

# MALAYSIA

## The Malay Peninsula

Tue 27 February-Sun 11 March 2018

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*Trip photos: Top row, two pittas from Shah Alam, a stunning Blue-winged Pitta and smart Hooded Pitta • middle row, from Fraser's Hill a charismatic Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush and lime-green Streaked Spiderhunter • bottom row, Blue Nuthatch is always most sought-after and the fabulous Crested Fireback is perhaps the best of all pheasants, but looks like a rooster (discuss)... © Brian Small, Limosa*

**Report compiled by tour leader:  
Brian Small**

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## **MALAYSIA | The Malay Peninsula**

Tour Leaders: **Lee Kok Chung & Brian Small**

Every year and every tour is different and this was certainly the case in Malaysia in early 2018. The weather was largely very good and pretty dry – with only the odd downpour – and this no doubt had an effect on some birds and (oddly) the low number of fruiting trees at Taman Negara. We had a lot of fun and many superb birds under the excellent and hardworking leadership of Lee: you know a tour is going to be good when you enjoy amazing views of two pittas on the first day, with the Blue-winged Pitta so fantastic that it staked a claim for bird of the trip (BOTT); some even spoke about going home then...

Malaysia is a country with a good infrastructure, roads and accommodation are often of a high standard, and we travelled about easily (and sedately) with absolutely no problems at all. We took the traditional Limosa triangular route, heading from Kuala Lumpur northwest to the coast at Kuala Selangor (via Shah Alam), before heading northeast to the more temperate forests at Fraser's Hill, then east to the tropical rainforest of Taman Negara.

Shah Alam and Selangor were typically hot, and apart from the aforementioned pittas we got several key species: Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, Rusty-breasted and Plaintive Cuckoos; Cinnamon Bittern, Black-winged Kite and a surprise Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler (BOTT for one of the leaders...how odd); as well as host of shorebirds including Broad-billed and Terek Sandpipers.

At Fraser's Hill the weather was kind to us and despite spells of early mist, most days were fine with comfortable temperatures to bird in. To the background sound of singing Siamangs, we spent our days here walking the quiet roads, slowly checking off key species as we went: moped-revving Fire-tufted Barbets – amongst various barbets, Malayan and Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes; colourful Silver-eared Mesias and Large Niltava. The Old Gap Road was very good this year and we enjoyed a number of great woodpeckers that included Bamboo, Crimson-winged and Chequer-throated.

Krau Forest and the trails and river trips at Taman Negara were enjoyed in hot temperatures – they had clearly not had a lot of rain given the low level of the river – and we were lucky to have one of the few fruiting trees close to our cabins. Full of macaques, it attracted Asian Fairy-bluebirds and various green pigeons, but the trails gave us some of our best birds amongst which the Crested Fireback was a star. We had to work hard for what we saw, but left with many memories amongst which was our last bird, a huge Helmeted Hornbill.

Thanks to you all for laughing at my poor jokes and for making the tour so enjoyable, but also I would like to thank Lee for his great planning and choice of some superb restaurants.

### **Trip Diary**

#### **Tuesday 27 February**

It was a very snowy UK that we departed – but not as snowy as the next day, so we were thankful of the careful planning put in to miss it...

#### **Wednesday 28 February**

In contrast we arrived on a hot and humid afternoon in Kuala Lumpur – no snow here! Passing through immigration was quick and with currency exchanged, we met Lee (along with our drivers Vincent and Chia), loaded the vans and set off for the hour-long drive to Shah Alam, where we met up with the rest of the group. The hotel looks out over the Blue Mosque and as we walked to the restaurant we saw some of the many Grey Herons, egrets and House Crows overflying the city to roost, plus the local Asian Koel calling loudly from a tree.

#### **Thursday 1 March**

An early start, we had our breakfast at the hotel and departed fully packed to head a short distance to a local park in Shah Alam. As the day lightened we found our first Pink-necked Green Pigeons, Yellow-vented Bulbuls, wheeling House Swifts, and a good flock of Daurian Starlings. We didn't stay long as we wanted to get into the Botanical Gardens early.

With temperatures and humidity rising, we pulled into the car park at the Royal Botanical Gardens and started picking up views of new species: Baya Weavers, a male Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker and Long-tailed Parakeets. We spent three hours walking a circuit seeing a good number of lowland species we may not find elsewhere: first up came richly coloured Banded and Rufous Woodpeckers and soon after a tiny Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker; a Peregrine dashed over; Olive-winged Bulbuls, Grey-breasted and Little Spiderhunters probed amongst the flowers as we walked the trails. Black-naped Orioles, five Large Woodshrikes, Greater Racquet-tailed Drongo, Black Hornbill and a Plaintive Cuckoo were all good, but there was no doubting what the star birds were. On a normal day Black-and-red Broadbills would be prime viewing, but on this day we got incredible views of a handsome Hooded Pitta and (more incredibly) stunning views of the colourful and often-elusive Blue-winged Pitta - in the open, on a log, showing off!! Time to sit back and out your feet up...

After lunch we headed to Kuala Selangor, settled into our rooms, had a quick shower and set off to the extensive rice fields to the north of town. We expected the many egrets we saw – largely Cattle, Little and Great, but a few Intermediate – but were excited by the Barn Owl that greeted us as we arrived. Our time here was well spent and we saw up to 20 Cinnamon Bitterns that stood or fed close to the road; Striated Heron too was seen, as were both Slaty-breasted Rail and Watercock; an eastern race Black-winged Kite sat on the wires as did a small number of pairs of White-breasted Woodswallows. However, for one leader at least the bird that caused most excitement was a Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler that scurried down a channel then was coaxed into giving a couple of flybys and a burst of song. Awesome is the only word...

