

Borneo's Orang-utans

Naturetrek Tour Report

7 - 18 September 2007



Report compiled by Chris Kehoe and images by Debbie Iveson



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 Guides:	Hamit Nadil
Participants:	Peta Bousted Michael Donegan Bill Grierson Robert Insall Debbie Iveson Jenny Large Brigid Maguire Catherine Martin Janice Newman David Prynne Jacquie Smith Ann Stannard Anthony Woods Hanny Woods John Woods

Days 0/1

Friday & Saturday – 7th/8th September

Inbound from UK/ Sepilok

Weather: hot, sticky, dry and bright after arrival in Sabah

Most of the group assembled at Heathrow on September 7th for the midday 12 hour flight to Kuala Lumpur with Malaysian Airlines. Although 30 minutes late taking off we made good time and landed a few minutes ahead of schedule at 07.15 (local). A couple of hours later we boarded an onward flight to Sandakan (via a short stop at Kota Kinabalu) where we arrived at 13.45. Hamit, our excellent local guide, was there to meet us and we were soon on our way to nearby Sepilok. Skipping check-in at the Sepilok Nature Resort, there was just enough time to squeeze in a first visit to the adjacent Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre where afternoon feeding takes place at 15.00. An excellent total of 10 Orang-utans appeared for their bananas and milk and both Asian Black and Rhinoceros Hornbills were also seen. Later, after a buffet dinner, we retired to bed for some much needed rest.

Day 2

Sunday 9th September

Sepilok

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly dry and quite sunny until heavy rain after dark

About half the group gathered for some pre-breakfast birding near the hotel where highlights included both Little and Pink-necked Green Pigeons, three species of Sunbird, some showy Oriental Pied Hornbills, a Rufous Piculet and a noisy Stork-billed Kingfisher.

After breakfast we walked the short distance to the Rehabilitation Centre in time to watch a video about the work undertaken there before returning to the feeding platform for the morning show. Eight Orang-utans, several Pig-tailed Macaques and one Long-tailed Macaque showed up and tucked into the Rambutan provided. After a rest during the heat of the day we returned once more to the feeding platform where five Orang-utans appeared, along with some Macaques, and birds seen included Black-and-yellow Broadbill, Raffles Malkoha, Blue-throated Bee-eater and Black-winged Flycatcher Shrike. Back at the hotel, which backs right onto the forest, a couple of Thomas's Flying Squirrels were a good find just before darkness fell. A planned night walk was cancelled due to rain but the bar did some good business as a result.

Day 3

Monday 10th September

Sepilok to Sukau/ Sukau

Weather: hot and sticky, dry and mostly sunny, heavy rain overnight

Pre-breakfast birding near the hotel provided good views of a Crested Goshawk and several other species. Others explored the Jungle Trail behind the hotel and were surprised to come across a young Orang-utan, presumably, but not necessarily, one of the rehabilitating individuals. After breakfast some couldn't resist a brief return to the feeding platform before we set off at 11.00 for nearby Sandakan where we had lunch at the Sandakan Hotel.

At 13.00 we boarded a powerful motor boat for the three hour journey up the Lower Kinabatangan River to Sukau Rainforest Lodge, our base for the next two nights. This journey proved most productive, our first encounter with Proboscis Monkeys came after an hour or so and soon after the sharp-eyed boatmen spotted our first definitely wild Orang-utan, a young male that gave good views for ten minutes in riverside trees. Several White-bellied Sea Eagles and Brahminy Kites punctuated our progress but just before finally reaching Sukau Village two more Orang-utans were spotted, a mother and her three or four year old youngster; the latter in particular gave some great views. With such distractions en route we were inevitably a little late arriving at the lodge but still had time for a 90 minute cruise along the river. Before darkness fell we found several Long-tailed Macaques and Proboscis Monkeys and as we were returning towards the lodge a Brown Wood Owl on an exposed perch was a surprise find; other birds seen included several Oriental Pied Hornbills, Oriental Darters and Green Imperial Pigeons. A night cruise after dinner was slightly truncated due to rain but still produced White-crowned Hornbills, Black-and-red Broadbills, Yellow-bellied Prinia, Blue-eared and Collared Kingfisher, Buffy Fish Owl, Mangrove Snake and a couple of small Crocodiles. We just managed to avoid a soaking too which was a bonus!

