

Borneo's Deramakot Forest Reserve

Naturetrek Tour Report

4 - 18 August 2018



Bornean Clouded Leopard



Philippine Slow Loris



Asian (Bornean Pigmy) Elephant



Bornean Orangutan

Report compiled by Tim Low
Images courtesy of Chris Still



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Siti Salihahfarhain Said, Max (Risiman) & Afiq Salleh (local guides)

Summary

The tour exceeded expectations. We had entertained strong hopes of seeing a Clouded Leopard but had not been confident. To have seven minutes of uninterrupted viewing time, sometimes from less than three metres away, was a dream come true. We wanted other cats as well and enjoyed several close views of Leopard Cats. We also had outstanding views of a Sun Bear and her cub climbing down a tree. It was amazing to realise we had seen our Bears and Clouded Leopard within 90 minutes of each other, during a magical period when we also saw two Elephants and four Porcupines. This was Borneo at its very best! We were delighted with the quality of our Elephant and Proboscis Monkey sightings, and we will not forget the Orangutans, Gibbons, Slow Lorises, Collugos, Civets and Moonrat we saw. We encountered excellent birds, including Whitehead's Trogon, Storm's Stork, Lesser Adjutant, various hornbills and Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher. There were colourful snakes and a baby Reticulated Python. Our Sabah guides were outstanding. Siti in particular amazed us with her eyesight, knowledge, dedication and lively personality, and we felt privileged to have her as a guide.

Day 1

Saturday 4th August

Outbound to Kuala Lumpur

The group travelled from London, departing from Heathrow Airport on a midday Malaysian Airlines flight to Kuala Lumpur (KL), a journey of about 12 hours. Tim travelled from Brisbane, Australia.

Day 2

Sunday 5th August

Outbound to Kuala Lumpur and on to Sandakan and Sepilok

Tim met the group in KL airport and gave a briefing about some of the issues, including leeches and dehydration. We then travelled together on a flight to Sandakan in the Malaysian state of Sabah, on the island of Borneo. Once there, we were driven by minibus to Sepilok Nature Resort, a 30-minute drive. After a visit to our chalets to drop off bags and get organised, we relaxed in the restaurant area, above which Blue-throated Bee-eaters and Pacific Swallows were soaring.

Tim then took the group on a short walk behind the resort. Before we entered the forest he pointed out a Durian tree, the source of giant spiky fruits that are famous for their pungent smell. Our first Asian mammal, a Plantain Squirrel, was feeding on a damaged fruit. A short way along Tim pointed out Asian Glossy Starlings in a Fig tree. We saw a Prevost's Squirrel up a tree, and a Banded Woodpecker working its way along high limbs, its yellow crest and crimson wings standing out against its dark body. The next item of interest was an old Orangutan nest in a tree. Giant Pill Millipedes crawling across the road drew our eyes downwards. We were to learn the next morning that Sun Bears relish these. Tim explained that a strange object on the ground was not a fallen insect nest but a piece of an old jackfruit, a giant cultivated fruit. It was later served to us on the Kinabatangan.

After the walk we returned to our rooms to prepare for dinner. Chris walked around on his own and saw Oriental Pied Hornbill, Pied Fantail and Water Monitor. Tim saw a Hill Myna near his room.

Day 3

Monday 6th August

Sepilok and on to Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort via Sandakan

During breakfast a Blue-eared Kingfisher landed briefly on a pole at the water's edge. Blue-eared Bee-eaters flew around. They were a species we would see almost every day.

We began the morning by visiting the famous Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Centre. After washing our hands with disinfectant to reduce the risk of passing a pathogen to an Orangutan, we walked down the boardwalk. At a viewing platform separated by glass we watched a couple of small Orangutans feeding on the fruit provided. A Red-eyed Bulbul was stealing some of this. We then moved to a second feeding area set inside the forest for those Orangutans that are wild living but still return for handouts of fruit. Many people were waiting for the 10 o'clock feeding, and so were many wild primates. We could see Long-tailed Macaques, Pig-tailed Macaques and several Orangutans, all of which came forward when the fruit was provided, travelling through trees and along cables strung through the forest. The highlight came when a mother Orangutan with a small baby approached the fruit. The mother allowed another adult Orangutan to inspect her baby, and Afiq said this showed they had been childhood friends at the rehabilitation centre, since a completely wild Orangutan would not allow this. The female also allowed a Pig-tailed Macaque to eat fruit in very close proximity to her baby. Tim commented on the large number of primates in attendance, providing a much better spectacle than on his last visit to Sepilok and suggesting there was limited fruit in the forest.

We left for the nearby Sun Bear Conservation Centre, but immediately had to wait a few minutes on one section of boardwalk until reserve staff announced that a large male Orangutan had moved on. We didn't get to see it, but we did have a very close encounter with another primate. A large male Pig-tailed Macaque was perched assertively on the railing. In an even but insistent voice, Afiq urged us as we passed "Don't look at the eyes" as large male macaques read a stare as a challenge to their authority. We didn't look at any eyes!

We were close to the Sun Bear enclosure when two Black Hornbills flew into a lofty tree. We saw them again, in smaller trees, from the path to the Sun Bear enclosure, along with the first of many Green Imperial Pigeons we would see. The vulnerable Sun Bear, the world's smallest bear species, is threatened by loss of habitat, illegal hunting and capture of cubs for the pet trade. From a high platform we watched one scratching in the earth while another raised its snout from behind a tall stump. We were fortunate to have the founder of the Sun Bear enclosure, Dr Wong Siew Te, on hand to talk about the conservation issues. He said that rising incomes in China had increased the demand for bear paw soup. He talked about logging camps at which a Sun Bear cub would regularly be found as a pet, its mother shot. Pet bears are confiscated and brought to this enclosure to prepare them for a return to the wild.

We left after 11am for the drive to Sandakan where we boarded a motorboat, though not before Tim drew attention to a Striated Heron flying by. Our boat followed the coastline and soon entered the mouth of the Sungai Kinabatangan, Sabah's longest river at 560 kilometres in length, which is partly protected by the 26,000-hectare Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary. On a lower reach of the river Tim called for the boat to turn back briefly when he spotted a Lesser Adjutant foraging at the river edge. This imposing stork is a vulnerable species that has suffered from habitat loss. We passed groves of Nypa Palms lining the lower mouth of the river. Tim had explained that these palms are known as fossils from England's London Clay deposits, dating back 50 million years. We were seeing what England looked like long in the past.

The boat turned down a narrow side channel fringed with Fig trees and Nypa Palms and we found ourselves at the Kinabatangan Wetlands Lodge, where lunch and our local guide, Max, awaited us. We enjoyed visiting the lodge restaurant where Plaintain and Prevost's Squirrels were scampering about just outside, and Bearded Pigs grubbed in the mud below, including a sow and her piglets.

