

**ORNITHOLIDAYS' TOUR TO BORNEO**  
*Island in the Clouds*

**01 - 14 OCTOBER 2011**



**Leader: Dennis Yong**

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A Personal Diary by Jenny Coumbe

### 2<sup>nd</sup> October

As we approached Kinabalu National Park in the bouncy bus, there were some impressive vistas of misty hills and dramatic gorges. The top of Mount Kinabalu itself was hidden by cloud but we could see waterfalls cascading down its flanks.

Arrived at Rose Cabin Resort at 2.40pm local time. After half an hour to freshen up, we were off for our first bird-watching in Borneo. We wandered up to the Power Station's access road which gave glimpses into the forest canopy.

Best things:

- a) Bright yellow Bornean Whistler dispatching a caterpillar with difficulty;
- b) a tall fruiting tree with a feeding flock, including Yellow-breasted Warbler with bright chestnut head, and White-throated Fantail, black with white "cut-throat" slash, which darted about restlessly;
- c) Indigo Warbler, entirely a lovely shade of blue;
- d) little Jentink's Squirrel scuttling along twigs and making huge leaps;
- e) Medinilla berries and flowers, pinky-red against dark green leaves;
- f) delicate orchid with a contorted stem and flowers like an apricot Lady's Slipper;
- g) the craggy tops of Mount Kinabalu emerging from the clouds;
- h) ruddy pink trunk and branches of a tree, like a naked lady in the dark forest (it sheds its bark to stop epiphytes from taking hold.)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> October

Highlights:

- a) Golden-naped Barbet (an endemic.) I thought I was going to dip out – he was high in a tree and quite motionless. Eventually I realised that what I thought was a large green leaf was actually the back of the dumpy bird. From another angle we could see his bright blue crown and throat.
- b) Grey-chinned Minivets, both male and female. They came through in a mixed flock, the female the first to give good views: yellow belly and rump, otherwise slate grey. The male kept flitting about, but settled at last so we could see his scarlet and black uniform, with grey round the neck like a silk cravat.
- c) The Bornean Tree-pie – a magpie in sombre jay's clothing.
- d) A Short-tailed Green Magpie, which landed on a bench no more than four feet away from us. It then calmly hopped around the near branches looking for insects, holding its head on one side, white iris peering out from piratical black mask.
- e) Temminck's Sunbird, slim and elegant, mainly a satiny scarlet, with pale grey belly and touches of iridescent purple.
- f) A little movement in a low bush revealed a quiet pair of brown Sunda Bush Warblers, that then flew across the road.

Later on, we wandered round some chalets that were being renovated. The gardens held many Medinilla bushes, so Dennis was searching for Black-sided Flowerpecker. What a beautiful bird! It's like a chunky robin, but with head and back glossy blue-black and a big crimson bib. We saw it gobble several of the ripe berries.

Dennis called it a day around 4pm. While we were waiting for the van, Sue spotted an Ashy Drongo on the wires – very upright and smart, all lilac-grey except for white patches near his eyes.

We did very well for squirrels. There are 12 on the list for the whole tour – we saw five today! Olive has been dubbed "Squirrel Spotter in Chief" because she was the first to see each one. She kept exclaiming, "But I don't even *like* them!" The most impressive were the littlest and the largest. Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel was working his way up a trunk in treecreeper fashion; he eats lichen, and on his ears he has improbably long

white tufts that look like antennae. The Giant Squirrel is huge, with a great bushy tail even longer than its sturdy dark brown, white and ginger body – over 2ft long in total.

There were several attractive orchids and plants:

a spray of salmon-pink flowers dangling from a tree, which we dubbed the “coral necklace orchid;”

a tiny velvety-orange star-shaped flower that springs from two white bracts;

a lipstick flower – scarlet tubes with purple stamens;

Medinilla flowers, tiny and pink with rows of purple stamens across their centres like miniature sets of teeth;

the “zigzag fern” – a geometry lesson in itself.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> October**

Best pre-breakfast highlights:

the wind had dropped so you could hear the bird-song and the river below;

medium sized “zebra” moth/butterfly – black indistinct stripes on white, plus a dull orange oval with two cream and black eyes on hind wings;

better views than yesterday of Ochraceous Bulbul – it has a white throat that looks like a short bushy beard;

the descending cackle of Sunda Laughing-dove;

the liquid two-note call of Little cuckoo-dove;

the bittern-like deep boom of Mountain Imperial Pigeon.

(Both the last two were well-seen.)

A sudden loud crack. The crown of a large tree up on the ridge was shaking furiously, though there was no wind. Another loud crack. Dennis said, “One more bite from the termite and it will come down.”

After breakfast, we drove up to the Mesilau Nature Reserve, higher up the slopes of Mount Kinabalu. There was a lot of low cloud and few birds about. However, we did see Bornean Whistling Thrush, very like a Blackbird except that the male frequently and rapidly flicks open his tail.

