

# Borneo's Orang-utans: An EIA Tour

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 13 September 2009

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Report compiled by Chris Kehoe



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## Day 1

**Friday 4th September**

Outbound from UK to Kuala Lumpur

Most of the group departed from Heathrow on a midday Malaysian Airlines scheduled flight bound for Kuala Lumpur.

## Day 2

**Saturday 5th September**

Outbound to Sandakan via Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu; Sepilok

Weather: hot and sticky on arrival, overcast but dry

After a 12 hour flight it was time to change planes in Kuala Lumpur and catch the 09.20 (local time) shuttle to Sandakan via Kota Kinabalu where the remainder of the group joined the flight. We arrived at Sandakan just 10 minutes late at 13.30 and after collecting our bags and meeting Hamit, our local guide, we set off on the 30 minute drive to Sepilok Nature Resort, just five minutes from the Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre.

After a refreshing drink and a few moments to organise things Hamit led everyone to the centre to get a first taste of the Bornean rainforest and, of course, some Orang-utans. In the event no Orang-utans visited the feeding platform this afternoon though one was slumbering in a nest nearby and gave reasonable telescope views. Back at the hotel there was ample time to shower and change or to have a look around the attractive grounds, where a nice selection of commoner birds was seen, before dinner at 19.00 and, for a weary group, an early night.

## Day 3

Sunday 6th September

### Sepilok

Weather: fine and dry, rather hot and humid

Most of the group opted to join an early morning birding walk in an around the hotel between 06.00 and 07.30 with highlights including Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker, Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots, Bold-striped Tit-babblers, Buff-necked Woodpeckers and several others. At 08.45 we walked the short distance to the Rehabilitation Centre where most watched a short video about the work undertaken there while others stood outside seeing Bat Hawk, Scarlet and Fiery Minivets, Velvet-fronted Nuthatches and others before we all made our way to the feeding platform for the 10.00 feeding. Two Orang-utan's appeared this morning, a mother (Mimi) and her still dependent five year old son (Romy), they put on a great show while yesterday's Orang (Eyos) remained in her nest above. We then returned to the hotel to sit out the heat of the day and to have a spot of lunch.

A return visit to the centre in the afternoon resulted in great views of six semi-wild Orang-utans at the feeding platform which allowed ample photographic opportunities. Back at the hotel there was again an opportunity to have a look around before darkness fell with highlights including a Thick-billed Spiderhunter and, late on, a couple of noisy Rhinoceros Hornbills.

## Day 4

Monday 7th September

### Sepilok; Sukau

Weather: fine and dry until dinner time when some brief rain and associated breezy condition

Everyone joined a 06.00 departure to nearby Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre where we spent a couple of hours atop the impressive canopy walkway there. An interesting selection of birds was seen including Grey-and-buff Woodpeckers, Common Hill Mynas, Rufous Woodpeckers, Raffles Malkohas, Green Ioras, Blue-eared, Red-throated and Brown Barbets and Black Magpies. However, the undoubted stars of the show where a mother and baby Orang-utan that gave good views moving through the trees and where deemed wild by Hamit as they did not match any of the individuals in the rehabilitation programme, all of which he knows well.

After a leisurely breakfast and some time to pack we loaded the bus and set off to the Sandakan Hotel for lunch, after which we made our way to a nearby jetty. From Sandakan we took two fast motor launches to our next base at Sukau Rainforest Lodge on the Lower Kinabatangan River. Although our intention was simply to arrive at Sukau we naturally stopped for anything of major interest along the way and this consisted of three Orang-utans, two of which gave great views, a small troop of Proboscis Monkeys and a couple of White-bellied Fish-eagles amongst the numerous Brahminy Kites - quite a haul for a simple transfer! Once at the lodge we settled in and most took a stroll along the adjacent boardwalk seeing Horsefield's Babbler, Striped Wren-babbler and Wrinkled Hornbill. The main highlight this evening though was a group of Bornean Pygmy Elephants visible from the lodge restaurant. After dinner a planned night cruise was cancelled in the face of blustery and damp conditions.

## Day 5

Tuesday 8th September

### Sukau; Gomantong Caves

Weather: dry, rather hot and humid

We began the day with tea or coffee and toast at 05.45 before boarding two motorised canoes for a dawn cruise along the quiet Menangol Tributary. Avian highlights were a group of obliging Crested Firebacks, both Diard's and Scarlet-rumped Trogons plus Malaysian Blue Flycatchers, White-chested Babblers and a Blue-eared Kingfisher; once more though mammals stole the show with a troop of Proboscis Monkeys seen and, just as we were about to turn around and return for breakfast, a very showy Orang-utan. After a hearty breakfast there was a period of free time though most either spent time exploring the boardwalk behind the lodge or joined Winston, one of the resident naturalists on a guided walk there when he explained the uses of some of the rainforest plants.