Day 4

Tuesday 11th September

Sukau and Gomantong Caves

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly sunny, rain at lunchtime and later in the evening as we returned to Sukau

A dawn cruise took us downstream then north along the narrow Sungei Menanggol tributary where Proboscis Monkeys showed very well and three Bornean Gibbons gave some fleeting views. Deep hooting calls indicated the presence of some ultra-rare Bornean Ground Cuckoos and after a little while two were seen scurrying along in the dark depths of the jungle. Other birds noted included Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, Lesser Fish Eagle and White-chested Babbler before we returned for a welcome breakfast at 08.15.

With an afternoon jaunt to Gomantong Caves in the offing the rest of the morning was free to rest, explore the jungle boardwalk behind the lodge or to have a guided walk there with Winston, one of the lodge naturalists. Birds seen along the boardwalk included Black-throated, Chestnut-winged, Ferruginous and Scaly-crowned Babblers and a couple of Maroon Woodpeckers performed well.

After lunch a short boat trip took us to Sukau village where minibuses were waiting to take us to Gomantong, 30 minutes away. Prior to visiting the cave we stopped to explore the rich forest along the approach road which immediately paid dividends when one of the drivers spotted a male Orang-utan right next to where we had stopped, excellent extended views were then enjoyed by all for over 30 minutes.

A short walk then took us to the visitor centre with Blue-eared Barbets, Little Green Pigeons, Black-capped Bulbul, White-fronted Falconets and Whiskered Tree Swift seen en route. At the ammonia fragranced cave entrance several Red Leaf Monkeys showed well. Most of the group accompanied Hamit inside and around the boardwalk to view the bats and swiftlets, their huge dung mound and its attendant multitude of cockroaches. Vast numbers of bats soon began to emerge and quickly attracted the attentions of up to five Bat Hawks and a couple of Peregrines. Back at the visitor centre, Rhinoceros, Asian Black and Bushy-crested Hornbills were seen before we returned to our lodge for dinner.

Day 5

Wednesday 12th September

Sukau to Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, dry

There was time for a short cruise along the Sungai Menanggal before breakfast and our 09.00 departure for Lahad Datu, gateway to the fabled Danum Valley Conservation Area. Species seen were similar to yesterday with Proboscis Monkeys especially prominent. One notable avian inhabitant of the Lower Kinabatangan area was still missing from our list as we boarded the bus and set off along the road to Gomantong again but this was soon remedied when a Storm's Stork appeared overhead just outside Sukau Village, during the few minutes we spent watching it both Black and Rufous-bellied Eagles also appeared. We arrived at Lahad Datu just after noon and spent an hour or so having lunch at a Chinese restaurant.

After completing a few formalities we boarded a Borneo Rainforest Lodge bus and soon found ourselves leaving the highway and travelling along an unmade but decent enough logging track through an increasingly rugged jungle landscape. The sight of logging trucks carrying out the forest in the opposite direction is never pleasing but at least the logging allowed in the area is selective and even this is scheduled to stop completely before 2008.

A small mechanical problem with the bus gave us a 40 minute leg stretch, during which a White-fronted Falconet was seen, and we finally arrived at the superbly situated lodge around 17.00, in plenty of time to explore the immediate vicinity, or well stocked bar, before darkness fell. After dinner an hour long night drive produced several encounters with both Red Giant and Thomas's Flying Squirrels, one of the former obliging with a spectacular glide.

Day 6

Thursday 13th September

Danum Valley

Weather: very hot and sticky, dry

Our first morning in Danum Valley commenced with a pre-breakfast stroll along the Access Road which quickly provided good views of some of the whooping Bornean Gibbons that had been serenading us since before dawn. Our walk took us as far as the canopy walkway before we returned for breakfast at 08.30, having by then supplemented our bird list with Red-billed Malkohas and various bulbuls and babblers, we also saw a spectacularly large tree orchid that the BBC were there to film.