At 4pm Max took us out on the river with boatman Sarip, for an afternoon outing, though not before Max had pointed out a Crimson Sunbird just outside the restaurant. As soon as we were seated in the boat he directed our eyes to a very small Saltwater Crocodile in the water a few metres away, looking less like a wild animal than a plastic toy placed there to please us. Sarip took us out on to the Kinabatangan where we soon encountered Long-tailed Macaques and a Stork-billed Kingfisher. We approached a pile of flood debris dangling from a dead tree marooned in the river, and saw something red and black fly away. Max explained that the 'debris' was the disguised nest of a Black-and-red Broadbill. He found us a troop of Silvered Langurs, and just before dusk he located the animals we most hoped to see; the Proboscis Monkey. The light was fading so it was not a memorable sighting, but we returned to the lodge well satisfied with our first taste of the Kinabatangan.

It was raining lightly after dinner so Mike, Chris and Tim were the only volunteers for the night walk along the lodge boardwalk, led by Max. We saw Rough-sided Frog, File-eared Frog, Dark-eared Tree Frog and three species of pitcher plant. The highlight was an Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher sleeping on a low stem, which was photographed by Chris.

Day 4

Tuesday 7th August

Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort, Sungai Kinabatangan

After coffee at 6am, we left for our first morning on the river. Max quickly found us a spectacular Mangrove Cat Snake, curled up on a Nypa Palm frond hanging over the water. It was shiny black with yellow rings, hence its other name – Yellow-ringed Cat Snake. Further on he showed us a Long-tailed Macaque sleeping on a low frond, its head bowed as if in prayer. Like the snake, it allowed a very close approach. Another macaque was asleep at the top of a tall leafless tree. We approached the broadbill nest again and this time had a better view of the departing bird. A Chestnut-billed Malkoha was moving through trees nearby, and we could see the red and yellow mandibles that distinguish this large cuckoo. We encountered three groups of Proboscis Monkeys in trees alongside the river, gaining splendid opportunities to see and photograph this iconic Bornean animal. At one point Max impressed us by directing the boatman towards a mass of foliage dangling over the river. When we arrived, Max pointed out the bright yellow coils of a Grey-tailed Racer snake. We had difficulty understanding how Max had spotted this snake from a distance, given that it was largely concealed by foliage, and decided that 'grey-tailed racer' was a poor name for such a colourful reptile. Max also noticed an empty soft drink bottle bobbing in the water. When we came close he lifted it up high to show us the large catfish that was thrashing about on the line and hook tied to the end. Max had no qualms about taking this fish to eat, telling us that a crocodile would be the beneficiary if he left it behind. He took us into an oxbow lake above which a Storm's Stork perched atop a dead branch on a high tree. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) estimates the global population of this endangered species to be a mere 260-330 mature individuals. We had hot drinks and a sandwich while the boat rested among a lush floating blanket of a plant that locals call 'water cabbage' (*Hanguana malayana*). An Ashy Tailorbird foraged nearby while Max told us he was an Orang Sungai (water person), having grown up in a village along the Kinabatangan. We made our way back to the lodge for a

9.30am breakfast, though not before we had seen a White-bellied Sea Eagle, Purple Heron and Collared Kingfisher.

During the heat of the day some of the group wandered around the lodge boardwalk. Ian found a Pied Fantail nest and Chris photographed a Horned Flying Lizard.

The afternoon tour on the river proved good for monkeys. Max had explained that groups of them like to roost together in trees near the river for relative safety from predators, and we saw what he meant. Three groups of Proboscis Monkeys were resting close together; a bachelor group and two family groups. One of the dominant males was angered by the proximity of the bachelor group, and he was making his views known by opening his mouth wide, bobbing his extreme nose, jumping about and periodically rushing towards this group. Because of foliage in the way we could not see if there was actual fighting, but we certainly saw foliage shaking and heard angry cries after he made rushes towards this group.

Further along the river we encountered a troop of Silvered Langurs which included an individual of the scarce yellow morph. We came across three Long-tailed Macaques in a line. The first was grooming the second which looked sublimely satisfied. It was changing poses, at one stage lifting up its rear end in an exaggerated pose, then sitting back to lift its arms up high, in which position its eyes were all but closed. The third and slightly smaller macaque was looking dispirited because it was missing out. It tried grooming itself but gave up. One the way back to the lodge Max was very pleased to find us a Maroon Langur up in a tree. This species is not readily seen along the Kinabatangan.

Although monkeys were the highlight of the outing, we saw a good selection of birds. A Jerdon's Baza flew across the river while calling. It kept calling on the other side and soon returned with a small mammal, probably a squirrel, in its talons. We could not understand how this raptor could have nabbed a victim while making so much noise. Perhaps it had killed the squirrel earlier and left it on a branch? Other birds seen included Black Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Purple Heron very close to the water and Blue-eared Kingfisher. We also enjoyed the Tree Nymph butterfly that passed by the boat.

After dinner Max took us back out on the river for a spotlighting session. He soon found a big Water Monitor asleep on an angled branch. The front leg that we could see was in an odd position, lying backwards, with the claws facing up. In the boat we approached within a few metres of a Blue-eared Kingfisher asleep on a low stem, and we also had close and sustained views of a pair of sleeping Collared Kingfishers. Along one stretch of river Max turned off his light and as our eyes adjusted to the dark, we could see that the trees nearby were pulsing with flashes of light coming from scores of Fireflies. It was a spectacular light show on a remote stretch of a river in Borneo. One Firefly landed in the boat, probably attracted by Max's light, and we marvelled at how small it was. We were heading back when Max ordered the boat to circle back because he had seen eyeshine high in a tree. It proved to be a Colugo (Flying Lemur). It was hanging down, feeding on leaves; an ideal finale for our outing.

Day 5

Wednesday 8th August

Kinabatangan Wetlands Resort, Sungai Kinabatangan

Our early morning outing proved good for raptors. We saw Grey-headed Fish Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, Brahminy Kite, Crested Goshawk and Rufous-bellied Eagle. Five Oriental Darters flew by. We saw Wrinkled Hornbills four times in an hour of travel up river, leaving us wondering where this species had been the day before.

The focus of today's outing was not birds but two Orangutans that Max had been told about. We found them low down in a *Sonneratia* tree close to the oxbow lake. This was an isolated tree with edible fruits, which they could only have reached by scrambling for a considerable distance through dense cane grass and ferns. These were our first truly wild Orangutans, and they made this obvious by keeping their backs to us then hiding from view. We could see old Orangutan nests higher in the tree. A Stork-billed Kingfisher showed itself.

