BLACK-THROATED WREN-BABBLER (*Napothera atrigularis*)
We watched this big guy kicking up leaves on the forest floor as it foraged along the beginning of a trail off the entrance road at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.
- E** MOUNTAIN WREN-BABBLER (*Napothera crassa*)
Award for the most cooperative wren-babbler would have to go to this species, which was seen incredibly well along the Summit Trail up Kinabalu.
- RUFOUS-FRONTED BABBLER (*Stachyris rufifrons*)
This widespread species was seen at arm's length from the BRL canopy walkway.
- GRAY-THROATED BABBLER (*Stachyris nigriceps*)
Another widespread species, it was seen a couple of times at Kinabalu.
- GRAY-HEADED BABBLER (*Stachyris poliocephala*)
S - We heard this one along the entrance road to BRL and called in a very responsive bird. It was almost too responsive, overshooting time after time. But we all eventually managed a good look at it.
- CHESTNUT-RUMPED BABBLER (*Stachyris maculata*)
S - We called in a party of these showoffs along the Sukau forest boardwalk. Considered Near Threatened.
- CHESTNUT-WINGED BABBLER (*Stachyris erythroptera*)
S - One of the commonest babblers based on what we were hearing; seen nicely throughout the lowlands.
- E** STRIPED TIT-BABBLER (*Macronous gularis bornensis*)
A.k.a. Bold-striped Tit-Babbler when elevated to full-species status, as most authorities do now. We saw them well just outside our rooms at BRL.
- FLUFFY-BACKED TIT-BABBLER (*Macronous ptilosus*)
S - One of my favorite babblers, this one responded along the BRL entrance road by flying back and forth across the road long enough that we all got to see at least its blue cheek pouches inflated as it sang. Considered Near Threatened.
- WHITE-BROWED SHRIKE-BABBLER (*Pteruthius flaviscapis*)
A widespread and vocal babbler; a female was seen on our first morning at Tambunan Rafflesia Center. At Kinabalu I think it was heard only.
- BROWN FULVETTA (*Alcippe brunneicauda*)
S - With the big mixed flock along the Jacuzzi Trail at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.
- E** CHESTNUT-CRESTED YUHINA (*Yuhina everetti*)
Common and captivating, tight flocks of these cheery little yuhinas were regular in the montane forest edge--and kept us happy to see them.
- BLACK-CAPPED WHITE-EYE (*Zosterops atricapilla*)
S - The common white-eye of the highlands, it was seen well repeatedly.
- E** MOUNTAIN BLACK-EYE (*Chlorocharis emiliae*)
We had lovely views of this gregarious endemic, with a mixed flock along the Summit Trail.
- Sturnidae (Starlings)***
- ASIAN GLOSSY STARLING (*Aplonis panayensis*)
Common in the more open, disturbed areas (where we didn't spend much time on this trip).
- COMMON HILL MYNA (*Gracula religiosa*)
Seen first at the Sepilok RDC canopy walkway and then along the road at BRL.
- I** CRESTED MYNA (*Acridotheres cristatellus*)
Seen by Greg et al. at Kundasang.

Chloropseidae (Leafbirds)

E BORNEAN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis kinabaluensis*)

Endemic to montane forests of north-central Borneo, this species was recently split from Blue-winged Leafbird. We saw well a small flock of them along the road near the Tambunan Rafflesia Center on our first morning afield.

GREATER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis sonnerati*)

S - We saw well at least one female (large, with a bright yellow throat) at BRL.

LESSER GREEN LEAFBIRD (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*)

S - This seemed to be the most common (and vocal) at BRL while we were there. Considered Near Threatened.

Dicaeidae (Flowerpeckers)

YELLOW-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus maculatus*)

S - One bird was seen well, if briefly, by some along the Sukau boardwalk.

CRIMSON-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus percussus*)

S - This was the female that was seen by some as we were watching the Rufous-tailed Shama at BRL.

E YELLOW-RUMPED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*)

We all had great views of this lowland endemic, first at Gomantong and then at BRL.

SCARLET-BREASTED FLOWERPECKER (*Prionochilus thoracicus*)

A female was identified at BRL. Considered Near Threatened.

ORANGE-BELLIED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*)

Striking males of this widespread species were seen well at Poring, Sepilok, and BRL.

