

Borneo's Orang-utans

Naturetrek Tour Report

9th - 18th September 2005

Report compiled by Chris Kehoe



Naturetrek Cheriton Mill Cheriton Alresford Hampshire SO24 0NG England

T: +44 (0)1962 733051

F: +44 (0)1962 736426

E: info@naturetrek.co.uk

W: www.naturetrek.co.uk

Tour Leader	Chris Kehoe
Local leader and guide:	Raimei (Borneo Ecotours)
Local guides	Jamil and Hassan (Sukau Rainforest Lodge boatmen) Wang Kong (Borneo Rainforest Lodge)
Participants	Clare Tallboys Dave Miller Vanessa Hoare Bob Bissett Sue Slade Penny Riches Pat Starmer Joy Pinkham Terry Bate Clive Bate Stella Say Brian Say Paul Marchant David Ashby

9th & 10th September 2005

En route/ Sepilok

Weather: hot, sticky, still and overcast with a few spots of rain later; in a word, tropical

Most of the group assembled at Heathrow for our midday flight to Kuala Lumpur where two more members were to join us, the final member meeting us in Sabah. The rather long flight to Kuala Lumpur passed uneventfully enough, as did the onward flight to Sandakan. Here we soon met Raimei, our friendly local leader and drove, via a bank to change some money, the short distance to Sepilok Nature Resort, our home for the next two nights. Timings were in our favour so that after some lunch and a little unpacking we were still in time for the afternoon feeding session at the Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre, just a few minutes walk around the corner at the edge of the Kabili Forest Reserve.

Prior to arriving at the feeding platform we were inevitably distracted by other wildlife, most particularly a stunning male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and its family and a close Wagler's Pit Viper curled up in a trailside tree. On arrival at the feeding platform, which we had almost to ourselves, one Orang-utan was already hanging around. Within minutes more Orang-utans began to appear, their presence initially indicated by the wobbles in the ropeway they use to reach the platform clearing from the dense, steamy jungle beyond. Over the next forty minutes at least seven Orang-utans appeared – all orphans in the latter stages of the Centre's five year training scheme for their ultimate release into the wild. There were innumerable photo opportunities, especially as the ropeway passed right in front of the viewing area allowing unsurpassable views as the apes came and went using any and all combinations of limbs. Pig-tailed Macaques soon appeared, keen to take advantage of the bananas and sugar cane provided by park

rangers for the Orang-utans, indeed the rangers have to linger at the feeding platform for a while to prevent the bolder Macaques getting the lot!

On a bare trunk nearby a Colugo (or flying Lemur) was a prized find, this bizarre looking animal was watched at leisure and it soon became apparent that it had a baby, whose head would periodically peep out from behind its mother's wing membrane and survey both Ape species and the Macaques below. Our first Hornbills and a few other birds were seen or heard before we made our way back to the hotel where there were sunbirds and tailorbirds, swiftlets and White-rumped Spinetails among others to keep the keener birders well occupied. Sleep came easily after a busy 24 hours.

11th September 2005

Sepilok

Weather: hot and sticky, dry, quite sunny

At the first hints of dawn most of us gathered on the road just outside the hotel. Being the tropics daylight came quickly and we were soon treated to a succession of great birds in flowering trees and bushes along the rainforest edge, not least our first spectacular Black-and-red Broadbills. Prevost's Squirrels proved an attractive distraction from the birds which included Crimson, Olive-backed and Plain-throated Sunbirds and extremely close and prolonged views of a Long-billed Spiderhunter. Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots proved popular and just as we were about to return for breakfast a Rufous-bellied Eagle flew over.

After breakfast we returned to the Rehabilitation Centre and the spectacle of the Orang-utans coming and going, albeit it rather more hastily than yesterday and with a bigger audience of admirers. However, the crowds quickly subsided and a couple of tardy youngsters arrived to amuse us with their antics. A short video presentation gave a useful insight into the history and working practices of the Centre before we headed back to our hotel for a leisurely lunch break-cum-siesta.

A return visit to the Orang-utans after lunch saw fewer human visitors than in the morning and the Orang-utans seemingly more relaxed and liable to linger. There was some amusement when the first to arrive were the two little ones (clearly operating as a double act) that had got there too late in the morning. We stayed as long as we were allowed at the platform; although there was a reasonable hope of finding wild Orang-utans later in the tour this could certainly not be guaranteed.

As dusk approached we gathered at the visitor centre and waited, successfully, to see a Red Giant Flying Squirrel before dividing into two groups for a guided night walk. Highlights for the luckier of the two groups were a Malay Badger at the entrance to its hole and a selection of rather striking insects including a scorpion with young, our first diminutive Plain Pygmy Squirrel was also seen.

12th September 2005

Sepilok to Sukau/ Sukau

Weather: hot and sticky, dry and mostly sunny

A pre-breakfast stroll near the hotel provided good views of a Rufous Piculet for those who had missed one in the hotel garden yesterday, along with more Red-and-black Broadbills, a Stork-billed Kingfisher and a Chestnut-bellied

Malkoha. Straight after breakfast we boarded the bus for the short ride to Sandakan where a fast motor launch was waiting to transfer us to Sukau on the Kinabatangan River. A short diversion on the way to Sandakan saw us watching a Lesser Whistling-duck (something of a local rarity) and our first Striated Heron flew over. We soon boarded our boat for the comfortable enough but rather noisy two hour journey upriver. There were no Apocalypse Now-like incidents along the way though our first White-bellied Sea Eagles were a diversion. After settling into our rooms at Sukau Rainforest Lodge (comfortable enough but not as fine as the other accommodation on this tour) and a spot of lunch it was time to embark on our first river cruise. Dividing ourselves between two eight-seater powered canoes, one of which was 'captained' by the versatile Raimei, we set off up a tributary on the opposite bank of the river. Switching to an electric motor meant that we travelled in near silence, or would have done so if some of the other boats we encountered had had a similar dual motor system!

