

# Borneo's Orang-utans (an EIA tour)

Naturetrek Tour Report

5 - 15 September 2008

---

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](mailto:info@naturetrek.co.uk)

W: [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk)

Tour Leaders: Chris Kehoe (Naturetrek)  
Hamit (Local Guide)  
Nadil (Local Guide)

Participants: Sam Chippington  
Carol Chippington  
Barry Buxton  
Yo Buxton  
Olly Olejnik  
Jean Olejnik  
Denise Law  
Charles Mason  
Margaret Brown  
Malcolm Brown  
Val Martin  
Neville Turton  
Tasmin Cull  
Mark Abdey

## Day 0/1

Friday 5th & Saturday 6th September

Inbound from UK/ Sepilok

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

Our noon Malaysia Airlines flight from Heathrow to Kuala Lumpur on 5th left a little late but we landed a little ahead of schedule at 07.10 (local) on 6th. The onward flight to Sabah left on time at 09.20 and after a brief stop in Kota Kinabalu, where immigration formalities were completed; we landed at Sandakan right on time at 13.20. Hamit was waiting to meet us and with the bus loaded up we made the 30 minute journey to Sepilok in time for a first visit to the Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre where afternoon feeding takes place at 15.00. At least six semi-wild Orang-utans showed up for a handout, as did a troop of Pig-tailed Macaques. Soon afterwards we were settling into our rooms at nearby Sepilok Nature Resort for a two night stay.

## Day 2

Sunday 7th September

Sepilok

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly dry and quite sunny until a heavy thunderstorm late-afternoon

Early risers spent 90 minutes birding along the road near the hotel before breakfast with a good selection seen including Crimson, Purple-naped and Brown-throated Sunbirds, Orange-bellied and Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers and Blue-throated Bee-eater; mammal interest came in the shape of Prevost's Squirrels and a Plain Pygmy-squirrel. After breakfast we returned to the Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre at 09.00 to watch a video about the work undertaken there before walking to the viewing platform for the 10.00 feeding. About six Orang-utans appeared along with attendant Macaques, including at least one Long-tailed Macaque.

After lunch and a rest at the lodge we returned for a final time to the feeding platform where about eight Orangs arrived and lingered for ages. Back at the hotel a thunderstorm that had been threatening for a couple of hours finally broke with a good lightening display and a typically tropical downpour, though it was dry again by the time we assembled for dinner.

## Day 3

**Monday 8th September**

### Sepilok to Sukau/ Sukau

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly dry and sunny but with rain either side of dawn and from 16.15-17.45 during our river cruise.

Rain at dawn led to a short postponement of our pre-breakfast birding excursion but it quickly cleared and we enjoyed good views of Oriental Pied and Asian Black Hornbills along with Pink-necked Green Pigeon and a perched Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot. After breakfast there was time for some final packing and exploration of the lodge grounds and some saw a couple of Crested Serpent Eagles flying over.

A short road journey delivered us to the Sandakan Hotel for lunch before we transferred to a nearby jetty where the boat for our transfer to Sukau was waiting. The two-and-a-half hour journey to Sukau was punctuated by a stop to look at a rather large Saltwater Crocodile. After checking-in at Sukau Rainforest Lodge we took to two motorised canoes for a cruise upstream at 16.00. Before cutting our losses in the face of persistent heavy rain an hour later we'd had our first encounter with a troop of Proboscis Monkeys; in addition, Long-tailed Macaques were watched foraging at the edge of the river, a Mangrove Snake was curled up in a tree and a large Monitor Lizard sat on a branch.

After dinner (during which everyone looked very smart in their Sarongs) the rain had virtually stopped so we embarked on an hour long night cruise at 20.30, an excellent selection of finds included roosting Stork-billed and Blue-eared Kingfishers plus a couple of Buffy Fish Owls, three species of snakes were seen including a sizeable Reticulated Python but the obvious highlight was a Colugo (Flying Lemur) feeding high in a bare treetop.

## Day 4

**Tuesday 9th September**

### Sukau and Gomantong Caves

Weather: hot and sticky, heavy overnight rain continued until 08.00 and a heavy thunderstorm lasted from 16.00-17.45 while we were at Gomantong

Rain led to the cancellation of our dawn river cruise so we returned to bed or explored the covered boardwalk behind the lodge until breakfast at 08.00. After breakfast there was further opportunity for independent exploration of the lodge grounds before Hamit led a guided walk around the lodge boardwalk from 10.30-12.00.