After dinner we returned to the hotel, collected binoculars and torches for a brief walk about the grounds and enjoyed looks at a beautiful Buffy Fish Owl perched in the torchlight, but the Large-tailed Nightjars proved elusive until one deigned to do a flyby in the torch light. Job done and off to bed.

### Friday 2 March

At first light we drove to nearby Kuala Selangor Nature Park for a morning walk amongst the mangroves, but not before a spell of viewing from atop the lighthouse hill overlooking the reserve. Even early it was warm so we knew it was going to be hot. The birds around a fruiting tree included many Asian Glossy Starlings as well as the hoped-for Lineated Barbet and a fly-past White-bellied Sea Eagle. Arriving at the mangroves we began to find the first of many Brahminy Kites as well as Black Baza, Laced Woodpeckers, Ashy Minivets and Oriental White-eyes. Reaching the mangroves, we watched from the tower adding numerous species: monochromatic Pied Trillers, Malaysian Pied Fantails wafted their tails, and the less spectacular Golden-bellied Gerygone showed at close range.

Back on the clockwise walk round the raised bank many butterflies enjoyed the warmth and we picked out Ashy Tailorbirds and a Yellow-bellied Prinia, both Greater and Common Flamebacks, a Fork-tailed Drongo-cuckoo (unusual here), an elusive yet superb male Narcissus Flycatcher, Forest Wagtail and eventually (after some patience) a male Mangrove Blue Flycatcher. Both Black-capped and Collared Kingfishers were seen, as were Indian, Rusty-breasted and Little Bronze Cuckoos and a Malaysian Hawk-cuckoo. Less exciting was the Mangrove Whistler, but the Cinereous Tit was smart. As we walked slowly back in the heat we enjoyed stunning views of a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo across the ditch and for the slow walkers amongst us a malkoha just above us proved to be the only Green-billed Malkoha of the trip. Back at our rooms we showered again and set off for lunch by the river.

Our birding on the coast was not done, as we headed south of town to a shaded viewing area from which we could scan the extensive mudflats. They were teeming with birds and a crazy 30 minutes produced numerous new species. Terek, Broad-billed and Curlew Sandpipers joined many Lesser and a few Greater Sand Plovers; Red-necked Stints were dwarfed by Curlews and Whimbrel, which in turn were dwarfed by Lesser Adjutants. Whiskered and Gull-billed Terns patrolled the area, but all too soon we had to depart for the much cooler and fresher climes of Fraser's Hill.

First stop was at the wetland area of Batang Bertunjai, where we picked up a Chestnut Munia, a showy Little Bronze Cuckoo, several heron species and a Smooth-coated Otter, before arriving at Selangor Dam. Here, just as the wind picked up and a few spots of rain began to fall, we promptly found at least 10 Rufous-bellied Swallows that spent time flying about and perched on a concrete revetement. A pair of Scarlet-backed Flowerpeckers showed nicely, but as the rain fell a little more heavily we pushed on up to The Gap, then the Old Gap Road to our hotel at Fraser's Hill, where it was a lot cooler than in the morning, to say the least.

### Saturday 3 March

The rain continued through the night, during which Mountain Scops Owls could be heard from our rooms, but by the time we started out in the morning it had stopped and we enjoyed some sun during the mostly dry day. First up this morning was a quick check of the feeders by the hotel, which found us our first Fire-tufted Barbet, Malayan Laughingthrush, Little Cuckoo-dove and Long-tailed Sibias; Streaked Spiderhunters came and went

as did the numerous Black-throated Sunbirds – these species were to become our standard fare for our time at Fraser's Hill. At a small photography station, where various species were coming to feed, we saw the diminutive Rufous-browed Flycatcher and a female Mugimaki, while Yellow-browed Warblers and Blue-winged Minlas scuttled about above.

Continuing on we headed for the anticlockwise Telekom Loop, where we spent the rest of the morning. Slowly but surely, we picked up new species as we went: Mountain Imperial Pigeon, Golden Babbler, Mountain Fulvetta, Black-browed Barbet, Plume-toed Swiftlet (Glossy Swiftlet in old money), Red-headed Trogon, Bay Woodpecker, Grey-chinned Minivet, Chestnut-crowned Warblers, Fire-breasted Flowerpeckers, Blyth's and Black-eared Shrike-babblers, three Black-and-crimson Orioles, Lesser Racquet-tailed Drongos, White-throated Fantails, Verditer Flycatchers, crested and streaky Mountain Bulbul and Mountain Tailorbird (not really a tailorbird at all). However, amidst one good flock we saw the easily the bird of the morning (BOTM), as two stunning Blue Nuthatches appeared but stayed up high.



*Malaysian Partridge is a very secretive species © Brian Small, Limosa*

After lunch, and a chance for some to mooch about gaining good views and photographs of the 'garden' birds, we headed up the Army Camp road to Richmond Cottage for another little stake out. Finding space amongst some photographers, we only had to wait a short while before Lee managed to entice the target in – a fine Malaysian Partridge – though we had been entertained by the Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes until then. Having been stood still for a while we stretched our legs by walking back down the hill to the hotel. A good decision, not just for the exercise, but as we picked up several more good birds including Streaked Wren-Babbler, Large Niltava, Everett's White-eye, more Silver-eared Mesias, Large (Malaysian) Cuckooshrikes, a Common Green Magpie, and four Orange-bellied Leafbirds, before we eventually arrived back at the hotel. What a great day!