Rewards came quickly, an early highlight was a Buffy Fish Owl roosting at eye level a few metres away in the dark mangrove jungle but even better was a most obliging Hooded Pitta that periodically perched in full view for all to enjoy - very un-Pitta-like behaviour. Several other birds were seen and heard until we came upon our main quarry, a harem of Proboscis Monkeys. These most strange looking primates put on a fine show in the bare branches of a streamside tree (where they congregate in the evenings to enjoy the cooler air there). Nearby a bachelor group was gathered, no doubt containing one dominant individual that would eventually usurp a harem from a sitting 'big daddy'.

13th September 2005

Sukau

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly sunny, dry throughout the day but with heavy rain the previous night

We embarked on a river cruise at dawn having had hot drinks and toast before departure. This morning we headed upriver following the main channel before diverting into a narrow channel and then a large basin beyond where a walk to an Oxbow Lake began. Along the main channel both Wrinkled and Asian Black Hornbills were seen and a couple of perched eagles in the half-light were eventually determined to be Wallace's Hawk Eagles, several of which were seen well later. Trees along the river held Silvered Langurs and Long-tailed Macaques and a large flock of Long-tailed Parakeets performed well. Before setting off on a rather muddy 40 minute yomp through the jungle to the overgrown Oxbow Lake more Hornbills and a Lesser Fish Eagle were seen, as were several groups of Proboscis Monkeys which we lingered to watch. Leeches were the primary focus during the walk to and from the Oxbow Lake! Tiger Leeches, probably stimulated into heightened activity by the recent rain, reached out in their dozens as we passed and a couple struck lucky. With such delights to entertain us we barely had a chance to look around more fully though Raimei educated us on aspects of jungle ecology and a few new birds were seen including our first Ruby-cheeked Sunbird.

We were back at the lodge for a late breakfast at 10am after which there was a free period, punctuated by lunch and afternoon tea, until we set off once more on a river cruise at 3.30pm. A covered boardwalk through excellent jungle behind Sukau Rainforest Lodge proved a real bonus and most of the group made much use of this new facility during our extended midday breaks. Yesterday, during a brief foray to this area some of the group had been very fortunate to see a party of rare Hose's Langurs moving through and although there were certainly quiet periods with little sign of activity everyone who wanted to managed to connect with some spectacular birds and animals during their visits. Today's highlights included a Moustached Hawk-cuckoo and a Giant Squirrel.

For our evening cruise we concentrated on the main river channel upstream. Plenty of Proboscis Monkeys were seen as we chugged along, as were some Hornbills and various other birds. One particularly large gathering of Proboscis Monkeys showed perfectly about half an hour from base and a couple of minutes later Raimei gestured towards a another tree nearby where a large dark shape was visible. Moments later we were pulling up to the bank and watching a large, and heavily pregnant female Orang-utan gently picking figs and moving through the mostly open foliage about 50 metres away. Superb!

The return journey saw two canoes full of very happy campers enjoying further views of a couple of Wallace's Hawk-eagles, two Rhinoceros Hornbills and an overhead Bat Hawk as darkness began to fall. After dinner there was the option of a night cruise which most chose to join. Cruising along and spotlighting riverside vegetation resulted in excellent views of two Buffy Fish Owls (one right next to the restaurant as we left), roosting Malaysian Blue Flycatcher and Yellow-bellied Prinia amongst other birds and several sightings of Crocodiles and Water Monitors and our first and only Fruit Bats. Most peculiar was the sight of a rat, perhaps a Polynesian Rat, swimming strongly across the 200metre wide river. Back at the lodge a couple of Norwegian birders had located a roosting Rufous-backed Kingfisher and those who were still up and about enjoyed torchlight views of this tiny gem.

14th September 2005

Sukau and Gomantong

Weather: hot and sticky, overcast mid-afternoon with one sharp shower and some light drizzle

Our pre-breakfast cruise took us 40 minutes downstream into a spectacular red sunrise that reflected perfectly on the still waters. A pair of White-bellied Sea Eagles perched imposingly on a crag top tree where a small flock of White-breasted Wood-swallows were new. Soon after, a huge White-bellied Woodpecker flew overhead. We eventually reached a quiet tributary and switched to electric power for a leisurely half hour that produced a two close Wrinkled Hornbills that were agitated by a Changeable Hawk Eagle, a couple of particularly large Water Monitors and, best of all, scintillating views of a Black-and-yellow Broadbill singing in bare branches a few feet away. The return journey to the lodge produced a displaying Crested Goshawks and an Oriental Honey Buzzard but pride of place went to a couple of Straw-headed Bulbuls, an attractive species that is sadly in rapid decline due to its popularity as a cagebird.

Prior to visiting Gomantong Caves this afternoon much time was spent wandering along the boardwalk with some highlights seen by various group members being Orange-backed Woodpecker, Scarlet-rumped Trogon and Black-headed Babbler. Immediately after lunch the tour leader was nearly given heart failure when a superb Black-headed Pitta jumped out from under the boardwalk and his necessarily restrained cries as it sat a few yards away were just audible enough to attract a couple of other people to see it before it bounced of into deep cover.

A short boat trip and 30 minute bus ride saw us arrive at Gomantong Caves just as a heavy shower began. Kitted out for the weather we soon made our way to the cave entrance and the delights inside. Local people guard this cave jealously as it is home to many nesting swiftlets whose old nests are harvested twice yearly and used to make Bird's Nest Soup and other delicacies. Harvesting had recently been completed and relatively few birds were nesting during our visit, most of which were at the cave entrance and therefore probably Glossy Swiftlets. A boardwalk around the main cavern edge allows nesting swiftlets and Wrinkle-lipped Bats to be observed without having to climb up the huge mound of Cockroach infested, ammonia smelling guano that has amassed on the cave floor. Not wanting to get in the way on the narrow boardwalk, and as Raimei had the torch, the tour leader selflessly made his way around

the cockroach covered boardwalk in record time. Back outside, a Crested Serpent Eagle and a couple of obliging Rhinoceros Hornbills were watched before the first of several Bat Hawks appeared overhead. Most of the bats left the cave from another exit tonight but by positioning ourselves on a hillside above the car park we were able to see some large swarms leaving, and the three or four Bat Hawks present had some good hunting in amongst them. In a nearby tree a group of Bushy-crested Hornbills flew in to roost but were disturbed by a small troop of Red-leaf Monkeys, the first we had seen.