After lunch we set off at 14.30 for Gomantong Caves. A short boat journey delivered us to Sukau Village where our vehicles were waiting and 30 minutes later we stopped about 1km before the Gomantong Visitors Centre which gave us the chance to explore some of the excellent rainforest along the entrance road.

This proved highly productive as a female Orang-utan with a young baby was found right next to where we parked and gave some great views over the next 40 minutes or so. With storm clouds gathering we made our way along a short boardwalk to the entrance to Gomantong Caves where most of the group accompanied Hamit on a 30 minute walk inside as the rain came down in torrents outside. As the rain began to ease off a little we gathered for shelter in one of the longhouses at the cave entrance. Bats began to stream out from higher up the hillside shortly before 17.00 and soon attracted the attention of a couple of Bat Hawks which picked them off with ease.

Returning to the visitor centre we continued to watch the spectacle of hundreds of thousands of bats streaming out and were also entertained by a group of soggy Bushy-crested Hornbills clustered together on a branch of a nearby tree. The bus journey back to Sukau Village was enlivened by the sight of Flying Foxes passing overhead. Fortunately the rain had stopped completely by the time we boarded the open boats for the short journey back to the lodge.

## Day 5

Wednesday 10th September

### Sukau to Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, dry until 14.00 then steady rain during our journey to Danum Valley, dry on arrival there.

In clear and bright conditions we left at 06.00 on the river cruise we had missed yesterday due to rain. Our route took us upstream to an area where others had seen some elephants the previous afternoon but although we saw plenty of evidence of their recent presence none chose to show themselves for us. However, there was plenty to see with a couple of troops of Proboscis Monkeys putting on a good show while birds included the rare Storm's Stork (here in one of its last remaining strongholds), Wallace's Hawk-eagle and three Wrinkled Hornbills. Returning to the lodge at 08.15 we had time for a leisurely breakfast before heading off back to Sukau Village an hour later where we boarded a bus for the two-and-a-half hour journey to Lahad Datu.

After lunch at a Chinese Restaurant we transferred to a bus belonging to Borneo Rainforest Lodge and commenced the three hour journey to Danum Valley at 13.40. It rained throughout much of the journey along a somewhat bumpy logging track but by the time we arrived at the lodge the rain had stopped and were able to appreciate the spectacular setting (complete with Red Leaf-monkeys and semi-resident Bearded Pig in the garden) for an hour or so before darkness fell.

An hour-long night drive after dinner proved rather productive with a Red Giant Flying-squirrel, Common Palm Civet and a Brown Wood Owl the highlights.

## Day 6

Thursday 11th September

### Danum Valley

Weather: very hot and sticky, dry

Our first full day in Danum Valley commenced at 06.30 with a walk along the Access Road to the Canopy Walkway and back. The obvious highlight being a young male Orang-utan on the Nature Trail just 200 metres from the lodge.

After breakfast we set off at 09.30 to the Jacuzzi Pool (via the Nature Trail and its Orang-utan) where numerous photos were taken of this scenic spot but no notable animals were seen until we were nearly back at the lodge where a fruiting tree attracted a group of Long-tailed Macaques with birds in the same vicinity including Ruby-cheeked Sunbirds, Asian Fairy Bluebird and a Black-and-yellow Broadbill and others.

After lunch and a rest we set off once more, some choosing to accompany Nadil along the Hornbill Trail while the rest focussed on the Access Road and Canopy Walkway where a couple of Rhinoceros Hornbills performed and several other bird species were found.

After dinner a night walk near the lodge resulted in views of Bornean Horned Frog, Lantern Bug and others.

## Day 7

Friday 12th September

### Danum Valley

Weather: hot and sticky, a thunderstorm at lunchtime and steady rain from 15.00-18.00

Before breakfast we concentrated attention on the Access Road again seeing a few new birds. After breakfast Nadil led a walk along the Segama Trail which then turned into an unsuccessful quest for a calling Bornean Gibbon on the East Trail while the rest of us had a leisurely stroll closer to the lodge where a troop of Red Leaf Monkeys showed well and plenty of birds were seen. A rather soggy walk along the Sapi Bandradi Trail in the evening produced little new while about half of the group stayed dry drinking coffee and eating cake on the lodge veranda.

A night drive before dinner proved productive with Brown Wood Owl, Leopard Cat and Thomas's Flying-Squirrel the most notable finds.