We continued on to the lake where we had a morning snack while debating the identity of a perched raptor which, when our boat came closer, proved to be a Crested Serpent Eagle. In a Fig tree close to the water we could see Little Green Pigeons feeding energetically on small figs. We had sometimes been glimpsing green pigeons (genus *Treron*) of one species or another crossing the river and were pleased to be seeing some close up in morning sunshine. We returned to the *Sonneratia* tree where the Orangutans proved easier to see, and a short distance from these we came upon Proboscis Monkeys very close to the stream bank. The male of the group was feeding on the ground only four metres from the boat. We could occasionally glimpse his head above the tall grass and ferns. We had never expected to see this iconic mammal (or any mammal) at eye level at such close range.

The best bird seen today was arguably the Storm's Stork that was roosting in a dead tree at the water's edge, preening itself, scratching its face with its foot and yawning. With its red bill and yellow eye patch it was an impressive sight. We returned to the lodge for breakfast after a very satisfying outing.

During the heat of the day Ian saw a Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker, while Jan photographed a Bornean Striped Tree Skink.

Monkeys proved the main entertainment of the afternoon outing. At the water's edge we found a mixed group of Long-tailed and Pig-tailed Macaques. The latter were loafing on a dead fallen tree at the water's edge and they allowed us a very close approach. We spent minutes watching them grooming, relaxing and playing. They were draped over branches in every possible pose. One youngster found itself clinging to the dangling leg of another and fell off. When the head male came into view he was strutting like a cowboy in a movie.

A little further along the river we found a big aggregation of monkeys gathered together at dusk for safety. Along 80 metres of riverbank we could see all five species of Kinabatangan monkey: Proboscis, Silvered and Maroon Langurs, and both macaque species.

The birds we saw on this outing included Bushy-crested Hornbill, Black Hornbill, Oriental Pied Hornbill, Purple Heron, Dollarbird, White-bellied Sea Eagle and, in the evening gloom, a Buffy Fish Eagle. When we climbed out

of the boat on our return, staff pointed out a baby Reticulated Python travelling along the edge of the jetty. A fine end to a remarkable day!

Day 6

Thursday 9th August

Kinabatangan Wetlands Lodge, Gomantong Caves and on to Deramakot

We had breakfast at 6.30am and left the lodge soon after 7am, though not before we had seen the usual Plantain Squirrel and Bearded Pig outside the restaurant. On the boat journey to Sukau we saw Crested Serpent Eagle, White-bellied Sea Eagle, two Storm's Storks that flew over the river, and more Proboscis Monkeys. We didn't stop for these monkeys because by this time we had enjoyed many sustained views of this Borneo icon.

At 9am we were driven to Gomantong Cave where Tim led the group to the caves. Some farmland birds were seen on the way including White-breasted Woodswallow and Long-tailed Shrike.. In the small patch of rainforest outside the caves a giant squirrel performed aerial acrobatics, while at the buildings beside the caves, an Orangutan sat on a flight of wooden stairs eating fruit. It has evidently become very tame after making regular visits to planted trees to take fruit.

Gomantong Cave was made famous by David Attenborough, filmed sitting on an enormous pile of bat guano and also being suspended high in a stream of exiting bats. The cave provides roosting for 2,000,000 Wrinkle-lipped Bats, with another eight bat species present, which issue forth each evening in tight flocks that sometimes coalesce into a stream. The cave is equally well known for the harvesting of swiftlet nests for the production of soup: both Edible-nest and Black-nest Swiftlets. A Borneo Post article in 2016 said that 22 kilogrammes of swiftlet nests was worth 165,000MYR (more than £30,000).

The cave is something that visitors can love or recoil from, depending on how they respond to its contents. The boardwalk passed enormous piles of bat guano and large congregations of Cockroaches. There were Long-legged Centipedes (Scutigermorphs), freshwater crabs, swiftlets flying around the cave entrance and up high, and bats clinging to the walls or wheeling high above us. After a rather brief visit we returned to the minibus, to admire a Golden Birdwing fluttering around red hibiscus flowers.

We were driven to Telupid for a late lunch with internet, where we met Siti, our guide for the remainder of our trip. We drove to Deramakot Forest Reserve, initially through oil palm plantation and then through the forestry reserve, which includes areas of regrowth where the forest had been cleared plus areas of selective logging, the current practice. The reserve is 55,507 hectares of dipterocarp forest and is managed in accordance with good forestry practices. It is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council and is the longest certified tropical rainforest. The drive was made enticing by the fresh elephant dung we could periodically see by the road.

After finishing dinner at 7pm, Siti took us for our first night drive, for which we sat on bench seats in the tray of a 4-wheel-drive utility with Roy as our driver. He had not even driven us out of the forestry compound before Siti called out "Elephant". There it was, feeding less than 10 metres from the building housing the noisy generator. In a gap in the foliage we could glimpse a rocking body, see tusks and flapping ears, and hear the crunching of vegetation. After a few minutes Siti directed Roy to drive a little further along where we could soon see the whole Elephant, from the knees up. When it began walking straight towards us, Siti warned that we might have to drive off quickly (Roy kept the engine running), but it turned left and marched up a steep hill. It was an

amazing start to what would prove to be an outstanding visit to Deramakot. This Elephant was only three minutes walk from the restaurant where we had eaten dinner. Siti said she had never seen one so close to the buildings before.

Further along the road we soon glimpsed a Malay Civet leaving the road, then we saw a Sambar deer, and the sightings went on and on. We finished shortly after midnight having seen four Malay Civets, about six Bornean Striped Palm Civets, three Collugos including one that was orange, Red Giant Flying Squirrels including one that glided down from the canopy, like a falling leaf, three Thomas's Flying Squirrels and a Buffy Fish Owl. We also had an olfactory experience when Siti drew our attention along one stretch of the road to the strange aroma produced by a Sunda Skunk. We retired to our rooms in a state of sensory overload.

Day 7

Friday 10th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve

At breakfast we saw Crested Serpent Eagle and Red-bearded Bee-eater feeding on the insects attracted to the lights the night before. This bee-eater is one of Borneo's prettiest birds and it was a delight to have sustained views from the restaurant veranda.

Siti took us out on a drive from 6.15am to 9am. We saw three birds endemic to Borneo: White-crowned Shama, Borneo Spiderhunter and Dusky Munia, plus the north Borneo race of Magpie-Robin. We glimpsed Rhinoceros and Wreathed Hornbills and a Greater Coucal. The highlight of the drive, however, was an encounter with a troop of Gibbons. They looped through the branches showing us why these apes are so admired for their agility. But they did not like us watching and soon descended from view down a slope.

After an early dinner at 5.30pm we went spotlighting. In four hours saw four new mammals: Island Palm Civet, Black Flying Squirrel, Rancee Mouse and Slow Loris. The civet was the best of these, trotting along the road in front of the truck for some distance before it slunk into some long grass, giving very good views. The mouse was spotted close to one of the two Colugos we saw. The less said about the loris the better, for it was so far back that all we could see was bright eyeshine! We had excellent views of two Malay Civets, improving greatly on the fleeting views of the night before. We had extremely close views of a Buffy Fish Owl that flew up from a pool, then Siti noticed a Thomas's Flying Squirrel in a nearby tree, which was also very close. When we were returning to our chalets we were greeted by a Buffy Fish Owl staring at us from a chalet roof.