#### **Sunday 4 March**

A sunny and pleasantly warm day dawned; though a bit of cloud bubbled up later, we stayed dry. We started at the top of the Old Gap Road, where as the light improved we enjoyed super views of a pair of Slaty-backed Forktails as they walked to and fro across the road on their sturdy, bubble-gum pink legs. A really lovely way to begin the day!

Then it was off down the New Gap Road, stopping regularly and walking downhill. At times, if we were honest, it was quiet, but we eventually came across a good flock to finish the morning, where birds came and went so quickly it was hard to keep up. We saw the first of 30+ Crested Honey Buzzards head over, a single Blyth's Hawk-Eagle and several Black Eagles. We enjoyed two male Red-headed Trogons and a couple of Sooty Barbets (now 'split' from Brown Barbet) with their bright red legs; sadly both Banded Kingfisher and Silver-breasted Broadbill remained 'heard only'. Our large mixed flock held both Grey-chinned and Scarlet Minivets, White-bellied Erpornis, Everett's White-eyes, Sultan Tits, Cinereous Bulbuls, Blue-winged Leafbirds, Yellow-bellied Warbler, Dark-necked Tailorbird and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers. Hill Blue Flycatcher and another Slaty-backed Forktail were also seen, before we finally had to go to lunch.

After lunch we again spent a bit of time around the hotel, the highlight of which was a pair of Little Pied Flycatchers, then we headed up to Telekom Loop and completed the circuit we did not finish yesterday. On a sunny afternoon we had a couple of Pacific Swifts head over, more Crested Honey Buzzards and Black Eagles, Blyth's Shrike-babbler showed well and two Blue Nuthatches performed very nicely – even coming down to eye level as a treat; close by, a Lesser Yellownappe perched up well on a dead tree. However, it was the pair of Red-bearded Bee-eaters that truly stole the show as they called and perched about the canopy, though the Siamang that leaped across the road and hung on the telephone wire was a close second.

After dinner, we drove up the Old Camp Road and enjoyed some good views of a Grey Nightjar as it sat atop a telegraph pole; at least three Mountain Scops Owls called at close range but our search for Brown Wood Owl was in vain.

### Monday 5 March

Early mist threatened to stick about, but quickly cleared leaving another warm and sunny day. We descended the New Gap Road quickly, with plans to bird at The Gap itself. We made one stop and heard Ferruginous Partridge high up the hill as well as Orange-breasted Trogon. There was still the small but significant issue of Bamboo Woodpecker to face. Having parked up we walked to one of Lee's best sites for them and it was not long before one called lower down the slope. With a bit of coaxing, it moved up to us and then typically was very flighty, but most gained perched views before it set off again. In the bamboo patch we (or rather Lee) also saw a female Banded Kingfisher, which sat quietly at close range. Good numbers of Pacific Swifts passed through and we also managed to pick up Wreathed Hornbill when two flew over and also three Bushy-crested Hornbills were seen by stragglers. Our first Bronzed Drongo perched high in a tree, our second Chestnut-winged Cuckoo and a Rufescent Prinia showed well.

Heading back up the Old Gap Road, we made a number of stops, again finding new species as we went. One of the first was a couple of hefty billed Golden-whiskered Barbets and we also finally saw Blue-eared and Red-throated Barbet, but it was the woodpeckers that we enjoyed the most. It is hard to decide if the Chequer-throated or Crimson-winged was the best, or maybe it was the two Buff-rumped? Another Red-bearded Bee-eater was seen right by the road (too close in fact), a Black Laughingthrush was heard though would not show, but a party of noisy Dusky Broadbills did appear and showed above the track – a good end to the morning.



*Malayan Laughingthrush and Rufous-browed Flycatcher at the same feeding station © Brian Small, Limosa*

After lunch some walked the roads taking photos, then we visited a number of feeding stations around Fraser's Hill, including the old Jelai Resort, where we gained brilliant views of numerous Long-tailed Sibias, Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes and Silver-eared Mesias, as well as Treeshrew and Himalayan Striped Squirrel. Whilst checking for the Greater Yellownappe seen at lunchtime we heard Rufous-naped Pitta at quite close range, however this notoriously difficult-to-see species was not expected to show and indeed did not! We had point blank views of the bush where a Pygmy Wren-Babbler was calling, and one or two of the group saw it, but it was elusive. At another small station a brilliant pair of Large Niltavas perched and fed, as did a cute Rufous-browed Flycatcher and we gained our last good looks at Malayan Laughingthrush.

### Tuesday 6 March

We departed Fraser's Hill in the dark, with a good drive along twisty roads to Bentong, where we stopped for breakfast. Then we pressed on to the small wetland near Lanchang. In a small compound we found a number of territorial Red Junglefowls and in the bushes Black-headed Bulbuls and a Violet Cuckoo flew about our

heads; an Oriental Pied Hornbill flew into a close tree. We walked long the track to the 'wetland', which this year was actually a series of small pools. Black-and-red Broadbill was found around the edge, but we checked for shorebirds: Red-wattled Lapwings, ten Wood Sandpipers and a Pin-tailed Snipe were all seen as well as White-breasted Waterhen and Stork-billed Kingfisher, before we had to press on. By now it was hot and sunny, but we would get a few spells of rain en route to Taman Negara.