After lunch we re-boarded the boats for a short journey to Sukau Village where our bus was waiting to transport us to Gomantong Caves, 30 minutes drive away. Stopping about 1km short of the visitors centre we strolled along the road but birdlife was rather subdued in particularly warm and sticky conditions though some of the group saw a Slender Squirrel. Once at the visitors centre about half of the group opted to join Hamit on a walk around the cave, seeing some Red Leaf Monkeys en route, while the rest remained in the car park area where a delightful Whiskered Tree Swift stole the show until a very obliging, and large, male Orang-utan was spotted nearby and remained long enough for those returning from the cave to see him too.

An excellent selection of birds seen this evening included a couple of noisy Rhinoceros Hornbills, our first Bushy-crested and Wreathed Hornbills. As countless Wrinkle-lipped Bats began to emerge from the cave system their predators appeared in the shape of several Bat Hawks and a Peregrine. We were back at the lodge in time to shower and change before dinner, after which an hour long night cruise produced many highlights including the Elephants again, a Colugo, Flying Foxes, a small crocodile and four Buffy Fish Owls and various roosting birds.

## Day 6

Wednesday 9th September

### Sukau, en route to Borneo Rainforest Lodge, Danum Valley via Lahad Datu

Weather: mostly fine and sunny, a few light showers after dinner.

As the road out of Sukau is now greatly improved we had time for a dawn cruise before departure. Concentrating on the main river channel upstream of the lodge we were rewarded with our best yet views of Proboscis Monkeys, followed soon after by a pair of Rhinoceros Hornbills in a fruiting tree that also held three Large Green Pigeons. A Storm's Stork seen flying in the distance was eventually tracked down and seen perched in a treetop; while searching for it a small group of Smooth Otters put on a good show.

We were back at the lodge for breakfast at 08.00 after which it was time to finish packing for our 09.45 departure. Crossing to Sukau by boat we found the bus loaded up and ready to go. The journey to Lahad Datu took two-and-a quarter hours with one brief stop along the way to photograph the vast expanses of oil palms that now cover so much of the Bornean landscape.

After a Chinese banquet for lunch there was time for a quick look around Lahad Datu before we drove the short distance to the offices of Borneo Rainforest Lodge and completed some paperwork while our luggage was being transferred to the lodge's bus. Most of the three-and-a-half hour journey to Danum Valley was along a winding logging track, with logging trucks occasionally passing in the opposite direction. On arrival at the lovely Borneo Rainforest Lodge there was time to settle in and enjoy the spectacular setting for an hour or so before darkness fell. An hour-long night drive after dinner produced a Masked Palm Civet, Thomas's Flying Squirrel and a Brown Wood Owl.

## Day 7

Thursday 10th September

### Borneo Rainforest Lodge

Weather: fine and mostly sunny after heavy overnight rain

We began our first full day in Danum Valley at 06.00 with a White-crowned Shama and a Plain Pygmy Squirrel near the lodge reception area, soon followed by a few Yellow-eared Spiderhunters in an adjacent flowering tree. Our pre-breakfast walk took us along the Access Road as far as the canopy walkway with some of the group joining Nadil on an exploratory tour of the latter. Those who remained on the road were rewarded with quite good views of a couple of Bornean Bristleheads moving through the high canopy. We returned to the lodge for a leisurely breakfast before setting out once more at 09.45, Nadil and Hamit took most of the group to the Jacuzzi Pool while the more bird orientated concentrated along the Nature Trail and adjacent road where a couple of slow moving feeding flocks contained a succession of new Babblers and Bulbuls, Plain Sunbirds, Bornean Blue Flycatchers and others.

After lunch there was time to relax until the heat began to subside somewhat and we returned to the trails at 15.30, some investigating the Jacuzzi Trail and part of the Segama Trail (with Dusky Broadbills as the highlight) while others joined Nadil on the Bandradi Trail; overall bird and animal activity was subdued this afternoon, as it so often is in tropical forests. Before dinner everyone joined a dusk drive that produced a Black Flying Squirrel and two Colugos as the highlights.