Day 8

Saturday 11th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve

Siti took us on a morning walk beginning at 7am to see some of the local birds. But even before we had finished breakfast she was calling us to the restaurant's back veranda for stunning close views of a pair of Black-and-red Broadbills and a Rufous Piculet. Noteworthy birds on the walk along the road were Bushy-crested Hornbill, Rhinoceros Hornbill, and Bornean Black Magpies which remained up high but produced various evocative vocalisations. Other birds seen included a Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, Crested Treeswift, Hill Mynas passing overhead and Green Iora. A Crested Green Lizard was watched at close range munching on a grasshopper, and a Shield-backed Millipede attracted interest.

Our second outing was a long night drive after dinner. Before we left the carpark Siti pointed out a Rhinoceros Hornbill roosting for the night high in a tree beside the restaurant. Along the road we saw a Leopard Cat trotting along the road ahead of us. It slunk into the rainforest and we had a few brief glimpses of it there. A second Leopard Cat paused in the roadside vegetation where Geraldine and Chris, sitting nearest, had views from just a few metres away, although not everyone saw it. We had proper sightings of two Lorises, one very high up a tree which at one stage could be seen clearly making its way along a branch, and another in a low tree less than 20 metres from the vehicle. An Island Palm Civet drew gasps of admiration as it sat on the bank and looked at us. At last we had sustained views of this species! When a stick insect was noticed on a nearby plant, Siti impressed us by identifying it as a Spiny Stick Insect (*Haaniella echinata*).

We could see giant black clouds and stars above us, with our direction of travel taking us away from the stars and towards rain. We forgot about that when we came upon Elephants 20 metres ahead of us. There were two adults, a baby, and a larger youngster with tusks. We watched them for a few minutes until they became uncomfortable with us, trumpeting and moving away. A second group of three stood a short way further along the road. On our return we encountered them again, in a clearing at the side of the road. They were not in any hurry to leave us, so we enjoyed several minutes of unobstructed close views.

Further along the road Siti spotted a Lesser Mousedeer. One feature of Deramakot is road cuttings with high banks. Some of these are so thickly covered in vegetation that civets and cats dissolve into them, but the mousedeer came to a stop on a high bank with sparse vegetation, so we could see its striking colour pattern from eye level less than 15 metres away.

On another stretch of road we startled a Moonrat. Tim was very excited because he had long wanted to see one. He said it is a large member of the hedgehog family, and definitely not a rat. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica it is 'essentially a primitive tropical hedgehog with a long tail and fur instead of spines'. Moonrats are distasteful to predators and the Bornean subspecies has white fur to signal this. Our Moonrat ran back and forth along the verge of the road, offering excellent close views, especially to those on the right of the vehicle. It seemed very uncertain about which way to run, and had difficulty pushing through the thick grass on the verge.

We saw two birds tonight: Sunda Frogmouth and Brown Wood Owl. It rained for part of the evening and we were glad to finish a little early, although our indefatigable guide Siti wanted to keep going.

Day 9

Sunday 12th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve

Today would prove the highlight of the holiday. Our day's activity consisted of a drive to the Kinabatangan River beginning at 3.40pm, following by a light dinner there and a night drive to bring us back. The drive delivered a succession of birds, of which Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot and Whiskered Treeswift were greatly appreciated because they were perching close to us in bright sunshine, showing all their colours. We saw a Rajah Brookes Birdwing and a Flying Lizard on a tree it could only have reached by 'flying' (gliding). There was excitement at 5pm when Siti located an Orangutan mother and youngster in a tree beside the road, providing our best views of truly wild great apes. The mother was vocalising loudly through puckered lips in distress at our presence,

sometimes shaking the tree, while her baby sat nearby, looking fairly calm. Black Hornbills and a Hill Myna were the last birds we saw before nightfall and dinner.

We began our drive back at 7.40pm with a Brown Wood Owl on a low branch. Then with great excitement in her voice, Siti called out “bear”. Her spotlight beam had caught a glimpse of one peering out of a tree hole. After a few minutes it emerged and we watched it clamber down the side of the tree. A second smaller Bear – her cub – could then be glimpsed peering out of the hole. We waited and waited and eventually she made her descent, but with much hesitation. At one point she was sprawled in full view over what was a fairly smooth trunk, uncertain of her descent. Bears are seen at Deramakot far less often than Clouded Leopards, so this was a very exciting sighting.

We hadn't driven much further when we came upon an Elephant striding along the road and Roy drove slowly behind her. She turned a sharp left down an avenue of trees and we watched her receding rump. We drove around the bend and there was another, which also turned left, disappearing into thick vegetation, though not before we had a very close clear view. We came across a pair of Porcupines on the road, and then another.

An Island Palm Civet on a large fallen tree at the side of the road gave us our most intimate views of any civet. It was rubbing against branches and squeezing through gaps between branches as it slowly went on its way. Although we had seen this species before, this one kept everyone's attention for the several minutes we could see it.

The highlight of the evening, and indeed the trip itself, came a short time later when, looking ahead, Siti called out excitedly “Clouded Leopard!” Roy pulled to a halt and there it was on the dirt road ahead of us, in full view, the species we had all been hoping to see ever since we knew we were visiting Borneo. To our amazement the leopard came our way, hesitating, looking at the bright headlights, not liking them, but continuing to walk closer to the side of the vehicle until it heard our subtle noises in the truck and, reconsidering, turned around and leisurely walked a long way up the road. It then decided it really did want to come our way so returned towards us. This time, except for cameras clicking, we were very quiet and it continued past us, passing less than three metres from the vehicle. Clouded Leopards have beautiful coats and it was a marvel to see the detail increase as the leopard came closer. What seemed like a simple blotch proved to have dark edges and spots inside. After passing us it walked behind and entered low vegetation at the side of the road. We were all grinning at each other and making wow-like comments when Siti called to us, “It's coming out”. Siti had kept her spotlight on the spot where we had seen it. We had another minute of observation as it walked around again. It came the closest to the vehicle and offered us the greatest variety of views of any animal we saw. We were back at our rooms at 10pm, disbelieving the parade of animals we had seen!

Siti later provided Chris with the email address of Clouded Leopard researchers so that his photographs (the best we had, showing the pattern on both sides) could be sent to them for monitoring of this individual. A Clouded Leopard can be individually identified by its pelage pattern, provided there are high quality images of both sides. We hope that our sighting contributes to conservation research that assists this vulnerable species.

