

Borneo

Mount Kinabalu & Sabah's Fabulous Rainforests

A Greentours Tour Report

9th – 25th January 2010

Led by Phil Benstead

Day 1 departure from the UK

We departed from many and various points!

Day 2 arrival Kota Kinabalu

Phil got into KK at lunchtime and had time for a bit of solo birding around the harbour and out towards Likas. The navigation markers out in the harbour held a number of great crested terns and black-headed gulls. One smaller tern evaded identification but looked interesting. A quick taxi ride took me out to Likas. The tide was high and the lagoons have become very overgrown so it was a bit disappointing. Some good birds though including Oriental reed warbler, striated grassbird and host of common wetland birds. A few damselflies were evident in the marginal vegetation, but only the prosaic *Ichnura senegalensis* and *Agriocnemis feminea*. The seawall produced an immature monitor lizard (*Varanus salvator*) and a skittish and elusive lizard hiding in the sea defences may well have been mangrove skink.

Day 3 to Kinabalu National Park

At the hotel reception we are finally all gathered together as a group and meet up with Adrian (our Malaysian guide) and our driver. The journey north along the coast is uneventful and we can see little in the dark. As we climb into the hills though the road gets more interesting and the driving of those around us gets slightly more interesting too. As the sun rises the mountain shows well and the cloud-filled valleys below us are very picturesque.

Arriving at the Park HQ we all head for our breakfast and then sort ourselves out for a walk along a nearby ridge. The weather stays clear and even sunny and we have a pleasant hike. Shelagh spots a terrestrial orchid at the start of the trail – the distinctive white-flowered *Macodes lowii*. Birds are hard to come by as usual here, but we have great views of an obliging female Whitehead's trogon and start making inroads into the commoner flock species. We have a nice encounter with a female Mugimaki flycatcher at one point.

The sun brings out a few butterflies too. Joanna spots our first Rajah Brooke's birdwing, always a special moment. We later see another slightly better specimen, but only in flight.

As we potter along in the forest, we enjoy the spectacularly bright bark of the occasional *Tristaniopsis bilocularis*, a distant relative of the eucalypt. The orange bark-free surface of this tree seems to glow in the relatively low light levels encountered under the canopy and contrasts greatly with the muted greens and browns that dominate the forest. On the trail we find the gnawed remains of acorns from *Lithocarpus luteus*, a reminder that there are more oaks in the tropics than in temperate regions. We note the curious double-tipped leaf of a fern (*Cheiropleura bicuspis*) in the undergrowth. As we cross the road we get a brief glimpse of a flyover peregrine. The last part of our walk takes us down a short stretch of the Silau-Silau stream, a beautiful little spot. The clear stream contains plenty of tadpoles and we look forward to a re-visit after dark to look for adult amphibians and other denizens of the night.

We carry on the group-bonding process over a tasty lunch sitting on the restaurant balcony, next to a strange endemic conifer (*Dacrydium gibbsiae*). The mist rolls in over lunch. Will it rain in the afternoon? After lunch we take a short break before the rest of the day's activities.

Well it does rain! Our afternoon walk starts at the top gate, where we spend a happy hour watching birds from the various forms of shelter found in this area. A big bird flock is in residence and we see our first ashy drongos stoically sitting out in the rain. The flock contains beautiful blue indigo flycatchers, active little yellow-breasted warblers and mountain leaf-warblers and a skulky mountain blackeye. Adrian finds us a mint-condition golden-naped barbet, feeding low down in a fruiting shrub right beside the trail. Excellent views are obtained, but getting a decent photo in the downpour is rather harder! Eventually we opt to head downhill, through the mist and rain. Very atmospheric but hard work. We do bump into a few new birds though; a grey wagtail flies ahead of us and nips back down to the river and a small group of grey-throated babblers entertains us at one point. A pair of snowy-browed flycatchers appear out of the gloom but light levels are appalling inside the cloud! Eventually the rain picks up to unacceptable levels and we get back into the van and head for an early shower.

After dinner, we all head out for a night walk, despite the light rain. This proves to be a very good idea. We lose count of the number of Kinabalu slender toads that we see, but it is harder work finding other species of amphibian. Joanna spots a lovely Everett's tree frog, our only one of the walk. Phil finds a number of great stick insects, of at least three (unknown) species. The rain has made the Silau-Silau trail a bit soggy but we soldier on. We find a number of very small crickets with unfeasibly long antennae and other macro-oddities include a range of flatworms. The jewel in the crown though comes right at the top of the trail by the road, when Phil spots an immature Kinabalu horned toad (*Megophrys baluensis*). We had hit the jackpot, a tough frog to find, very charismatic and a species that is only found on this one mountain. Two hours have evaporated somehow, so we yomp back down the road in no time at all and head for bed.

Day 4 Kinabalu and onto Mesilau

A fairly leisurely start sees us heading for breakfast at 0700. A blue sky greets us and the mountain looks fantastic. After breakfast we grab packed lunches (and a porter to carry them) and head up to the gate for a crack at the summit trail. Taking our time we heave ourselves up the steep parts of the hill. Pretty soon we are amongst the first of many pitcher plants on the walk – all *Nepenthes tentaculata*. Flowering orchids are in short supply today but we find the

distinctive *Coelogyne radioferrans* and a few other species. Along one exposed ridge section of the trail we bump into two splendid blue admirals (hill-topping?). Shelagh gets stuck into the rhododendrons and we see at least three species during our climb up to 2250 metres. The beautiful and classy bell-like flowers of *cuneifolium*, contrast markedly with the opulent tropical blousiness of *crassifolium*.

Phil has a packet of biscuits and at one of the shelters we bait in some fantastic small mammals. Bornean ground squirrels compete with Mountain treeshrews for the crumbs. Every now and again a Jentink's squirrel comes in too. We enjoy an early lunch on the hill, mobbed by squirrels, before slowly drifting back downhill, shrouded in cloud and with a little light rain to speed us back to the waiting bus. Next stop is the botanical garden. Adrian guides us round here for an hour or so and we enjoy a variety of flowering orchids.

On the drive around to the resort at Mesilau, we stop at the fruit stalls at Kundasang and buy a selection of tropical fruits. The durian is much appreciated by its devotees and for those with a slightly less refined palate there were some excellent wild rambutans, mangosteens and longans.

We settle into our villa at 2000 metres (asl) and head for the first of many checklist sessions before dinner. Afterwards some of us head out for a short walk to the river. It is a quiet night though, but we see a few interesting invertebrates and just one frog. But what a frog it is, a juvenile *Leptolax arayai*, perhaps the first record ever away from the HQ area of the park. And so to bed.

Day 5 Mesilau and transfer to Poring

A 'winter' virus decimated our team overnight and so a very depleted crew headed out for the Nepenthes Safari after breakfast. Before breakfast though some of us took the long route to the restaurant through the forest. A pleasant but rather quiet walk was had, although the captive rhododendrons interested Shelagh no end.

The big news at reception at the start of our Nepenthes walk was that Sukaibin, our stalwart guide of the last five years had been transferred away from Mesilau on January 1st. So we picked up the key and self-guided the walk across the suspension bridge and onto the trail that takes in the landslip favoured by these spectacular plants. On the way we had a fleeting glimpse of the endemic Bornean stubtail; you are rarely out of earshot of this little bird in the mountains but seeing one is another matter entirely. A pair of red-breasted partridges feeds on the path and we drive them ahead of us for a little way. A tame lesser gymnure entertains us as it fossicks about looking for prey.

As soon as we crossed the bridge we were face-to-face with the translocated colony of *Nepenthes burbidgeae*, perhaps the most beautifully marked of the pitchers available to us on this tour. Climbing upwards we found a few flowering orchids. Climbing further up the steps we found our first *Nepenthes raja*, these huge lipstick red pitchers are just enormous. Good-sized specimens hold a couple of pints of murky-looking water, small mammals sometimes drown in them! Perhaps the finest flower of the trip came next when Phil spots a trailside *Paphilopidium hookeri*, it is in mint condition and just off the verge of being fully open. Fantastic. We also see

our first flowering *Rhododendron rugosa*. Well satisfied we drop back down to the river and walk back to our villa. As we leave the trail we bump into a small group of mountain wren babblers, which show incredibly well and then we go and check on the patients.

Lunch is a sparsely attended event and then we are off downhill to see what damage the bulldozers have done to 'Soggy Bottom' – our once-glorious *Nepenthes* site. Although it looks bad from the road, we have just lost one species (*reinwardtiana*) so far. Adrian digs about and finds a splendid stand of *stenophylla* and nearby a single *fusca* plant. Driving on we stop by the clinic in Ranau and stock up on anti-emetics and torch batteries!

On the last leg of the journey we make one final stop to enjoy a glorious colony of *Nepenthes mirabilis* – rounding off a fantastic day with these fascinating plants. Poring is next and we are delighted to find we have been upgraded to a recently renovated villa. We feel like we deserve it and look forward to three nights of comfortable residence. Bearing in mind the overall condition of the team we elect to take it easy for the remainder of the afternoon and reconvene for checklists and dinner at a suitable hour. When we arrive at the restaurant, Adrian has a little surprise for us in the shape of a splendid spiny slender toad, a great little amphibian.

Phil heads out for a night-walk after dinner. Collared scops-owls call from the trees around the restaurant. Taking the waterfall trail produces some excellent amphibians with rock skipper, northern torrent frog and painted slender litter frog all appearing in small numbers. A few phasmids are spotted too and some enormous hunting spiders. Arboreal rats scamper about in the foliage on a number of occasions but it is generally a rather quiet walk.

Day 6 Poring

A 0600 start this morning, after overnight rain, was a bit gloomy. As the sun struggled to rise we did the rounds of the lights in the clearing. This activity produced some huge stunned rhinoceros beetles and a few cicadas. Crossing the river, Adrian spots a fine roosting angle-head lizard (*Gonocephalus bornensis*), before we walk through the hot spring clearing. Overhead grey-rumped tree swifts appear and Adrian finds us our first lantern bug (*Pyrops intricata*).