After breakfast most of the group accompanied Hamit and our local guide Nadil along the Jacuzzi Pool Trail with some then pressing on with Nadil along the Viewpoint Trail from which a commanding view of the whole area can be seen. Others returned to the canopy walkway. Primates were at a premium this morning, excepting two more Bornean Gibbons briefly visible from the lodge veranda just after breakfast, but birds included Orange-backed Woodpecker and Diard's Trogon.

After lunch, and a rest, Hamit and Nadil led most of the group on an evening walk along the Hornbill Trail while others concentrated on the Nature Trail and Access Road. Several Red-leaf Monkeys were the pick of the primates with new birds including Maroon-breasted Philentoma and several Babblers. An hour long night walk before dinner provided good views of Lesser Mouse Deer and a Brown Wood Owl while numerous invertebrates and some luminous fungi were also noted.

Day 7

Friday 14th September

Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, mainly dry but with a light shower during lunchtime

The morning was variously spent along the Access Road or Segama and Bandradi Trails with an obvious highlight being a spectacular male Great Argus Pheasant at the Segama Trail, along with Black-capped Babbler and others and Red-bearded Bee-eater, Rubycheek Sunbirds and Bornean Bristlehead were seen near the canopy walkway. Primates this morning included a troop of Red-leaf Monkeys and a couple more Bornean Gibbons.

After lunch, a swim at the Jacuzzi Pool tempted some while most went in search of Orang-utans on the Danum Trail with Nadil and Hamit. As it turned out two Orang-utans were found on the Hornbill Trail which necessitated a bit of a fast dash to get to from the far end of the Danum Trail. It was well worth the effort though as the mother and her four year old youngster were settled, showed well and eventually built a nest right next to the trail. After dinner a night drive produced excellent views of several Greater Mouse Deer, a couple of rather fleeting Malay Banded Civets, Sambar Deer, more flying Squirrels, a Green Pit Viper and a very large Tarantula.

Day 8

Saturday 15th September

Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, sunny before and after heavy lunchtime rain

With two Orang-utans within easy striking distance of the lodge that was the obvious first port of call and they conveniently decided to remain in the vicinity of their nest tree for well over an hour after dawn and gave some great views. After breakfast most of the rest of the morning was spent in the vicinity of the lodge or on nearby trails. Bornean Gibbons were again seen at the lodge, where a Great-billed Heron was intermittently on view along the river, Bornean Bristleheads were again at the canopy walkway and other new birds included Arctic Warblers and Plain Sunbirds. After lunch most chose to relax around the splendid lodge but those who ventured out along the Access Road found Banded Broadbill and Scarlet-rumped Trogons associating with a large mixed flock of Babblers.

Days 9 & 10

Sunday & Monday 16/17th September

Danum Valley to Kuala Lumpur via Tawau and Kota Kinabalu; Kuala Lumpur to London

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly sunny, dry

We bade farewell to Borneo Rainforest Lodge straight after breakfast at 08.00 and began the journey to Tawau for our flight to Kota Kinabalu. A couple of leg stretches coincided with some fiddling about with the bus engine but we arrived at the airport in plenty of time for a bite to eat before our 45 minute flight left at 14.40. Kota Kinabalu Airport saw a parting of the ways for those undertaking extensions while everyone else caught a connecting flight to Kuala Lumpur after a couple of hours in transit.

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Species lists

Species in square brackets were not seen by any group members or were not certainly identified. Species labelled N/L, where not seen by the leader or guides and those designated L/O where seen only by the leader or guides

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*

One was seen during the night cruise at Sukau

Wrinkle-lipped (Free-tailed) Bat *Tadarida plicata plicata*

Countless thousands left their roost cave at Gomantong; two million are estimated to roost there and we probably saw at least half of these

[Other Bats

Several unidentified bats of various sizes were seen at various sites]

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

We had several encounters with small troops at Danum Valley after earlier seeing half a dozen at Gomantong Caves

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata*

Several were seen during our time at Sukau and a handful more were at Danum Valley

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*

Up to thirty were found during our cruises at Sukau after a small group were seen en route to there from Sandakan

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

One at Sepilok was followed by about 50 at Sukau with a few more were at Danum Valley

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*

Several attended the Orang-utan feeding sessions at Sepilok, a small group were in the grounds of the hotel near there with a few others seen along roadsides as we travelled