Round about 11am we set off on a trail to see *Nepenthes raja* – a giant variety of Pitcher Plant. Eventually, after a stiff climb, Dennis found one, livid red and filled with juices, rather like a goblin’s toilet bowl! There were many different species, some just an inch or two long, some spotted, others blotchy, some plain. My favourite looked like a little leather bottle that an elf might have stitched. Hmm, goblins and elves – altitude light-headedness?!

After lunch we drove towards Poring Springs. A large banner was displayed at the side of the road announcing: RAFFLESIA BLOOMING. We bounced up a track to a farmhouse. The fruit farmers had fenced off a small area where the Rafflesia had parasitised the *Tetris stigmata* vine. There were several plants at different stages of development, some in bud, some decaying. The flowering one was about two feet in diameter, orange, spotted with white, and alive with insects. It is notorious for its smell, with which it attracts carrion flies, but actually I couldn’t detect anything from the viewing platform. I touched the “petals” of one of the withered flowers - it had a strange rubbery texture.

Next, Poring Park. Highlights:

a) A Golden-whiskered Barbet turning his head slowly this way and that like a Wryneck. He’s named for the clear and obvious yellow patch on the side of his face.

b) Dennis trying to call in a Red-throated Barbet with his tape-recorder. I noticed a distant fluttering of brown leaves. Then a small barbet shot out and disappeared into the canopy of a tall tree, from where he shouted, “Tu-tuk, tu-tuk, tu-tuk.” But this was not the target bird. Instead it was a Blue-eared Barbet, which eventually showed.

c) Orange-bellied Flowerpecker whizzing about between blossoming bushes. Eventually it landed on a huge banana leaf which acted like a trampoline and I could just see a little blue head peering over the edge as he bounced up and down.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> October**

Wonderful view from our balcony of Mount Kinabalu at first light – cloudless and no remnants of mist today.

Dennis decided to take us on the riverside walk, the Silau-silau Trail (Silau-silau is the local name for the “naked lady” tree, the one that periodically sheds all its bark.) Near the beginning, there was a little bridge which crossed the rocky riverbed and the water was fairly low. We had only gone a few yards further on when a black-and-white bird with a long black tail decorated with large white polka-dots took off from the bank and flew upstream. It paused on a moss-covered boulder but then carried on out of sight – a good if brief view of the Bornean Forktail.

At one point I stopped to photograph a small white flower and so was a little way behind the others. There was a loud dull thud close behind me. I ducked, then turned and saw the riverside vegetation shaking vigorously. To my amazement, a large raptor flapped upwards with a squirrel in its talons! I clapped my hands to attract the others but only Sue saw it. The bird’s breast and wings seemed to be a marbled golden sandy brown, the eye was pale, the beak hooked and I thought it was at least Buzzard-sized. I didn’t register the tail. It was quite an experience!

Over lunch we studied the book to try to identify my mystery bird but we did not come any firm conclusion. Low cloud and rain then put paid to the afternoon’s birding.

### **6th October**

Heavy rain with thunder yesterday evening and intermittently overnight. However, when I opened the curtains, there was Mount Kinabalu in all its glory, so I said a respectful farewell.

In Kota Kinabalu, we stopped at Prince Philip Park which fronts on to the sea. The recent typhoon had damaged lots of the trees, and debris was still being cleared away. Here I saw Spotted and Zebra Doves, but we were actually after parrots. Dennis was concerned that the typhoon might have destroyed their favourite roosts. Just as we began to walk back to the van in disappointment, one flew into a tree-top, and then a second one came in lower down. “Cor wot a stunner!” He bent his head to wipe his big red beak on a branch, showing us why he was called the Blue-naped Parrot. The rest of him was a velvety bright green with beautiful gold-and-blue iridescent patches on the wings.

After the half-hour flight to Sandakan, we entered oil-palm country - mile after mile of slopes covered with dense, dark green trees, interspersed with acres of newly planted ones. We passed the “Prolific Yield Palm Oil Mill.” The many heavy lorries ferrying the nuts caused tailbacks because of corners and brows of hills.

We turned off the main highway and stopped along the road to the Gomantong Caves for a spot of birding, but the first thing we saw was a lone Pig-tailed Macaque. Before I had time to refocus my bins, a Diard’s Trogon had come and gone in a marked manner. A smaller bird flew in and was identified as a Black-and-yellow Broadbill, but as he was on a bare twig against the sky, all we could see was a grey outline. Moving so that the background was green foliage was like turning on a light. He had a black head and white collar, a black back with jazzy yellow lightning patterns and a pinkish breast. His bright blue broad bill was slightly downturned on either side so that the whole effect was like a dumpy, slightly sulky magician.

Driving on a little further, we saw another tourist van with all the occupants standing outside, armed with long lenses. A troop of Red Leaf-monkeys, aka Maroon Langurs, was making its way along the roadside vegetation, eating as they went. The adults were mostly sitting calmly and munching, but there were several young ones leaping about exuberantly, playing “I can run up this trunk faster than you,” and “I can jump further ... whoops ... and *fall* further *and* recover, than you.” We reckoned there were about thirty in this group.