E BLACK-SIDED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum monticolum*)

First seen at the Rafflesia Center, this montane endemic was later seen well by all in flowering trees visible from the Hill Lodge parking lot. We saw both an orange-billed juve and an adult male there.

SCARLET-BACKED FLOWERPECKER (*Dicaeum cruentatum*)

Found in Sumatra, Java, Bali, and Lombok as well as Borneo, this one was seen briefly from the canopy walkway at RDC.

Nectariniidae (Sunbirds and Spiderhunters)

RUBY-CHEEKED SUNBIRD (*Chalcoparia singalensis*)

Males were seen nicely a few times at Sukau and BRL.

PLAIN SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes simplex*)

S - BRL must be the best place anywhere to get good looks at this friendly little sunbird. It was a regular outside the dining room, and we saw it well from the canopy walkway as well.

PLAIN-THROATED SUNBIRD (*Anthreptes malacensis*)

Widespread but nice; seen well at Sepilok Jungle Resort.

PURPLE-NAPED SUNBIRD (*Hypogramma hypogrammicum*)

Seen well our final morning at BRL.

OLIVE-BACKED SUNBIRD (*Cinnyris jugularis*)

First at Kundasang and then in the gardens at Sepilok.

EASTERN CRIMSON SUNBIRD (*Aethopyga siparaja*)

We had one striking male along the Tenangang at Sukau.

TEMMINCK'S SUNBIRD (*Aethopyga temminckii*)

S - This beauty was seen first at Tambunan and then daily at Kinabalu.

LITTLE SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera longirostra*)

Sukau and BRL (where seen very well).

LONG-BILLED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera robusta*)

S - All of the spiderhunters we saw were seen well at a few flowering trees that were teeming with activity along the entrance road to BRL.

SPECTACLED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera flavigaster*)

S - This was the one with the big yellow eyering and the small ear patch.

YELLOW-EARED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera chrysogenys*)

S - This one had the big yellow ear patch and the smaller eyering.

- E** STREAKY-BREASTED SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera affinis everetti*)
S - It seems that recent studies have shown that all the gray-breasted spiderhunters in Sabah are of this species (and race), which also occurs in Java (a different race).
- E** WHITEHEAD'S SPIDERHUNTER (*Arachnothera juliae*)
On our first morning afield, at the Rafflesia Center, the men saw a large, dark-backed spiderhunter perched high in a bare tree (while the women were making a rest stop). It flew off and failed to respond to playback (once the women returned). We hoped for a good look at a Whitehead's Spiderhunter at Kinabalu, but it never happened. We did see Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter at BRL later, and Greg et al. decided, after comparing the two birds, that that first one must have been a Whitehead's.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

- I** EURASIAN TREE SPARROW (*Passer montanus*)

Estrildidae (Waxbills and Allies)

- EN** DUSKY MUNIA (*Lonchura fuscans*)
Fairly common and widespread at forest edge throughout. We saw them nest-building at Tambunan.
- CHESTNUT MUNIA (*Lonchura atricapilla*)
Seen first at Poring, then KK, and then by some at Sukau & BRL.