## Day 8

Friday 11th September

### Danum Valley

Weather: heavy overnight rain giving way to a misty dawn, thereafter dry, mostly sunny, humid and rather hot

We began the day once more with a walk along the Access Road towards the canopy walkway, a Crested Fireback feeding below the chalets temporarily delaying our progress. A selection of commoner Babblers and others were seen before we neared the canopy walkway and two Orang-utans (a mother and here youngster) were spotted in a bare tree and remained there as the mist slowly cleared allowing excellent telescope views. Birds seen in the near vicinity before we made our way back for breakfast included Red-bearded Bee-eater, Thick-billed Green Pigeon, Dark-throated Orioles, Black Magpies and Yellow-crowned and Gold-whiskered Barbets plus a typically brief Blue-headed Pitta for some.

After a leisurely breakfast we returned along the road, some mounting an unsuccessful vigil for Blue-headed Pitta, but with compensation in the form of two Red-naped Trogons, while others explored the nearby canopy walkway. During the afternoon about half of the group went tubing on the river next to the lodge with Nadil while others concentrated on the road once more where the two Orang-utans from this morning were back on view, a couple of Oriental Dwarf Kingfishers showed well, a Blue-headed Pitta was again seen briefly and Rufous Piculets put on a good show. Flying Squirrels were once more on show during a night drive after dinner with Red Giant and Thomas's both seen

## Day 9

Saturday 12th September

### Danum Valley

Weather: fine, hot and humid

As Bornean Gibbon was still a notable omission from most people's lists Nadil led a group towards the Jacuzzi Pool in search of calling individuals in that area and succeeded in finding three high in the trees above. Others returned to the Access Road where the two Orang-utans continued to perform and a selection of Babblers included a couple of Grey-headed. After breakfast Nadil led an extended hike along the Segama and Tekala Trails with the obvious highlight being a spectacular Great Argus. Those who opted to explore the Access Road and Nature Trail saw a Rufous-crowned Babbler, Black-capped Babblers and a fleeting Chestnut-naped Forktail while a tree next to the lodge that had entertained us with views of various Spiderhunters up until today now also contained a couple of Red-throated Sunbirds.

Those who chose to join an afternoon stroll along the road were rewarded with our first views of Chestnut-rumped Babblers as well as several Bushy-crested Hornbills and others and time was again spent watching the two Orang-utans; while doing so a very obliging Bornean Bristlehead posed for the scope for ages. A night walk near the lodge after dinner produced a good selection of frogs and insects plus a Brown Wood Owl.

## Day 10

Sunday 13th September

BRL; inbound

Weather: fine, hot and humid as usual

Those who joined a pre-breakfast walk along the road were rewarded with an obliging White-crowned Forktail, a couple of Black-capped Babblers and, for some, a brief Black-headed Pitta. The two Orang-utans were still in residence in their favoured fruiting tree. There was a little time for final packing either side of breakfast. We began our return journey to Lahad Datu at 09.30 and arrived at the airport around 12.30; a comfort stop along the way providing our only Purple-throated Sunbird. The flight to Kota Kinabalu left on time at 14.40 and arrived there 55 minutes later leaving ample time to relax for a while for those who were departing Sabah before the onward flight to Kuala Lumpur and connections to Europe.

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## Systematic Species Lists

The following codes are used

E = Borneo endemic species

e = Borneo endemic subspecies (when known)

(I) = an introduced species

n/l = not seen by the tour leader/ guides

l/o = only seen by the tour leader or guides; such species are placed in square brackets as are any other species not included in the total for any reason (i.e. because non-native introductions, identification not quite certain or heard only)

### Mammals

**Species order, taxonomy and nomenclature follow Payne and Francis (2005) A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo**

Common Treeshrew *Tupaia glis longipes*

One was seen during our final morning at Danum Valley

Colugo *Cynocephalus variegates natunae*

One was seen during the night cruise at Sukau and two during a night drive at Danum Valley; although sometimes called a Flying Lemur it is neither a Lemur nor can it fly

Large Flying Fox *Pteropus vampyrus natunae*

One was seen during a night drive at Danum Valley

### Bat Species

Unidentified Bats of various sizes were seen everywhere we went; there are over 70 species of Bats in Borneo!