At the Krau Forest Reserve we headed straight to a screen and feeding area and sat to wait for birds to show. Ferruginous and Black-throated Babblers appeared first, followed by a very fine male White-rumped Shama then an adult male Siberian Blue Robin (just beginning to show the signs of its full breeding plumage). Grey-cheeked, Yellow-bellied and Hairy-backed Bulbuls, too, were new and then in came another Hooded Pitta. As we waited a Garnet Pitta began to call, with baited breath we patiently waited; it came closer and closer and was just on the edge of the clearing when it stopped and sadly failed to show. We had seen some great birds but left with just a tinge of sadness – and one or two leeches for our efforts. Along the road, we found Sooty-capped Babblers. Even better and certainly more colourful was a jewel-like rufous-backed Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher found deep in the trees, but zapped past us so close you could have caught if you were on the ball... the nest of a Black-naped Monarch was found just above the road and that of a Black-headed Bulbul was next to the road. The prize for the most colourful bird was given to the Scarlet-rumped Trogon along a side trail.

Finally we headed off for lunch at a local restaurant, but with a good drive ahead of us to reach Taman Negara, we left soon after, stopping en route at Jelantut for a pit stop and short spell of birding round a fuel station: as usual the Baya Weavers were building nests and many Tree Sparrows fed about it. We eventually arrived at Kuala Tahan, where we unloaded the vehicles, said a brief farewell to Chia and Vincent then packed onto a boat for the river crossing. After brief check-in formalities, we went off to our nice chalets and had a quick walk to check out the fruiting tree close by: Little Green and Thick-billed Pigeons were predominant, but there was also a number of Asian Fairy-bluebirds, Stripe-throated Bulbuls and Coppersmith Barbets. Walking to dinner, the habituated Great Argus picked about the garden.

### Wednesday 7 March



*Close to our rooms, the blue of a male Asian Fairy-bluebird was simply stunning © Brian Small, Limosa*

Our first full day at Taman Negara dawned sunny and stayed so until early afternoon when it rained heavily. Without vehicles we spent a good part of the morning walking the raised Swamp Trail through the forest. We again gathered under the fruiting tree getting more views of the Oriental Magpie Robins, green pigeons and Asian Fairy-bluebirds. Before walking out of the resort at the far end we also picked up our first Green lorises and another flock of Ashy Minivets. At one stage a few at the rear, walking slowly, found a stunning male and two female Crested Firebacks close to the trail and the rest of the group were quickly fetched. Continuing, by the end of the morning we had seen a good array of birds, but in the heat it was quite hard work at times. By the hide we saw a Mountain Peacock-Pheasant and from the hide we found Black-thighed Falconet, Great Slaty Woodpecker, Dollarbird and a Black Hornbill. Birds along Swamp Trail, aside from the firebacks, included Rufous-winged Philentoma, as well as Chestnut-winged, Moustached, Sooty-capped and Scale-crowned Babblers.

After a lovely lunch and bit of downtime for some, we gathered near the fruiting tree just as the heavens opened. Retreating we waited a while on David and Jennifer's balcony...then a bit longer...until eventually it eased and we headed to the campsite for the final birding of the day. The tall trees here attracted several species and we simply stood and waited for birds to come to us. Raffles's, Black-bellied and Chestnut-breasted Malkohas, Brown-backed Needletails flew over, a couple of Crimson-winged Woodpeckers and Buff-vented Bulbul.

After dark we headed out again, hearing just Blyth's Frogmouth.

#### **Thursday 8 March**

A hot (reaching 35C+) and sunny day dawned and it stayed that way all day. As we waited we discovered three Black-thighed Falconets across the river, catching huge beetles above the trees, and an immature White-bellied Sea Eagle flew downriver. It was perfect weather for a ten-minute boat journey downstream to the Blau Trail, though we had to first drag ourselves up the steep and muddy bank to the top. Once up we spent the next two hours walking the trail, slowly but surely see a few target species.

A Great Argus called distantly, but Lee's hearing picked out a Malayan Banded Pitta away along the trail. As we headed towards it, we found a very nice Banded Broadbill that showed well, before turning our minds to the pitta. The bird was calling close by and soon had kickstarted two others, but try as we might we could not get it to come into the open. Leaving it alone, we then managed to get good looks at a Diard's Trogon and a couple of Scarlet-rumped Trogon, while for some there were brief views of Green Broadbill. We tried again for the pitta as it was now close again, but still no joy; a Rail-babbler, too, called but would not show. Returning to the trail that followed the river, we walked slowly and picked up two Black Magpies, saw briefly and heard the distinctive call of Crested Jay, several Raffles's Malkoha, a Rufous-collared Kingfisher called and was seen briefly, while a Garnet Pitta also called.

After lunch, we went towards Tahan Hide, where a small party of Crested Partridges had been discovered over lunch, but though the Lesser Mouse-deers they were accompanying were still present the birds had gone. From here we headed off to the Simpon Trail via the campsite, eventually reaching the beach. Birds picked up as we went included Scarlet Minivet, Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher, a Rufous Woodpecker, from the beach we saw Silver-rumped Spinetails and Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, but most enjoyed were the Straw-headed Bulbuls that came and sang from bushes close by. Another Rail-babbler was heard from the trail, but distantly.

A night walk allowed us to hear Sunda Scops Owl (so close but hidden in the tight branches just above us), whilst the Large Frogmouth refused to move.