Day 10

Monday 13th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve

The day began with an early morning walk into the rainforest in search of birds. On the drive there we saw a Brown Barbet, and a Chestnut-naped Forktail flew past as we arrived. The walk was a chance to see the forest not from a vehicle, boardwalk or road. Only Tim was not wearing leech socks (he finds them unbearably hot) and he proved they work by being the only person to be bitten! Siti pointed out pig wallows along the trail and a tree hole excavated by a bear. She whistled trogon calls and impressed us by luring in two species in quick succession: Red-naped and Scarlet-rumped Trogons. Their bold colours were greatly appreciated. We also saw Spotted Fantail. A Slender Treeshrew was spotted in vines draped around a tree above the trail. Tim caught a Swallowtail butterfly.

Back at lunch some of the group saw a White-fronted Falconet perched on a distant tree and Chris photographed an Asian Fairy-bluebird that landed on the ground.

We went out shortly after 7pm for a drive that lasted till 2.30am. Before we left Tim warned that we might not see anything new, given the success we had already achieved and the unlikelihood of rain to bring out special species. It was agreed that we would be pleased with better sightings of some of the mammals we had only glimpsed until now. We did see one new mammal, a Diadem Roundleaf Bat. It was hanging from a long vine tendril that was itself hanging from the underside of a tree near the road. The goal of seeing some animals was met. The Leopard Cats we had seen before had run from us or been obscured by vegetation, but tonight Siti spotted one that seem relaxed. It strolled past us, within eight metres of the vehicle, through a sward of sparse grass. Through Siti's powerful beam we could clearly see every spot on its coat and savour its exquisite feline beauty.

Another high point was a Slow Loris about ten metres from the vehicle. Unlike the cat, it was very aware of us and responded by slowly climbing down a small tree until it was at eye level, then decided against this approach and climbed a little higher. We had sustained close unobstructed views of this remarkable primate with its little grasping fingers. It had an orange cast to its fur, but was not as colourful as another we had seen earlier tonight which appeared to be bright orange. With its hind legs providing grip, it leaned forward on its body.

Another species that gave us our best views was a Thomas's Flying Squirrel eating bark. It was sitting in a tree at the side of the road, tearing small strips from the branch it was sitting on and chewing these in its paws, completely unfazed by us below. A Red Giant Flying Squirrel that glided across the road in front of us and landed on a bare trunk also offered an exceptional view. As it climbed slowly up the trunk it circled out of view, but not before we had seen all the detail of its pelage.

Other good sightings were a Grey-headed Fish Eagle asleep in a tree, a Buffy Fish Owl perching on a fallen tree at the side of the road, and a Colugo with a baby. At one point we could see the mother Colugo looking in one direction and the baby in the other. We also saw a Bearded Pig, a second Leopard Cat and Large Flying Foxes feeding in a Fig tree that also held Bornean Striped Palm Civet, Malay Civet and Island Palm Civet.

Day 11

Tuesday 11th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve

Because we had finished at 2.30am the night before there was no morning activity, although some wandered about and saw birds.

We went out at 3.30pm for what proved to be our best daytime outing at Deramakot. It began well with a sighting of a Changeable Hawk-Eagle on a bare branch beside the road, offering excellent views of this big black bird of prey. A Blyth's Flycatcher drew gasps of admiration. It was a male flying about very close to the vehicle, dangling and flaring its long white tail. A Black-and-yellow Broadbill landed in a small tree close to us and we could clearly see its black and yellow back and pink plumage. Another highlight was a giant Koompassia tree beside the road in which a pair of White-fronted Falconets, and then Long-tailed Parakeets were perching. One of them entered a high tree hole and peered out. A pair of Hill Mynas arrived in the tree, in which they were presumably nesting as well. We had seen parakeets flying across the Kinabatangan, but these were our first proper views. A Mountain Imperial Pigeon was sitting on a high branch nearby, not far from a Brown Barbet. Along one stretch of road many Grey-rumped Treeswifts were flying above us, and a Hawk-cuckoo flew across the road. A pair of Black Hornbills was sighted briefly.

Later we went for a night drive that began at 7pm. The ground was drier, few frogs were calling, and mammal activity along the road was subdued. On a trunk we saw a giant dark lizard pressed against the bare trunk of a pale tree – a Rough-necked Monitor. Siti said she had never seen one at night before. We had our best sighting of a Leopard Cat as it sat within 15 metres from the vehicle and blinked at us, before slowly strolling away. We had seen another Leopard Cat earlier which was less comfortable with us, quickly leaving the road and calling three times in a voice that sounded un-catlike. Another species that gave us its best view was a Sambar deer. A youngster stood on the road ahead of us unsure what to do, before eventually making its way into thick growth where its mother was waiting. We saw a Lesser Mousedeer cross the road, Slow Loris, Malay Civet, Red Giant Flying Squirrel and Thomas's Flying Squirrel.

Day 12

Wednesday 15th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve

Our day began at 6.30am with a morning drive. The Rough-necked Monitor was still on the tree trunk and this time it was looking at us rather than sleeping. We heard Gibbons and Helmeted Hornbills calling near the road but failed to see them. In a tangle of vines around a small tree Siti pointed out an Ear-spot Squirrel, a new mammal for the trip. A Giant Squirrel and Slender Treeshrew afforded brief views. Two Pied Fantails chased a Greater Coucal across a small clearing until it vanished into dense foliage. A highlight of the morning was a Black Eagle gliding above the canopy. This is Borneo's largest eagle and can be distinguished in flight from Changeable Hawk-Eagle by yellow on its bill.

Our last night drive, which lasted more than four hours, began with a Brown Wood Owl in a tree. We then saw a Malay Civet foraging on the road ahead of our vehicle, its head held low as it searched for frogs. Our driver Roy was able to cruise along behind it as it continued its search. We had, by this time, seen many Malay Civets but this was the only one we saw in hunting mode, rather than in an eluding-humans mode, although it eventually

decided that the headlights and engine noise counted for something and it ducked into some undergrowth and out of view.

There was fresh elephant dung along the road, and at one point we halted beside a tree that was shaking because of some large animal under or behind it. Siti said it was either a pig or an elephant, but we were not to find out. The height of the moving vegetation certainly suggested an elephant, but a pig pushing against vines could have produced the same effect.

Convinced that rain would bring more animals out, some of us (but by no means the majority) had been hoping for rain. We were 'rewarded' with some rain, but not with the bounty of animals it was supposed to deliver. It did not last long enough to bring out large numbers of frogs and the rare frog predators we hoped to see, such as Otter Civets. We did, however, see a Leopard Cat (briefly), two Colugos, Bornean Striped Palm Civet, Island Palm Civet, Malay Civet and another Lesser Mousedeer.