The walk to the waterfall took a long time, as the second clearing was hooching with birds. The endemic dusky munia plays hide-and-seek with us along the path. A big gathering of frugivorous birds occupied us, bulbuls a plenty here and even a gold-whiskered barbet put in an appearance at one point. This feeding activity pulled in a number of other species too. Shelagh spots our first woodpecker (a buff-necked) and a small group of buff-rumped woodpeckers are tracked down shortly after. Dark-hooded orioles occasionally materialise in the fruiting plants and nearby perches hold both hair-crested and greater racket-tailed drongos. Tiny orange-bellied leafbirds take part in the fruit bonanza too and before long we are exhausted by the flow of new species.

The waterfall produces a lovely pair of white-crowned forktails, but breakfast beckons and so we turn back and retrace our steps as a light rain falls. A huge web catches our eye, in the centre an enormous *Nephela* spider waits patiently.

After breakfast we drive to a nearby *Rafflesia keithii* site. The local people who have this amazing plant on their land have quickly realised the financial advantages of displaying them

to visiting tourists. We drove a short way out of Poring and transferred to a small van that took us up a bumpy track through degraded forest and across two streams. Leaving the van we had to walk only a couple of minutes to the flower (a large specimen). It was about four days old but in excellent shape, no sign of decay, although the perigone-lobes (petals to you and me) had drooped somewhat. We had the place to ourselves which was pleasant, no pressure and no time constraints. We identified the nearby host vine (*Tetrastigma*) and observed the many buds of future flowers littering the forest floor. Being in the presence of such a wonderful plant is always a trip highlight and today was no exception.

With the rain building and with no end in sight, we elect next for an early shower and hope that the rain will stop to allow a longer afternoon session. After lunch we head out again in the direction of the Botanical Garden. Adrian has discovered that three (!) *Rafflesias* are flowering together behind the Parks building. Sure enough, after purchasing a ticket we find them just behind the ticket office. Three huge flowers piled on top of each other, and another three week old rotting bloom too. Although the same age as the flower we saw in the morning, these looked a bit tired. Suspicious, Adrian searches out someone to question, sure enough this plant or plants are the result of successful artificial inoculation of *Rafflesia* material into the host vine.

As we leave the area the heavens open again and we head to the nearby Orchid Garden. Light levels are low here and we struggle to find any blooming orchids. We do find a lovely *Nepenthes ampullaria* plant and another (unidentified) pitcher. The rain falls but despite the poor conditions we scare up a damselfly (*Copera vittata*). Leaving the gardens after a short stay we head back to the villa early and hope that the rain will stop before our planned night-walk.

On the way to dinner Phil spots a superb jade tree frog, just sitting on top of a post by the side of the road. Fortunately the rain does indeed stop after dinner and we head out for a nightwalk along the now raging Sungai Kipungit. Our first stop is to watch a heavily-armoured spiny phasmid female excavating an egg chamber in a palm trunk – fascinating to see. Frogs dominate proceedings during the walk, with for starters more spiny slender toads near the entrance to the canopy walkway. We disturb a roosting white-crowned shama next and then go down to the waterfall where we see northern torrent frog and Kuhl's creek frog.

The walk downstream is uneventful, although hidden high in the canopy we see the bright eyeshine and flat countenance of a slow loris. We see a good range of spiny phasmids during the walk and some nice bright green katydids too. An immature giant river toad loafing in the streamside vegetation is a first for us. Yomping back we stop briefly to enjoy the most photogenic frog in Borneo, the splendid spotted stream frog (*Rana picturata*), and we see our first white-lipped frogs too. A tiny frog notable for its uniform green body and paler striped hindlegs proves to be a new frog for the tour – the saffron-bellied frog (*Chaperina fusca*). Nice one. Going home through the hot springs clearing we hear a Sunda scops-owl, but it remains unseen in the canopy. And so to bed.

Day 7 Poring

Our dawn assault on the canopy walkway is cancelled for safety reasons and the rivers along the waterfall trail are too high and fast to cross safely. What to do? Frustrating. Having got up

nice and early we did the rounds of the lights to see what had come in overnight. Some great moths, beetles and katydid were discovered. Over an early and lengthy breakfast, Adrian called around on the phone to see if there was any break in the weather at nearby alternative sites, but discovered it was raining all over Sabah. A little bit of rain, usually in the afternoon, is the norm here. To get 36 hours of almost constant rain is unusual.

So we headed back up the road to Kundasang and visited the moving memorial to the nearly 2500 allied POWs killed by the Japanese in the infamous Borneo death march of 1945. The memorial gardens include a well-maintained Borneo section to honour the huge numbers of the local people killed during the Japanese occupation. Here we find some splendid orchid blooms, the Paphilopedium's are wondrous and the glowing *Bulbophyllum lobbi* a delight as usual. In amongst the blooms are the occasional *Nepenthes* and we see our first *reinwardtiana* in captivity.

It is market day in Kundasang and the place is crowded with shoppers. We visit the fruit stall again for more fruit. Although durian is not the only fruit it is hard to persuade Phil and the repercussions are experienced by everyone in the van later. The local vegetable stalls are a feast for the eyes, serried ranks of carefully weighed and bagged produce lined up on each stall. Moving on we head to Ranau for a light lunch of roti canai – a fried doughy pancake with curry sauce. Joanna bravely tries a soft drink that includes small pieces of alginate jelly. Tasty. Shopping next with a chance to buy some of the things we have been eating, the key ingredients for the splendid Malaysian dessert, sago gula melaka being a favourite. Getting out of the van, we thank our driver Danny, who is returning to KK. A new vehicle awaits us for tomorrow's transfer to Sukau.

Back at Poring the rain seemed to ease off and it almost got warm. We decide not to walk too far and head for the butterfly garden. Not much moving here in the garden (although Joanna spots our first *Idea stollii* gliding along the forest edge) and the captive populations are keeping a low profile too although we do see a male Rajah Brooke's birdwing and a number of other impressive butterflies including a male golden birdwing and a number of swallowtails. The heavens open though and we get pinned in one of the gatehouses of the butterfly 'aviary'. Eventually it eases off and we head for yet another early shower. Frustrating but that's life sometimes. We really fervently hope for a break in the weather for our afternoon at Gomantong in the morrow.

Rain continues through dinner and beyond in the evening. The river is now a raging torrent and the waterfall trail has been officially closed. There are positives though, frogs are out in force, calling mating and laying eggs. Phil takes a solo walk to see what is abroad after dinner. Torrents of water are coming off the hill. A mooch about the canopy boardwalk entrance area, produces the first dark-eared tree frog of the trip.

We had noticed plenty of foam nests over a pond near the villas and it was here that Phil went next. The place was alive with frogs. The most numerous was (amazingly) jade tree frog, over 75 being present in this fantastic colony. Pairs in amplexus were on every bit of vegetation. Females stood guard over recently created foam nests and Phil's camera flashes away happily. Other species present include more dark-eared tree frogs, three file-eared tree frogs, four-lined tree frog, a noisy and well-inflated brown bullfrog, Kuhl's creek frog and white-lipped frog.

Day 8 **to Sukau**

Our dawn canopy boardwalk was cancelled again due to the weather and so we had a lie-in before crossing the river to breakfast. If the river was a raging torrent yesterday, then this morning it was a roaring cataract! The noise was phenomenal. After breakfast we headed back up to the villa, the pond had loads of foam tree frog 'nests', some hanging in vegetation four metres above the surface of the water.

The drive in the rain was fairly uneventful, but with amazing scenes of localised flooding, swollen rivers and floodplains and lots of kids mucking about on inflated inner tubes. We stop briefly for a tasty lunch in a roadside restaurant before continuing on our way. We change our schedule slightly in the afternoon and decide not to visit Gomantong in the pouring rain. Instead we head straight to Sukau and pin all of the days hopes on a soggy boat ride. Arriving at the jetty it is evident that the Kinabatangan is in flood, huge logs and other bits are floating rapidly past us. We organise a covered boat for us and our stuff and get ourselves to the Lodge.

After a bit of orientation and luggage sorting we are ready to head out in the pouring rain. Grimly we hide behind our brollies as we zoom downstream, chasing elephants that have been seen during the day by other people. After about 40 minutes the boatman eases off the throttle and there in front of us are the first of eight Bornean pygmy elephants. We watch these splendid little beasts for some time as they feed quietly in front of us before parading past us and back into the forest. Special stuff and by no means guaranteed. Motoring back the rain gets a bit more manageable and we see a gang of proboscis monkeys, a grey-capped pygmy woodpecker and some Oriental pied hornbills. Optics and camera use is still not possible though sadly. As dusk approaches we reach the Lodge, pleased to have seen the elephant.

The covered boardwalk allowed us to take a stroll after dinner. Frogs were calling away though and we eventually found a couple of harlequin tree frogs and two excellent Smith's giant geckos on the gable ends of our accommodation block.

Day 9 **Sukau**

A wet morning so we relaxed until lunch.

Finally the weather gods smiled on us again, the rain decreased during lunch and stopped altogether shortly after we started our afternoon boat trip. It made an immediate difference and we started to see some of the wildlife that the Kinabatangan is famous for. Stork-billed kingfishers whizzed about behind their huge bills. Hornbills finally started to appear and we ended up seeing five species, including the scarce wrinkled and the ever-impressive rhinoceros.

A huge monitor stretched out on a horizontal tree trunk was a fine sight. Black-and-red broadbills played hide-and-seek with us in riverside bushes. A plaintive cuckoo showed well briefly and we heard many more. Blue-throated bee-eaters appeared when we motored up a tributary and worked the forest/oil palm boundary. Everywhere large birds hung and fanned out their wings and tails to dry – we knew how they felt. A gang of monkeys included our first silvered langurs and we got better views of both long-tailed macaque and proboscis monkey

during the ride. On the way back we bumped into the first of two Storm's storks – an endangered bird still found in reasonable numbers on the river.