On to the caves themselves. Swiftlets were milling about outside, and you could clearly hear the clicks of their echo-location. The mouth of the cave was huge, but further up the hillside were smaller entrances, each with a hut and a man on sentry duty - Dennis told us that a kilo of the swiftlets’ nests is worth about 4,000 dollars. On a loop of vine just above the main entrance was a Wallace’s Hawk-Eagle waiting for dinner. As we began the boardwalk into the cave there was a stench of ammonia that briefly made your eyes water, but it was not as bad as I was expecting. The floor of the cave was a huge mound of black powdery guano, alive with scuttling shiny brown cockroaches. Inch-long cave scorpions ran on the rock walls. Unfortunately, the nests had recently been harvested, so there were no swiftlets sitting. On the way out, I wondered what *exactly* the liquid was that occasionally fell on my head!

It was decided to go back to the Visitors' Centre to watch the evening exit of bats. The boardwalk that took you to and from the cave was about half a mile long and passed through dense forest. Dennis suddenly stopped and put a finger to his lips. We could hear the snap of large leaves being broken off. We crept forward. There was an Orang-utan busy making her bed for the night! She was some way above us and surrounded by foliage, but we could see long red arms and occasionally her profile as she made her preparations. We watched her for about ten minutes and then needed to continue. Once we began to move noisily, she froze and we would never have known that such a large animal was just a few feet above our heads. Wonderful.

Next we watched as bats poured out of the cave's various exits like smoke from chimneys – eddies, swirls, clouds of bats all heading in the same direction. A Bat-hawk swooped down. A Brahminy Kite circled hopefully. Now there were lines of bats, some in V-formation, some in a semi-circle, some in shape-shifting patterns. A figure of 16 million was mentioned!

As we returned to the car park, to cap off an excellent afternoon, a White-crowned Shama was singing beautifully in an ornamental tree and eventually showed himself at the base. A Brown-throated Sunbird was also flitting about nearby.

And so on to Billit Rainforest Lodge. The last stage of the journey was a magical five-minute river crossing on a small boat, while the sun was just dipping below the horizon and the moon was rising up.

### **7<sup>th</sup> October**

At approx 6am we assembled at the jetty and set off upstream in the narrow boat, piloted by a young man called Boy. To begin with, a thick mist obscured the wide, muddy brown Kinabatangan River, but it gradually cleared.

#### **Highlights:**

Great Egrets regularly stationed along the bank like sentries;

Several Storm's Storks, one silhouetted on top of a tree and five flying over. (This is an endangered species and wasn't seen on the last Ornitholidays tour.)

A Stork-billed Kingfisher perched on a dead branch in the water, the morning light catching him perfectly.

Two Black Hornbills gliding across the river, sunlight glinting off their pale casques.

Oriental Pied Hornbills moving in a stately fashion behind a curtain of leaves.

During siesta, while we were sitting on our verandas reading, there was a commotion of birds in one corner of the gardens. These proved to be Brown Barbets, much prettier than their name suggests, with russet throats. There were at least 12 of them, all calling and whizzing about. Once they'd left, we were just returning to our chairs/hammock when a member of staff called us back. A bright yellow snake, twice as thick as a hosepipe and about 6ft long, was looping and coiling its way up a tree. This must have been what had rattled the barbets. It was later identified as the localised yellow variant of the Red-tailed Racer, which is usually emerald green.

In the afternoon, we explored a tributary of the main river, the River Teneggangan. Several other boats were in the vicinity and we joined one group who were watching a troop of Long-tailed Macaque Monkeys foraging along the shore. A young one was sitting on a thin branch overhanging the water, unconcernedly nibbling a nut/fruit. We were so close, we could see his pink eyelids.

#### **Later highlights:**

Crested Goshawk's "winnowing" display flight – extra rapid wing beats.

Straw-headed Bulbul seen distantly flying into riverside vegetation, but the yellowish cap was clearly visible. (This species was formerly common, but because of its beautiful voice it became a staple of the cage-bird trade. Now it's very rare.)

A sudden cacophony - the trumpeting of elephants! We could see waving vegetation and the occasional leg as the herd approached the river. Our boatman pulled back in the hope that they would emerge into the water. A boat from another lodge piloted by an old man pulled past us and into a little creek some way ahead.

After a while, with no clear sighting of the elephants, we potted further up river, where we were rewarded with wonderful views of a pair of Rhinoceros Hornbills in a fruiting tree. They were daintily picking small round fruits with their enormous white pincers of beaks, and then throwing the berries into their mouths like boys with peanuts. Their casques are huge, as if they had a clown's red-and-yellow upturned slipper tied to their heads.

As we re-passed the little creek we could see that the other tourists were excited, and their boatman beckoned us vigorously. Boy slid the boat quietly into the little channel until we nudged the bank. Just a few yards away, still partly hidden by vegetation, were two adult elephants and a young one. We could hear the low communication rumble. The male, who had small tusks, one shorter than the other, came forward to see exactly what was blocking his way. (They may be called "Pygmy" in relation to their cousins, but they are still big creatures!) He turned and led the family back into the longer grasses. The occupants of the other boat, and then ours, scrambled up the opposite bank in order to take more photos. I thought they were mad and stayed put. A barrage of flashes went off. The young bull swung round, flapped his ears and made a mock charge. My bins were full of elephant as he skidded to a halt at the water's edge. The photographers beat a hasty retreat. Having made his point, the bull and family ambled off into the interior.