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

Three showed briefly along the Sungei Menanggol at Sukau and at least eight were seen, and many more heard, at Danum Valley

Bornean Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*

Three visits to the feeding station at Sepilok yielded between eight and eleven semi-wild individuals (including a mother and baby) in the latter stages of a rehabilitation process that would ultimately see them translocated and released. The Jungle Trail behind Sepilok Nature Resort held one too but the very close proximity of the rehabilitation centre makes it most likely that this was part of that programme rather than fully wild. We didn't have to wait too long to see definitely wild Orang-utans though as the boat journey from Sandakan to Sukau provided good views of three different individuals, a young male and a female with a three or four year old youngster. Next day, along the approach road to Gomantong a male (probably 10-15 years old) gave excellent prolonged views. Finally, a mother and her three or four year youngster showed well along the Hornbill Trail at Danum Valley where they were watched nest building in the evening and lingered for over an hour next morning before moving off

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis sandakanensis*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevosti pluto*

Quite common and widespread with at least a couple seen each day

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus pryeri*

One was seen at Danum Valley

[Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowi lowi*

A couple of briefly seen mid-sized Squirrels at Sukau were probably this species although several others are very similar in appearance]

Four-striped Ground Squirrel *Lariscus hosei*

Five were recorded at Sepilok

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis exilis*

These spectacularly diminutive animals were seen occasionally at Sukau and Danum Valley, in total 12 were recorded

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista nigrescens* &/or *rajab*

A couple were spotlighted during both night drives at Danum Valley

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeromys thomasi*

A couple at Sepilok were followed by at least two more at Danum Valley during night drives, several unidentified Flying Squirrels were also seen at Danum Valley

[Rat species *Rattus sp.*

One was seen most evenings at Danum Valley, most likely a Polynesian Rat]

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxorus hermaphroditus*

One was seen in the grounds of the hotel at Sepilok

Banded Palm Civet *Hemilagus derbyanus*

Two were seen briefly during a night drive at Danum Valley

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus barbatus*

A large male made occasional visits to the lodge grounds at Danum Valley and a sow with four stripy piglets crossed the road near there

Greater Mouse Deer *Tragulid napu*

At least two three were recorded at Danum Valley

Lesser Mouse-deer *Tragulid javanicus klossi*

At least three were found at Danum Valley

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor brookei*

A total of five were seen at Danum Valley during our nocturnal forays

Birds

Species order, nomenclature and taxonomy follow Mackinnon and Phillipps' A Fieldguide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java and Bali (OUP) 1993 unless otherwise indicated. Splits and other changes are followed when these are accepted by Birdlife International or the Handbook of the Birds of the World. Species only heard or not conclusively identified are placed in square brackets, as are species only seen by the tour leader or guides (marked LO); species not seen by the tour leader or guides are marked NL. Endemic species are indicated by E after the scientific name

Great Argus *Argusianus argus*

A male showed well near his dancing ground along the Segama Trail at Danum Valley

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Up to 30 were along the Kinabatangan at Sukau and a handful were at Danum Valley

Great-billed Heron *Ardea sumatrana*

One was present in front of the lodge at Danum Valley on our final day there

Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*

One flew over the Chinese restaurant where we had lunch in Lahad Datu

'Eastern' Cattle Egret *Bubulcus (ibis) coromandus*

Small numbers were seen along roadsides and at airports. Many authors now regard Asiatic birds as a separate species from those further west

Pacific Reef Egret *Egretta sacra*

One dark morph individual was at the surprising location of Kota Kinabalu airport during our inbound flight

Great Egret *Casmerodius albus modestus*

Common along the Kinabatangan River at Sukau where up to 30 per day were seen

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

Small numbers were along the Kinabatangan River at Sukau with a handful more at Danum Valley

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*

One was soaring near Sukau Village as we set off from there towards Danum Valley; another was briefly seen perched a short time later as we drove along

Jerdon's Baza *Aviceda jerdoni borneensis*

One or two were noted at Sukau

Oriental Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus torquatus* or *ptilorhynchus*