Wrinkle-lipped Bat *Tadarida p. plicata*

Hundreds of thousand left their daytime roost during our evening at Gomantong Caves

Maroon Langur *Presbytis r. rubicunda* E

After the first troop at Gomantong Caves small numbers were seen daily at Danum Valley

Silvered Langur *Presbytis cristata ultima*

About 10 were seen at Sukau

Proboscis Monkey *Nasalis larvatus* E

At Sukau, and en route to there, a total of about 30 were seen

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca f. fascicularis*

At least a few were seen every day

Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca n. nemestrina*

A dozen or more attending the Orang-utan feeding sessions at Sepilok, one was seen at Sukau and a few more at Danum Valley

Bornean Gibbon *Hylobates muelleri funereus* E

Although heard most mornings at Sepilok, Sukau and Danum Valley the only ones seen where a distant and brief individual at Sukau and three near the Jacuzzi Pool at Danum Valley

Bornean Orang-utan *Pongo pygmaeus* E

During our three visits to the Sepilok Orang-utan Rehabilitation Centre respective numbers present were one, three and six. Our first wild Orang-utans, a mother and a toddler, moved through the trees at Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre; Hamit, who knows all the rehabilitating individuals at the nearby Centre, was confident they were not from there. During our boat trip to Sukau later that afternoon three more Orang-utans were found, two of which (both young females) showed very well in riverside trees, the third (probably the mother of the second young female) was more obscured by vegetation. Next morning as we reached the turning round point during our cruise along the Menangol Tributary another young female was found and showed very well. That afternoon, near the car park at Gomantong Caves, an older but not fully mature male gave excellent views for ages. Two blank days then followed until a mother and her young son were found along the Danum Valley Access Road and these two remained faithful to the same fruiting tree until we departed the area 48 hours later. All in all an excellent haul of sightings and some great views were enjoyed. Sumatran Orang-utans are now usually recognised as a separate species *Pongo abelii*

Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis sandakanensis*

One was seen at Sepilok Nature Resort during our pre-breakfast walk there

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevosti pluto*

Common and widespread but rather smart nonetheless

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus dilutus*

A few were noted at Sepilok

Ear-spot Squirrel *Callosciurus adamsi* E

One was along the boardwalk behind Sukau Rainforest Lodge and a few more possibles were seen

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus inquinatus*

At least three were seen at Danum Valley



Slender Squirrel *Sundasciurus tenuis*

One was identified at Gomantong Caves

[Shrew-faced Ground Squirrel] *Rhinosciurus laticaudatus*

One was along the Nature Trail at Danum Valley one lunchtime but was only seen by the tour leader

Plain Pygmy Squirrel *Exilisciurus e. exilis* E

Up to 20 of these fabulous little animals were seen at Danum Valley

Black Flying Squirrel *Aeronyx tephromelas phaelomelas*

One was seen during a night drive at Danum Valley; an infrequently seen species

Thomas's Flying Squirrel *Aeronyx thomasi* E

Three in total were seen during two night drives at Danum Valley

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista rajah / nigricens*

Singles were noted on two of the night drives at Danum Valley; a couple of briefly seen Flying Squirrels at Sepilok were probably this species

Rat species *Rattus* sp.

A couple were seen at Danum Valley

Smooth Otter *Lutra perpicillata*

A family group of six gave some nice views at Sukau on our final morning there

Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*

One was seen on a night drive at Danum Valley

Banded Palm Civet *Hemilagus derbyanus*

One was seen crossing the road at Danum Valley by two lucky group members as they returned for breakfast on our final morning there

Masked Palm Civet *Paguma larvata*

One was seen during a night drive at Danum Valley

Bornean Pygmy Elephant *Elephas (maximus) borneensis* E?

A herd of about ten were seen on three occasions at Sukau

Bearded Pig *Sus b. barbatus*

One was seen briefly during our cruise along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

Sambar Deer *Cervus unicolor brookei*

Groups of up to eight were seen occasionally in the evenings at Danum Valley

## Birds

Species order, taxonomy and nomenclature follow the Checklist of the Birds of the World maintained by the International Ornithological Congress (IOC) version 2.2

Accepted subspecies generally follow The Handbook of the Birds of the World (Lynx Edicions)

### PHASIANIDAE

Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita nobilis* e

Three were seen well during our cruise along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau and another was below our chalets at Danum Valley one morning

Great Argus *Argusianus argus grayi* e

Regularly heard at Danum Valley where one was seen on the Tekala Trail by some of the group

### CICONIIDAE

Storm's Stork *Ciconia stormi*

One or two were seen in treetops along the Lower Kinabatangan upstream of Sukau during our final morning cruise there

### ARDEIDAE

Striated Heron *Butorides striata javanica / amurensis*

Singles were seen at Sepilok, near Sandakan and at Sukau

Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus*

Small numbers were along the Lower Kinabatangan and several more were at Kota Kinabalu and Lahad Datu airports