After dinner we went round the boardwalk slowly. A brown wood owl called occasionally but refused to show. Frogs were heard in abundance but were harder to find, we did see tree hole frog (*Metaphrynella sundana*), harlequin and dark-eared tree frog and a mystery frog. Some wacky insects appeared but we cannot find any big phasmids.

Day 10 Sukau and Gomantong

No rain this morning as we meet up for our dawn boat-ride. Out on the Menangul side-channel, water levels were high, the forest flooded on both sides as far as you could see. It was rather quiet but we could find things. A lesser fish-eagle perched imperiously overlooking the swollen river. We had more encounters with stork-billed kingfishers and we could hear blue-eared kingfishers whizzing about inside the forest. Dawn was noisy with bird song too; we heard three species of trogon, chestnut-necklaced partridge and short-toed coucal amongst others. Another Storm's stork appeared on a riverside snag and then we burst out into the main river and the sun.

Back at the lodge we heard the news that an orang-utan had been spotted just a short way along the board-walk. Some of us nipped in and just caught a view of the elusive little blighter before he went to ground (tree?). The garden had filled with butterflies, dragonflies and skinks, all enjoying the sun. After breakfast we returned to the boardwalk for a leisurely amble. First-up was two species of kingfisher in quick succession, first a stationary ruddy kingfisher and then a more mobile but equally obliging rufous-backed kingfisher. A chestnut-breasted malkoha showed well in the canopy and a number of squirrels were spotted including Low's, plantain and Prevost's squirrel. A small colony of yellow *Calanthe* orchids were photographed.

We caught up with our checklists before lunch, but were quickly out on the boardwalk to the jetty when the cry of 'snake' was heard. Thanks to an Australian group we had the chance to compare two tree snakes – *Dendrelaphis caudolineatus* and *pictus* – almost side-by-side as they hung down from epiphytes, swaying softly in a non-existent breeze. Excellent start, albeit late, to the snake list.

After lunch we headed downstream to find the jetty we had left from two days ago, about a metre underwater. We transferred to a 4WD and headed for Gomantong. En route in the inevitable oil palm plantations, we saw a few birds including striated grassbird and white-breasted woodswallow. At the gate to Gomantong we got out and spent a pleasant hour walking the road in. Phil spotted our first Bornean gibbon and we eventually counted at least four animals in this family group. They swung gracefully off in the end, leaving us with our memories.

Joanna, without binoculars due to the wet weather earlier, was spotting plenty of stuff by eye including some splendid bearded pigs and a daytime bathawk. Rain fell at one point which hampered viewing but when it cleared up we had scope views of a splendid brown barbet. The road produced a superb surprise in the form of three noisy Oriental small-clawed otters, they appeared briefly at the roadside and then vanished after staring at us for a very short time.

Superb. Canopy flocks appeared and a few new species were gleaned from them including green iora and black-winged flycatcher shrike.

Eventually though it was time to get back in the car for the short ride to the HQ and the walk to the cave. Around the car park, we found two of the raptors that would feature in the great bat-hunt at dusk – we were lucky to see a superb perched bathawk and also got a great view of a perched crested goshawk. Two maroon langurs here are a great addition to our growing primate list. Walking in we see a nice short-tailed babbler before we come out into the cave clearing where the worker sand cave guardians are based.

The recent rain has flushed the cave out, and we walk gingerly to the boardwalk. Visiting the cave is always a bitter-sweet experience. Fascinating and grim at the same time. Walking in we see crabs, feeding in the outflow stream. As the light levels drop the cockroaches and huge long-legged *Scutigera* centipedes take over. High above us the wrinkle-lipped bats start to squeak in excitement at the prospect of a night out. Finding swiftlet nests can be a challenge so soon after a harvest, but we have no problem finding some low nests of the commercially unimportant mossy-nest swiftlet. Scanning the cave walls reveals a number of bat species and even a dense knot of cave fruitbats. Carefully picking our way along the guano covered boardwalk we head for daylight and the bat parade.

We do not have to wait long before the first wrinkle-lipped bats start to appear, a thin stream at first, that quickly attracts the attention of the four bathawks stationed overhead. Time and again, we watch the bathawks successfully stoop into the constantly rotating helix of bats as they flee the cave. The captured bats are swiftly dispatched and eaten whole. The stream breaks up under the constant harrassment and knots of confused bats mill about overhead. Soon though the bathawks and other raptors are sated and the stream flows on more or less unmolested for a full 40 minutes (a conservative estimate gives us a total of half a million bats). A gang of pig-tailed macaques haunt the clearing – another new primate for the trip. A noisy gang of bushy-crested hornbills give excellent views in nearby trees, seven of them squeezed up together cartoon-style and sharing a joke. Meanwhile, the lower cave entrance is being used by another species of bat that stream out low and fast directly into the forest. As dusk approaches a stream of swiftlets returns to the cave too roost, the guard has been changed.

We walk back to the car in the dark, the carpark ditch has a hunting red-sided keelback, our third snake of the day (like buses, they are). The drive out can be good for spotlighting but tonight is not our night, although we do see a buffy fish-owl briefly on the road. First otters now fish-owls, it must be wet in the forest. We get back in time for another great feed. Because of debris we are again denied the chance of a night boat-ride and resign ourselves to another walk around the boardwalk. This is rather quiet, so we head for bed after a long but successful day.

Day 11 to Tabin via Gomantong

The day of departure dawned, allowing us a more leisurely start than we have become accustomed to of late. We cruise downstream to the waiting van. Gomantong produces some great moments as usual. Phil finds a skulking orang-utan female with a dependent youngster.

They eventually haul themselves out of the thick roadside vegetation and give great views in the trees. Our first good sighting of this magical beast.

A Storm's stork circles high over the forest. Sunny periods bring out some invertebrates and we use the telescope to watch some great Odonates, including the petite libellulid *Tetrathemis irregularis* and the tiny orange paint-dipped *Agriocnemis alcyone*. Butterflies came out to play as well. Common bluebottles zipped along the road and beautiful Malay lacewings nectared with the now commonplace clippers. Whilst we were watching invertebrates, Adrian was busy whistling in a black-and-crimson pitta. We arrived just as the bird hopped up onto a branch and got reasonable views of this very colourful bird through the 'scope.

Eventually we had to tear ourselves away from the delights of Gomantong and head for Lahad Datu. Just before town we crossed the Segama River and had two more Storm's storks flying along the road. We had an interesting lunch in a sterile Chinese restaurant filled with lunching businessmen and managed to do a bit of essential shopping too before meeting the van that was to transfer us into Tabin. We were escorted out of Lahad Datu by a superb adult white-bellied eagle, it eventually peeled off and landed on a pylon where a youngster was sitting on an untidy nest.

Tabin proved to be situated along a bumpy dirt road that travels for miles through oil palm plantation. We reach the gate and immediately spot three more perched Storm's storks, the trip tally of this endangered bird reaching nine. Overhead flies an immature rufous-bellied hawk-eagle. The road is flanked on one side by oil palm and on the other by secondary forest, we see nothing further to stop us until we reach the lodge. We are the first team in after the recent flooding, and the clean-up and routine maintenance is underway.

After a brief orientation, we settle into our rooms and then report for the drive up to the trail-head to the mud volcano with our guide Maldin. The short drive sees us to the start of the muddy, 700 metre trail through good forest. En route we see a fleeting emerald dove and have another glimpse of a black-and-crimson pitta. Wellies are de rigeur for this walk, but despite the conditions we only see one leech. The mud volcano is extraordinary. A shallow cone of earth thrown up and devoid of vegetation. On closer examination the central part is found to consist of several small, gloopy mud pools, which occasionally bubble lazily. A fairly fresh mudflow down one side of the cone indicated though that it occasionally showed a little bit more energy. We climb the observation tower and spend an hour listening to the manic laughter of the helmeted hornbill and seeing a pair of black hornbills as they drift through the trees around the clearing. Walking back along the trail in the dark we hear a number of male treehole frogs, each call a slightly different pitch depending on the size of the frog and the dimensions of the occupied treehole. We find a tiny male near the trail, calling lustily from a tiny knothole filled with water. And so to dinner.

Our last session of this busy day involved us driving back out on the entrance road for a good two hour spotlighting session. Maldin was awake throughout and found us a great selection of mammals and birds. First up was the first of an unbelievable seven leopard cats. All seen in the oil palm that runs alongside the boundary of the secondary forest along the road. We watched leopard cats mooching about, socialising in pairs and just sitting around. All out in the open in plain view, extraordinary. Two shy pigs provided brief entertainment. An elephant crossing

the road was easier to spot, and he hung around nicely before shouldering his way through the roadside vines and bamboos and away.

Perhaps the highlight of the session though was our encounter with the first of two black flying squirrels. We watched as he climbed high into a nearby tree and then after some serious encouragement from the combined team, threw himself out into the void, his patagium membrane spread he glided in a graceful curve around to the next tree. Show-off! A big hit judging from the squeals of delight (mostly Phil). Driving back happy we still had time for a perched brown wood-owl, a gang of dozing bushy-crested hornbills, a mouse-deer and a splendid common palm civet, the latter slinking through the lodge grounds. Splendid stuff.

Day 12 Tabin

An early breakfast woke us up at dawn, before we headed out in the open-top truck along the road to the core area. A grey wagtail kept us company for a while, flying on ahead of the vehicle. Maldin spotted an excellent orang-utan high in a fruiting tree. It was our first mature male, a big fellah with the wide cheek flanges. A big monitor lizard ambled along the road. We stop to look at a fine pair of the peculiar-looking red-bearded bee-eaters. Tired of being cooped up in the van we decide to walk back towards HQ from here.