### **8<sup>th</sup> October**

Today the boatman took us to the Menanggo River, whose peaty waters look black. It's much slower and narrower than the other two rivers so that the surface has barely a ripple, with beautiful reflections of the overhanging trees and bushes.

Sudden excitement from Dennis and Boy – they had heard the call of a Hooded Pitta. The boat was beached on the mud and all eyes scanned the gloomy shade beneath the mangrove-like vegetation. He was obviously close by, but to begin with nobody could find him. We clambered over the seats to the prow. First Sue, then Olive, exclaimed with delight, but I was stumped. Then, on the ground among the leaf-litter and contorted vines, I caught a flash of Kingfisher-blue. This was the iridescent patch on the bird's shoulder. He came into focus like one of those puzzle-pictures, where you wonder why you couldn't see it before: black head, bright green breast and scarlet belly. He was very upright and moved in short dashes.

After we had moved off and were drifting back to the main river, not just one, but *five* Great Slaty Woodpeckers! Very grey, long-billed and long-necked, they flew into a tall tree with lots of cackling. Dennis concluded that it was a pair with juveniles, and that all the noise was probably a demand for dinner! (Now that the Ivory-billed Woodpecker is extinct, the Great Slaty is the biggest woodpecker in the world.)

Best view yet of Proboscis Monkeys. A group was making its way through the riverside trees, feeding as they went. A male was munching leaves, distended belly and long nose clearly visible. When he moved off, we had great views of a snub-nosed female and her baby. She sat facing us, legs splayed, dandling the baby rather casually by one arm.

### **9<sup>th</sup> October**

Across the river and into the van by 6.35 for the next stage of the journey. When we reached the busy town of Lahud Datu, we stopped briefly at Borneo Rainforest Lodge's offices to swap vans and to collect their young guide Fred.

Arrived at the Lodge around 12.30pm. We had barely got out of the bus when Dennis rushed up to us. A ranger had found a Clouded Leopard (nocturnal) resting in a tree – did we want to see? We scabbled for our walking boots and grabbed walking-sticks. We started off on a well-marked trail and were then led diagonally across a slope. It began to rain and we were handed umbrellas. Tangled undergrowth, leaves and slick mud underfoot on a steep path, encumbered with binoculars, walking-sticks and umbrellas – not easy! The trail fell even harder. I felt sure that the leopard would have left for better shelter before we got there, especially since we weren't able to approach as quietly as we would have liked. But no, we were in luck. He was draped across a fork in a tree, apparently relaxed but watching us intently. His dark dappled coat looked like the shade patterns cast by leaves. His big paws dangled over the branches just as if he were a gangly puppy. We were able to admire him for a good ten minutes or so before carefully making our way back to the lodge. Dennis later told us that he has only seen Clouded Leopard three times in his life, and this was by far the best view he'd ever had. We were very privileged.

We had a late lunch on the large open verandah overlooking the Danum River and the gardens. A very smart Whiskered Tree Swallow posed on a bare twig. Little and Yellow-eared Spiderhunters investigated the banana flowers, while various Sunbirds buzzed about the balsam.

In the late afternoon we set off in light drizzle to the canopy walkway. Highlights:

Perched Grey-rumped Treeswift with his Tintin-esque quiff.

A neat little pair of Blue-crowned Hanging Parrots canoodling.

The disconcertingly large Red-bearded Bee-eater, looking like a well-paunched Victorian patriarch with fiery whiskers.

### **10<sup>th</sup> October**

We headed out first thing in the morning to the end of the Canopy Walkway. Just before we reached it, there was a commotion in the treetops – snapping of branches and vegetation being shaken. A huge Orang-utan was making his presence known. Through binoculars, Fred identified him as Aboo, meaning Ash. His back was like a shaggy red garage door, with powerful limbs at each corner. He turned to look at us – an inscrutable expression in chiselled ebony – and then began to descend the tree. “Don’t worry,” said Dennis, and explained that if he had been really angry, he would have come rapidly arm over arm above us and then excreted on us from a great height! Fred radioed the lodge and soon we were joined by Mr Piour and his assistant. Once an Orang-utan has been sighted, it’s their job to monitor how it spends its day.

The early morning light on the giant forest trees was beautiful – many photos from the walkway. The birds seemed to take a while to wake up and then we had that well-known forest-birding experience: nothing, nothing, nothing, then 15+ species all at once. Various bulbuls and babblers did their best to confuse us with their similar names. The diminutive Rufous Piculet showed well, so we’ve notched up the tiniest and the largest woodpeckers.