15th September 2005

Sukau to Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, dry and sunny

Today was mostly a travelling day, firstly to Lahad Datu, about three hours bus drive from Sukau, where we had lunch in a local Chinese Restaurant, and then in three minibuses for the three hour drive to our lodge in the heart of the Danum Valley Conservation Area. There was time for a little pre-breakfast birding at the Sukau boardwalk and a Velvet-fronted Nuthatch and several Common Ioras were found in trees near the restaurant area. Storm's Stork, arguably the rarest inhabitant of all in this area, had been conspicuous by its absence during our river cruises but only a few minutes north of Sukau, on the track leading to Gomantong, we came across four birds soaring around and stopped for a few minutes to watch them. Otherwise the journey to Lahad Datu was uneventful and straight after lunch we completed the registration formalities that allow access to Danum Valley and set off there. As we drove along a logging track the landscape became hillier and the jungle wilder. A small group of Bearded Pigs were seen by the lead vehicle before we eventually arrived at the sumptuous Borneo Rainforest Lodge at 4.15pm. After a long day, mainly inside vehicles, some chose to wander about the lodge grounds, some stood on the veranda overlooking the Segama River (where a spectacular and rare Rajah Brooke's Birdwing butterfly was seen) and others chose to investigate the well-stocked bar, where a cry of 'they've got Pimms' was distinctly heard.

Before dinner we set off on a short night drive up and down the Access Road where three Red Giant Flying Squirrels were watched gliding spectacularly between immense rainforest trees.

16th September 2005

Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly sunny, dry

Our time at Danum Valley was divided into three or four optional sessions per day, pre-breakfast, post-breakfast and evening walks, with a leisurely lunch break in between, and a couple of night excursions. Today we embarked on a pre-breakfast stroll along the Access Road for a kilometre or so (where four Red-leaf Monkeys were seen) and spent some time at the well positioned canopy walkway high above the forest floor. From here there was a fine view of the valley below us and birds seen included our first Whiskered Treeswifts and a Dark-throated Oriole. The walk back for breakfast was delayed by encounters with a pair of Diard's Trogons amongst other birds. After a hearty breakfast, during which those who had missed yesterday's Rajah Brooke's Birdwing managed to see one from the veranda, most of the group set off on an easy hike along the Hornbill Trail. A selection of Babbler, a Rufous Piculet and a female Asian Paradise Flycatcher were the avian highlights, an unidentified Mouse-deer fled into the undergrowth and several Plain Pygmy Squirrels were seen before we emerged onto the Access Road close to the Canopy Walkway again. The walk back to the lodge from here allowed us to see some Sambar Deer crossing the road along with another nice selection of birds. Although Bornean Gibbons had been calling loudly from the

surrounding forest earlier on they had now fallen silent in the soporific heat and we were resigned to waiting until the next morning before we had another good chance of finding them.

After lunch there were a couple of free hours to rest or potter about the lodge grounds before our evening walk. As we gathered for our walk, word came through that two Gibbons had been spotted slumbering in a tree near the staff quarters and we set off there post-haste to find these splendid animals thankfully still present. We watched for over half an hour as one climbed and swung about before settling down to sleep again. After that some of the group opted to go along the Jacuzzi Trail (culminating in a dip at the pool at the far end) while the rest of us again walked along the Access Road and spent some time at the Canopy Walkway. Highlights for the latter group were a couple of Red-billed Malkohas. After dinner, a small group of stalwarts set off with Raimei and Wang Kong for a night walk which produced good views of the improbably small Lesser Mouse-deer, a File-eared Treefrog and a selection of interesting insects.

17th September 2005

Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, dry and sunny but rain the previous night

Most of the group set off before breakfast towards the Canopy Walkway though we stopped first to admire the Gibbons from yesterday that had remained overnight and were watched leaving. A Malaysian Blue Flycatcher was seen nearby before we began to stroll along the Access Road. A flurry of bird activity saw us watching a range of bulbuls, babblers and a couple of Asian Brown Flycatchers. Arriving at the Canopy Walkway we were informed that an Orang-utan was in its overnight nest about a kilometre further on, it seemed we would be foregoing breakfast this morning. As luck would have it the Lodge's truck appeared at that instant coming the other way and was commandeered to take us to the spot. Immediately on arrival some movement was visible in the tree and then a couple of very friendly Japanese research students appeared from the undergrowth to inform us that the tree actually contained a mother and baby and, unusually, a four or five year youngster as well. They had been following them day and night for weeks! Some reasonable views of the older youngster and fleeting views of the sleepy mother stretching were had before a decision had to be made. Those who wanted to stay could do so and the rest would be taken for breakfast in the truck and returned later with the rest of the group, something of a gamble of course because the Orang-utans could depart the area at any time. As it turned out everyone made the right decision, those who stayed had the privilege of watching the baby trying to wake its mother (who was notoriously lazy according to the research students) and those who returned after breakfast were still in time to watch the whole family wake up properly and move around nearby trees for over an hour. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better Raimei heard the characteristic and strange calls of Bornean Bristleheads nearby (this is one of the most unique and sought after of Borneo's endemic birds). It took only a few seconds to locate a couple and decent views were had on and off for twenty minutes, interspersed with looks at the Orang-utans as they began to go about their business. Wow! Most of the group eventually returned by truck to relax in the luxury of the lodge and reflect on an excellent morning.