## Day 8

Saturday 13th September

### Danum Valley

Weather: a little light rain late afternoon and after dark but otherwise mostly sunny and hot

More energetic members of the group accompanied Nadil to the scenic viewpoint high above the lodge, a trek that took in the coffin cliff area and also produced three Orang-utans. Everyone else opted for more leisurely pre- and post-breakfast walks closer to the lodge. Before breakfast an early highlight came in the strange shape of a day roosting Colugo on a tree right next to the Access Road with a good selection of birds also seen including Bornean Bristleheads, Black Magpie, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Buff-rumped Woodpecker and a fly-past by four Rhinoceros Hornbills.

After breakfast most people joined Hamit on a walk along the Danum Trail after further looks at the Colugo and some scope views of a large male Orang-utan at the top of a tall tree along the Nature Trail.

We also had scope views of the other five group members looking pleased with themselves near the top of the Viewpoint Trail.

After lunch and a rest some opted to join Hamit and Nadil on a walk along the Segama Trail and were rewarded with good views of another Orang-utan, the fifth of the day! Those who chose a more leisurely walk along the Access Road and a visit to the canopy walkway had good views and heard the amazing song of a pair of Helmeted Hornbills.

A planned night walk after dinner was cancelled due to unseasonable rain so we contented ourselves with a showy Colugo right next to the restaurant and a Sambar Deer ran across the lawn as we were saying our goodbyes to the Bearded Pig below the veranda.

## Day 9/10

## Sunday 14th & Monday 15th September

Danum Valley to Kuala Lumpur via Lahad Datu and Kota Kinabalu;  
Kuala Lumpur to London arriving 15 September

Weather: hot and sticky, mostly sunny, dry

After a 06.30 breakfast we said our goodbyes to Nadil and boarded the bus for the three hour journey to Lahad Datu, a journey punctuated by a short comfort stop near halfway.

The flight to Kota Kinabalu left at the scheduled time of 12.10 and the long journey back to the UK via there and Kuala Lumpur was underway.

## Receive our e-newsletter

Join the Naturetrek e-mailing list and be the first to hear about new tours, additional departures and new dates, tour reports and special offers. Visit [www.naturetrek.co.uk](http://www.naturetrek.co.uk) to sign up.

## Naturetrek Facebook

We are delighted to launch the Naturetrek Facebook page so that participants of Naturetrek tours can remain in touch after the holiday and share photos, comments and future travel plans.

Setting up a personal profile at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) is quick, free and easy. The [Naturetrek Facebook page](#) is now live; do please pay us a visit!

## Species Lists

### Mammals

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

Large Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus natunae*

About 20 were seen flying over as we returned to Sukau from Gomantong

Colugo ('Flying Lemur') *Cynocephalus variegates*

One showed somewhat distantly in a treetop during our night cruise at Sukau but during our last day at Danum Valley one was found on a roadside tree in the morning and remained all day and another appeared in front of the lodge balcony during dinner

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

Countless thousands left their roost cave at Gomantong

Other Bats

Several unidentified bats of various sizes were seen at various sites

Red Leaf Monkey (or Maroon Langur) *Presbytis rubicunda*

A group of about 15 were seen several times near the lodge and Nature Trail at Danum Valley

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata*

Half a dozen were seen on successive days at the lodge at Sukau

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus*

Our two diurnal boat trips at Sukau yielded about 25 of these strange looking primates

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

One (plus a presumed hybrid with Pig-tailed Macaque) at Sepilok was followed by about 10 at Sukau and six more at Danum Valley

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*

Several attended two of our three Orang-utan feeding sessions at Sepilok and another 20 were found at Danum Valley

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

Gibbons were heard calling at Sepilok and Danum Valley but none showed themselves

Bornean Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus*

Three visits to the feeding station at Sepilok yielded between six and 10 semi-wild individuals. Fully wild individuals were seen at Gomantong (a mother and her few month old baby) and Danum Valley where we had encounters on two of our three days with one individual on our first day and five on our final day.

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis sandakanensis*

One was seen at Danum Valley by Hamit only

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevosti pluto*

Quite common and widespread with up to 10 seen every day

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus pryeri*

Singles were seen at Danum Valley on four occasions

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus exilis exilis*

These spectacularly diminutive animals were seen occasionally at all sites with about seven recorded in total

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

One was seen during the first night drive at Danum Valley

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeronyx thomasi*

One was seen during our second night drive at Danum Valley

[Rat species *Rattus* sp.]