In the afternoon, armed (or legged??) with walking-sticks, we took the Jacuzzi Trail, so called because it winds through dense forest to a natural pool fed by a waterfall. The track was narrow and slippery so I spent a lot of time looking at my feet. Dennis was using the tape *and* whistling. Two little somethings were flitting about in the gloomy undergrowth, and we eventually got a lovely view of a pair of Striped Wren-babblers side by side on a black twig. They had pale heads and large dark eyes, which made them look gentle and confiding.

We emerged from the trail onto the access road and began to return. About halfway back Fred spotted a Bornean Bristlehead high in a tall tree. This was quite a find. It’s a strange bird, hefty-looking, black with a big orange head and a dark heavy bill. As Olive said, “That’s a face only a mother could love!”

### **11<sup>th</sup> October**

Once the sun was fully up, it got progressively hotter, but with none of the humidity of the previous days. The sky was an astonishing blue and absolutely cloudless.

A soft, rising whistle from the dense scrub on the left of the road. Dennis and Fred immediately reacted and began imitating. This was the call of the Black-and-Red Pitta, which was coming closer and closer but not showing. We scrambled down the muddy bank and ducked in among the low tangle of branches. We crouched down and waited, while the guides continued to try to whistle him in. Soon the others had had good views, but because of all the undergrowth, a leaf or twig always seemed to be obscuring me. Eventually, Fred and his green laser pen helped me to find the Pitta. It was a very upright little bird whose gloriously red belly came into focus before I registered his purply-blue body. On his dark head there is a straight white line which looks as if he’s got a pencil stuck behind his ear. Worth struggling for!

In the late afternoon we went back to the canopy walkway. On the way, I spotted two largish birds flying about high in the foliage of some distant trees. They were absolutely jet black, almost as if they were absorbing light. These were endemic Black Magpies.

Highlights:

Dusky Broadbill – stocky, and a rather odd colour combination of mauvy-brown body, orange bib and wide pink bill – less grumpy-looking than his smaller Black- and-Yellow cousin;

Lesser Green Leafbird (which I’d kept missing previously,) implausibly glossy.

Bornean Blue Flycatcher – bright blue and orange with a white eye-stripe;  
A female Asian Fairy Bluebird, which was an unusual dull turquoise.

At dinner, Dennis suddenly leapt up and rushed onto the outside verandah. He'd seen a Giant Red Flying Squirrel land in a nearby tree. By flashlight we watched it climb upwards in order to take off again.

After the meal we went for a short night walk close to the lodge, where we saw several tiny frogs, stick insects, scorpions, and a small moth decorated with a frighteningly realistic zombie mask. (Can you say “realistic zombie” ??) Shortly after we got back, torrential rain started, and there was also thunder.

### **12<sup>th</sup> October**

In the morning, we did the entire length of the canopy walkway. On the way back, Dennis and Fred detoured to the staff quarters and we three walked the last part of the road by ourselves and were pleased to identify a new bird. It was obviously a Spiderhunter and was whizzing about between the banana flowers. But it didn't have the clear yellow belly of others we'd seen, was much chunkier, had a long heavy bill and was striped on the front. This was Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter. Olive's book showed that it was an endemic that “got away” because it has now been lumped with a similar bird in Java and Bali.

The day's highlights:

Finsch's Bulbul, all colour-co-ordinated soft greens - olive, sage, apple. He was very smart – the illustration in the book doesn't do him justice.

Foraging in the roadside bushes was a small party of Chestnut-winged Babblers, whose soft burbling song and call notes accompanied us for some distance.

From the walkway we looked down on the spectacular Asian Paradise Flycatcher as he and his incredibly long white tail swept from branch to branch.

We stayed on the canopy walkway until the sun began to go down. On the way back we had a lovely silhouette of an Orang-utan and her baby still feeding, high in a tall tree. This was Fanti and her 10-month-old infant. Dennis and Fred were concerned – by now she should have been finishing her night-nest.

About three-quarters of an hour after we got back, there was the most extreme rainstorm yet. Sheets of rain glimmered in the boardwalk's lights. It was windy too. We thought of Fanti and baby and hoped she'd made and/or found decent shelter.

### **13<sup>th</sup> October**

Up at 5am as usual. We walked up the access road to the walkway. Sue and Fred were some way in front as they reached the boardwalk that cuts through some dense undergrowth on the way to the steps. Both saw a Pitta, briefly on the ground and then flying away from them. Sue felt, after consulting the book, that it was either Fairy or Blue-winged Pitta. Unfortunately, Dennis decided that, like my mystery raptor at Kinabalu, there wasn't enough info to put it on the group list.

Once up in the canopy, I caught up with Green Iora: like a green chaffinch with a slightly startled expression. Much to my chagrin I missed both Crimson-winged Woodpecker and Verditer Flycatcher. But we had an excellent view of Red-billed Malkoha who seemed to be peering down at us quizzically.

We began the long journey home at 8.30am. Another excellent and memorable holiday was over.

### **Acknowledgements**

Grateful thanks to Dennis Yong for all his knowledge, enthusiasm, patience and good humour. Very many thanks to Jenny for providing this diary.