#### **Friday 9 March**

Our last full day at Taman Negara was again hot and sunny. The morning was taken with a boat trip up the Tahan River – one to just sit back on and enjoy access to some of the incredibly old rainforest of the reserve. Three boats in a line set off and were soon watching White-chested Babbler by the shore, a Lesser Fish Eagle headed off upriver and an Emerald Dove flew across the bow of one of the boats. From the boats we managed to see a pair of Diard's and single Red-naped Trogons, three Greater Coucals, Raffles's and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, both Grey-rumped and Whiskered Treeswifts (oddly scarce this year), two Stork-billed Kingfishers, Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher, Pale-legged Leaf Warblers, Blue-eared Kingfisher, Tickell's Blue Flycatcher and at the point where we turned to head back, a lovely Chestnut-naped Forktail.

At one point, near the elephant hide, we prised ourselves out of the boats and stood in the clearing to enjoy a great 45 minutes of birding. New species came quick: Dark-throated Orioles, good looks at Blue-rumped Parrot, Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike, Streaked Bulbul and Lesser Green Leafbird, but we also had eight Bushy-crested and three Wreathed Hornbills.

A late lunch was followed by a brief rest then some opted to rest for the afternoon whilst others made one more walk along the trail towards the (closed) canopy walkway. Though it was hot, we still managed to get some new species, while overhead numerous Silver-rumped Spinetails chattered away. A Rufous Piculet called from dense vegetation and was seen by a few, but a single tree proved popular. An immature Tiger Shrike, a Greater Green Leafbird to go with the Lesser seen earlier, Bronzed Drongos, super looks at Blue-rumped Hanging Parrots, Black-winged Flycatcher-shrikes, a Lesser Cuckooshrike and as we walked back both Abbott's Babbler and Rufous-tailed Tailorbird. That evening prior to dinner we watched for nightjars from the viewing area across the river and though we did not see the target species, we were more than rewarded by an amazing encounter with a Bat Hawk that swept about the resort calling!

**Saturday 10 March**

Another hot and sunny day and sadly our last in Malaysia. We spent a couple of hours to bird the campsite and beginning of the Simpon Trail, with a chance for the group to pack late morning. There is no doubting the two stars of the morning: good views through the 'scope of a calling Green Broadbill – what a colour (!); then Lee called in a distantly heard Helmeted Hornbill which flew over our heads. Add in the Purple-naped Sunbird, Puff-backed and Spectacled Bulbuls, more views of Bar-bellied and Lesser Cuckooshrikes, Common Hill Myna and super views of a calling Thick-billed Spiderhunter – our only view on the trip.

Packed and ready to depart, we had a final lunch, before crossing the river to meet up with the buses that would take us back to Kuala Lumpur. We just sat back and took in the ride to and through downtown KL – the Petronas Towers, etc. – and stopped for dinner at a restaurant for an early dinner. Then it was time to say goodbye to Nick and Julie, who headed into 'town', then continue to the airport, eventually departing very late in the evening.

**Sunday 11 March**

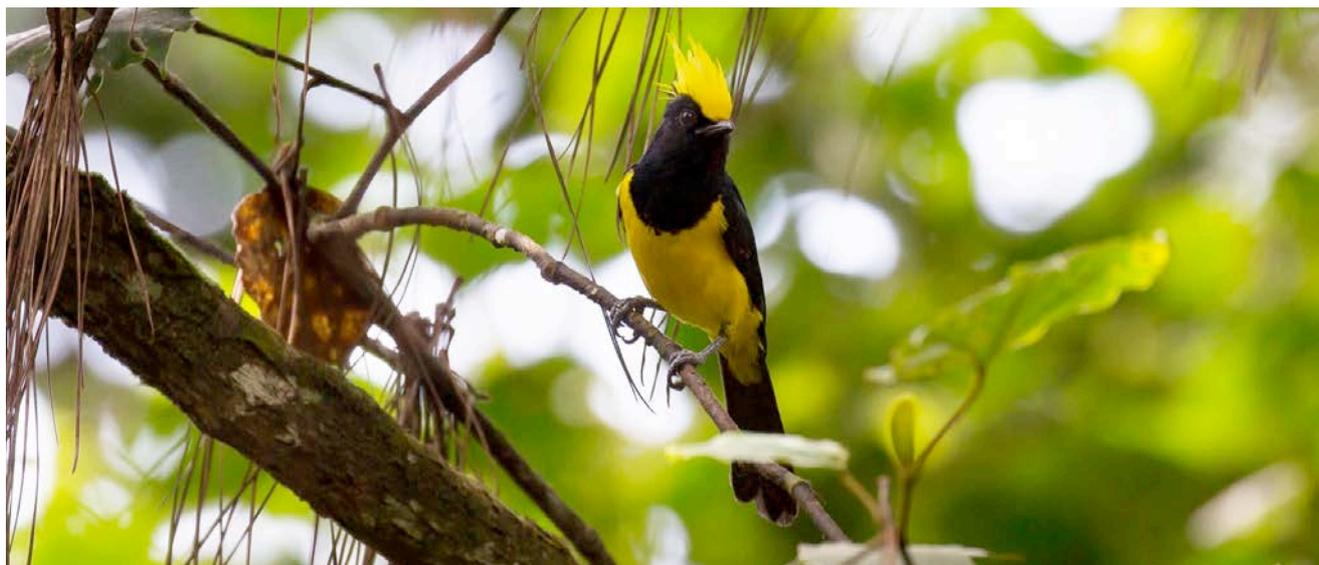
The arrival at Heathrow was smooth and early. With relatively prompt baggage collection we were all quickly on our ways home.