Those who chose to spent some time on the nearby Nature Trail either side of lunch, though this involved giving a wide berth to a very large Bearded Pig that was hanging around in the lodge garden, before we set off on our final walk at Danum Valley. Once again we concentrated on the excellent Access Road where viewing is comparatively easy and Leeches pose no threat. A Ruby-cheeked Sunbird was new for most, as were a couple of obliging Raffle's Malkohas, Chestnut-bellied Malkohas and Whiskered Treeswifts that perched for the scope. We turned back

towards the lodge just as the light was beginning to fade and soon afterwards two Blue-headed Pittas began calling from either side of the road. Given the nature of the ground cover getting views of these birds seemed sadly impossible but we still had some luck in store as one chose to fly across the road right in front of us. A final evening meal together was followed by drinks and a good chat about the joys of Borneo before we retired to our beds for the last time.

18th September 2005

**Danum Valley to Kuala Lumpur
via Lahad Datu and Kota Kinabalu**

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly sunny, dry

Although mostly a travelling day there was time for a couple of hour's activity near the lodge for those who got up early. Some managed good views of five Gibbons in a nearby tree, presumably the same animals that had given many of us a premature alarm call by whooping away near our chalets at 4am! After breakfast we boarded our vehicles for the three hour drive to Lahad Datu, where there was time for some lunch in a hotel restaurant before we transferred to the nearby airport, said our goodbyes to Raimei and flew to Kota Kinabalu. While half of the group waited to catch an onward flight to Kuala Lumpur the rest set off into town as part of their various tour extensions. At Kuala Lumpur the group was reduced to just four as some were catching later flights or extending their holiday at Taman Negara. After a few hours killing time at the shops and eateries in Kuala Lumpur Airport the remaining four were on their way back to London, a 12.5 hour flight that left soon after midnight local time and arrived on time at Heathrow at 5.30am BST

Systematic Species Lists

Figures in brackets refer to the number of days out of nine each species was seen. Species in square brackets were not seen by any group members or were not certainly identified and are not included in the species totals

Mammals

Nomenclature and species order follows Payne and Francis's A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo (corrected 1994 version)

Large Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus natunae* (1)

About half a dozen were in a riverside tree during our night cruise at Sukau

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida plicata plicata* (1+)

This is reportedly the dominant bat species at Gomantong Caves where small clusters were watched by torchlight. At dusk several large groups emerged but unfortunately most seemed to have used another exit on the evening of our visit so overall only relatively modest numbers were seen

Other Bats

Various unidentified bats were seen at and around each of the three places we stayed

Colugo (or 'Flying Lemur') *Cynocephalus variegatus natunae* (1)

We were very fortunate when one of these strange and enigmatic animals was found roosting in full view on a tree trunk at the Orang-utan feeding platform at Sepilok on our first visit there. As we watched, a youngster's head occasionally peeped out from behind its mothers 'wing' membrane to survey its admirers. This is one of only two species in the in the order Dermotera, the other being endemic to the Philippines, their relationship to other mammal orders remains unclear

Red Leaf Monkey (or Maroon Langur) *Presbytis rubicunda rubicunda* &/or *drysea* (4)

One of the scarcer primates, only seen at Gomantong Caves and in the Danum Valley where small groups were found each day

Grey Leaf Monkey (or Hose's Langur) *Presbytis hosei sabana* (1)

A troop of about 10 moved slowly through the trees at Sukau Rainforest Lodge allowing some of the group an opportunity to see this rare species

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata* (3)

Fairly common at Sukau where a small group were often in a tree overlooking the restaurant in the early mornings. Some were seen in the company of their surprisingly orangey youngsters

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus* (2)

After the first were seen briefly during the boat trip from Sandakan to Sukau, this wonderful Bornean endemic was frequently seen during our various river cruises on the Kinabatangan River. At least 40 were seen in total, either in family groups presided over by a particularly big-nosed dominant male or in bachelor groups nearby

Long-tailed Macaque (or 'Crab-eating Macaque') *Macaca fascicularis* (3)

Seen quite frequently during our river cruises at Sukau. At least 40 were seen

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina* (3)

This species was particularly prominent at Sepilok where small numbers hung around the Orang-utan feeding platform; three were in the company of the previous species near Sukau

Bornean Gibbon (or Mueller's Gibbon) *Hylobates muelleri muelleri* (3)

Several were calling at Sepilok on our first morning there but it was at and near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge that this species was finally seen. Two gave prolonged views in a large tree near the staff quarters one afternoon and remained in the area the following morning and five were seen near there in the early morning of our final day when they gave a particularly funky performance. Otherwise, calling was frequently heard from the lodge: one of the great sounds of Asia, even when performed as a 4am alarm call!

Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus* (2)

On each of our three visits to the feeding platform at Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre up to nine semi-wild individuals (all rescued orphans) appeared and gave outstanding views.

Even better though were the four wild Orang-utans seen: a heavily pregnant female was watched for about twenty minutes in a low riverside tree west of Sukau and three eventually gave similarly good views in a large tree along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley. The latter, consisting of a mother and her baby and a 4-5 year were rather unusual as it is more normal for a mother to become pregnant again only after her previous offspring have become fully independent. Fortunately for us this particular mother was a particularly late riser so that we were able to return to the lodge for breakfast and still get back in time to see her finally get up at around 10 am. Those who chose to forego breakfast were able to enjoy the spectacle of the baby trying to cajole its mother to get up while the older youngster potted about below.

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis sandakanensis* (3)

One or two were occasionally seen near the boardwalk at Sukau Rainforest Lodge and one more was found at Danum Valley

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevosti pluto* (6)

This very attractive black and red squirrel was seen in small numbers at all sites visited

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus pryeri* (1)

One was seen from the boardwalk at Sukau

Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowi lowi* (1)

Just one was seen, at Sukau

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis exilis* (5)

After the first was seen during a night walk at Sepilok this tiny mouse-sized squirrel was seen regularly near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley, especially along the short nature trail there, a very charismatic little animal

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista nigrescens & rajah* (4)

Just as darkness was falling, at least three were seen at Sepilok as we began our night walk there, one had been seen the previous evening just behind our chalets. During a night drive at Danum Valley we were able to watch several in the spotlight, including some prolonged views of animals launching themselves into the air and gliding between quite distant trees

Rat species *Rattus* sp.