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July 2012

### **Itinerary**

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 01 October 2011 | Depart London   |
| 02 October 2011 | Kota Kinabalu to Kinabalu Park  |
| 03 October 2011 | In Kinabalu Park  |
| 04 October 2011 | In Kinabalu Park: visiting the Mesilau Plateau & Poring Hotsprings  |
| 05 October 2011 | In Kinabalu Park  |
| 06 October 2011 | Kinabalu Park to Bilit, with stops at Likas Bay, Tg Aru & Gomantong Caves enroute.                                      |
| 07 October 2011 | At Bilit: cruising on the Kinabatangan River upstream of the Lodge in the morning & the Tenanggan River in the evening. |
| 08 October 2011 | At Bilit: cruising on the Menanggol River in the morning & the Tenanggan River in the evening.                          |
| 09 October 2011 | Bilit to Lahad Datu to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge.   |
| 10 October 2011 | At Borneo Rainforest Lodge  |
| 11 October 2011 | At Borneo Rainforest Lodge  |
| 12 October 2011 | At Borneo Rainforest Lodge  |
| 13 October 2011 | Borneo Rainforest Lodge to Lahad Datu to Kota Kinabalu.   |
| 14 October 2011 | Arrive London   |

**CHECKLIST OF BIRDS & MAMMALS SEEN**

The sequence and nomenclature of the birds mainly follows *Phillipps' Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo*.

SPECIES	DATE	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	SCIENTIFIC NAME
Crested Fireback										X					<i>Lophura ignita</i>
Crimson-headed Partridge			H		H										<i>Haematortyx sanguiniceps</i>
Chestnut-necklaced Hill Partridge										H					<i>Arborophila charltoni</i>
Storm's Stork							X	X							<i>Ciconia stormi</i>
Purple Heron						X	X	X							<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
Little Egret	X				X	X	X			X		X	X		<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Great Egret					X	X	X								<i>Egretta alba</i>
Cattle Egret												X	X		<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
(Oriental) Darter						X	X	X							<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
Wallace's Hawk Eagle						X				X		X			<i>Spizaetus nanus</i>
Brahminy Kite	X					X		X							<i>Haliastur indus</i>
Lesser Fish Eagle								X		X	X				<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>
Black Eagle						X							X		<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
Crested Serpent Eagle							X	X	X		X	X	X	X	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
Bat Hawk						X					X				<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
Crested Goshawk							X	X							<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
Common Moorhen						X									<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
White-breasted Waterhen									X						<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
Whimbrel						X									<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Common Sandpiper						X	X	X							<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
Little Cuckoo-Dove				X	X										<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>
Zebra Dove						X									<i>Geopelia striata</i>
Spotted-necked Dove						X			X						<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>
Green Imperial Pigeon						X	X	X	X		X				<i>Ducula aenea</i>
Mountain Imperial Pigeon		X	X	X											<i>Ducula badia</i>
Long-tailed Parakeet								X							<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot									X		X				<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
Little Bronze Cuckoo											X				<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
Black-bellied Malkoha				X									X		<i>Phaenicophaeus diardi</i>
Red-billed Malkoha													X		<i>Phaenicophaeus javanicus</i>
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha								X		X	X	X	X		<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>
Raffles' Malkoha									X				X	X	<i>Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus</i>
Buffy Fish Owl								X			X				<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>
Brown Wood Owl									X						<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
Grey-rumped Treeswift									X		X	X	X		<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>
Whiskered Treeswift									X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>
Glossy Swiftlet	X	X	X	X	X										<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>
Edible-nest Swiftlet						N									<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
Black-nest Swiftlet						N									<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>
Mossy-nest Swiftlet						N									<i>Aerodramus salangana</i>
Silver-rumped Spinetail									X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>
Diard's Trogon						X					X				<i>Harpactes diardii</i>
Scarlet-rumped Trogon												X	X		<i>Harpactes duvaucelii</i>
Collared Kingfisher							X		X						<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
Common Kingfisher						X	X	X							<i>Alcedo atthis</i>
Blue-eared Kingfisher								X							<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
Blue-banded Kingfisher										X					<i>Alcedo euryzona</i>
Stork-billed Kingfisher							X	X							<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
Blue-throated Bee-Eater							X	X							<i>Merops viridis</i>
Red-bearded Bee-Eater									X		X				<i>Nyctornis amictus</i>
Dollarbird						X	X	X							<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
Bushy-crested Hornbill								X	X		X				<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>
Wreathed Hornbill								X			X				<i>Aceros undulatus</i>
Wrinkled Hornbill								X							<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>
Rhinoceros Hornbill							X	X			X	H			<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>
Helmeted Hornbill													H		<i>Buceros vigil</i>