Day 13

Thursday 16th August

Deramakot Forest Reserve and on to Mount Kinabalu

We left at 8am, after a Greater Leafbird showed itself well near the restaurant veranda. We had an uneventful bus journey to Kinabalu, with a stop for lunch at a restaurant that served lavish cakes. Kinabalu was a different experience with cooler temperatures, smaller trees and a looming mountain, shrouded in cloud. Gunung (Mount) Kinabalu, at 4,101 metres, is the highest peak between the Himalayas and New Guinea. Siti told us that local villagers looked to the cloud levels on the mountain to determine what kind of wet season lay ahead, using this information to decide when to plant.

We had 20 minutes in our rooms before we were out on the road to see birds, the first of which was a Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush in a nearby shrub. A short way along the road Siti heard a very special bird, a Whitehead's Trogon, and some of the group stood by, hoping to see this spectacular bird which is endemic to the mountains of Borneo. We saw a Jentink's Squirrel instead. When we met up with the rest of group, who had wandered ahead, we found they were looking excitedly at a Whitehead's Trogon! We had sustained views of a pair of these splendid birds as they fluttered from branch to branch, remaining close to the road for some minutes. They were one of the birding highlights of the trip, and Siti was excited that we had seen this special endemic species.

Further up the road we saw other species that were new for the trip and a delight to see: Indigo Flycatcher, Verditer Flycatcher, Golden-naped Barbet, Yellow-breasted Flycatcher, Little Pied Flycatcher and White-throated Fantail. We had heard many barbets calling from high in trees at Deramakot without seeing them (apart from drab Brown Barbets), so the opportunity to have one nearby was much appreciated. When it lowered its head to feed on small fruits we could see the intense blue on the head contrasting with the rich green on the body. We returned at dusk, more than satisfied to be among montane birds.

We chose to have an early night rather than go out spotlighting. We laughed at dinner when Siti suggested we order a 'bucket of beer.' It proved to be four cans in a bucket of ice.

Day 14

Friday 17th August

Mount Kinabalu, Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur and on to London

At 6am we were driven to Timpohon Gate at the top of the road, at an elevation of 1,866 metres/6,122 feet above sea level. As soon as we alighted from the bus there were birds around us. For the next two hours they were our constant companions. In rapid succession we saw Ashy Drongo, Bornean Treepie, Indigo Flycatcher, Mountain Leaf Warbler, Black-banded Squirrel, Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel, Jentink's Squirrel, Golden-naped Barbet, Bornean Green Magpie, Chestnut and Sunda Laughingthrushes, Mountain Black-eye, Crimson-winged Woodpecker, Grey-chinned Minivet, Sunda Bush Warbler, Bornean Whistler, and Bornean Whistling Thrush that perched on the road. The colourful red and yellow minivets were especially appreciated, and so too Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrels when we noticed these tiny rodents scampering at great speed along branches and trunks beside the road. Siti pointed out White-throated and Grey-throated Babblers, Sunda Cuckooshrike, Pale-faced (flavescent) Bulbul, Yellow-breasted Warbler and White-throated Fantail. She heard calls near the track and directed our eyes down the slope as a Crimson-breasted Partridge strode past. This is one of the species that birdwatchers to Kinabalu most want to see, although we did not get good views.

We were then picked up and taken to breakfast. On a nearby building we could see nesting Bornean Swiftlets and a dome of their droppings that was so tall it must have taken years to accumulate. Wheeling above the buildings was a Crested Goshawk. We returned to our rooms to find a Whitehead's Spiderhunter feeding in a clump of mistletoe in a nearby tree. With its yellow rump and black streaks on a white background, this bird was a delight. We had glimpsed one briefly the previous afternoon and today we could appreciate it properly. The pale yellow mistletoe flowers on which it was feeding were so long that nothing but a spiderhunter could serve as their pollinator!

We were soon packing and then off to the airport after a visit to Kinabalu that had proved extraordinary. In one afternoon and a brief morning outing we had seen 27 bird species and four mammals that were new for the trip, most of which only occur in Borneo's mountains. It was a very satisfying end to the trip, made possible by the fine weather. Had a shower come down, as often happens on Kinabalu, we would have seen only half as much!

We lunched at Kota Kinabalu airport before starting our homeward flights.

Day 15

Saturday 18th August

London

We arrived back at London, where our exhilarating trip to Borneo came to an end.

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Species Lists

Mammals (S = seen; H = heard only; I = introduced; E = endemic)

Names in brackets indicate some alternative common names;

Species not listed for a location were seen in transit; Kinabatangan includes Gomantong Cave, Sungai Kinabatangan and its tributaries

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Large Flying Fox	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>	-	-	S	-	Seen twice.
Diadem Roundleaf Bat	<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	-	-	S	-	Dangling from tendril at night.
Wrinkle-lipped Bat	<i>Tadarida plicata</i>	-	S	-	-	Roosting in cave.
Moonrat	<i>Echinosorex gymnurus</i>	-	-	S	-	At night on road
Slender Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia gracilis</i>	-	-	S	-	In tree.
Bornean Colugo	<i>Cynocephalus borneanus</i>	-	S	S	-	Many seen
Philippine Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus menagensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Several seen during spotlighting at Deramakot.
Red (Maroon) Langur E	<i>Presbytis rubicunda chrysea</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen twice along the Kinabatangan
Silvered Langur	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen several times along the Kinabatangan, mostly in late afternoon.
Proboscis Monkey E	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>	-	S	-	-	Common along the Kinabatangan
Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	S	S	S	-	
(Southern/Sunda) Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	S	S	-	-	Several seen at Sepilok and along the Kinabatangan.
North Bornean Gibbon E	<i>Hylobates funereus</i>	-	-	S	-	One family at Deramakot.
Bornean Orangutan E	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	S	S	S	-	
Sunda Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa affinis sandakanensis</i>	-	S	S	-	Best sighting outside Gomantong Cave.
Prevost's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii Pluto</i>	S	S	S	-	Seen occasionally.
Bornean Black-banded Squirrel E	<i>Callosciurus orestes</i>	-	-	-	S	Common at Kinabalu Park.
Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	S	S	-	-	Common in disturbed areas.
Ear-spot Squirrel E	<i>Callosciurus adamsi</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen briefly from road.
Jentink's Squirrel E	<i>Sundasciurus jentinki</i>	-	-	-	S	Several seen at Kinabalu Park.
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel E	<i>Dremomys everetti</i>	-	-	-	S	One seen at Kinabalu Park.
Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel	<i>Exilisciurus whiteheadi</i>	S	-	-	S	Two sightings
Black Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeronys tephromelas</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen at Deramakot.
Red Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	-	-	S	-	Reasonably common at Deramakot.
Thomas's Flying Squirrel E	<i>Aeronys thomasi</i>	-	-	S	-	Common at Deramakot.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Ranee Mouse E	<i>Haeromys margarettae</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen at Deramakot.
Malayan Porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>	-	-	S	-	Two pairs seen at night.
Sun Bear	<i>Helarctos malayanus</i>	-	-	S	-	Mother and cub climbed down tree.
Bornean Striped Palm Civet	<i>Arctogalidia stigmatica</i>	-	-	S	-	Common at Deramakot.
Island Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus philippinensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Common at Deramakot.
Malay Civet	<i>Viverra zangalunga</i>	-	-	S	-	Common at Deramakot.
Bornean Clouded Leopard	<i>Neofelis diardi borneensis</i>	-	-	S	-	One viewed for seven minutes
Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Several seen, on four separate nights.
Asian (Bornean Pigmy) Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus borneensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Excellent views on three nights.
Bearded Pig	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	-	S	S	-	Very close views.
Lesser Mousedeer (Indo-Malayan Chevrotain)	<i>Tragulus kanchii</i>	-	-	S	-	Three sightings.
Sambar	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>	-	-	S	-	