Unidentified rats were seen near Sukau: one was a surprise find in mid-river during our night cruise as it swam in midstream towards the south bank and at least 10 were in Gomantong Caves. Some were perhaps Polynesian Rats *Rattus exulans* which are particularly widespread in Sabah but identification is very difficult unless the animal is trapped and measured and there are at least six very similar looking species in the area

Common Pencil-tailed Tree-mouse *Chiropodomys gliroides* (1)

One was watched at the Sukau boardwalk

Malay (Stink) Badger (or Teledu) *Mydaus javanensis lucifer* (1)

During the night walk at Sepilok one group managed reasonable views of this rarely seen animal at the entrance to its burrow at the base of a tree; others had to make do with smelling its rather skunk-like scent

[Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus sabanus*

One was mooching about below the chalets at Sepilok Nature Resort but was only seen by the tour leader, although two group members did find droppings on their doorstep there one morning]

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus barbatus* (2)

A sow with four piglets crossed the road in front of the lead vehicle as we approached the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley, but a very large boar that wandered about the lodge itself one lunchtime was seen well by all

Lesser Mouse-deer *Tragulus javanicus klossi* (1)

An unidentified Mouse-deer was seen running away as we walked the Hornbill Trail at Danum Valley but a night walk there produced good views of two animals that were confirmed as this species

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor brookei* (2)

At least three crossed the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge and two were seen crossing the river Segama from the lodge veranda early one morning

Other

One, perhaps as many as three, largish squirrel-sized animals seen several times over the course of one hour scurrying about in the dark undergrowth at Danum Valley Nature Trail were either Shrew-faced Ground Squirrels *Rhinosciurus laticaudatus* or, perhaps more likely, one of the similarly large terrestrial *Treeshrews* *Tupia* sp.

Droppings and footprints of Asian Elephants *Elephas maximus sumatrensis* were seen at Sukau and Danum Valley but none were seen or heard.

Birds

Although the primary focus of this tour was primates we saw rather a lot of birds too, in fact going out looking for birds is probably the best way to actually find many mammals. Species order, taxonomy and nomenclature follows Mackinnon and Phillips A Fieldguide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali (1993) unless otherwise indicated.

- Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* (4)
Quite common along the river at Sukau where up to 40 per day were seen. A couple were on the Segama River in the Danum Valley
- Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea* (2)
Up to three were seen during river cruises at Sukau
- Striated Heron *Butorides striatus* (3)
After the first couple at Sandakan a few more were seen at Sukau
- Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromandus* (3)
Most of those seen were alongside airport runways but small numbers were also present in cleared Oil Palm plantations
- Great Egret *Casmerodius albus modestus* (7)
The commonest egret seen, several were found on the Kinabatangan River during each of our cruises from Sukau, others were at scattered sites
- Intermediate Egret *Mesophoyx intermedia* (1)
Small numbers were seen as we travelled by boat between Sandakan and Sukau
- Little Egret *Egretta garzetta* (2)
Small numbers were seen near Sukau, at least some of which were of the dark-toed resident race *nigripes*
- Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi* (1)
After failing to find this rare and declining species during any of our cruises at Sukau (probably the most reliable site anywhere in the world) it was a relief to see four birds soaring around as we set off for Lahad Datu on the Gomantong Road. Shortly afterwards two birds that flew across the road may have been different individuals
- Lesser Whistling-duck *Dendrocygna javanica* (1)
One was rather out of range on a small lake on the outskirts of Sandakan
- Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus* probably *torquatus* (2)
Singles were seen between Sandakan and Sukau and just east of Sukau

Bat Hawk *Machaeramphus alcinus* (2)

One flew over as we returned to our lodge at Sukau by boat one evening and the following evening approximately four appeared about an hour before dusk at Gomantong Caves where they hunted bats and Swiftlets.

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus* (4)

Small numbers were around the population centres of Sandakan and Lahad Datu with occasional birds elsewhere

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster* (4)

A total of six or eight of these spectacular birds was seen. The first came during the boat trip between Sandakan and Sukau, later, a pair were in a tree just east of Sukau and a few sightings of birds in flight near there may have involved different individuals. An immature bird was over Lahad Datu on our final afternoon

Lesser Fish-eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis* (2)

One showed rather briefly during the Oxbow Lake cruise east of Sukau and another was seen equally briefly from the veranda at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

Grey-headed Fish-eagle *Ichthyophaga ichthyaeus* (1)

A single bird seen once from the veranda of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge in the Danum Valley was the only one seen

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus* (5)

One of the more frequently seen raptors with one or two at Sukau and others at and near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley. Eight were logged in total.

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus* (2)

Two pairs were seen near Sukau, in both cases the males were indulging in their strange fluttery display flight

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraetus kienerii* (1)

An adult and later a juvenile were over Sepilok

Changeable Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus* (2)

Dark phase individuals were found near Sukau and at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

Wallace's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nanus* (3)

Up to three were seen on various cruises at Sukau and a couple were seen at Danum Valley

[Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni*

A couple were heard from the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge in the Danum Valley but none were seen]

[Great Argus *Argusianus argus*

Calls of this species were heard on a couple of occasions but the closest we came to a sighting was the discovery of a wing-feather on the Hornbill Trail in the Danum Valley]