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Oriental Pied Hornbill							X	X							<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
Asian Black Hornbill							X	X			X	X			<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>
Golden-naped Barbet		X			H										<i>Megalaima pulcherrima</i>
Gold-whiskered Barbet				X											<i>Megalaima chrysopogon</i>
Red-throated Barbet				H											<i>Megalaima mystacophanos</i>
Blue-eared Barbet				X											<i>Megalaima australis</i>
Brown Barbet							X								<i>Calorhamphus fuliginosus</i>
Crimson-winged Woodpecker													X		<i>Picus puniceus</i>
Orange-backed Woodpecker												X			<i>Reinwardtipicus validus</i>
Great Slaty Woodpecker								X				X			<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>
Buff-rumped Woodpecker										X					<i>Meiglyptes tristis</i>
Grey-and-buff Woodpecker												X			<i>Hemicircus concretus</i>
Dusky Broadbill											X				<i>Corydon sumatranus</i>
Black-and-red Broadbill							X								<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus</i>
Black-and-yellow Broadbill						X					X	X	X	X	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>
Green Broadbill									X						<i>Calyptomena viridis</i>
Black-headed Pitta											X				<i>Pitta ussheri</i>
Hooded Pitta								X							<i>Pitta sordida muelleri</i>
Fairy Pitta													X		<i>Pitta nympha</i>
Green Iora												X	X		<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>
Lesser Green Leafbird										X	X	X	X		<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>
Grey-chinned Minivet		X			X										<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>
Fiery Minivet													X		<i>Pericrocotus igneus</i>
Scarlet Minivet												X	X		<i>Pericrocotus flammeus</i>
Large Woodshrike									X		X				<i>Tephrodornis gularis</i>
Black-winged Flycatcher-Shrike												X	X		<i>Hemipus hirundinaceus</i>
Sunda Cuckoo-Shrike				X	X										<i>Coracina larvata</i>
Lesser Cuckoo-Shrike													X		<i>Coracina fimbriata</i>
Bornean Whistler	X	X													<i>Pachycephala hypoxantha</i>
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch												X	X		<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
Brown Shrike						X									<i>Lanius cristatus cristatus</i>
Long-tailed Shrike									X						<i>Lanius schach</i>
Dark-throated Oriole											X	X	X		<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>
Asian Fairy-Bluebird							X			X	X				<i>Irena puella</i>
Ashy Drongo		X													<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>
Bronzed Drongo						X					X				<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>
Hair-crested Drongo				X											<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>
Black Magpie											X	X			<i>Platysmurus leucopterus aterrimus</i>
Slender-billed Crow						X	X	X	X		X	X			<i>Corvus enca</i>
Crested Jay													H		<i>Platylophus galericulatus</i>
Short-tailed Green Magpie	X	X													<i>Cissa thalassina</i>
Bornean Treepie	X	X	X	X											<i>Dendrocitta cinerascens</i>
Bornean Bristlehead										X		X			<i>Pityriasis gymnocephala</i>
White-breasted Woodswallow						X	X		X					X	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
Barn Swallow			X	X	X	X	X							X	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Pacific Swallow			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
Dark-necked Tailorbird										X					<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird									X	X					<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
Red-headed Tailorbird					X	X									<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
Mountain Tailorbird		X	X	X											<i>Orthotomus cucullatus</i>
Yellow-bellied Prinia												X			<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
Straw-headed Bulbul							X								<i>Pycnonotus zeylanicus</i>
Olive-winged Bulbul					X	X	X	X	X	X		X			<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
Yellow-vented Bulbul			X	X	X	X	X	X				X	X		<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
Red-eyed Bulbul								X		X	X				<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
Spectacled Bulbul								X				X			<i>Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos</i>
Hairy-backed Bulbul										X					<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>
Yellow-bellied Bulbul										X					<i>Criniger phaeocephalus</i>
Buff-vented Bulbul							X						X		<i>Iole olivacea</i>
Finsch's Bulbul													X		<i>Criniger finschii</i>