One escaped the clutches of a cat at Sukau, most likely a Polynesian Rat *Rattus exulans*]

Leopard Cat *Felis bengalensis*

One was seen briefly during our second night-drive at Danum Valley

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxorus hermaphroditus*

One was seen during our first night drive at Danum Valley

Banded Palm Civet (or 'Banded Linsang') *Hemilagus derbyanus*

One was seen by some during the second night drive at Danum Valley

Bearded Pig *Sus barbatus*

One was present each evening (and one morning) at our lodge in the Danum Valley, two more were seen from the bus during the drive back to Lahad Datu

Greater Mouse Deer *Tragulus napu*

At least two were recorded at Danum Valley during nocturnal forays

Lesser Mouse-deer *Tragulus javanicus klossi*

At least three were found at Danum Valley

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor brookei*

Three were seen from the lodge at Danum Valley



## Birds

Species order follows Birdlife International's Checklist of the birds of the World; Taxonomy (species and subspecies) follows Clements Checklist of the Birds of the World. 'E' after the scientific name signifies an endemic species and 'e' an endemic subspecies.

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis* e

At least two were occasionally seen around our chalets at Danum Valley or on the nearby Nature Trail

Chestnut-necklaced Partridge *Arborophila charltonii graydoni* e

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*

Two were seen during our final morning at Sukau

Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus*

One was soaring overhead about halfway between Sandakan and Sukau

Striated Heron *Butorides striata javanica* or *amurensis*

Two were seen during our night cruise at Sukau after an earlier bird at the jetty in Sandakan

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis coromandus*

Up to 50 were at Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu airports, this is a winter visitor to Borneo from mainland Asia

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Two sat in treetops at Sukau during our final cruise there

Great Egret *Ardea alba modesta*

Fairly common at Sukau where about 15 were seen

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta garzetta*

A handful at and near Sukau were followed by another at Danum Valley, earlier a couple were seen at Kota Kinabalu airport

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Up to 10 were seen during our river cruises at Sukau

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* E

One in a bare treetop at Danum Valley ate a small bird for breakfast resulting in a flurry of feathers

Oriental Honey-buzzard *Pernis p. ptilorhynchus / orientalis*

Two at Sepilok were followed by two more at Sukau

Bat Hawk *Machaeramphus a. alcinus*

Three or four put on a display of their bat-catching skills at Gomantong

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus intermedius*

A couple were seen at and near Sandakan

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

A pair showed well from the restaurant at Sukau after an earlier brief bird on the journey from Sandakan to there

Lesser Fish-eagle *Ichthyophaga b. humilis*

One flew past the lodge at Danum Valley one afternoon

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus* e

Two at Sepilok were followed by a couple at Gomantong and Danum Valley

Rufous-bellied Hawk-eagle *Hieraetus kienerii formosus*

One showed well in flight at Gomantong

Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus limnaeetus*

One was sitting in a roadside tree near Lahad Datu

Wallace's Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus n. nanus*

One at Sukau was followed by two more at Danum Valley

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis p. phoenicurus*

Two were seen at Sepilok

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

One or two were around the lake at Sepilok Nature Resort

Whiskered Tern *Chilodnius hybridus hybridus* or *fluviatilis*

A couple were along the river at Sukau, migrants from both north and south occur in Borneo

Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis tigrina*

One was seen at Sepilok

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

One was seen at Sepilok

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula a. aenea*

A handful were seen at all sites

Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps i. indica*

One was seen in flight and a few more heard at Danum Valley

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*

Small numbers were seen in flight at Sepilok where one posed for the scope, a couple more flew over at Danum Valley

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula l. longicauda*

A handful flew over at Sepilok

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*

One was seen along the Danum Valley access road

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris microrhinus* e

A couple were seen at Danum Valley

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis bubutus*

One was on the roadside as we returned to Lahad Datu from Danum Valley with a few more heard only birds

Buffy Fish-owl *Ketupa k. ketupu*

Two were seen during our night cruise at Sukau

Brown Wood Owl *Strix l. leptogrammica* e / *vaga* e

One or two were seen during both night drives at Danum Valley

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila*

Common and widespread, nesting at the entrance to Gomantong Caves, unlike the *Aerodromus* swiftlet species this one does not have the ability to echo-locate and therefore does not venture into the dark interior of caves

Swiftlet species *Aerodromus* spp.