Reptiles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Saltwater Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>	-	S	-	-	Two sightings of a juvenile.
Crested Green Lizard	<i>Bronchocela cristatella</i>	-	-	S	-	Munching prey at side of road.
Horned Flying Lizard	<i>Draco cornutus</i>	-	S	-	-	Photographed by Chris.
Flying Lizard species	<i>Draco</i> sp.	-	-	S	-	One seen on tree.
Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	S	S	S	-	Common on buildings.
Striped Bornean Tree Skink E	<i>Apterygodon vittatum</i>	-	S	-	-	
Red-throated Skink	<i>Draco</i> sp.	-	S	S	-	.
Black-banded Skink	<i>Eutropis rudis</i>	-	S	-	-	
Rough-necked Monitor	<i>Varanus rudicollis</i>	-	-	S	-	Sleeping on tree by the road.
Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	S	S	-	-	Seen by day and one sleeping.
Reticulated Python	<i>Broghammerus reticulatus</i>	-	S	-	-	Juvenile at night.
Yellow-ringed (Mangrove) Cat Snake	<i>Boiga dendrophila</i>	-	S	-	-	Asleep on nypa frond.
Grey-tailed Racer	<i>Gonyosoma oxycephalum</i>	-	S	-	-	One seen over three days in a tree on the Kinabatangan.

Amphibians (names taken from 'A field guide to the frogs of Borneo', Inger et al. 2017)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Kinabalu	Comments
White-lipped Frog	<i>Chalcorana chalconota</i>	-	-	S	-	
Kuhl's Creek Frog	<i>Limnonectes kuhlii</i>	-	-	-	H	
Rough-sided Frog	<i>Hylarana glandulosa</i>	-	S	H	-	Seen during spotlight.
Cricket Frog	<i>Hylarana nicobariensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Often heard calling from roadside pools
Dark-eared Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates macrotis</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen during spotlight.
File-eared Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates otitophus</i>	-	-	S	-	Often heard

Birds (not all species only heard during the trip are listed, including species such as ubiquitous barbets)

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Crimson-headed Partridge	<i>Haematortyx sanguiniceps</i>	-	-	-	S	Seen from the boat.
Crested Fireback	<i>Lophura ignita nobilis</i>	-	-	S	-	One male seen briefly on the road.
Great Argus	<i>Argusianus argus</i>	-	-	H	-	Siti alerted us to the call.
Storm's Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>	-	S	-	-	Three sightings
Lesser Adjutant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen twice.
Striated Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen at wharf.
Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	-	S	-	-	Several seen along the Kinabatangan.
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	-	S	-	-	Common.
Oriental Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	-	S	S	-	Seen occasionally.
Jerdon's Baza	<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>	-	S	-	-	Flew across river
Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	-	S	S	-	Common.
Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen in tree.
Blyth's Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus alboniger</i>	-	S	-	-	One seen along the Kinabatangan.
Rufous-bellied Eagle	<i>Lophotriorchis kienerii</i>	-	S	-	-	One seen along the Kinabatangan.
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Seen in flight.
Crested Goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	-	S	-	-	One seen along the Kinabatangan.
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	-	S	S	-	Several long the Kinabatangan.
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	-	S	-	-	Several seen along the Kinabatangan.
Grey-headed Fish Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus ichthyaetus</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen three times along the Kinabatangan.
Common Sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	-	S	-	-	Single bird seen along the Kinabatangan.
Rock Dove I	<i>Columba livia</i>	-	-	-	-	Seen in towns in transit.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Little Cuckoo-Dove	<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>	-	-	-	S	Near Timpohon Gate.
Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>	S	-	-	-	Common in towns.
Little Green Pigeon	<i>Treron olax</i>	-	S	-	-	Group at oxbow lake
Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>	-	S	-	-	
Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	S	S	-	-	Common.
Mountain Imperial-Pigeon	<i>Ducula badia</i>	-	-	S	-	One in tree.
Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	-	S	S	-	Seen regularly at Deramakot.
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Rhinorhiza chlorophaeus</i>	-	S	S	-	Two seen.
Chestnut-bellied Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus sumatranus</i>	-	-	S	-	
Plaintive Cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	-	H	H	-	Commonly heard.
Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>	-	S	S	-	
Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	-	-	S	-	Three seen.
Sunda Frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus cornutus</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen.
Grey-rumped Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	-	-	S	-	Flying at Deramakot.
Whiskered Treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>	-	-	S	-	
Plume-toed (Glossy) Swiftlet	<i>Collocalia affinis (esculenta)</i>	S	S	S	-	Common.
Black-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>	-	S	-	-	Many seen nesting at Gomantong Cave. Presumably seen throughout.
Edible-nest Swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphaga</i>	-	S	-	-	Presumably seen throughout.
Silver-rumped Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>	-	-	S	-	Common.
Red-naped Trogon	<i>Harpactes kasumba</i>	-	-	S	-	
Scarlet-rumped Trogon	<i>Harpactes duvaucelii</i>	-	-	S	-	
Whitehead's Trogon E	<i>Harpactes whiteheadi</i>	-	-	-	S	Splendid sustained sightings of a pair
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	-	S	-	-	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	-	S	-	-	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>	-	S	-	-	A sleeping pair proved a highlight
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	-	S	-	-	
Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen sleeping
Red-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctornis amictus</i>	-	-	S	-	Around Deramakot.restaurant
Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>	S	S	S	-	One of the most plentiful birds.
Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>	H	S	S	-	Seen regularly.
Helmeted Hornbill	<i>Rhinoplax vigil</i>	-	-	H	-	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	S	S	-	-	
Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>	-	S	S	-	Many sightings
Bushy-crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>	-	S	S	-	Flying over river and road.
Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Rhyticeros undulatus</i>	-	-	S	-	Pair seen at Deramakot.
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus</i>	-	S			
Red-throated Barbet	<i>Psilopogon mystacophanos</i>	-	-	H	-	
Red-crowned Barbet	<i>Psilopogon rafflesii</i>	-	-	H	-	
Blue-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii duvaucelii</i>	-	-	H	-	.
Golden-naped Barbet	<i>Psilopogon pulcherrimus</i>	-	-	-	S	Two seen from road.
Brown Barbet E	<i>Caloramphus fuliginosus</i>	-	-	H	-	
Rufous Piculet	<i>Sasia abnormis</i>	-	-	S	-	Beside restaurant.
Banded Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javensis</i>	S	-	-	-	One seen flying across the Kinabatangan. Two seen along road at Deramakot.
Crimson-winged Woodpecker	<i>Pica puniceus</i>	-	-	-	S	
Rufous Woodpecker	<i>Micropternus brachyurus</i>	-	-	H	-	
White-fronted Falconet E	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>	-	-	S	-	Pair high in a <i>Koompassia</i> along the road, and one near the restaurant..
Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>	-	S	S	-	Pair high in a <i>Koompassia</i> along the road, others flying over Kinabatangan
Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	-	H	S	-	Various sightings.
Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos</i>	-	S	S	-	Nesting along the Kinabatangan, and near Deramakot restaurant.
Black-and-yellow Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>	-	-	S	-	
Black-crowned Pitta E	<i>Erythropitta ussheri</i>	-	-	H	-	Heard inside rainforest.
Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike	<i>Hemipus picatus</i>	-	-	S	-	
Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike	<i>Hemipus hirundinaceus</i>	-	S	-	-	
White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	-	-	-	-	Seen in transit from cave to Kinabalu Park.
Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	-	S	-	-	Two seen in tree.
Green Iora	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>	-	-	S	-	In roadside tree.
Sunda Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracine larvata</i>	-	-	-	S	By road
Grey-chinned Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	-	-	-	S	Along road.
Long-tailed shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	-	-	-	-	Seen on roadside near caves, on wires and oil palm.
Ashy Drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	-	-	-	S	Near Timpohon Gate.
Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>	-	-	S	-	Common at Deramakot.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Hair-crested Drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus borneensis</i>	-	-	-	S	Outside chalets..
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	-	H	S	-	
White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	-	-	-	S	
Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	S	S	S	-	One of the more regularly seen birds.
Spotted fantail	<i>Rhipidura perlata</i>	-	-	S	-	
Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone affinis</i>	-	-	S	-	Two sightings at Deramakot.
(Bornean E) Black Magpie	<i>Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus</i>	-	-	S	-	Group seen along the road.
Bornean Green Magpie E	<i>Cissa jefferyi</i>	-	-	-	S	
Bornean Treepie E	<i>Dendrocitta cinerascens</i>	-	-	-	S	
Slender-billed Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>	-	S	S	-	Common. More often heard than seen.
Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>	-	-	S	-	Photographed by Chris
Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>	-	S	-	-	
Pale-faced Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucops</i>	-	-	-	S	One seen briefly along the road in Kinabalu Park.
Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier analis</i>	S	S	S	-	Common.
Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>	-	S	-	-	Near restaurant
Cream-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>	-	-	S	-	Photographed by Chris
Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>	-	S	S	-	
Yellow-bellied Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus phaeocephalus</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen along the road.
Hairy-backed Bulbul	<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>	-	-	S	-	Reasonably common at Deramakot.
Streaked Bulbul	<i>Ixos malaccensis</i>	-	-	S	-	
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	-	S	-	-	Above river
Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	S	S	S	-	Common.
Sunda Bush Warbler	<i>Horornis vulcanius oreophilus</i>	-	-	-	S	Pair seen along road in Kinabalu Park.
Mountain Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus kinabaluensis</i>	-	-	-	S	Seen briefly in Kinabalu Park.
Yellow-breasted Warbler	<i>Seicercus montis</i>	-	-	-	S	Two sightings from road.
Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	-	-	S	-	Seen beside the road.
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>	-	S	-	-	
Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>	-	S	-	-	
Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	-	-	-	S	Seen beside the road.
White-necked Babbler	<i>Stachyris leucotis</i>	-	-	-	S	Seen beside the road.
Bold-striped Tit-Babbler	<i>Macronus bornensis</i>	-	S	S	-	