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Grey-cheeked Bulbul				X					X	X		X	X	X	<i>Criniger bres</i>
Ochraceous Bulbul			X		X										<i>Criniger ochraceus</i>
Arctic Warbler													X		<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>
Mountain Leaf-Warbler		X	X	X	X										<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>
Yellow-breasted Warbler		X	X	X	X										<i>Seicercus montis</i>
Sunda Bush-Warbler			X	X											<i>Cettia vulcania</i>
Striated Grassbird									X						<i>Megalurus palustris</i>
Short-tailed Babbler											X				<i>Malacocincla malaccensis</i>
White-chested Babbler								X							<i>Trichastoma rostratum</i>
Rufous-crowned Babbler												X	X		<i>Malacopteron magnum</i>
Scaly-crowned Babbler										X	X				<i>Malacopteron cinereum</i>
Striped Wren-Babbler										X					<i>Kenopia striata</i>
Black-throated Wren-Babbler												X			<i>Napothera atrigularis</i>
Grey-throated Babbler		X	X												<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>
Chestnut-rumped Babbler													X		<i>Stachyris maculata</i>
Chestnut-winged Babbler									X		X				<i>Stachyris erythroptera</i>
Rufous-fronted Babbler												X	X		<i>Stachyris rufifrons</i>
Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler													X		<i>Pomatorhinus montanus</i>
Bold-striped Tit-Babbler										X					<i>Macronous bornensis montanus</i>
Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler											X				<i>Macronous ptilosus</i>
Brown Fulvetta												X	X		<i>Alcippe brunneicauda</i>
Chestnut-crested Yuhina		X	X	X											<i>Yuhina everetti</i>
Sunda Laughing-Thrush		X													<i>Garrulax palliatus</i>
Chestnut-hooded (capped) Laughing-Thrush		X	X	X	X										<i>Rhinocichla treacheri</i>
Bornean (Bare-headed) Laughing-Thrush				X											<i>Melanocichla calva</i>
Black-capped White-Eye			X	X	X										<i>Zosterops atricapillus</i>
Mountain Black-Eye												X			<i>Chlorocharis emiliae</i>
Javan Myna						X			X						<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
Hill Myna										X		X			<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
Asian Glossy Starling					X	X		X					X		<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
Bornean (Sunda) Whistling-Thrush				X	X										<i>Myophonus borneensis</i>
Oriental Magpie Robin				X											<i>Copsychus saularis adamsi</i>
White-crowned Shama						X				X	X	X			<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>
White-crowned Forktail									X						<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>
Bornean Forktail					X										<i>Enicurus borneensis</i>
Eyebrowed Jungle Flycatcher		X		X	X										<i>Rhinomyias gularis</i>
Asian Brown Flycatcher											X				<i>Muscicapa dauurica dauurica</i>
Bornean Blue Flycatcher											X	X			<i>Cyornis superbus</i>
Malaysian Blue Flycatcher						X	X		X						<i>Cyornis turcosus</i>
Indigo Flycatcher		X		X											<i>Eumyias indigo</i>
Verditer Flycatcher													X		<i>Eumyias thalassina</i>
Asian Paradise-Flycatcher												X			<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>
White-throated Fantail		X	X	X											<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>
Spotted Fantail												X			<i>Rhipidura perlata</i>
Pied Fantail							X			X					<i>Rhipidura javanicus</i>
Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher										X					<i>Culicicapa ceylonensis</i>
Black-naped Monarch								X				X			<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
Maroon-breasted Philentoma									X				X		<i>Philentoma velatum</i>
Rufous-winged Philentoma										X		X			<i>Philentoma pyrhopterum</i>
Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker						X	X								<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker				X											<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
Bornean (Black-sided) Flowerpecker			X		X										<i>Dicaeum monticulum</i>
Thick-billed Flowerpecker										X					<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker										X	X	X			<i>Prionochilus xanthopygius</i>
Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker													X		<i>Prionochilus maculatus</i>
Eastern Crimson Sunbird				X						X	X	X	X		<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
Temminck's Sunbird			X		X										<i>Aethopyga temminckii</i>
Plain Sunbird						X		X			X				<i>Anthreptes simplex</i>
Red-throated Sunbird								X							<i>Anthreptes rhodolaema</i>
Brown-throated Sunbird						X	X								<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>

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Rubycheek									X						<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>
Little Spiderhunter									X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>
Yellow-eared Spiderhunter									X						<i>Arachnothera chrysogenys</i>
Streaky-breasted Spiderhunter												X	X	X	<i>Arachnothera affinis</i>
Chestnut (Black-headed) Munia						X									<i>Lonchura malacca</i>
Dusky Munia			X						X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>
Grey Wagtail	X	X	X	X											<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>
Paddyfield Pipit															<i>Anthus rufulus</i>
Eurasian Tree Sparrow			X	X	X	X			X				X	X	<i>Passer montanus</i>
<b>MAMMALS</b>															
Lesser Treeshrew												X			<i>Tupaia minor</i>
Mountain Treeshrew		X		X											<i>Tupaia montana</i>
Long-tailed Macaque						X	X	X	X	X		X	X		<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>
Pig-tailed Macaque					X							X			<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>
Proboscis Monkey						X	X								<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>
Maroon Leaf Monkey/Langur					X			X		X	X				<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>
Silvered Leaf Monkey/Langur						X									<i>Presbytis cristata</i>
Bornean Gibbon										H					<i>Hylobates muelleri</i>
Orang-Utan					X		X	X	X		X				<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>
Bornean Pygmy Elephant						X	X								<i>Elephas maximus</i>
Giant Squirrel		X													<i>Ratufa affinis</i>
Bornean Black-banded Squirrel		X		X											<i>Callosciurus orestes</i>
Kinabalu Squirrel		X													<i>Callosciurus baluensis</i>
Prevost's Squirrel			X			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	<i>Callosciurus prevosti</i>
Jentink's Squirrel	X	X	X	X											<i>Sundasciurus jentinki</i>
Plain Pygmy Squirrel										X	X				<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>
Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel		X	X	X											<i>Exilisciurus whiteheadi</i>
Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel			X	X											<i>Dremomys everetti</i>
Red Giant Flying Squirrel											X				<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>
Greater Mouse-Deer									X						<i>Tragulus napu</i>
Sambar Deer											X				<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
Binturong (Bear Cat)										X					<i>Arctictis binturong</i>
Sunda Clouded Leopard									X						<i>Neofelis diardi</i>

X = Seen  
H = Heard  
N = Nest

This list represents those birds and other animals seen by party members of this tour.