Large numbers of *Aerodromus* swiftlets were seen throughout but unless they are attending their characteristically constructed nests cannot be identified with confidence; at least the following species occur in Borneo and were presumably seen: Mossy-nest Swiftlet *A. salangana*; Black-nest Swiftlet *A. maximai*; Edible-nest Swiftlet *A. fuciphagus*; and Germain's Swiftlet *A. germani*. It is possible that one or more undescribed species are also present in Borneo

Silver-rumped Needletail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

Small numbers drank from the lake at Sepilok Nature Resort with a few more seen at Danum Valley

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*

Fairly common at Sepilok where several drank at the lake at the Nature Resort

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne c. comata*

One was seen on the canopy Walkway at Danum Valley

Dollarbird *Eurystomus o. orientalis* / *abundus*

Two were seen at Sukau

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis inominata* e

Two were seen during our night cruise at Sukau with another in daylight there and at least one along the river at Danum Valley

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris laubmannianus*

One was seen during our morning cruise at Sukau

Black-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca motleyi*

Singles were seen on two occasions at Danum Valley with a couple more heard there; the large majority of birds in Borneo show mixed features between this species and Rufous-backed Kingfisher *C. rufidorsa*. Some authorities consider the two forms as subspecies of one wide ranging species call Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher though they generally behave as separate species and do not interbreed where they come into contact, Borneo being an obvious exception to this however.

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii*

One was seen at Sepilok Nature Resort with another during our night cruise at Sukau

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*

Up to three were seen on two occasions at Danum Valley

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*

Singles were seen twice at Sepilok and en route to Sukau

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*

Nine rather soggy individuals lined up to roost in a tree at Gomantong Caves and a dozen or so more were at Danum Valley

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*

Several were seen and heard at Sepilok and Sukau; the absence of this species from primary rainforest at Danum Valley is quite typical as unlike most hornbills it prefers disturbed habitats and secondary forest

Asian Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*

A small handful were seen at all sites visited

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros r. rhinoceros* e

Up to four were seen on three occasions at Danum Valley where others were regularly heard

Helmeted Hornbill *Buceros vigil*

Two were seen and a few more heard at Danum Valley; the tour leader has this species' song as the alarm clock tone on his mobile phone!

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*

Three posed in a treetop near the oxbow lake at Sukau during our final cruise there

Wreathed Hornbill *Aceros undulatus*

Singles were seen in flight on two occasions at Danum Valley

Gold-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis* e

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henrici brachyrhyncha* e

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis duvauceli*

Heard but not seen at Sukau and Danum Valley

Brown Barbet *Calorhamphus fuliginosus tertius* e

One was seen briefly at Sepilok

Rufous Piculet *Sasia a. abnormis*

Singles showed well along the Danum Valley access road on two occasions

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes t. tukki*

Two were seen along the boardwalk at Sukau

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus m. macrorhynchos*

One was at Sepilok and two at Sukau

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei* e

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*

Regularly heard throughout with a couple seen at Sukau and Danum Valley

Blue-headed Pitta *Pitta baudii* E

One was seen flying across the Danum Valley access road with several more heard but not seen there

Black-and-crimson Pitta *Pitta ussleri* E

One showed briefly at Danum Valley where several more were heard; this species was formerly considered a subspecies of the widespread Garnet Pitta *P. granatina* but differs in appearance and voice, also called Black-headed Pitta

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* E

One of three birds near the canopy walkway at Danum Valley posed briefly for the scope; this species is the sole member of its family and has long caused taxonomists headaches when considering its relationship to other

families, the latest thinking is that the Bristlehead is most closely related to the Birds of Paradise which in turn are derived from the crow family

[Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*

A couple of minivets seen at the canopy walkway at Danum Valley were either this species or, less likely, Scarlet Minivet *P. flammeus* but did not linger long enough to allow positive identification]

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

Singles were seen twice at Danum Valley

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus e*

Several were heard and a couple seen briefly at Danum Valley

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica longicauda*

Half a dozen or so were seen at all sites visited

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradise borneensis e*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus e*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca compilator*

A couple were seen everywhere we went

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

Hundreds were along roadside wires between Sukau and Gomantong

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tabitica javanica*

Small numbers were noted everywhere

Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini e*

Fairly common in disturbed habitat at Sepilok with another at Danum Valley

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus butzi e*

A couple were regularly around the lodge at Danum Valley

Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex perplexus e*

A handful were seen at Danum Valley

Red-eyed bulbul *Pycnonotus b. brunneus*

Two were seen one morning at Sepilok

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythroptalmos salvadorii* e

After a couple at Sukau about 10 were seen at Danum Valley where its bubbling call was frequently heard

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes crinigerviridis* e

Three were seen along the Danum Valley access road one afternoon

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis humphreysi* e

Small groups were seen at Danum Valley on a couple of occasions

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus s. sericeus* e

Small numbers were in the vicinity of all the hotels and lodges used, though more often heard than seen