The walk produced some great wildlife. Sadly conditions remained overcast throughout, but this meant we could stay out until 1100 without discomfort. Hornbills were on the menu again with several views of flying prehistoric-looking helmeted hornbills and a pair of wreathed hornbills flying past on noisy wings. Bird activity was rather muted until we reached an area rich in fruiting trees and then we started to see some beauties. An Asian fairy bluebird perched up preening and allowed good views through the scope. Hanging-parrots were everywhere. Little and long-billed spiderhunters zipped about. Joanna spots an adult Wallace's hawk-eagle as it thunders across the road and on through the understorey.

Shelagh spots our first giant squirrel high in a tree. A canopy flock sweeps though, loaded with new birds; we manage to pick out brown-throated sunbird, Everett's whiteye, fiery minivet and black-winged flycatcher-shrike before it melts away again. Perhaps the most exciting moment comes when two Bornean yellow muntjac appear on the track nearby and prong away up the road with their tails raised and flared wide. This is a hard deer to find, and one of us is very pleased indeed.

Eventually the rain starts to fall gently, so we climb aboard the truck and head back to the lodge for a snooze before lunch. The river at the back of the chalets holds a noisy couple of blue-eared kingfishers when we get back, incredibly our first of the trip.

In the afternoon we head out again with Maldin, on foot this time to try the Sambar Deer Trail. It is typically quiet but there is a huge surprise in the shape of three Hose's langurs, perhaps the first time these have been seen on the tour (second, we had just the one at Sukau about ten years ago! Ian) and completing our set of available diurnal primates for this trip! They are unfortunately rather skittish and quickly slide 30 metres straight down the trunk of a tree and into the thick vegetation below. We get one more glimpse of one of them a few minutes later as it makes good its escape. Along the way we find a few canopy flocks and see more malkohas,

leafbirds and minivets. The retching call of the black hornbill is ever present and we glimpse them occasionally. A large feathery white mealy bug entrances us as it dances along a twig on the forest floor. Borneo really is the home of the weirdest invertebrates imaginable.

Another night drive was on offer and we all enthusiastically climbed aboard the truck for another long spotlighting session. This time we were to search the road into the core area. With secondary forest on both sides, we knew we would see different things and this proved to be the case. First up was a great pair of buffy fish-owls, disturbed at the ford and flying up to give great views. The commonest mammal on the drive was the Malay civet (perhaps 8, we lost count) and we got incredible views of several, including one that caught a mouse in the headlights and crunched it up in front of us. A few common palm civets were spotted and we got great views of one of them. A fruiting tree held two small-toothed palm civets, avidly feeding on fruit and displaying great agility as the reached out to the furthest reaches of the tree. Maldin spotted (somehow) two roosting rhinoceros hornbill high in a tree. Phil retaliated by finding a 3.5 metre reticulated python, slowly travelling down a stream. We all climbed down to enjoy this beast as it slid under the bridge. A brown hawk-owl called nearby.

We were not ignoring the canopy in all this and patient searching revealed some great flying squirrels. Phil found the first of three endemic Thomas' flying squirrels and we also saw at least four red giant flying squirrels. Checking a roadside pool produces some mating file-eared tree frogs but nothing more exciting. Driving back after 2.5 hours we were treated to close views of brown wood owl, a sleeping yellow-bellied prinia and our only leopard cat of the evening. Superb session under the stars, but a night off is called for tomorrow!

Day 13 Tabin

Somehow we dragged ourselves from our beds for a dawn breakfast. Back into the truck and out for another walk along the core area access track. We stop first near the staff accommodation though to admire the family group of Bornean gibbons, the adults sing out their evocative duet, proclaiming their land rights, meanwhile a tiny youngster swings about having fun, Superb views.

The weather is fine and we even get some sun. I doubt there has been a trip to Borneo with so little sun in a fortnight, we are all looking a bit pasty. The walk produces some great stuff, it is especially nice to finally see a few butterflies and dragonflies. Our first flying-lizard (*Draco cornutus*) glides in and shows off on the trunk of a nearby tree. The incomparable Malay lacewing is joined by equally fabulous banded swallowtails and host of other butterflies. Roadside ponds produce a few new Odonates including *Agrionoptera insignis*, *Cratilla lineata* and *Lestes praemorsus*. Huge wreathed hornbills fly noisily overhead occasionally.

Bird flocks come through regularly and we slowly added new species to our list. Eventually though the rising heat depressed bird activity and we climbed back aboard the vehicle for the transfer back to the lodge.

Late afternoon saw us heading out on a 'dusk' drive down the access track. This gave us plenty of time to enjoy watching a large troupe of pig-tailed macaques as they went about their business. Youngsters played together boisterously and new-borns clung to their mothers as

they were carted about the place. Big monitor lizards were spotted on the road ahead, before they shambled off into the undergrowth. We also watched monitors snoozing on horizontal tree boughs, the very picture of relaxation.

Reaching the gate we waited for darkness to fall. The ever-present clicking call of the white-lipped frog was eventually drowned out by a wave of insect noise and at 1815 the six o'clock cicada added its strident wail to the din. The night shift had taken over and as if to emphasise this we were soon surrounded by a few dancing fireflies. After a quick look at the crescent moon through the 'scope we headed back towards base. The ride back produced another handful of leopard cats, a red giant flying squirrel and a few common palm and Malay civets. We also had another splendid black flying squirrel encounter with another superb U-turn display flight almost overhead.

Day 14 Tabin

An early start again this morning, but breakfast was slow to materialise and we got held up further by a gang of noisy Oriental small-clawed otters in the river by the restaurant. We did eventually climb aboard the truck and head out along the core area road. The second river crossing produced another gang of otters, this time including a tiny youngster, wailing for its mother and dashing about the river. We also stopped for a pair of falconets, finally getting good views of this sometimes elusive endemic. Nearby trees held a superb adult dark phase changeable hawk-eagle too. Spoilt we were.

Conditions today were back to the sadly familiar overcast conditions with more than a hint of impending rain. The walk on from the turning point at km 10 was still through secondary forest but the trail narrowed and leeches became a problem for the first and last time on the trip. At the start of the trail we were joined briefly by a superb adult black eagle, that soared overhead on the look out for an unwary squirrel. We potted along looking at the occasional plant (the beautiful compact blooms of the *Asclepia* being a favourite) and enjoying a range of invertebrates. Shelagh found a strange bug, and we bumped into another curious bug, with delta wings, superficially resembling a moth, coloured like the Jamaican flag and with a tendency to leap off explosively if tampered with. Borneo really is the epicentre of invertebrate weirdness.

In the same vein we also enjoyed testing the tensile strength of the huge *Nephila* spider webs across the trail. More excitingly we also bumped into perhaps the weirdest spider of them all, the huge red and horny curved spiny spider *Gasteracantha arcuata* sitting in the middle of his web by the trail.

The trail narrowed further and we were soon walking in the footsteps of elephants, they had been along the trail recently feeding on gingers. A few new birds appeared but as we reached the point where we would have to retrace our steps to the truck, the heavens opened. In 50-odd tours I do not think I have been on a trip that was so persistently dogged by poor weather. So it goes...Trudging back under our umbrellas we tried to keep everything dry and then had to sit in the truck, umbrellas locked in a Roman testudo formation. We got wet! The prize came though at the end of the drive, when we bumped into a pair of fantastic wreathed hornbills,

just as wet as us and disinclined to move, we had incredible views of these brightly coloured members of a great family as they perched in a roadside tree.

We took it easy in the afternoon, light rain fell occasionally and we just potted about. Phil checked the river carefully, but just two Odonates were found and a big rock skipper. After dinner we headed out for a damp spotlighting session. It was rather quiet but Maldin found us a couple of roosting male crested firebacks, amongst the more normal fare of civets and flying squirrels.

Day 15 Bukit Silam and onto KK

The big transfer day finally arrived and we had a lot to do. An early breakfast materialised eventually but most opted for toast and cereal and last minute packing. We bumped back out of Tabin, through the serried ranks of oil palm and only stopped to photograph the impressive Koompassia tree halfway to the gate. Arriving at Lahad Datu we dumped our luggage at the airport and changed vehicles for the drive up to the communication towers near the top of Bukit Silam. Our target was a new *Nepenthes* but we were well-satisfied with the medium-sized king cobra that lay on the road halfway up the hill. It spooked as we got out, flaring its hood in our direction before slithering off. Superb.

Arriving at the top we were adopted by a lonely security guard who took us on a short circular walk that produced some good examples of *Nepenthes macrovulgaris* and a great view east over a series of small islands. Tramping down the hill we found some superb examples of *macrovulgaris* and finally added some good *reinwardtiana* to the trip list. Birds were few and far between in the heat of the day but we spotted some chestnut-crested yuhinas and way off in the distance a few white-bellied sea-eagles could be seen over the coast.

Next was a shot in the dark, lunch at the Borneo Eco Resort, a pioneering effort that paid off handsomely. As we bumped down the track to the resort we stopped at a pond that produced some lovely butterflies (the lime *Papilio demoleus* and the flashy *Papilio palinurus*) and some new dragonflies, including *Dysphaea dimidiata* (surprisingly) and *Camacina gigantea*. The resort had a really authentic little cafeteria that served up some great food for us on a balcony overlooking a mangrove channel. Again the timing was not conducive to birding but we finally added common kingfisher to the list. A quick trip down the short boardwalk here was fairly uneventful but we passed a pleasant and cool half hour at the shelter at the end before retracing our steps to Lahad Datu and the flight to KK.

The flight was uneventful and soon we were driving through the bright lights and bustle of KK and onto the Rasa Ria. Checked in and scrubbed up, we headed for the buffet and the real world.

Day 16 Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi

A 'free day' today so we organised our own expedition to Pulau Sapi. A quick taxi ride down the ferry terminal at Jesselton Point and onwards in a small boat piloted by a taciturn Malay. We were amongst the first to arrive on the beach and the team quickly got into the water to

enjoy the snorkelling or loafed about in the heat. Phil tramped the trail around the island picking up a couple of mangrove whistlers and hearing pink-necked green pigeon.