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea manilensis*

Four were seen at Sukau

Eastern Great Egret *Ardea modesta*

Small numbers were seen daily at Sukau

Intermediate Egret *Egretta i. intermedia*

One was at Kota Kinabalu airport and a handful were noted between Sandakan and Sukau

Little Egret *Egretta g. garzetta*

Several were along the Lower Kinabatangan and a few migrants were on the river at Danum Valley

## ANHINGIDAE

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster*

Up to 10 were at Sukau with another at Danum Valley

## ACCIPITRIDAE

Bat Hawk *Machaeramphus a. alcinus*

One was over the visitor centre at Sepilok one morning and at least four appeared in the evening to feed on bats emerging from Gomantong Caves

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus hypoleucos*

One was seen briefly from the moving bus near Lahad Datu as we approached the airport there

Brahminy Kite *Haliastur indicus intermedius*

About 30 were seen during the journey from Sandakan to Sukau with a few more elsewhere

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster*

One was over our hotel at Sepilok one morning and two were seen between Sandakan and Sukau

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela pallidus* e

About eight were noted at widespread localities

Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus microstictus* e

Singles were seen twice at Danum Valley

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus m. malayensis*

Singles were seen on three occasions at Danum Valley

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii formosus*

One showed well over the lodge at Danum Valley one morning

Blyth's Hawk-eagle *Nisaetus alboniger*

One was over our hotel at Sepilok just before we departed from there and another was seen at Danum Valley one morning

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

A total of five were at Sukau and Gomantong with two more at Danum Valley

## FALCONIDAE

White-fronted Falconet *Microhierax latifrons* E

One was seen distantly at Gomantong Caves and a pair were watched in a treetop at Danum Valley one morning

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus ernstii*

One was hunting bats at Gomantong Caves

#### RALLIDAE

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis p. phoenicurus*

A couple of singles were noted at Sepilok

#### SCOLOPACIDAE

Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola*

One was at Kota Kinabalu airport when we arrived there from Lahad Datu

Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos*

Ones and twos were at Sepilok, Sukau and Danum Valley

#### LARIDAE

Whiskered Tern *Chilodias b. hybridus / fluviatilis*

A handful were along the Lower Kinabatangan at Sukau

#### COLUMBIDAE

['Feral' Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*] (1)

Present in small numbers in urban contexts

Spotted Dove *Stigmatopelia chinensis tigrina*

A couple were seen at Sepilok

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*

One was seen at Danum Valley one morning

Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax*

After a couple of perched birds were at Sepilok, several more were seen, mainly in flight, at Sukau and Gomantong Caves

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Five were seen at Sepilok on one date

Large Green Pigeon *Treron capellei*

Three or four were in a fruiting tree with Rhinoceros Hornbills at Sukau

Green Imperial Pigeon *Ducula a. aenea*

Small numbers were seen on four dates, mostly in flight

## PSITTACIDAE

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*

Small numbers were seen in flight each day and a few perched birds were found at Sepilok

Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula l. longicauda*

Up to 40 per day were seen in flight at Sepilok where a couple of perched birds were noted, a few more were seen in flight at Sepilok

## CUCULIDAE

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis bubutus*

A couple were seen between Lahad Datu and Danum Valley

Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus c. chlorophaeus*

One was at Sepilok and five more at Danum Valley

Red-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus javanicus*

Two were seen at Danum Valley one morning

Black-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus diardi borneensis* e

One was seen at Danum Valley

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx x. xanthorhynchus*

Singles were seen in flight at Sepilok, Gomantong Caves and Danum Valley

## STRIGIDAE

Buffy Fish-owl *Ketupa k. ketupu*

One visible from the restaurant at Sukau Rainforest Lodge was followed by four more on the night cruise there and a couple more at Danum Valley

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* ssp. e

One was seen on one of the night drives at Danum Valley and another on the night walk there

## HEMIPROCNIDAE

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis harterti*

Several were seen in flight at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne c. comata*

A couple at Gomantong Caves gave stunning views and a few more were seen at Danum Valley

## APODIDAE

Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta cyanoptila*

Common and very widespread

[Swiftlet species *Aerodramus spp.*]

Large numbers of unidentified Swiftlets were seen throughout; at least the following species are believed to be common and widespread: Mossy-nest Swiftlet *A. salangana*; Black-nest Swiftlet *A. maximus*; and Edible-nest Swiftlet *A. fuciphagus*. Germain's Swiftlet *A. germani* probably also occurs but is relatively distinctive in appearance and was not suspected.