Mammals

- COLUGO (*Cynocephalus variegatus*)
We were lucky indeed to see this "Flying Lemur" actually sailing, its leg membranes fully extended, from one tall tree to another! Of course, it doesn't really fly and it's not a lemur (or even a primate). It's a member of the order Dermoptera, of ancient lineage and with only two living species. It was one of the (many) highlights of our night drives at BRL.
- WRINKLE-LIPPED BAT (*Tadarida [Chaerephon] plicata*)
This species comprised a highlight of a different sort: a massive spectacle of thousands of bats pouring from the Gomantong Caves, in spiraling smoke-like waves, as countless raptors dived through the columns, often emerging successful. It was quite a scene.
- E** MOUNTAIN TREESHREW (*Tupaia montana*)
This was the one with the high-pitched vocalization on Mt. Kinabalu. Some folks got a look at one or two.
- E** SLENDER TREESHREW (*Tupaia gracilis*)
We thought we had this one at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, where the only thing that is slender is the treeshrew, certainly not the visitors, thanks to the wonderful food at the lodge.
- SLOW LORIS (*Nycticebus cougong*)
This one IS a primate, albeit a very slow-moving primate. Thanks to other boatmen from Sukau Rainforest Lodge, we had a wonderful view of one of these sloth-like primates along the Menanggul R.
- LONG-TAILED MACAQUE (*Macaca fascicularis*)
A.k.a. Crab-eating Macaque, it was seen in the Kinabatangan and at BRL.
- PIGTAIL MACAQUE (*Macaca nemestrina*)
Common in the Kinabatangan, where they regularly used the monkey bridges to cross tributary rivers. Johnny & Shari's cover photo of the troop of Pigtail Macaques, lounging above the Menanggul on our final morning at Sukau, really captures something of the "essence of Borneo" in a single scene. Thanks for sharing!
- SILVERED LEAF MONKEY (*Presbytis cristata*)
S - A.k.a. Silvered Langur. This species is a bit more widespread than the next, being found in peninsular Myanmar, Thailand, and Malaysia, as well as the Greater Sundas. We saw them along tributaries of the Kinabatangan.
- E** RED LEAF MONKEY (*Presbytis rubicunda*)
These beauties were fairly common in the rainforests at Gomantong and BRL, where Gaylan got some terrific video of the whitish young one using the tail of a red adult like a rope for climbing. Cool!
- E** PROBOSCIS MONKEY (*Nasalis larvatus*)
These fascinating monkeys with the great noses, fat bellies, and the long white tails were another mammalian highlight along the Kinabatangan and its tributaries, where they gather to feed, socialize, and roost. Ironically, our first ones were sleeping over the Menanggul.

- E** GRAY GIBBON (*Hylobates muelleri*)
A.k.a. Bornean Gibbon. After hearing them pre-dawn almost daily, Tom spotted one from the porch of my chalet, where we were waiting for a shower to pass. It was high in a distant tree across the Danum River, but it was pretty nice through the scope. We rounded up everyone (and inherited a few extra folks!) and watched it for a while, Brooke and Hal staying to watch it the rest of the afternoon. It stayed in its tree for at least a couple of hours, and it was joined by Red Leaf Monkeys in the field of view. Must have been some fruits up there somewhere...
- E** ORANGUTAN (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
Wow! We had some very nice encounters with REAL ones, first with a mother and young one (see Johnny's cover photo) along the Gomantong entrance road, and then at BRL, where we were very close to a big male. The Bornean population is now treated as a species distinct from that in Sumatra.
- GIANT SQUIRREL SP. (*Ratufa affinis*)
A.k.a. Pale Giant Squirrel. Generally considered a Sundaland specialty, of Near Threatened status, this big squirrel was seen first from the Trogon Tower at the RDC (carrying those big fruits) and then at BRL.
- PREVOST'S SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus prevostii*)
S - The common large squirrel of the lowland rainforest, it was seen throughout the lowlands. The Bornean race is very dark.
- PLANTAIN SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus notatus*)
Sukau area
- E** BORNEAN BLACK-BANDED SQUIRREL (*Callosciurus orestes*)
Seen at the Rafflesia Center (where we studied it carefully) and at Kinabalu.
- E** BORNEAN MOUNTAIN GROUND-SQUIRREL (*Dremomys everetti*)
These were the commonest ones raiding the trash bins at Kinabalu.
- E** PLAIN PYGMY SQUIRREL (*Exilisciurus exilis*)
The dwarf of the lowlands; seen almost daily at BRL.
- E** WHITEHEAD'S PYGMY SQUIRREL (*Exilisciurus whiteheadi*)
Our favorite, with the amazing white ear tufts; we saw a number of them at Kinabalu.
- RED GIANT FLYING SQUIRREL (*Petaurista petaurista*)
It was a surprise to find one poking its head out in the daytime, from a cavity in the bee tree at the RDC canopy walkway. What a richly colored head!
- E** THOMAS'S FLYING SQUIRREL (*Aeromys thomasi*)
It's a bird, it's a plane; no, it's a flying squirrel! And we could see that the tip of its tail was all reddish, not black (like it would have been in the preceding species). It was a Thomas's Flying Squirrel! (on a BRL night drive)
- I** BLACK RAT (*Rattus rattus*)
One in the Gomantong Cave doubtless had plenty of disgusting stuff (it's hard to avoid technical terms at times) on which to feed.
- COMMON PALM CIVET (*Viverra zibetha*)
Prowling the forest by night at BRL.
- MALAY CIVET (*Viverra zibetha*)
BRL; seen on one night drive and by Brooke & Hal on a night walk on the Nature Trail (in search of the sleeping pitta).
- LEOPARD CAT (*Felis bengalensis*)
Although not quite as cute as the two Snow Leopard cubs recently unveiled at a New Jersey zoo, these were OURS--in the wild, right beside the road, a hard-to-predict bonus on two night drives at Borneo Rainforest Lodge. That second night one stayed for prolonged views while a second one climbed down a tree (saving the BRL fire department a tough rescue job).
- FLAT-HEADED CAT (*Felis planiceps*)
I'll bet one of these could teach the Rock Squirrels in my yard a thing or two. Our close encounter during a night boat trip at Sukau was certainly one of the highlights of the tour for your guide, for whom it was a much-desired LIFER! But the name "Flat-headed Cat" lacks a frame of reference, provoking responses from the unknowing along the line of "And did you get the pointy-headed cat too?" No we didn't, but Johnny's wonderful photos of this one will provide us all pleasure for a long time.