Singles were seen on two occasions at Sepilok

Bat Hawk *Machaeramphus alcinus*

Up to five hunted bats leaving Gomantong Caves

Black-shouldered Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

One was seen from the moving bus as we travelled from Sukau to Lahad Datu

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus*

Several were seen between Sandakan and Sukau with a few others at Sepilok and near Lahad Datu

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

At least eight were seen between Sandakan and Sukau

Lesser Fish-eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*

One showed several times along the Sungei Menanggol at Sukau

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus*

Two or three were seen at each site visited

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*

Singles showed well on two occasions at Sepilok

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malayensis*

One was soaring over oil palms as we were watching a Storm's Stork near Sukau

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Hieraetus kienerii*

Two at Sepilok were followed by one at Sukau and two at Danum Valley

Wallace's Hawk Eagle *Spizaetus nanus*

At least four were seen at Sukau with a couple more at Danum Valley

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* E

One was at Sepilok, two at Gomantong and another at Danum Valley, a good haul as this species is sometimes hard to come by

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ernesti*

Two hunted bats at Gomantong Caves

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Small numbers were found at Sepilok and Sukau

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

At least two were seen at Sepilok

Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax*

After the first at Sepilok small numbers were found at both Sukau and Danum Valley

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Most of the 15 or so seen were at Sepilok

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula aenea*

Most frequently seen at Sukau, where over 30 were noted, with small numbers at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*

Small numbers were seen along roadsides as we travelled through oil palm plantations between sites

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Birds were seen in flight on a couple of occasions at Danum Valley

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*

About 20 were seen at Sepilok and Sukau, mostly in flight

Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus*

Four were seen flying around at Danum Valley

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*

Small numbers were seen at all sites, most were in flight but a couple of perched birds showed well at Sepilok

[Rusty-breasted (Brush) Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulchralis*

Heard but not seen at Sukau]

[Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus* - One flew over calling at Danum Valley (LO)]

Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus fuscigularis*

The total of eight seen were spread between all sites visited

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*

Three or four were found at Danum Valley

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus*

A couple were noted each day at Danum Valley

Bornean Ground-cuckoo *Carpococcyx radiatus* E

Two calling birds were seen running through the jungle beside the Sungei Menanggol at Sukau, a very rarely seen species. Now split from Sunda Ground Cuckoo to become a Bornean endemic

Lesser Coucal *Centropus bengalensis*

A couple of Coucals seen at Sepilok and from the moving bus near Danum Valley were assumed to be this species which is far commoner than the similar Greater Coucal in Borneo

Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu*

One was seen during the night cruise at Sukau

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* probably *leptogrammica*

One seen just before dusk at Sukau was followed by another during a night walk at Danum Valley

[Edible-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia fucifaga*

Presumably seen but not identifiable unless its nest is seen]

[Black-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia maxima*

Most of the unidentified Swiftlets at Gomantong were probably this species which is particularly abundant in limestone areas]

[Mossy-nest Swiftlet *Collocalia salangana*

Presumably seen but effectively indistinguishable from the previous two species unless on its distinctive nest]

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia* or *Aerodramus esculenta*

Common everywhere, the only readily identifiable Swiftlet species in the lowlands of Sabah, and nesting in the entrance of Gomantong Caves on account of its inability to echo-locate like the larger species that penetrate into the dark cave interior

Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

A handful were at all sites visited though the best views were over the lake at Sepilok Nature Resort

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*

Several were seen in flight each day at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata comata*

Perched birds were at Gomantong and Danum Valley with several more seen in flight at the latter

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*

One was seen along the Viewpoint Trail at Danum Valley

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvancelii*

One or two were seen on three occasions at Danum Valley

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii*

A roosting bird during our night cruise at Sukau was followed by a couple more next day and one at Danum Valley

Blue-banded Kingfisher *Alcedo euryzona*

One was seen briefly from the lodge veranda at Danum Valley

Oriental Dwarf / Black-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithacus* / *rufidorsa motleyi*

Singles were seen on three occasions at Danum Valley after one had earlier been heard at Sukau. Whether these represent one or two species is open to debate, most birds in Borneo exhibit mixed features

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis capensis* or *javana*

Up to three noisy individuals showed well each morning at Sepilok and a handful more were at Sukau and Danum Valley

Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris*

One seen during our night cruise at Sukau was followed by a few more along wires as we travelled from there to Lahad Datu

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis viridis*

A handful were seen everywhere we went with those at Danum Valley giving repeated scope views

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*

One was watched in the early morning gloom at Danum Valley

Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Small numbers were at Sepilok and Sukau

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus galeritus*

Three were at Gomantong and Danum Valley produced regular encounters with flocks of up to 10 birds; the most gregarious Hornbill species

White-crowned Hornbill *Aceros comatus*

A pair of roosting birds were spotlighted during our night cruise at Danum Valley; the least often seen of Borneo's Hornbills

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus corrugatus*

Up to a dozen at Sukau were followed by two at Danum Valley

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*

A pair were seen on at Danum Valley

Asian Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*

At least a couple were seen everywhere

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*

Conspicuous at Sepilok where three were often around the hotel and regularly seen and heard at Sukau

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros*

An excellent haul with up to four seen at all sites visited, those at Gomantong showed especially well, one of the great sounds of the Bornean rainforest

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis*

One was seen at Danum Valley where several more were heard

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis*

Often heard, a couple posed for the scope at Gomantong

Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius*

A couple at Sepilok were followed by another at Danum Valley

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax*

One was at Sepilok

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki tukki*

Two were at Sepilok and five at Sukau

[Sunda Woodpecker *Picoides moluccensis*

Three were briefly at the junction of the Danum Valley logging track (LO)]

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus*

One was seen briefly at Danum Valley

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*

A pair excavating nest holes at Sukau gave some excellent views

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus* - One was seen at Danum Valley

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*

One flew over the Sungei Menanggol at Sukau

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus macrorhynchus*

Three roosting birds during the night cruise at Sukau were followed by a couple more at Danum Valley

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei*

One was with a mixed species flock at Danum Valley

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus kalamantan*

Although regularly heard the only ones seen were two at Sepilok and one at Danum Valley

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Fairly common in disturbed habitats

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tabitica abbotti*

Small numbers were noted everywhere

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

Two or three were at Sepilok

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*

One showed well at Danum Valley

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*

A couple were noted at Sepilok

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus*

Several were seen at Danum Valley

Common Iora *Aegithinia tiphia*

Three or four were at Sukau Rainforest Lodge

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon cyanopogon*

Up to 10 per day were seen at Danum Valley

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops*

At least two were seen at Danum Valley

Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*

One was seen along the Gomantong approach road, it shared a bare treetop with a Blue-eared Barbet and a Little Green Pigeon to produce a very colourful scopeful!

Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini*

Common in disturbed habitats but absent in primary forests

[Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*

One was seen at Danum Valley (LO)]

Red-eyed bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus brunneus*

Common everywhere

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythroptalmos*

A handful were seen at Sukau and Danum Valley

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres*

A couple were in mixed species flocks at Danum Valley

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens*

Three or four were found at Danum Valley

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*

Up to 10 were irregularly seen at Danum Valley

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*

Three were noted at Gomantong

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

Half a dozen were at Sukau and Danum Valley

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus*

Singles were seen on three occasions at Danum Valley

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus encau*

Up to 10 were occasionally seen at Danum Valley

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* E

Groups of up to four were seen on two occasions in the vicinity of the canopy walkway at Danum Valley

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli*

After a single at Sepilok two more were found at Danum Valley

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum frontalis* or *macropterum*

Half a dozen were recorded at Sukau

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*

The six recorded were equally divided between Sukau and Danum Valley

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis feriata*

Two were seen briefly at Danum Valley

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiarium*

A couple were recorded at Danum Valley

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*

Three or four were seen in mixed species flocks at Danum Valley

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*

Often heard and occasionally seen at Danum Valley

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteran cinereum cinereum*

One of the commoner Babblers with several seen daily at Sukau and Danum Valley

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum saba*

A couple were in mixed species flocks at Danum Valley

Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Grey-headed Babbler *Stachyris poliocephala*

One was at Danum Valley

Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*

Two or three were noted in a mixed babbler flock at Sukau boardwalk

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor*

Several were in mixed species flocks at Sukau and Danum Valley

Bold-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous bornensis*

Small numbers were seen at all sites visited. Split from Striped Tit-babbler *Macronous gularis* which is now usually called Pin-striped Tit-babbler; also occurs on Java.