Silver-rumped Spinetail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*

Small numbers were seen regularly at Sepilok and Danum Valley

Asian Palm-Swift *Cypsiurus balasiensis infumatus*

A few were nesting in palms at the car park of Sepilok Rainforest Discovery Centre

## TROGONIDAE

Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba imparidus*

Three were seen well and a couple more heard at Danum Valley

Diard's Trogon *Harpactes d. diardii*

A male showed quite well at Sukau

Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*

A male was seen at Sukau

## CORACIIDAE

Dollarbird *Eurystomus o. orientalis / calonyx*

Ones and twos were seen at widespread sites on four dates

## ALCEDINIDAE

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis cyanopteryx*

A couple at Sukau were followed by one or two more at Danum Valley

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris laubmannianus*

One was seen briefly near Gomantong

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx erithaca motleyi*

One at Sepilok was followed by occasional sightings at Danum Valley where a pair seemed to be nesting near the canopy walkway

Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting verreauxii*

Two were seen on successive day at Sukau, others were heard at Sepilok

#### MEROPIDAE

Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus*

One gave some awkward views at Danum Valley, it or another was heard nearby on a couple of occasions

Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops v. viridis*

Ones and twos were seen a couple of times at Sepilok and Sukau

#### BUCEROTIDAE

Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus*

Four were at Gomantong Caves and groups of nine and 10 were seen at Danum Valley

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris convexus*

Fairly common at Sepilok, Sukau and Gomantong but absent from Danum Valley

Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*

Several were seen at Sepilok and Sukau with a couple more at Gomantong Caves and Danum Valley

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros borneoensis* e

Two were at Sepilok, Gomantong Caves and Sukau with four more at Danum Valley; several others were heard

[Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil*]

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Wrinkled Hornbill *Aceros corrugatus*

Singles were seen at Sukau and Danum Valley

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus*

Four were seen at Danum Valley over three dates

#### MEGALAIMIDAE

Golden-whiskered Barbet *Megalaima chrysopogon chrysopsis* e

One was seen briefly at Danum Valley

Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima m. mystacophanos*

A female showed well at Sepilok and a couple were seen fleetingly at Danum Valley; several more were heard at all sites

Yellow-crowned Barbet *Megalaima henrici brachyrhyncha* e

Two showed briefly but well at Danum Valley where a few others were heard

Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis duvaucelii*

A couple showed well at Sepilok, and others more fleetingly there, with a few more at Sukau and Danum Valley; many more were heard

Brown Barbet *Caloramphus fuliginosus tertius* e

We had good views of several at Sepilok and Sukau

## PICIDAE

Rufous Piculet *Sasia a. abnormis*

Five or six showed well at Danum Valley

Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos m. moluccensis*

A couple were seen at Sepilok

Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos canicapillus aurantiventris* e

One was noted at Sepilok (n/1)

Rufous Woodpecker *Ceelus brachyurus badius* e

Four were watched from the canopy walkway at Sepilok

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus observandus*

One was seen at Danum Valley

Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*

Two singles were seen briefly at Danum Valley

Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis grammithorax*

Two were at Gomantong Caves and six together at Danum Valley

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes t. tukki*

Two were at Sepilok and another at Sukau

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus sordidus*

Two were seen from the canopy walkway at Sepilok

## EURYLAIMIDAE

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

Two were at Sepilok and three at Sukau



[Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei*] e

Heard but not seen at Danum Valley

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*

After heard only birds at Sepilok we had almost daily encounters at Sukau and Danum Valley, many more were heard

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus orientalis* e

One at Sukau was followed by four at Danum Valley

#### PITTIDAE

Blue-headed Pitta *Pitta baudii* E

One showed briefly a couple of times at Danum Valley

Black-crowned Pitta *Pitta ussheri* E

A couple were heard and one seen briefly at Danum Valley

[Banded Pitta *Eurylaimus javanicus brookei*] e

One was heard but not seen at Sukau

#### TEPHRODORNITHIDAE

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

Ones and twos were at Sepilok, Gomantong Caves and Danum Valley

Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma p. pyrhoptera*

One was seen during our cruise along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

#### PITYRIASIDAE

Bornean Bristlehead *Pityriasis gymnocephala* E

Two were seen quite well at Danum Valley on our first morning there and one of two posed for the scope on our final evening. As well as being an endemic species Bornean Bristlehead is the sole member of an endemic family

#### ARTAMIDAE

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus l. leucorhynchus*

Small numbers were seen at Sepilok and Sukau

## AEGITHINIDAE

Green Iora *Aegithinia v. viridissima*

Ones and twos were seen on four dates at Sepilok, Gomantong Caves and Danum Valley