Our boat ride arrived punctually and then we headed for a light lunch in a Malay restaurant in town. A variety of dishes were sampled and we enjoyed the experience of watching the busy Sunday crowd getting stuck in to the excellent food.

A relaxing afternoon off beckoned, but Phil headed out to recce the marsh ahead of tomorrow's final walk. A few new dragonflies were noted (including the superb and tiny *Nannophya pygmaea*) and a pintail/Swinhoe's snipe was flushed.

Day 17 Rasa Ria and journey home

A dawn start saw us heading down the beach to look at the speedy beach crabs and have a look through the waders. Rather quiet at the roost with just a large number of Kentish plovers, four or five greater sand-plovers and a single lesser. Walking back through the fringe of coastal woodland we spot our first pied trillers, get a scope view of the abundant collared kingfisher and watch squabbling male olive-backed sunbirds. The heat of the day is upon us and with breakfast beckoning, we hire a taxi for the short ride to the *Nepenthes gracilis* site. An obliging pink-necked green pigeon sits up for scope views. Photos taken of our eighth and final pitcher plant, we head back for breakfast and a day of varied pursuits.

The team (minus Phil) took the guided tour of the nature reserve/orang-utan rehabilitation area in the morning and returned with mixed-feelings to report at an indifferent Rasa Ria lunch offering.

A late check-out allowed us plenty of time to relax in the afternoon before Adrian and Danny picked three of us up for the shuttle to the airport. We waved Joanna goodbye and headed off on our journey to KL and home.

Systematic List Number 1 – Birds

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

Species in square brackets were heard only.

Darter	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>	Seen in good numbers at Sukau.
Purple heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	Thriving colony at Likas. Recorded in small numbers at Sukau.
	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	Single along Kinabatangan (Sukau).
Grey heron		
Little heron	<i>Butorides striatus</i>	Single at Sukau.
Cattle egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>	Widespread.
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	Widespread in suitable wetlands.
Pacific reef egret	<i>Egretta sacra</i>	Seen around KK, Pulau Sapi and Rasa Ria.
Great egret	<i>Casmerodius albus</i>	Recorded in small numbers along the Kinabatangan at Sukau and also around Kota Kinabalu and Rasa Ria.
Intermediate egret	<i>Mesophoyx intermedia</i>	Small numbers.
Yellow bittern	<i>Ixobrychus sinensis</i>	Single at Likas.
Storm's stork	<i>Ciconia stormii</i>	Three birds in total at Sukau. Single over the forest at Gomantong. Two more as we crossed the Segama, outside Lahad Datu, and three by the gate to Tabin on the same day.
Oriental honey buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>	Small numbers noted in lowlands.
Bathawk	<i>Machaeramphus alcinus</i>	One or two seen well along the entrance road to Gomantong in the afternoon. Four birds hunting bats just before dusk there on the same day. Another high in a Koompassia at Tabin one day.
Black-winged kite	<i>Elanus caeruleus</i>	Just one outside Lahad Datu this year.
Brahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>	Singles at Gomantong and small numbers at Sukau and around Lahad Datu.
White-bellied fish-eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucogaster</i>	Single adult at nest near Lahad Datu. Several from Bukit Silam and frequent around KK.
Lesser fish-eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>	Single on last day at Sukau.
Crested goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>	Several seen at Gomantong.
Crested serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>	Noted in small numbers at Gomantong, Sukau and Tabin.
Mountain serpent-eagle	<i>Spilornis kinabaluensis</i>	Single flushed and seen briefly along the Kiau View trail (KNP) on the first day.
Black eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>	Single adult at Tabin.
Rufous-bellied eagle	<i>Hieraaetus kienerii</i>	Single at Tabin.
Wallace's hawk-eagle	<i>Spizaetus nanus</i>	Single at Tabin briefly.
White-fronted falconet	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>	Single briefly en route to Gomantong. Two seen well perched n tree at Tabin.
Peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Single seen briefly at Kinabalu. Another ernsti individual hunting bats at Gomantong.

Grey-faced buzzard	<i>Butastur indicus</i>	Single perched in dead tree on drive from Kundasang to Mesilau.
[Chestnut-necklaced partridge]	<i>Arborophila charltonii</i>	Heard daily at Sukau and Tabin.
Red-breasted partridge	<i>Arborophila hyperythra</i>	A group of 6 at the Timphon Gate on our return from the Summit Trail hike. A pair at Mesilau.
Crested fireback	<i>Lophura ignita</i>	Two males spotted roosting at Tabin during a night-drive.
[Great argus]	<i>Argusianus argus</i>	Heard daily at Gomantong and Tabin.
White-breasted waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>	Small numbers throughout.
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	Small numbers at Likas. Single on pool between Sukau and the main road to Lahad Datu.
Kentish plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Perhaps 25 birds at Rasa Ria.
Greater sandplover	<i>Charadrius leschenaultii</i>	Just five on beach at Rasa Ria.
Lesser sandplover	<i>Charadrius mongolus</i>	One at Rasa Ria.
Swinhoe's/pintail snipe	<i>Gallinago megalastenura</i>	Single flushed from Rasa Ria marsh was one of these two, hard-to-separate species.
Common greenshank	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>	Single at Likas.
Wood sandpiper	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	Small numbers at Likas.
Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>	Widespread.
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>	Good numbers at KK.
Great crested tern	<i>Sterna bergii</i>	Several resting on offshore navigation markers at KK.
Little green pigeon	<i>Treron olax</i>	Small numbers along the Kinabatangan at Sukau. The small green pigeons seen in rapid flight at Tabin were also this species.
Pink-necked green pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>	Common around Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.
Green imperial pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>	Reasonably common along the Kinabatangan. Also seen in small numbers at Gomantong and Tabin.
Rock pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Noted in the KK area and at Lahad Datu.
Little cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia ruficeps</i>	Noted at Kinabalu in small numbers.
Ruddy cuckoo-dove	<i>Macropygia emiliana</i>	Several at Poring.
Spotted dove	<i>Streptopelia chinensis</i>	KK, Rasa Ria and Lahad Datu.
Zebra dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>	Roadside birds noted around KK and Rasa Ria.
Emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>	Odd singles in flight at Tabin when walking in the forest.
Long-tailed parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>	Several in flight at Sukau on one day. Seen more frequently at Tabin, one seen well perched high in a tree.
Blue-crowned hanging-parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>	Small numbers seen at Poring and Sukau but present in good numbers at Tabin.
[Dark hawk-cuckoo]	<i>Hierococcyx bocki</i>	Heard at Kinabalu.
[Sunda cuckoo]	<i>Cuculus lepidus</i>	Heard at Kinabalu.
[Indian cuckoo]	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>	Frequently heard in all lowland forest visited.
Plaintive cuckoo	<i>Cacomantis merulinus</i>	Several at Sukau, frequently heard elsewhere in the lowlands.
Drongo cuckoo	<i>Surniculus lugubris</i>	Single male seen at Tabin (where very vocal), frequently heard elsewhere in lowland forest.
Black-bellied malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus diardi</i>	Single at Gomantong.

Chestnut-breasted malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>	Noted in small numbers at Gomantong and Tabin.
Raffle's malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus</i>	Daily at Gomantong and Tabin.
Greater coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>	Commonly heard in lowlands, occasionally seen.
Lesser coucal	<i>Centropus bengalensis</i>	Odd singles in wider countryside throughout.
Short-toed coucal	<i>Centropus rectunguis</i>	Single at Sukau.
Buffy fish-owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>	One flushed on the way into Sukau on the first day there. Single perched beside the road at Gomantong at night. A pair seen well at Tabin.
[Brown boobook]	<i>Ninox scutulata</i>	Single heard at Tabin.
Brown wood-owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>	Vocal at this time of year, heard at Poring and Sukau. Singles seen at night at Tabin.
[Mountain scops-owl]	<i>Otus spilocephalus</i>	Single heard briefly at Mesilau.
[Sunda scops-owl]	<i>Otus lempiji</i>	Heard at Poring in the Hot Springs clearing.
Glossy swiftlet	<i>Collocalia esculenta</i>	Widespread lowland bird.
Mossy-nest swiftlet	<i>Collocalia vanikorensis</i>	Swiftlets and their nests around Gomantong.
Asian palm swift	<i>Cypsiurus balasiensis</i>	Only at Likas this year.
Grey-rumped tree-swift	<i>Hemiprocne longipennis</i>	Common at Poring and Tabin. Small numbers at Likas.
Whiskered tree-swift	<i>Hemiprocne comata</i>	Noted at Gomantong and Tabin.
[Red-naped trogon]	<i>Harpactes kasumba</i>	Gomantong – heard there daily.
[Diard's trogon]	<i>Harpactes diardii</i>	Heard at Gomantong and Sukau.
Whitehead's trogon	<i>Harpactes whiteheadi</i>	Single female along Silau-Silau trail at KNP.
[Scarlet-rumped trogon]	<i>Harpactes duvaucelli</i>	Frequently heard at Gomantong.
Common kingfisher	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	Single at Borneo Eco resort (Lahad Datu).
Blue-eared kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>	Only seen at Tabin, on the river behind the chalets. Heard at Sukau.
Oriental dwarf kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithacus</i>	Single seen well at Sukau. Commoner at Tabin where heard daily, with just one seen briefly.
Stork-billed kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>	Small numbers along Kinabatangan and its tributaries. and single at Tabin.
Ruddy kingfisher	<i>Halcyon coromanda</i>	Single 'scoped, hiding along the boardwalk at Sukau.
Collared kingfisher	<i>Todirhamphus chloris</i>	Common roadside bird in eastern Sabah and also recorded at Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.
Red-bearded bee-eater	<i>Nyctiornis amictus</i>	Pair seen well at Tabin, others heard.
Blue-throated bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>	Widespread in small numbers in the lowlands.
Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>	Small numbers noted at Sukau and Tabin.
Bushy-crested hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>	Single group seen at Gomantong. Also encountered at Sukau. Seen occasionally at Tabin.
Wrinkled hornbill	<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>	At least 13 seen together at Sukau.
Wreathed hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>	Small numbers daily flying over the forest at Tabin. A pairs seen incredibly well perched by the road there on the last drive.
Asian black hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>	Frequent observations of pairs at Sukau, Gomantong and Tabin.
Oriental pied hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>	Widespread.