- I** WILD BOAR (*Sus scrofa*)
Once at Sukau (by one boat), and then a group at BRL, including one that swam across the mighty Danum, which is unfortunately free of Estuarine Crocodiles, because wild boars are a destructive presence in Borneo, as in so many other places where they are not native.
- GREATER MOUSE DEER (*Tragulus napu*)
Almost nightly at BRL. Some groups would have asked if a Greater Mouse Deer was equivalent to a Rat Deer, but we had a great group, and no one did.
- * MUNTJAC (BARKING DEER) (*Muntiacus muntjak*)
And how did telling your friends "We heard barking deer on the Jacuzzi Trail" go over? Were they more interested in the jacuzzi or the deer?
- SAMBAR (*Cervus unicolor*)
We had some impressively big ones (and a few small ones too) at BRL; seen almost nightly.

Additional Comments

Well, I've come to the end of our database, but I can't resist mentioning a few (of the many!) other critters in Borneo that gave us particular pleasure. Let's start with a few herps:

1. Foremost among the amphibians was the File-eared Frog (*Polypedates otolophus*). These caramel-colored treefrogs are named for sharp projections over the tympanum or ear. After sufficient rain, breeding groups congregate over stagnant pools, where they lay their fertilized eggs into a foam mass that will harden on the outside while remaining liquid on the inside, providing the tadpoles a suitable environment until the mass falls into the water below. My "cover frog" was the one we encountered on our night walk along the Nature Trail at BRL.
2. There was lots of competition for the foremost reptile, from our first "flying lizard" (*Draco* sp.) at our lunch stop below the Rafflesia Center to the huge Water Monitor (*Varanus salvator*) basking on a limb over the Menanggul River; from the slender, striped snakes (spp.??) at close range BRL to the Yellow-ringed (or Mangrove) Cat Snake (*Boiga dendrophila*) and the Reticulated Python (*Python reticulatus*) in the Kinabatangan, both of which were so well hidden we were amazed that our boatman spotted them. There were baby Estuarine Crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) in the Kinabatangan and that wonderful Green Crested Lizard (*Bronchocela cristatella*) eating a bug at BRL. But ultimately I think the winner would have to be the so-called "Giant Forest Gecko" that fell (with a thud!) from the rafters onto our dinner table at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, startling all of us (but especially Brooke!). I couldn't figure out exactly what that was without a photo, but it was fun.
3. Then there were all the invertebrates or "bugs" that were amazingly diverse: strange Trilobite Beetles (*Duliticola paradoxa*; Bukit Ular trail) that retain their larval form even when sexually mature; Giant Forest Ants (*Camponotus gigas*; BRL) that are indicators of pristine forest (as if we needed more!); the incredible Chinese Lantern Bugs (*Fulgora* sp.; BRL; see cover photo); the hordes of cockroaches and Cave Centipedes decorating the walls of Gomantong Cave; long, dark millipedes with bright orange legs and big, short, fat millipedes that can curl into a ball like a pillbug. And floating above them all was the charming black-and-white tissue-paper-like Tree Nymph or Wood Nymph (*Idea stollii*), one of many wonderful butterflies and moths along our route.

I could go on and on...and that's without mentioning the plants! But you guys have photos of lots of them to remind you that the forest is indeed full of fabulous creatures. Long may it remain!

Triplist file: bor10rar