Sunda Laughingthrush *Garrulax palliatus*

One was noted at Sepilok (NL)

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda eriphaea*

Two singles were found at Danum Valley

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*

A couple were noted at Danum Valley. Formerly known as White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca* but not a Yuhina at all according to DNA analysis.

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis adamsi*

Regularly seen throughout

White-browed Shama *Copsychus stricklandii* E

Small numbers were seen and heard throughout. Also known as White-crowned Shama

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*

One was seen briefly at Danum Valley

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis*

Two were seen at Danum Valley

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*

About 10 were found at Danum Valley

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis*

Commonly heard and regularly seen throughout

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*

One or two were seen on several occasions at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris*

After a roosting bird was found during our night cruise at Sukau two further singles were at Danum Valley

Brown-Streaked Flycatcher *Muscicapa williamsoni*

At least four were found at Danum Valley. Now split from Asian Brown Flycatcher *M. dauurica*

Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis turcosus*

A female was seen along the Sungei Menanggol at Sukau

Grey-headed Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis ceylonensis*

Two were seen at Danum Valley

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*

Singles were at Sukau and Danum Valley

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

Present throughout in small numbers

Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velatum*

Two encounters at Danum Valley involved five individuals

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrrhopterum pyrrhopterum*

Two were noted at Danum Valley

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradise borneensis*

Two females were at Danum Valley

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

One flew over as we waited at the junction of the logging track to Danum Valley

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis eustathis*

Common in urban areas

Crested Myna *Acridotheres cristatellus*

Several were at Sepilok. An introduced species

(Common) Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa religiosa*

A couple at Sukau were followed by six at Danum Valley

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*

At least two were in a small mixed species flock at Danum Valley

Brown- or Plain-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis borneensis*

Common at Sepilok with a few others elsewhere in disturbed habitat

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*

Two showed well at Danum Valley

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum hypogrammicum*

Up to ten were recorded at Sukau and Danum Valley

Olive-backed Sunbird *Nectarinia jugularis*

A handful were seen at Sepilok

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga siparaja*

Small numbers were at Sepilok and Sukau

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi*

Small numbers were present everywhere we visited

Bornean Spiderhunter *Arachnothera everetti*

Two came regularly to a flowering tree near the entrance to Borneo Rainforest Lodge

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Rionochilus maculatus maculatus*

A handful were seen at Sukau and Danum Valley

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum*

About 10 were seen at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans* E

Small numbers were seen in all areas visited, birds were nest building at Sukau Rainforest Lodge

Chestnut or Southern Black-headed Munia *Lonchura atricapilla jagori*

Fairly common in disturbed habitat

Reptiles and amphibians

Mangrove Snake

One was seen in an overhead tree during our night cruise at Sukau

Green Pit Viper

One was on the road during our second night drive at Danum Valley

Bronzeback Viper

One was at Sepilok

Mock Pit-viper

One was at Sepilok

Red-sided water Snake

One was recorded at Danum Valley

Green Whip Snake

One was at Danum Valley

A few other snakes were seen but not positively identified. Several more unidentified reptiles were also seen; these included a couple of Agamid-type Lizards (including a 'Crested' Agamid) and several Geckos and Skinks

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

Asian Saltwater (or Estuarine) Crocodile

Most boat trips at Sukau produced one or two sightings, most looked small but a couple of bigger individuals probably exceeded 2 metres in length

Frogs

Numerous Tree Frogs were heard, especially at Danum Valley where one was seen in shrubs below the lodge veranda

Insects and others

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. Huge Atlas Moths were seen at Danum Valley on a couple of occasions and a huge, but dead, Giant Cicada was also seen there. Other insects noted included several Pill Millipedes, Stick Insects and a couple of Long-legged Centipedes. During our second night drive at Danum Valley a very large Tarantula was seen on a roadside tree and a Scorpion or two were seen during the night walk there.

Leeches

Small numbers of Brown and Tiger Leeches were encountered at Danum Valley where mainly dry weather made them less active than is often the case. Only a few people qualified for blood donor certificates this year