Rhinoceros hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>	First observed along the river at Sukau, occasionally seen thereafter.
Helmeted hornbill	<i>Buceros vigil</i>	Four seen in flight at Tabin, frequently heard there.
Gold-whiskered barbet [Red-throated barbet]	<i>Megalaima chysopogon</i> <i>Megalaima mystacophanus</i>	Commonly heard at Poring, one seen well. Heard at Sukau, Gomantong and Tabin.
[Mountain barbet] Golden-naped barbet	<i>Megalaima monticola</i> <i>Megalaima pulcherrima</i>	Heard at KNP on first day. Single seen well at KNP at Timphon Gate, others heard there.
[Blue-eared barbet]	<i>Megalaima australis</i>	Commonly heard at Poring, Sukau, Gomantong and Tabin.
Brown barbet	<i>Calorhamphus fuliginosus</i>	Noted in small numbers at Gomantong as usual.
Grey-capped woodpecker	<i>Picoides canicapillus</i>	Single at Sukau.
Rufous woodpecker	<i>Celeus brachyurus</i>	A group of four at Tabin.
Buff-rumped woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tristis</i>	Small group at Poring on first day.
Buff-necked woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tukki</i>	Single at Poring.
Checker-throated woodpecker	<i>Picus mentalis</i>	Noted at Tabin.
Great slaty woodpecker	<i>Mulleripicus pulverulentus</i>	Single seen flying past at Tabin.
Dusky broadbill	<i>Corydon sumatranus</i>	A group flew over the boat at Sukau on the first afternoon.
Black-and-red broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus</i>	Just three during the day at Sukau this year.
[Banded broadbill] Black-and-yellow broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus javanicus</i> <i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>	Heard in lowland forest. This fantastic little bird was seen Phil at Gomantong. Heard frequently in lowland forest elsewhere.
[Blue-headed pitta] Black-and-crimson pitta	<i>Pitta baudii</i> <i>Pitta usherii</i>	Heard near the mud volcano at Tabin. Singles seen at Gomantong and Tabin. Heard at Sukau. Considered by some authorities to be a race of garnet pitta <i>Pitta granatina</i> .
Barn swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	Common in wider countryside.
Pacific swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>	Observed in roadside villages and along the Kinabatangan and Tabin River.
Lesser cuckoo-shrike	<i>Coracina fimbriata</i>	Single at Gomantong.
Pied triller	<i>Lalage nigra</i>	Common in Rasa Ria area.
Fiery minivet	<i>Pericrocotus igneus</i>	Flocks at Gomantong and Tabin.
Grey-chinned minivet	<i>Pericrocotus solaris</i>	Frequent component of canopy flocks at KNP and Mesilau.
Black-winged flycatcher-shrike	<i>Hemipus hirundinaceus</i>	Small numbers in canopy flocks at Gomantong and Tabin.
Green iora	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>	Single at Gomantong.
Lesser green leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>	Noted at Poring and Tabin.
Black-headed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>	Small numbers Sukau and common at Tabin.
Puff-backed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus eutilotus</i>	Single at Gomantong.
Pale-faced bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus leucops</i>	Noted in small numbers at Mesilau.
Yellow-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>	Common in open areas and secondary habitat.
Red-eyed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>	Common in lowland forests.

Cream-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>	Noted at Poring.
Olive-winged bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>	Single at Poring. Common Sapi and Rasa Ria.
Grey-cheeked bulbul	<i>Alophoixus bres</i>	Recorded at Poring.
Ashy drongo	<i>Dicrurus leucophaeus</i>	Recorded daily at Kinabalu.
Bronzed drongo	<i>Dicrurus annectans</i>	Single at Tabin.
Hair-crested drongo	<i>Dicrurus hottentottus</i>	Small numbers at KNP and Poring.
Greater racquet-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>	Small numbers at Poring and Tabin.
Dark-throated oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>	Small numbers at Poring, Sukau, Gomantong and Tabin.
Black-and-crimson oriole	<i>Oriolus cruentus</i>	Just two in flight at Mesilau.
Asian fairy bluebird	<i>Irena puella</i>	Small numbers at Sukau and Tabin, commonly heard.
Crested jay	<i>Platylophus galericulatus</i>	Single at Poring. Heard frequently at Tabin.
Short-tailed magpie	<i>Cissa thalassina</i>	Just a single at KNP.
Bornean treepie	<i>Dendrocitta cinerascens</i>	Commonly encountered at KNP and occasionally at Poring.
Slender-billed crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>	Recorded daily at Sukau, Gomantong and Tabin.
Velvet-fronted nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>	Noted in small numbers at Mesilau and Tabin.
White-chested babbler	<i>Trichastoma rostratum</i>	Pairs seen at Sukau (Menangul) and Tabin.
Short-tailed babbler	<i>Malacocincla malaccense</i>	Single at Gomantong.
Sooty-capped babbler	<i>Malacopteron affine</i>	Recorded at Sukau, Gomantong, Tabin.
Scaly-crowned babbler	<i>Malacopteron cinereum</i>	Seen at Tabin only this year.
Rufous-crowned babbler	<i>Malacopteron magnum</i>	Small numbers at Tabin.
Chestnut-backed scimitar-babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus montanus</i>	Single seen well at Tabin, others heard.
Mountain wren-babbler	<i>Napothera crassa</i>	Small group seen well at Mesilau.
Grey-throated babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>	Recorded daily at KNP.
Chestnut-winged babbler	<i>Stachyris erythroptera</i>	Common lowland forest babbler.
Striped tit-babbler	<i>Macronous gularis</i>	Heard frequently in lowlands, seen well at Poring and Rasa Ria.
[Fluffy-backed tit-babbler]	<i>Macronous ptilosus</i>	Heard along the roads at Tabin, but not seen this year.
Sunda laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax palliatus</i>	Single flock encountered near Timphon Gate (KNP), others heard.
Chestnut-capped laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax mitratus</i>	Common component of flocks at KNP.
Chestnut-crested yuhina	<i>Yuhina everetti</i>	Commonly encountered, often in large single species flocks at KNP. Several seen at Bukit Silam (Lahad Datu) this year.
[White-browed shortwing]	<i>Brachypteryx montana</i>	Heard only, at Mesilau.
Magpie robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
White-browed shama	<i>Copsychus stricklandi</i>	Common in lowland forests.
White-crowned forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>	Recorded in small numbers at Poring and Tabin.
Bornean forktail	<i>Enicurus borneensis</i>	Single at KNP along the Silau-Silau. A recent split, a new endemic species for Borneo.
Sunda whistling-thrush	<i>Myiophoneus glaucinus</i>	Often heard at KNP but seen well at Mesilau.
Yellow-breasted warbler	<i>Seicercus montis</i>	Common at KNP.
Arctic warbler	<i>Phylloscopus borealis</i>	Single at Tabin.
Mountain leaf warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>	Commonly seen around KNP.
Oriental reed warbler	<i>Acrocephalus orientalis</i>	Several at Likas.

Striated grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>	Noted near Sukau, Lahad Datu airfield, Likas and Rasa Ria.
Ashy tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>	Present throughout the lowlands.
Rufous-tailed tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>	Recorded at Poring, Gomantong and Tabin.
Mountain tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus cucullatus</i>	One seen but frequently heard at KNP. Also pair at Mesilau.
Yellow-bellied prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>	Scattered records in disturbed, lowland habitat. A few found at night at Tabin.
Bornean stubtail	<i>Urosphena whiteheadi</i>	Frequently heard at KNP. Single seen briefly at Mesilau.
Sunda bush-warbler	<i>Cettia vulcania</i>	Common above 1,700 metres at KNP.
Eye-browed jungle-flycatcher	<i>Rhinomyias gularis</i>	Two sightings of two birds at KNP.
Asian brown flycatcher	<i>Muscipapa latirostris</i>	Single at Kinabalu. Noted daily at Tabin.
Dark-sided flycatcher	<i>Muscipapa sibirica</i>	Single at Tabin.
Indigo flycatcher	<i>Muscipapa indigo</i>	Noted daily in small numbers at KNP.
Mugimaki flycatcher	<i>Ficedula mugimaki</i>	Single male and female at KNP.
Snowy-browed flycatcher	<i>Ficedula hyperythra</i>	Noted in small numbers on the first day at KNP.
Little pied flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	Just one at KNP this year.
White-throated fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	Noted daily in small numbers at KNP.
Spotted fantail	<i>Rhipidura perlata</i>	Noted daily in small numbers at Gomantong and Tabin.
Pied fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	Common in disturbed lowland habitat and mangroves. Also at Tabin.
Black-naped monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>	Small numbers at Tabin.
Asian paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone paradisi</i>	Recorded at Tabin, including several great white males.
Bornean whistler	<i>Pachycephala hypoxantha</i>	Common constituent of bird flocks at KNP.
Mangrove whistler	<i>Pachycephala grisola</i>	Several on Pulau Sapi.
White-breasted wood-swallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	Common in wider countryside – feeding from the roof at Rasa Ria.
Brown shrike	<i>Lanius cristatus</i>	Common on roadsides around Sukau.
Grey wagtail	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>	Single at Kinabalu. Small numbers daily at Tabin.
Paddyfield pipit	<i>Anthus rufulus</i>	Noted at Lahad Datu airstrip and Rasa Ria.
Asian glossy starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	Widespread in open countryside.
Hill myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>	Pair seen at Tabin, others heard at Poring and Borneo Eco resort.
Plain-throated sunbird	<i>Anthreptes malacensis</i>	Small numbers at Gomantong.
Ruby-cheeked sunbird	<i>Anthreptes singalensis</i>	Small numbers in lowland forest throughout.
Olive-backed sunbird	<i>Nectarinia jugularis</i>	Common at Rasa Ria and in KK.
Crimson sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>	Single male at Gomantong.
Temminck's sunbird	<i>Aethopyga temminckii</i>	Noted in small numbers at KNP.
Little spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostris</i>	Common in lowland forest throughout but hard to get a good view of one.
Thick-billed spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera crassirostris</i>	Single at Tabin.
Yellow-rumped flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus xanthopygius</i>	Single male in mixed-species feeding flock at Tabin.
Orange-bellied flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>	Recorded at Poring only.