## CAMPEPHAGIDAE

Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata schierbrandii*

A couple showed briefly at Danum Valley one morning

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus i. igneus*

Six showed quite well at Sepilok and a couple more were at Gomantong Caves

Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus insulanus* e

A male was seen at Sepilok; several more unidentified Minivets, either this or the last species, were seen at various sites

## LANIIDAE

Long-tailed Shrike *Lanius schach bentet / nasutus*

One was seen briefly from the fast moving bus near Gomantong

## ORIOOLIDAE

Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus consobrinus* e

About six were seen at Danum Valley

## DICRURIDAE

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus malayensis*

One was seen at Sepilok from the canopy walkway

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus brachyphorus* e

A couple were at Sepilok

## RHIPDURIDAE

Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica longicauda*

Fairly common at Sepilok and Sukau

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*

One was seen during our final morning at Danum Valley

## MONARCHIDAE

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea probata*

One at Sepilok was followed by a couple more at Danum Valley

Asian Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi borneensis* e

Three were seen at Danum Valley

## CORVIDAE

Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus* e

Three were at Sepilok, three more at Sukau and up to 10 at Danum Valley; a good haul for a relatively uncommon species

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca compilator*

Small numbers were seen or heard in forested contexts throughout

## STENOSTRIDAE

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis antioxantha*

One was seen at Danum Valley (n/l)

## PYCNONOTIDAE

[Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus a. atriceps*]

One was seen briefly at Gomantong Caves (l/o)

Scaly-breasted Bulbul *Pycnonotus squamatus borneensis* e

One was seen briefly at Danum Valley

Puff-backed bulbul *Pycnonotus entilotus*

A handful were at Sukau and Gomantong Caves

Yellow-vented bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier gourdini* e

Fairly common in disturbed habitat around Sepilok with a couple more at Danum Valley

Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus hutzi* e

Fairly common and widespread, seen most days

Asian Red-eyed bulbul *Pycnonotus b. brunneus*

Small numbers were seen at all sites

Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythroptalmos*

Overall the commonest species of Bulbul, seen daily and frequently heard

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea charlottae*

A nesting pair were at Sukau Rainforest Lodge

Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres gutturalis* e

A handful were found at Danum Valley after an earlier bird at Gomantong Caves

Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus connectens* e

Two at Sukau were followed by another at Danum Valley

Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger viridis* e

A handful were at Sukau and Danum Valley

#### HIRUNDINIDAE

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica gutturalis*

Common over oil palm plantations with a few elsewhere

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tabitica javanica*

Common and widespread

#### CISTICOLIDAE

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris latrunculus* e

Two were at Gomantong Caves

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis humphreysi* e

Two or three were seen at Danum Valley

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus s. sericeus*

Small numbers were regularly encountered, seen almost daily

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps borneoensis* e

Common and widespread though more often heard than seen

#### TIMALIIDAE

Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum morrelli* e

Two sets of two showed well at Danum Valley, a few more were heard there

White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum macropterum* e

About six were along the Menangol Tributary at Sukau

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*

Small numbers were seen regularly at Danum Valley

Horsfield's Babbler *Malacocincla sepiaria harterti* e

Three or four were seen at Danum Valley after an earlier bird at Sukau

Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis poliogenys* e

Singles were seen twice at Danum Valley

Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre cinereocapilla* e

About six were seen at Danum Valley one morning

Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine phoeniceum* e

A couple at Sukau were followed by regular encounters at Danum Valley; many more were heard

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron c. cinereum*

One or two were seen at Sukau and several more were found at Danum Valley

Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum saba* e

One was seen at Danum Valley

Striped Wren-babbler *Kenopia striata*

One was seen at Sukau

Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris m. maculata*

Four or five were seen during our final afternoon at Danum Valley

Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera bicolor* e

A couple at Sukau were followed by several more at Danum Valley

Bold-Striped Tit-babbler *Macronus b. bornensis* e

Small numbers were seen at Sepilok and Sukau with others heard at Danum Valley

Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler *Macronous ptilosus reclusus* e

One or two gave some nice views at Danum Valley on a couple of occasions

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*

Small groups were seen occasionally at Danum Valley

## IRENIDAE

Asian Fairy Bluebird *Irena puella crinigera*

Three or four were seen at Danum Valley

## SITTIDAE

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis corallipes* e

A couple were seen at Sepilok

## STURNIDAE

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis eustathis* e

Fairly common around Sepilok with a few more at Sukau and many around Lahad Datu, Sandakan and Kota Kinabalu