- White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus* (2)
An adult with four half-grown young was seen on successive mornings at Sepilok
- Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos* (5)
Small numbers were at a range of wetlands
- Whiskered Tern *Chidonias hybridus* (1)
Two were seen during the boat trip from Sandakan to Sukau, one of which was still in breeding plumage
- [Green Pigeon species *Treron sp.*
Small numbers of unidentifiable Treron sp were seen in flight, especially at Sukau; based on size alone most were probably Little Green Pigeons *Treron olax*]
- Cinnamon-necked Green Pigeon *Treron fulvicollis* (1)
Two posed in a treetop allowing good scope views at Sepilok early one morning
- Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea* (7)
Regularly seen after the first were observed at Sepilok, most boat trips at Sukau produced a handful and others were at Danum Valley
- Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina* (2)
Small numbers were along roads near Sandakan with larger numbers along the road to Gomantong Caves
- Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda* (6)
A handful seen in flight at Sepilok were followed by a large flock of about 40 birds feeding in a fig tree near Sukau one morning, a couple more were at Danum Valley
- Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus* (6)
After the first were seen at Sepilok others were found along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley, though mostly in flight
- [Cuckoo species *Chrysococcyx sp.*
An unidentified cuckoo along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge was either a female Violet Cuckoo *C. xanthorhynchus* or one of the Bronze Cuckoos but it was rather distant]
- Raffle's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus fuscigularis* (2)
Two seen along the boardwalk at Sukau were followed by a pair along the Access Road in Danum Valley
- Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus* (1)
Singles were found along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge in the Danum Valley and from the canopy walkway nearby

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus* (2)

After one was seen very well at Sepilok one morning a couple more were found along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

[Coucal species *Centropus sp.*

One seen briefly from a moving vehicle between Lahad Datu and the Danum Valley could have been either a Greater *Centropus sinensis* or Lesser Coucal *C. bengalensis*]

Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu* (2)

Some superb views were enjoyed: one was found roosting just above the ground during our first cruise at Sukau and during the night cruise there two further birds were seen at close range. One of these was regularly to be found right next to the restaurant at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, presumably attracted by fish which in turn had been attracted by crumbs of food falling from the restaurant above

[Swiftlet species *Collocalia sp.*

Swiftlets are the most frequently seen birds in Sabah but there is no reliable means of identifying most of them unless they are attending their characteristic and species diagnostic nests. During our visit to Gomantong Caves relatively few swiftlets were nesting and harvesting of used nests had recently been completed. Those that were nesting were near the cave entrance and therefore Glossy Swiftlets (which can be identified in the field anyway) as this is a species lacks the bat-like echo location powers of other species and does not therefore venture so far into the cave depths. It is more than likely that we saw some individuals of each of the following species: Edible Nest Swiftlet *C. fucifaga*; Black-nest Swiftlet *C. maxima*; and Mossy-nest Swiftlet *C. salangana*]

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta* (8)

In addition to the birds nesting near the entrance to Gomantong Caves mentioned above, this relatively easily identified species (which is small and uniformly glossy black with a contrastingly whitish belly) was seen well at Sepilok and from the veranda of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus* (1)

A total of about six were seen on two river cruises at Sukau

Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygalis* (6)

Small numbers were present throughout with some giving particularly good views at Sepilok Nature Resort and the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis* (7)

Up to 20, but more usually about ten per day were seen at all sites, mostly in flight

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata comata* (2)

Only found at Danum Valley where several were seen in flight and views of perched birds were enjoyed at the Canopy Walkway and along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge

- Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii* (2)
A pair near the entrance to the Canopy Walkway in Danum Valley was followed by another (or one of the same) near there and one along the Nature Trail
- [Cinnamon-rumped Trogon *Harpactes orophaes*
A single along the Nature Trail at Danum Valley was only seen by the tour leader]
- Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii* (3)
Singles were seen on two occasions along the boardwalk at Sukau and a pair was along the Nature Trail at Danum Valley
- Common Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis* (1)
One near the Oxbow Lake at Sukau was the only one seen
- Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii* (3)
Frequently encountered during cruises at Sukau, including one on the night cruise, at least 15 were seen in total
- Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa motleyi* (1)
Thanks to two Norwegian birders who located one during a night walk on the boardwalk at Sukau all those members of the group who were still up and about enjoyed excellent torchlight views of the roosting bird.
- Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis capensis* (5)
One or two were occasionally seen at Sepilok but this striking species was seen on most river cruises at Sukau
- Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis viridis* (5)
Small numbers, in total around 30, were found at Sepilok and Sukau
- Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis* (4)
A handful were seen in flight at Sepilok but rather more, including several perched birds, were seen during most river cruises at Sukau
- Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus galeritus* (3)
The first was one seen from the feeding platform at Sepilok with others (7) at Gomantong Caves and Sukau Rainforest Lodge (1)
- Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus corrugatus* (4)
This was the most frequently seen Hornbill with numerous sighting during our river cruises at Sukau, from the boardwalk at the lodge there and in the Danum Valley
- Asian Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus* (4)
Quite common with birds seen at Sepilok and on several occasions around Sukau
- Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus* (3)
In total about seven were seen at Sukau

- Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros* (4)
 Altogether we came across about 10 of these amazing birds. One pair along the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley was particularly obliging
- Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis abnormis* (4)
 This diminutive little woodpecker was seen well at Sepilok (twice) on the Sukau boardwalk and at Danum valley
- Banded Woodpecker *Picus miniaceus* (1)
 One was seen along the Sukau boardwalk
- White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* (2)
 One that flew over the Kinabatangan River during one of our cruises was followed by another near the Hornbill Trail in the Danum Valley
- Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus* (1)
 A male was seen once along the boardwalk at Sukau
- Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos macrorhynchos* (2)
 Only seen at Sepilok were a couple came to the same flowering tree on successive mornings, others were heard at most sites visited
- [Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei*
 One along the nature trail near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley was only seen by the tour leader]
- Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus kalamantan* (4)
 Although more often heard than seen we were able to enjoy prolonged good views of this amazing looking bird on a couple of occasions at both Sukau and Danum Valley
- Blue-headed Pitta *Pitta baudii* (1)
 Two began calling against each other on opposite sides of the Access Road to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley as we were returning there one evening and one flew across the road and was seen by those lucky enough to be looking in the right direction at the time!
- Black-headed Pitta *Pitta ussheri* (1)
 One was heard calling from thick undergrowth during one of our river cruises at Sukau and very luckily one was flushed from under the boardwalk at the lodge there and remained in view for a couple of minutes allowing those within earshot to get a look. This species was formerly regarded as a subspecies of the more widespread Garnet Pitta *Pitta ganatina*
- Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida* (1)
 During our very first river cruise at Sukau, Raimei did very well to spot one in the streamside undergrowth and over the following few minutes everyone managed good views of an uncharacteristically showy individual

- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis* (4)
Generally outnumbered by the next species except along the roadside between Sukau and Gomantong caves where a couple of hundred gathered along wires just before a shower
- Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica abbotti* (9)
Quite common, this species showed particularly well at Sepilok were up to ten perched on snags in the small lake below the restaurant area; also common at Sukau
- Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis* (1)
One was seen along the Hornbill Trail in Danum Valley
- [Minivet Species *Pericrocotus sp*
Rather distant unidentifiable Minivets were seen in treetops at Sukau (when we were rather distracted by watching an Orang-utan!) and along the Access Road in Danum Valley]
- Common Iora *Aegthina tiphia aequanimis* (2)
Several were seen in trees near the restaurant at Sukau Rainforest Lodge
- Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon* (4)
All of the five Leafbirds seen well were either definitely or probably this species, one or two were seen on several occasions at Sepilok and Danum Valley
- Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus* (2)
Two showed well in low shrubs and water hyacinth during one of our cruises at Sukau. This is a declining species due to its popularity with the caged bird fraternity
- Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus giaviergurdini* (3)
Although this was a very common garden bird at Sepilok none were found elsewhere
- Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus* (7)
Overall this was the commonest bulbul seen, although outnumbered by Yellow-vented at Sepilok; at least half a dozen were seen each day at all sites
- Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrothalmos* (2)
One feeding a fledgling at the Sukau boardwalk was followed by a couple at Danum Valley
- Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres* (3)
A couple at Sukau were followed by half a dozen sightings at Danum Valley
- Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens* (1)
One was seen at Danum Valley
- Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger* (3)
After a couple were found along the boardwalk at Sukau a small handful were then seen each day at Danum Valley

- Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicurus paradiseus* (2)
One was at Sepilok and another at Danum Valley, the latter was missing its characteristic tail streamers due to moult
- Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus* (2)
A couple were found at the canopy walkway and along the Access Road at Danum Valley
- Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella criniger* (2)
Singles were seen in flight at Sukau and along the Access Road at Danum Valley
- Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus coronatus* (3)
A couple were seen on successive days at Sukau and another was glimpsed at Danum Valley
- Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca* (5)
Small numbers were seen most days away from the densest jungle
- Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* (1)
Always much sought after but seldom seen this species appeared in nearby trees while we were watching Orang-utans at Danum Valley, at least four calling birds were in a loose flock and a couple gave prolonged views
- Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis* (1)
One was seen in a tree near the restaurant at Sukau
- Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli* (2)
This very attractive little Babbler was seen walking around in leaf litter on a couple of occasions along the boardwalk at Sukau
- White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum frontalis or macropterum* (4)
Overall this appeared to be the commonest of the Trichastoma Babblers with several seen at the Sukau boardwalk and at Danum Valley. Identification of some members of this family is far from straightforward
- Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor* (1)
One showed well along the Nature Trail near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley
- Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocindra malaccensis feriata* (2)
A couple were seen at Sukau boardwalk
- Abbott's Babbler *Malacocindra abbotti* (2)
One at Sukau was followed by another at Danum Valley
- [Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*
A foraging flock heard along the Hornbill Trail at Danum Valley refused to show themselves]
- Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteran cinereum cinereum* (2)
Small noisy flocks were encountered fairly regularly at Danum Valley

- Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum saba* (2)
 Less frequently seen than the last species and usually in ones and twos, although occasionally present in mixed species feeding flocks including Scaly-crowned Babblers
- Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stadyris erythroptera bicolor* (2)
 A couple were glimpsed at Sukau boardwalk and two showed rather well along the nature trail near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley
- Striped Tit-babbler *Macronous gularis montanus* (4)
 A handful were seen at Sepilok and Danum Valley
- Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler *Macronous ptilosus reclusus* (3)
 Sukau's boardwalk and Danum Valley produced a handful each
- White-bellied *Yuhina Yuhina zantholeuca* (1)
 A small group were feeding high in the canopy near the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley
- Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis adamsior pluto* (8)
 Very small numbers were found everywhere; those near Sepilok had glossy black underparts while others had similar or duller, greyer bellies more suggestive of the pattern of the white-bellied mainland races
- White-crowned (or White-browed) *Shama Copsychus stricklandii* (7)
 More often heard than seen but several showed well at Sukau and Danum Valley. Some authorities regard this as a subspecies of the more widespread White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*, indeed one bird was seen at Danum Valley that lacked a white crown and was probably indistinguishable from the latter
- Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis* (2)
 A couple of female types were at Sepilok and a male was at Sukau
- Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis* (8)
 The commonest Tailorbird, several were seen almost each day, particularly prominent at Sepilok
- Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus* (8)
 Seen almost daily in rather smaller numbers than the last species
- Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* (1)
 One was found roosting in riverside grasses during the night cruise at Sukau
- Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica probably williamsoni* (2)
 A couple were seen on each of our full days at Danum Valley including a particularly obliging bird at the Canopy Walkway and a moulting juvenile near there that indicated a local rather than migrant origin

- Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus* (3)
A roosting bird was found during the night cruise at Sukau and two more were seen in the garden of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley
- Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica* (3)
Common and conspicuous at Sepilok but not seen elsewhere although an unidentified Fantail seen briefly at Danum Valley may also have been this species
- Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea prophata* (5)
Up to three per day were seen at Sepilok and Sukau
- [Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velatum*
Heard but not seen along the Hornbill Trail at Danum Valley]
- Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrrhopterum pyrrhopterum*
A flurry of sightings at Sukau, perhaps involving just the same two mobile birds seen repeatedly, were followed by a couple of encounters at Danum Valley
- Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Tersiphone paradise borneensis* (1)
A single female was with a roving Babbler flock along the Hornbill Trail at Danum Valley
- White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus* (1)
Up to eight were in a bare tree top alongside two White-bellied Sea Eagles, a few Blue-throated Bee-eaters and a Hill Myna during one of our river cruises at Sukau
- Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis eustathis* (5)
Most of those seen well were near Sandakan and Sepilok with others, mostly in flying flocks, at Sukau
- Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa religiosa* (3)
Two were seen at Sepilok and five at Sukau
- Brown (or Plain) -throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis borneensis* (5)
This was a rather common species at Sepilok and a couple were also seen at Sukau
- Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis* (2)
Singles were at the Oxbow Lake near Sukau and along the Access Road at Danum Valley
- Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum hypogrammicum* (6)
One or two were seen most days at all sites
- Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis* (3)
Only seen at Sepilok where it was regularly seen in and around the garden of our hotel

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja* (3)

Sepilok produced the majority of sightings of this attractive Sunbird although a couple were seen elsewhere

Little Spiderhunter *Aradnothera longirostra buettikoferi* (7)

After a couple of earlier singles this species was frequently seen in the garden of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley where a pair were feeding fledglings. Others were seen nearby.

Long-billed Spiderhunter *Aradnothera robusta robusta* (3)

One showed very well at close range feeding on flower heads near Sepilok Nature Resort and another was at Sukau

[Spiderhunter species #1 *Aradnothera sp.*

Rather fleeting views were had of Spiderhunters with yellow cheek patches at both Sepilok and Danum Valley; these were either Spectacled *A. flavigaster* or Yellow-eared Spiderhunters *A. chrysogenys* but couldn't be certainly diagnosed]

[Spiderhunter species #2 *Aradnothera sp.*

A couple of Spiderhunters feeding in the garden of the Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley were evidently either Grey-breasted *A. affinis* or just possibly Bornean Spiderhunters *A. everetti*. The two species are apparently indistinguishable in the field (and differ only subtly in measurements) though *everetti* is usually regarded as occurring at higher altitudes (only above rather than only below 900m). Our observations were below 900m but there is so much uncertainty about these two species on Borneo that confident identification is presently impossible. Adding further confusion is the fact that Smythies' *The Birds of Borneo* (4th ed) recognises a third very similar species that, although reportedly occurring only well to the west in Borneo, takes precedence in naming over Grey breasted Spiderhunter (which then becomes *A. modesta*) leaving this third species as Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter *A. affinis*. More research on these birds is clearly required]

Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus thoracicus* (1)

A female was watched feeding at eye-level (unusual for this species) in roadside bushes near the canopy walkway in Danum Valley; although a male may have been more dramatic, our eyes were just recovering from watching two Diard's Trogons so a female was probably the safer option in the circumstances

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus maculatus* (3)

One at Sepilok was followed by a couple of encounters with small groups at both the Sukau boardwalk and Danum Valley

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygus* (1)

A single near the entrance to Gomantong Caves was the only one seen

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma* (2)

A male fed regularly at eye level in trees around the restaurant at Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor* (1)

A single bird at Sepilok was the only one identified

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans*

(6)

Small numbers of this unassuming Bornean endemic were seen at each site visited

(Southern) Black-headed Munia *Lonchura atricapilla jagori*

This was a common bird around the Sepilok Nature Resort where nest building was in progress but none were seen elsewhere

Other Wildlife

The forests of Borneo represent some of the richest wildlife habitats on earth and some living things are almost always in view, many of which can only be identified by specialists in particular fields. The following is a short list of some of the more distinctive animals found by us

Reptiles and Amphibians**Wagler's Pit Viper**

A rather large individual was curled up in a tree next to the boardwalk at Sepilok, the fact that it was there on each of our visits suggested that it had recently fed and was slowly digesting its meal. Another much smaller individual was seen nearby during our night walk there.

Mangrove Snake

One was seen in an overhead tree during our first river cruise at Sukau.

Lizards and allies

Various unidentified reptiles were seen; these included a couple of Agami-type lizards (including a 'Crested' Agami) and a Chameleon that changed from rather bright green to reddish with blue spots in the space of few seconds

Water Monitor Lizard

Several were seen at Sukau and one or more inhabited the garden of the Sepilok Nature Resort. They ranged in size from about half a metre to nearly two metres in length

Freshwater Crocodile

Most boat trips at Sukau produced one or two sightings, a couple of bigger individuals probably exceeded 2 metres in length but often only their heads were visible in the water as we passed

Frogs

A couple of ground dwelling frogs were seen, one being named as an introduced 'Taiwan' Frog by our guides but a File-eared Tree Frog was seen during the night walk at the Danum Valley

Insects**Lepidoptera**

A wide range of stunning butterflies were encountered, most were not identified to species but of several Birdwings seen Common Birdwing was particularly prominent and we were lucky to come across at least four rare and very spectacular Rajah Brooke's Birdwings at Danum Valley

Other insects

Some of the more striking insects seen were a couple of Praying Mantises and Stick Insects, some rather large spiders, a Scorpion at Sepilok and large numbers of Cockroaches in Gomantong Caves. Chainsaw Cicada's filled the air with noise in the rainforests visited, fire flies were seen during our nocturnal excursions and Giant Forest Ants, amongst many other species, were seen at the Danum Valley. Centipede and Millipedes were both seen (including one deemed to be a Pill Millipede) while another species identified by our excellent guides was a Memphis Bug

Leeches

Borneo in general and Danum Valley in particular has rather a reputation for its Leeches but overall we encountered fewer than might have been expected, partly due to generally dry weather but also due to trying to avoid places where they congregated. Exceptions to this were the walk to the Oxbow Lake near Sukau where the narrow path was lined with a welcoming committee of Tiger Leeches stretching out from the ends of trail side vegetation to try to get at us – a few succeeded. A few more (mainly Common Brown Leeches) were found at Danum Valley, particularly when we went off-trail somewhat in order to try to get better views of an Orang-utan