Black-sided flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum monticulum</i>	Several in the chalet/restaurant area at KNP HQ. Also noted at Mesilau. No good views though this year.
Black-capped white-eye	<i>Zosterops atricapilla</i>	Recorded on both days at KNP HQ area.
Everett's white-eye	<i>Zosterops everetti</i>	Small numbers in one flock at Tabin.
Mountain black-eye	<i>Chlorocharis emilae</i>	Common above 2,000 metres on Kinabalu. An important pollinator of the rhododendrons.
Eurasian tree sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>	Widespread open country and town species.
Dusky munia	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>	Widespread in lowland forest edge habitat.
Black-headed munia	<i>Lonchura malacca</i>	Common in the wider countryside – most often seen from the bus.

Systematic List Number 2 – Mammals

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

Lesser gymnure	<i>Hylomys suillus</i>	Two of these confiding and engaging insectivores at Mesilau.
Lesser/slender treeshrew	<i>Tupaia minor/gracilis</i>	Difficult to differentiate between these two species. Recorded occasionally at lowland locations.
Mountain treeshrew	<i>Tupaia montana</i>	Frequent around shelters on summit trail at KNP – prefers chicken but did come to biscuits this year.
Short-nosed fruit bat	<i>Cyanopterus brachyotis</i>	Single feeding at Sukau.
Cave nectar bat	<i>Eonycteris spelaea</i>	Small roost in the cave at Gomantong.
Diadem roundleaf bat	<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>	This amazing, big insectivorous bat seen in small numbers roosting with the species below.
Wrinkle-lipped bat	<i>Tadarida plicata</i>	At least half a million left the roost at Gomantong cave.
Slow loris	<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>	Poor views at Poring.
Silvered langur	<i>Presbytis cristata</i>	Frequently encountered at Sukau.
Hose's langur	<i>Presbytis hosei</i>	Three on the Sambar Deer trail at Tabin.
Maroon langur	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>	Small group briefly at Gomantong were the only ones encountered. Apparently scarce at Tabin.
Proboscis monkey	<i>Nasalis larvatus*</i>	Many groups encountered on each boat ride at Sukau. Seemed to loaf along the river banks more in the afternoons. Also a group near Borneo Eco lodge.
Long-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Seen at Sukau and Tabin.
Pig-tailed macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	Groups frequently encountered at Gomantong and Tabin.
Bornean gibbon	<i>Hylobates muelleri</i>	Heard at Sukau. Family group seen well at Gomantong. Calling regularly at Tabin and a family group seen well there one morning.
Orang-utan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	Single seen poorly at Sukau. Female with youngster at Gomantong on our second visit. Three including big male at Tabin. A reasonable effort.
Giant squirrel	<i>Ratufa affinis</i>	Recorded in small numbers at Tabin. More often heard than seen.
Prevost's squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	Widespread at lowland forest sites.
Kinabalu squirrel	<i>Callosciurus baluensis</i>	Noted on two dates at KNP.
Plantain squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	Scattered records from lowland forest sites.
Low's squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus lowii</i>	Singles at Sukau and Gomantong.
Jentinck's squirrel	<i>Sundasciurus jentinki</i>	Seen best at the shelters en route to the summit at KNP.
Bornean mountain ground squirrel	<i>Dremomys everetti</i>	Big fan of biscuits around the shelters en route to the summit at KNP.
Whitehead's pygmy squirrel	<i>Exilisciurus whiteheadi</i>	At least two at KNP.

Plain pygmy squirrel	<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>	Several of these engaging, tiny chaps were noted at Poring, Sukau and Tabin. Heard frequently.
Black flying squirrel	<i>Aeromys tephromelas</i>	Several on night drives at Tabin, the first and third gliding beautifully for us.
Thomas' flying squirrel	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>	Several seen on the night drives at Tabin.
Red giant flying squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	Several seen from night drives at Tabin.
Brown rat	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Rats in the cave at Gomantong, were presumed to be this species.
[Yellow-throated marten]	<i>Martes flavigula</i>	The mystery nocturnal animal at Tabin on the last night drive, may well have been this normally diurnal species. Its habit of holding its long tail stiff and horizontally out behind it is recorded for this species.
Hairy-nosed otter	<i>Lutra sumatrana</i>	Small group on the river behind our chalets at Tabin.
Oriental small-clawed otter	<i>Aonyx cinerea</i>	Several groups encountered at Tabin.
Malay civet	<i>Viverra zangalla</i>	Amazing numbers encountered during night-drives in secondary forest areas at Tabin.
Common palm civet	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	Recorded during all of the night trips at Tabin.
Small-toothed palm civet	<i>Arctogalida trivirgata</i>	Two feeding in a fruiting tree at Tabin on night drive.
Leopard cat	<i>Felis bengalensis</i>	10-15 of these fantastic small cats at Tabin. There is nowhere better to see this species.
Bornean pygmy elephant	<i>Elephas maximus borneensis</i>	Group of 8 of these critically endangered enigmatic mammals. seen on the first afternoon at Sukau. Another single individual on first night at Tabin, where there was abundant sign.
Bearded pig	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	Recorded at Gomantong and Tabin in small numbers.
Greater mouse-deer	<i>Tragulus napu</i>	Recorded in good numbers at Tabin, mostly around lodge at night.
Bornean yellow muntjac Sambar	<i>Muntiacus atherodes</i> <i>Cervus unicolor</i>	A total of three at Tabin, all seen well. Just one or two at Tabin.

Systematic List Number 3 - Amphibians

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

Montane litter frog	<i>Leptobrachium montanum</i>	One at the start of the Silau-Silau trail at KNP.
Lowland litter frog	<i>Leptobrachium abbotti</i>	Small numbers at night at Poring.
a slender litter frog	<i>Leptolalax arayai</i>	Single specimen near Mesilau Cave, possibly the first record of this species away from the HQ area at KNP.
Painted slender litter frog	<i>Leptolalax pictus</i>	Single along the Sungai Kipungit at Poring one night.
Kinabalu horned frog	<i>Megophrys baluensis</i>	A single immature of this superb species at the top of the Silau-Silau trail (KNP) on the night-walk of the trip. Beast of the trip and on the first night too.
Kinabalu slender toad	<i>Ansonia hanitschi</i>	Abundant along Silau-Silau trail at night (KNP).
Spiny slender toad	<i>Ansonia spinulifer</i>	Single inside the restaurant at Poring on the first night. Small numbers seen there on night-walks.
Giant river toad	<i>Bufo juxtasper</i>	Two or three youngsters in the forest at Poring.
Saffron-bellied frog	<i>Chaperina fusca</i>	Single at Poring on one of the night-walks. A froggy highlight.
Brown bullfrog	<i>Kaloula baleata</i>	Single male watched calling in ephemeral pool at Poring. Several heard in the flooded garden at Sukau.
Treehole frog	<i>Metaphrynella sundana</i>	Commonly heard in lowland forest. Several females observed at Sukau. A single male seen well calling from a water-filled treehole at Tabin.
Giant river frog	<i>Limnonectes leporinus</i>	Tabin only.
Kuhl's creek frog	<i>Limnonectes kuhli</i>	Widespread.
Northern torrent frog	<i>Meristogenys orphocnemis</i>	Small numbers at Poring.
Yellow-bellied puddle frog	<i>Occidozyga laevis</i>	Single at Tabin. Under-recorded.
White-lipped frog	<i>Rana chalconota</i>	Common and widespread.
Spotted stream frog	<i>Rana picturata</i>	Single seen by the pond by the canopy walkway ticket office at Poring. A very photogenic frog indeed.
Cricket frog	<i>Rana nicobariensis</i>	
Rock skipper	<i>Staurois latopalmaris</i>	Splendid observation of several of these stunning beasts during the night walks at Poring (below Kipungit waterfall). Single in the river by the lodge at Tabin during the day.
a bush frog	<i>Philautus</i> spp.	Several along the Silau-Silau trail (KNP).
File-eared tree frog	<i>Polypedates ottilophus</i>	Small numbers at Poring and Tabin.
Four-lined tree frog	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>	Noted at in the garden at Poring as usual. Also heard at Rasa Ria.
Dark-eared tree frog	<i>Polypedates macrotis</i>	Recorded in good numbers at Poring this year. Also a single from the boardwalk at Sukau.

Jade tree frog	<i>Rhacophorus dulitensis</i>	75-100 at ephemeral pond in the garden at Poring – perhaps only the second record for the site. Incredible.
Mossy tree frog	<i>Rhacophorus everetti</i>	One along Silau-Silau trail at night (KNP).
Harlequin tree frog	<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>	Only recorded in small numbers at Sukau this year.