Common Hill Myna *Gracula r. religiosa*

Pairs were seen at Sepilok, Sukau and Danum Valley

[Crested Myna *Acridotheres c. cristatellus*] (I)

A few were at Sepilok and between there and Sandakan

## MUSCICAPIDAE

Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis adamsi* e

Small numbers were at Sepilok and Sukau

White-crowned Shama *Copsychus s. stricklandii* E

Ones and twos were at Sepilok and Sukau with rather more at Danum Valley

Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus*

One was seen very briefly at Danum Valley

White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti frontalis* e

One ran along the road early on our final morning at Danum Valley

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* ssp. e

Three or four were at Danum Valley. Quite why so many birds there are streaky breasted is a mystery

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassina thalassoides*

Three were at Gomantong Caves

Bornean Blue-Flycatcher *Cyornis superbus* E

A pair showed well at Danum Valley one morning

Malaysian Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis t. turcosus* e

Three or four were along the Menangol Tributary a Sukau and a couple more were at Danum Valley

White-tailed Flycatcher *Cyornis concretus everetti* e

One was noted at Danum Valley (n/l)

#### CHLOROPSEIDAE

Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati zosterops*

Three were seen at Danum Valley

Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis c. cyanopogon*

Small numbers were recorded almost daily

#### DICAEIDAE

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus m. maculatus*

Two were seen at Danum Valley

Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker *Prionochilus xanthopygius* E

Three at Gomantong Caves were followed by one at Danum Valley

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma dayakanum* e

One or two were seen on three dates and at Sepilok, Sukau and Danum Valley

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum nigrimentum* e

Only seen at Sepilok where at least two males were noted

#### NECTARINIIDAE

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis borneana* e

A couple at Sepilok were followed by about eight at Gomantong Caves and several more at Danum Valley

Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*

At least four were seen at Danum Valley

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis bornensis* e

Small numbers were seen almost daily though most were at Sepilok

Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*

Three showed well at Danum Valley

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma b. hypogrammicum*

A couple were seen at Danum Valley

Van Hasselt's Sunbird *Leptocoma brasiliana*

One was at our comfort stop en route to Lahad Datu from Danum Valley. Formerly Purple-throated Sunbird *L. sperata*

Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis ornatus*

Several were seen at Sepilok

Crimson Sunbird *Aethopyga s. siparaja*

A handful at Sepilok were followed by a few more at Danum Valley

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra buettikoferi* e

Up to 10 per day were seen throughout

Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*

Two were seen at Sepilok, perhaps young birds based on their weak face patterns and very faintly streaked breasts; in these regards suggesting, but not matching Long-billed Spiderhunter *A. robusta*

Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*

At least one was regularly in attendance at a 'Spiderhunter tree' next to the lodge at Danum Valley

Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys harrissoni* e

Up to six were in the 'Spiderhunter tree' at Danum Valley

[Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis everetti*] e

Several grey bellied Spiderhunters with streaky breasts were seen at Danum Valley; current thinking is that only *affinis* occurs in Sabah but most actually looked more like illustrations of Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera m. modesta* with only one showing the much more strongly streaked belly of Streaky-breasted. Although the identity of the birds in Sabah is less confused than previously it is still not fully resolved.

## PASSERIDAE

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus malaccensis*

Small numbers were found in urban and semi-urban contexts

## ESTRILLIDAE

Dusky Munia *Lonchura fuscans*

Small numbers were seen almost daily

Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla jagori / obscura* e

Small numbers were seen at Sepilok



## MOTACILLIDAE

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus malayensis* / *lugubris*

A few were at Lahad Datu airport

## Other Fauna

Reptiles were represented by various smaller Lizards, larger Green-crested Lizards, and Skinks (with Black-sided and Slender Skinks identified). Geckos included a huge Giant Gecko at Sukau. Some large Water Monitor Lizards were at Sepilok and Sukau with a few small Saltwater Crocodiles at the latter. A few snakes were found including Bronze-backed Tree Snake, Blunt-nosed Tree Snake and Paradise Flying Snake. Amphibians were noted in the shape of various frogs, especially at Danum Valley where four species were found during the night walk, including Harlequin Frog; many tree frogs were heard throughout. Lepidoptera were spectacular with highlights in the form of several species of Birdwing Butterflies and a large Silk Moth species. Other notable insects included various millipedes including Pill Millipede) noisy Cicadas, Rhinoceros Beetles, and Giant Wood Ants. A Tarantula was seen on a couple of night drives at Danum Valley, a couple of Scorpions were seen along the road there and Giant Orb Spiders were near the lodge most days.