Common Name	Scientific Name	Sepilok	Kinabatangan	Deramakot	Mt Kinabalu	Comments
Horsfield's Babbler	<i>Malacocincla sepiaria</i>	-	-	H	-	
Sooty-capped Babbler	<i>Malacopteron affine</i>	-	-	S	-	
White-chested Babbler	<i>Trichastoma rostratum</i>	-	S	-	-	
Sunda Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax palliatus</i>	-	-	-	S	Near Timpohon Gate.
Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush E	<i>Garrulax treacheri</i>	-	-	-	S	
Mountain Black-eye E	<i>Chlorocharis emiliae</i>	-	-	-	S	Near Timpohon Gate.
Asian Fairy-bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	-	-	S	-	Photographed by Chris on the ground
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	-	S	S	-	Seen by Chris
Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	S	-	-	-	In resort grounds. Also in farmland.
Common Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	S	-	S	-	Several sightings, mainly of pairs in flight.
Javan Myna I	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	S	-	-	-	Common in disturbed areas.
Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis pluto</i>	-	-	S	-	By road.
White-crowned Shama E	<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>	-	-	S	-	By road
Verditer Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias thalassinus</i>	-	-	-	S	
Indigo Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias indigo</i>	-	-	-	S	Two pairs seen along the road at Kinabalu Park.
Chestnut-naped Forktail	<i>Enicurus ruficapillus</i>	-	-	S	-	Seen by Siti and Tim flying across the road.
Bornean Whistling Thrush E	<i>Myophonus borneensis</i>	-	-	-	S	Seen along the road near Timpohon Gate.
Snowy-browed Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	-	-	-	S	Near the road.
Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>	-	-	S	-	Various sightings.
Lesser Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>	-	-	S	-	
Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus percussus</i>	-	S	-	-	Seen by Ian.
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker E	<i>Prionochilus xanthopygius</i>	-	-	S	-	
Brown-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	S	-	-	-	
Red-throated Sunbird	<i>Anthreptes rhodolaemus</i>	-	-	S	-	
Copper-throated Sunbird	<i>Leptocoma calcostetha</i>	S	-	-	-	
Crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	S	S	-	-	
Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	S	-	S	-	
Thick-billed Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera crassirostris</i>	S	-	-	-	Photographed by Chris
Bornean Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera everetti</i>	-	-	S	-	One seen along the road.
Whitehead's Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera juliae</i>	-	-	-	S	Two sightings near chalets.
Eurasian Tree Sparrow I	<i>Passer montanus</i>	S	S	S	-	Common in disturbed areas and around buildings.
Dusky Munia	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>	-	-	S	-	Common along the road at Deramakot.

Other Fauna

Some of the more spectacular invertebrates encountered included Long-legged Centipede, Giant Wood Ant, Tractor and Pill Millipedes, and birdwing butterfly species.

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Whiskered Treeswift



Whitehead's Trogon



Sun Bear



Leopard Cat



Collared Kingfisher



Thick-billed Spiderhunter