Systematic List Number 4 - Reptiles

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

a flying lizard	<i>Draco cornutus</i>	Single at Tabin. Just one individual fo this genus this trip, unusual to see so few.
Rough-scaled brown skink	<i>Mabuya rudis</i>	Common lowland forest floor species.
Mangrove skink	<i>Mabuya multifasciata</i>	Single at Gomantong.
Smith's giant gecko	<i>Emoia atrocostata</i>	Pulau Sapi.
Common house gecko	<i>Gekko smithii</i>	Several around buidings at Sukau.
Green tree lizard	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>	Ubiquitous.
Monitor lizard	<i>Bronchocoela cristatella</i>	Just one, sleeping, individual at Sukau.
	<i>Varanus salvator</i>	Noted regularly at Likas, Sukau, Gomantong, Tabin and Pulau Sapi.
Reticulate python	<i>Python reticulatus</i>	Superb 3.5 metre specimen travelling along a small stream at Tabin one night.
Red-sided keelback	<i>Xenochropis trianguligera</i>	One observed hunting frogs in drainage ditch at Gomantong.
Painted bronze-back	<i>Dendrelaphis pictus</i>	Single watched hanging from tree from jetty boardwalk at Sukau.
Striped bronze-back	<i>Dendrelaphis caudolineatus</i>	Single watched hanging from tree from jetty boardwalk at Sukau.
King cobra	<i>Ophiophagus hannah</i>	Single two metre long individual on the road up to Bukit Silam.

Systematic List Number 5 – Odonata

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

a gossamerwing	<i>Euphaea subnodalis</i>	Present in good numbers at Tabin.
Black velvetwing	<i>Dysphaea dimidiata</i>	Strangely, a few present in the mangroves at Borneo Eco resort, near Lahad Datu.
a greenwing	<i>Neurobasis longipes</i>	Endemic species. The flashy green number along the streams at Tabin – a <i>Caleopteryx</i> style damsel.
a Lestidae damselfly	<i>Lestes praemorsus</i>	Several at roadside pool at Tabin.
Painted waxtail	<i>Ceriagrion cerinorubellum</i>	Small numbers at Rasa Ria marsh.
	<i>Pseudagrion microcephalum</i>	Small numbers Borneo Eco resort.
Orange-tailed midget	<i>Agriocnemis femina</i>	Noted at Likas.
	<i>Agriocnemis alcyone</i>	Single at Gomantong.
	<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	Small numbers at Likas and Rasa Ria.
	<i>Copera vittata</i>	Single at Poring.
	<i>Ictinogomphax decoratus</i>	Present on one of the ponds near the Borneo Eco resort (Lahad Datu).
an emperor	<i>Anax guttatus</i>	Presumably this species at near the Borneo Eco resort (Lahad Datu).
	<i>Tetrathemis irregularis</i>	One at Gomantong.
	<i>Agrionoptera insignis</i>	Small numbers at Tabin only.
	<i>Cratilla lineata</i>	Small numbers at Tabin.
Rufous-backed skimmer	<i>Orthetrum testaceum</i>	The common red <i>Orthetrum</i> at Poring. Also noted at Gomantong and Tabin.
Common blue skimmer	<i>Orthetrum glaucum</i>	The common blue <i>Orthetrum</i> – widespread.
Green skimmer	<i>Orthetrum sabina</i>	Widespread.
	<i>Nannophya pygmaea</i>	Quite common at Rasa Ria – a minute anisopteran.
	<i>Brachydiplax chalybea</i>	Widespread in lowland habitats in small numbers.
	<i>Diplacodes trivialis</i>	A few seen.
	<i>Neurothemis fluctuans</i>	Common at Rasa Ria.
	<i>Neurothemis ramburii</i>	The common dragonfly with the heavy red wings. Attractive and common in lowland locations.
	<i>Neurothemis terminata</i>	Widespread in lowlands and foothills.
	<i>Rhodothemis rufa</i>	Small numbers at Boreno Eco resort.
Indigo dropwing	<i>Trithemis festiva</i>	Small numbers at Poring and Gomantong.
Crimson dropwing	<i>Trithemis aurora</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
Evening skimmer	<i>Tholymis tillarga</i>	On the fishpond at Tabin, dawn and dusk.
Globe skimmer	<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Widespread, locally abundant.
	<i>Zyxomma petiolatum</i>	Single hawking over fish pond at Tabin at dawn and dusk.
	<i>Tramea transmarina</i>	Several at pond near Borneo Eco resort, near Lahad Datu.
	<i>Camacinia gigantea</i>	Several on a pond near Borneo Eco resort (Lahad Datu).

Systematic List Number 6 - Butterflies

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

Rajah Brooke's birdwing	<i>Troides brookiana</i>	Recorded at KNP, and Poring. Immense.
Common birdwing	<i>Troides helena</i>	Lowland forest.
	<i>Troides amphrysus</i>	The big yellow widespread lowland birdwing.
Common rose	<i>Pachliopta aristolochiae</i>	Often nectaring in the garden at Sukau (when it was not raining!).
Banded swallowtail	<i>Papilio demolion</i>	Tabin.
Black-and-white helen	<i>Papilio nephelus</i>	Common in lowlands.
Great mormon	<i>Papilio memnon</i>	common throughout.
Banded peacock	<i>Papilio palinurus</i>	Borneo Eco resort.
Common bluebottle	<i>Graphium sarpedon</i>	Gomantong.
White dragontail	<i>Lamproptera curius</i>	Tabin.
The pysche	<i>Leptosia nina</i>	Widespread in lowlands, often still flying in light rain.
Painted jezebel	<i>Delias hyparete</i>	Gomantong.
Mottled emigrant	<i>Catopsilia pyranthe</i>	Recorded at Gomantong and Tabin.
Three-spot grass yellow	<i>Eurema blanda</i>	KNP and lowlands.
Blue glassy tiger	<i>Ideopsis vulgaris</i>	lowlands.
	<i>Idea stollii</i>	Frequently encountered lowland forest.
Malayan crow	<i>Euploea caramalzeman</i>	Tabin.
Striped blue crow	<i>Euploea mulciber</i>	Tabin.
Malayan owl	<i>Neorina lowii</i>	Single resting along the river at Tabin.
Yellow band	<i>Xanthotaenia busiris</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
Dark bush brown	<i>Mycalasis patiana</i>	Widespread and common in lowlands.
Striped ringlet	<i>Ragadia makuta</i>	Poring.
Common three-ring	<i>Ypthima pandocus</i>	Widespread.
Small ring	<i>Ypthima fasciata</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
Banded faun	<i>Faunis stomphax</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
Palm king	<i>Amathusia phidippus</i>	Tabin, often 'roosting' in the restaurant.
Island rustic	<i>Cupha arias</i>	Tabin and Gomantong.
The Malayan yeoman	<i>Cirrochroa emalea</i>	Tabin.
	<i>Cirrochroa satellita</i>	Gomantong and Tabin.
	<i>Vindula erota</i>	Tabin.
Malay lacewing	<i>Cethosia hypsia</i>	Widespread in lowlands.
Chocolate soldier	<i>Junonia iphita</i>	Bukit Silam (Tabin) and Rasa Ria.
Blue admiral	<i>Kaniska canice</i>	Several along an open ridge on the summit trail (KNP).
Great egg-fly	<i>Hypolimnias bolina</i>	Recorded in lowlands.
Malayan egg-fly	<i>Hypolimnias anomala</i>	En route to Lahad Datu, Tabin and Gomantong.
Danaid egg-fly	<i>Hypolimnias misippus</i>	Pulau Sapi and Rasa Ria.
Clipper	<i>Parthenos sylvia</i>	Lowlands (common).
West viscount	<i>Tanaecia munda</i>	Tabin.
	<i>Tanaecia aruna</i>	Tabin.
Bright red velvet bob	<i>Koruthaialos sindu</i>	Gomantong.
	<i>Koruthaialos rubecula</i>	An individual resembling this species at Tabin.

Systematic List Number 7 – Selected flora

Sites visited: 11th – 12th January Kinabalu National Park (KNP) HQ area; 13th January Mesilau; 13th – 16th January Poring Hot Springs (PHS); 16th January Gomantong Cave; 16th – 19th January Sukau; 19th – 23rd January Tabin; 23rd Bukit Silam and Borneo Eco resort; 23rd – 25th January Rasa Ria and Pulau Sapi.

Nepenthes

[<i>Nepenthes burbidgeae</i>]	A transplanted colony at Mesilau.
<i>Nepenthes tentaculata</i>	Common, very variable and widespread at Kinabalu HQ and Mesilau.
<i>Nepenthes raja</i>	Huge size 9 pitchers seen at Mesilau.
<i>Nepenthes stenophylla</i>	Several plants at Soggy Bottom (Mesilau).
<i>Nepenthes macrovulgaris</i>	Bukit Silam. Some impressive pitchers by the road.
<i>Nepenthes mirabilis</i>	Common along the last stretch of the access road to Poring.
<i>Nepenthes fusca</i>	Only noted at Soggy Bottom (Mesilau).
<i>Nepenthes reinwardtiana</i>	Quite common on the lower part of our walk at Bukit Silam.
<i>Nepenthes gracilis</i>	Several plants in waste ground near Rasa Ria hotel.

Rhododendron

Shelagh's presence in the team ensured that no rhododendron leaf remained unturned.

[<i>Rhododendron javanicum</i>]	Not seen in the wild but good kinabaluensis specimen outside visitor centre at Mesilau.
[<i>Rhododendron retivenium</i>]	Only noted in the garden at Mesilau this year. Big yellow flowers and narrow elliptical leaves.
[<i>Rhododendron crassifolium</i>]	Not seen in the wild but good specimen outside visitor centre at Mesilau.
<i>Rhododendron rugosum</i>	Common at Mesilau.
<i>Rhododendron polyanthemum</i>	Seen flowering along the summit trail at KNP.
<i>Rhododendron cuneifolium</i>	Small number of plants flowering along the summit trail at KNP.
<i>Rhododendron xliewianum</i>	A natural hybrid between rugosum and stenophyllum, found on the lower parts of the summit trail at KNP.