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis* e

Distribution and numbers were very similar to the last species

White-chested Jungle-babbler *Trichastoma rostratum macropterum* e

A couple at Sukau were followed by another at Danum Valley

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine phoeniceum* e

Often heard given its mournful song and occasionally seen at Sukau and Danum Valley

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron c. cinereum*

Regularly seen in small numbers at Danum Valley after a couple earlier at Sukau

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum saba* e

At least one was along the boardwalk at Sukau Rainforest Lodge; others were heard at Danum Valley

Chestnut-backed Scimitar-babbler *Pomatorhinus montanus bornensis* e

Two were seen and several more heard at Danum Valley

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor* e

A few were seen along the boardwalk at Sukau Rainforest Lodge with others seen and especially heard at Danum Valley

(Bold) Striped Tit-babbler *Macronous (gularis) bornensis* e / *montanus* e

Common around the lodge at Sepilok with a couple more elsewhere; the heavily streaked Bornean and Javan races are now often regarded as a separate species from those found on the Asian mainland which are then re-named Pin-striped Tit-babbler *M. gularis*

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda eriphaea* e

Two or three were seen at Danum Valley

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella criniger*

About 10 were seen at Danum Valley

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis eustathis*

Fairly common at Sepilok and in Lahad Datu

Hill Myna *Gracula r. religiosa*

Heard but not seen at Sepilok and Danum Valley

[Crested Myna *Acridotheres c. cristatellus*]

A handful were at Sepilok and along roadsides between there and Sandakan; an introduced species in Borneo, its native range is mainland South-east Asia

Maroon-breasted Philentoma *Philentoma velata caesia*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis adamsi e / pluto e*

Quite common at Sepilok with a couple more elsewhere

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus stricklandii e*

Regularly heard and occasionally seen at all sites, Bornean birds are often regarded as a separate species called White-crowned Shama *C. stricklandi*

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis*

One showed briefly at Danum Valley

Bornean Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus E*

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Large-billed Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis c. caerulatus e*

A male was seen briefly at Danum Valley

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum e*

A couple were at Sepilok

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum nigritum e*

Two or three showed well at Sepilok

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*

Half-a-dozen were seen at Danum Valley

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis borneensis*

Common in the grounds of Sepilok Nature Resort with a couple more at Sukau

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcopteria singalensis borneana e*

Three or four showed well at Danum Valley



Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma b. hypogrammicum*

A couple were seen at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga s. siparaja*

Two or three were at Sepilok and Sukau

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi* e

Several were in the vicinity of all the lodges we used with others elsewhere at Danum Valley

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys harrissoni* e

A pair were regularly seen in the lodge grounds at Danum Valley

Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera modesta*

A bird seen near the lodge at Danum Valley was either this species or Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis everetti*; there is tremendous confusion regarding the identification, distribution and taxonomy of these species, some authorities call subspecies *everetti* Bornean Spiderhunter in the erroneous belief that it is an endemic species but it also occurs on Java.

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus malaccensis*

Several were at Sepilok, Sandakan and Lahad Datu; probably introduced in Borneo but nobody knows for sure. Throughout south-east Asia the Tree Sparrow (a bird of rural areas elsewhere) fills the ecological niche normally associated with House Sparrow *P. domesticus*, a species absent south and east of India

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans* (E)

A few were nesting at our lodge at Sukau with several more around the helipad area at Danum Valley; this species is virtually a Bornean endemic but occurs also on one small island in Philippine territory

Chestnut Munia (or Black-headed Munia) *Lonchura atricapilla jagori*

Small numbers were at Sepilok Nature Resort

## Other Fauna

Reptiles were represented by a few Saltwater Crocodiles at Sukau and several Water Monitor Lizards at Sepilok and Sukau;

Snakes seen included Glider Snake, Twin-banded Greenback, Red-sided Water Snake, Mangrove Snake and Reticulated Python, smaller reptiles included numerous Geckos, a few skinks, Crested Agami and some flying Lizards.

Amphibians included Harlequin Frog, White-lipped Tree Frog, Bornean Horned Frog and some Micro Frogs.

Insects included numerous large and brightly coloured Butterflies (including several Birdwing species), a spectacular Silk Moth species was also seen; several centipedes and millipedes were noted as were Lantern Bug, Long-horned Beetle, Stick Insects and others. Leeches (both Tiger and Brown) were moderately abundant at Danum Valley.