Many thanks to you all for your great company and humour.

**Brian Small**

**ANNOTATED LIST OF THE BIRD SPECIES RECORDED**

**[n=308 – 293 + 15 heard only (H)]**



*A stunning male Sultan Tit at Fraser's Hill - often joins mixed flocks © Brian Small, Limosa*

**Malaysian Partridge *Arborophila campbelli***

One at Richmond Cottage, 03/3

**Ferruginous Partridge *Caloperdix oculus* - H**

Heard from the New Gap Road (NGR), 05/3

**Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus***

Several seen at Lanchang, 06/3

**Crested Fireback *Lophura ignita***

A regular male and two females near the resort at Taman Negara (TN) on three dates, with two extra males on 09/3

**Malayan Peacock-pheasant *Polyplectron malacense***

Seen or heard on three dates, with one seen near Tahan Hide, 07/3

**Great Argus *Argusianus argus***

The usual habituated bird at TN, but also heard on four days

**Painted Stork *Mycteria leucocephala***

Three seen near the coast, 01/3

**Lesser Adjutant *Leptoptilos javanicus***

Four on the mudflats near Kuala Selangor (KS), 02/3

**Cinnamon Bittern *Ixobrychus cinnamomeus***

Great views of several (total over 20) on the KS ricefields, 01/3

**Black-crowned Night Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax***

Just one immature at KS ricefields, 01/3

**Striated Heron *Butorides striata javanica***

Noted on three dates: firstly at the KS mudflats, 02/3, then two days on the river at TN

**Chinese Pond Heron *Ardeola bacchus***

Just seen on two dates, with good numbers at the KS ricefields, 01/3

**Eastern Cattle Egret *Bubulcus coromandus***

Common near the coast and in lowland areas; seen on five days

**Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea***

Only noted near the coast or at Shah Alam (SA); eastern birds are very white necked

**Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea***

Several birds with sinuous necks at the ricefields at KS, 01/3; only near the coast or lowland wetlands

**Great Egret *Ardea alba***

Two dates at KS

**Intermediate Egret *Egretta intermedia***

Only seen in the ricefields at KS, 01/3

**Little Egret *Egretta garzetta***

Two dates at KS and en route to TN on 06/3

**Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus vociferus***

Eastern birds differ subtly in having a black secondary bar; seen at KS ricefields

**Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus***

May well be split into at least three species, but as to which we saw, who knows? Seen only at Fraser's Hill (FH) on two dates with 30 on 04/3

**Black Baza *Aviceda leuphotes***

A smart and compact raptor, with two at KS mangroves, 01/3

**Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela***

Noisy and seen or heard on nine dates, with our best views at KS mangroves, 02/3

**Bat Hawk *Macheiramphus alcinus***

The views at TN at dusk on 09/3 were quite simply amazing!

**Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus limnaeetus***

Seen en route to TN, 06/3, then back again, 10/3; one was in trees at Tahan Hide, 09/3

**Blyth's Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus alboniger***

Three noted on two days at FH, but the best views was over the boat as we came back from the Simpon Trail, 08/3

**Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis***

Relatively numerous at FH this year, with at least five seen on 04/3

**Eastern Marsh Harrier *Circus spilonotus***

One floated past one of the vans at KS ricefields, 01/3

**Brahminy Kite *Haliastur Indus***

Only seen near the coast or at SA

**White-bellied Sea Eagle *Haliaeetus leucogaster***

A pair at KS lighthouse, 02/3, and one at Batang Bertunjai the same day; an immature at TN, 08/3

**Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis***

One along the Tahan River on 09/3

**Slaty-breasted Rail *Gallirallus striatus***

One was found at the KS ricefields, 01/3

**White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus***

Noted on just two dates: one at FH, 04/3, the others at Lanchang wetland, 06/3

**Watercock *Gallixrex cinerea***

One at KS ricefields

**Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus***

Good numbers at Lanchang, 06/3

**Lesser Sand Plover *Charadrius mongolus***

100s at the KS mudflats, 02/3

**Greater Sand Plover *Charadrius leschenaultii***

A handful with the Lessers (above)

**Pin-tailed Snipe *Gallinago stenura***

One at Lanchang, 06/3, was assumed to be this species though the very similar Swinhoe's Snipe occurs in low numbers too

**Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus***

One at KS mudflats

**Eurasian Curlew *Numenius arquata***

Small numbers at KS mudflats, 02/3

**Common Redshank *Tringa tetanus***

Only seen on the mudflats at KS

**Common Greenshank *Tringa nebularia***

No more than 10 at KS mudflats

**Wood Sandpiper *Tringa glareola***

11 at Lanchang, 06/3

**Terek Sandpiper *Xenus cinereus***

Several of these very active feeders at KS mudflats, 02/3

**Common Sandpiper *Actitis hypoleucos***

Just one in a ditch as we approached the coast on 02/3

**Red-necked Stint *Calidris ruficollis***

Fair numbers at the mudflats, 02/3

**Curlew Sandpiper *Calidris ferruginea***

Just two at KS mudflats

**Broad-billed Sandpiper *Limicola falcinellus***

A handful at KS, 02/3

**Gull-billed Tern *Gelochelidon nilotica***

Several patrolling the mudflats at KS, 02/3

**Little Tern *Sternula albifrons***

Two at KS, 02/3

**Whiskered Tern *Chlidonias hybrida***

15 or so at KS ricefields, 01/3

**White-winged Tern *Chlidonias leucopterus***

Up to 30 over the KS hotel heading to roost, 01/3 and a couple the next day

**Feral Rock Dove *Columba livia***

Many feral birds seen near large towns and cities

**Spotted Dove *Streptopelia chinensis***

Similar distribution to Feral Pigeons, with many on roadside fences

**Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps***

Most often seen in flight, when seen well these are richly coloured; only at FH

**Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica***

Ones or twos on three dates at Krau Forest or TN

**Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata***

Tiny and banded and in the lowlands

**Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax***

Great views and numbers in the fruiting tree at TN, with quite a bit of 'lovey dovey' going on

**Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans***

Seen firstly in the park at SA, then also at KS

**Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra***

Low numbers on three dates at TN

**Large Green Pigeon *Treron capellei***

One at TN on 07/3

**Yellow-vented Green Pigeon *Treron seimundi* - H**

Seen and heard on one date at FH, down the New Gap Road (NGR), 05/3

**Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia***

MIMPs were seen at FH on just one day, with three on 03/3

**Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis***

One at TN, 08/3, seen but just by a couple of the group; three on the boat trip up the Tahan River

**Raffles's Malkoha *Rhinortha chlorophaea***

Seen on three days at TN, with the best views on 08/3

**Red-billed Malkoha *Zanclostomus javanicus***

One was seen up OGR on 05/3

**Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris***

One at Krau, 06/3, was the first; also seen at TN on two dates

**Black-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus diardi***

Two along the Canopy Trail, TN, 07/3, and one on 09/3

**Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis***

Just one seen at the KS mangroves, 02/3, was re-identified from photos

**Chestnut-winged Cuckoo *Clamator coromandus***

Two stunning birds, firstly at KS mangroves, 02/3, and one at The Gap, 05/3

**Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopacea***

Seen, but more likely heard on eight days away from FH

**Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus***

Singles seen at Lanchang, 06/3, and TN, 09/3

**Little Bronze Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx minutillus peninsularis***

Seen and heard at KS mangroves and Batang Bertunjai

**Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus***

First seen at the SA Botanical Gardens, 01/3, then singles at TN on two dates

**Ruddy-breasted Cuckoo *sepulcralis***

One at KS mangroves, 02/3

**Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris***

Noted on four dates at KS, FH, Krau and TN

**Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus dicruroides***

Unusually we found one at KS mangroves, 02/3

**Dark Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx bocki***

One at FH, along the Telekom Loop, 03/3

**Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo *Hierococcyx fugax***

One near the tower hide at KS mangroves, 02/3

**Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus***

Seen and heard on five dates, the first seen at KS mangroves, 02/3, then heard very day at TN

**Western Barn Owl *Tyto alba javanica***

One was found being mobbed by House Crows at the KS ricefields, 01/3, before perching in a palm tree; to me it looked bigger than those in Europe...

**Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* - H**

Heard at FH on three dates, sometimes from the hotel at night, but best near the army camp, 04/3

**Sunda Scops Owl *Otus lempiji* - H**

Heard at TN on 08/3

**Buffy Fish Owl *Ketupa ketupu***

Seen at our KS hotel, 02/3

**Collared Owlet *Glaucidium brodiei***

Heard on just two dates at FH, but only briefly seen down NGR, 04/3

**Large Frogmouth *Batrachostomus auritus* - H**

Heard at TN on 08/3

**Blyth's Frogmouth *Batrachomotomus affinis* - H**

Heard at TN near the campsite on 07/3

**Grey Nightjar *Caprimulgus jotaka***

Seen at the army camp at FH, 04/3

**Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus* - H**

Heard then seen at our KS hotel, 01/3

**Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiproctus longipennis***

Seen on our boat trip at TN, near the elephant hide on 09/3

**Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiproctus comate***

Seen the same day as above

**Plume-toed Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta***

'Glossy Swiftlet' in old money, this species has had a four-way split. Seen on three days at FH, with great views near the colony along Telekom Loop

**Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germaini***

Very similar to Edible-nest Swiftlet, we saw these daily in good numbers

**Silver-rumped Spinetail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis***

First seen at TN along the river at the Simpon Beach, 08/3, then from our boat trip and along the canopy trail

**Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus***

Only seen at TN, where flocks of over 10 were seen at times – a superb bird, with incredible speeds watched at Simpon Beach, 08/3

**Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus***

Seen on four days at FH and TN; often just a few, we had 100s on 05/3, probably passage birds

**House Swift *Apus nipalensis***

First seen about the Blue Mosque 28/2 and the next morning, then one day at FH

**Red-naped Trogon *Harpactes kasumba***

Just the one from the boats up the Tahan River, 09/3

**Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii***

A male was watched up the Blau Trail, 08/3, while a pair was seen the next day

**Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii***

Again just two dates: one at Krau, 06/3; then two at TN on 08/3

**Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* - H**

Often elusive, this went down as heard only along NGR on 05/3

**Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus***

Seen and heard on three dates at FH, with mostly males in their brilliant plumage

**Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis***

There were few about, so we had just three birds at TN spread over two days

**Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus* - H**

Another frustrating heard only on 08/3 – though it was glimpsed in flight: tracked down by Lee, he had just put his 'scope on it when it flew off never to be seen again...

**Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella***

A lovely female at The Gap was found in the bamboo and watched well, 05/3

**Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis***

One was at Lanchang, 06/3, but we had good views along the Tahan on 09/3

**White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis***

Numerous in places, we had good views at many lowland sites

**Black-capped Kingfisher *Halcyon pileata***

Only seen at KS mangroves on 02/3

**Collared Kingfisher *Todirhamphus chloris***

Again only at KS mangroves, with two this time

**Blue-eared Kingfisher *Alcedo meninting***

A brilliant kingfisher and only seen from the boats on 09/3

**Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx [erithaca] rufidorsa***

We saw a rufous-backed bird at Krau on 06/3 which past so close you could have caught it

**Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus***

The strange call belies the beauty of this bird. Two were along Telekom Loop, 04/3, which showed well at time, but the one the next day was so close the vehicle you did not need binos

**Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus***

Just seen on two dates near the coast and in relatively low numbers

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

Three at the Botanical Gardens, SA, on 01/3, then on five days at TN

**Helmeted Hornbill *Rhinoplax vigil***

We really hoped to see this and Lee pulled one out of the hat on our last walk at TN, 10/3; amazing voice and in flight very long tailed, it was superb – *photo above by Lee Kok Chung*

**Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris***

Two at KS on 02/3 and then just one more at Lanchang and that was it...

**Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus* – H**

. Firstly three were seen at SA, 01/3, then just one more at TN – no doubt due to the lack of fruiting trees

**Bushy-crested Hornbill *Anorrhinus galeritus***

Three were seen at The Gap, FH, on 05/3, then having been heard at TN we saw eight on 09/3 at the clearing whilst on our boat trip

**Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulates***

Two flew over at The Gap, 05/3, and then three at the same clearing as the Bushy-crested

**Fire-tufted Barbet *Psilopogon pyrolophus***

Three dates at FH and each one was enjoyed; more often heard than seen

**Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus***

Two were seen at the fruiting tree near KS lighthouse on 02/3

**Golden-whiskered Barbet *Psilopogon chrysopogon***

The large bill of this bird is noteworthy, as of course are the yellow 'cheeks'; seen at FH on two dates, the first two up OGR on 05/3

**Red-throated Barbet *Psilopogon mystacophanos***

Its odd, "off beat" call was often heard, but less easily seen; our first and best look was up OGR on 05/3

**Black-browed Barbet *Psilopogon oorti***

Seen and heard on three dates at FH

**Blue-eared Barbet *Psilopogon australis***

Seen and heard at FH, 05/3, then more at Krau/TN on three dates

**Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephala***

Seven dates, with our first views about the hotel at KS, 01/3, but also seen well at the fruiting tree at TN

**Sooty Barbet *Caloramphus hayii***

Seen on three dates at FH, with our first down NGR, 04/3

**Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis***

A calling bird proved very difficult to see in bushes along the Canopy Trail at TN, 09/3

**Grey-and-buff Woodpecker *Hemicircus concretus***

One or two on two dates at TN

**Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis***

Up to five were seen at the Botanical Garden, SA, 01/3

**Banded Woodpecker *Chrysophlegma miniaceus***

Seen on arrival at the Botanical Gardens at SA, 01/3

**Chequer-throated Woodpecker *Chrysophlegma mentalis***

A superb woodpecker, first seen up OGR, at FH on 05/3, then two dates at TN. [Sadly the last of the three *Chrysophlegma*, Greater Yellownape, was seen by a leader only at FH]

**Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus***

One was along the Telekom Loop, FH, on 05/3

**Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus***

Though it looks like Chequer-throated, this is in a different genus; another stunner first seen up the OGR on 05/3, then two more dates at TN, where up to three were found

**Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus***

Noisy and hangs about in packs; up to 10 at KS mangroves, 02/3

**Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense***

Also only seen at KS mangroves on 02/3, when two were found and photographed

**Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus***

Just one - as above

**Bamboo Woodpecker *Gecinulus viridis***

A tough nut to crack, we tried a few patches of bamboo before finally getting views of one at The Gap, FH, on 05/3; another was heard well below us

**Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus* - H**

Frustratingly, we only heard this at TN on 09/3

**Bay Woodpecker *Blythipicus pyrrhotis***

Three were seen at FH on 03/3, but what a colour; heard on 05/3

**Rufous Woodpecker *Macropternus brachyurus***

One at the SA Botanical gardens on 01/3, then one at TN on 08/3

**Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis***

Seen at FH on two dates, with the first down NGR on 04/3 then two up OGR the next day

**Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki***

Similar looking, we had just one at TN along the canopy Trail on 08/3

**Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus***

Two picked at a large hole in a tree at the Tahan Hide, TN on 07/3

**Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius***

A great little bird first seen at FH on 04/3; at TN up to three perched regularly in a bare tree across the river

**Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus***

One at SA on 01/3 then one along the Telekom Loop at FH on 03/3

**Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus***

We only saw one well – at the elephant clearing along the Tahan River, 09/3 – but had others fly over at height on two dates

**Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda***

Around 20 were at SA on 01/3, with singles en route to and from TN

**Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus***

Heard frequently as singles raced above the canopy at SA, but had to wait until TN to get good looks on all four dates

**Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis***

Seen and heard on two dates at TN, with great views of a calling male near the campsite, 10/3

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

Unusually we found a pair at SA Botanical gardens on 01/3; more typically we had several on four dates at Lanchang and TN

**Silver-breasted Broadbill *Serilophus lunatus* - H**

We just could not entice in a closely calling bird down NGR, 04/3 – very frustrating

**Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus***

Though only one was seen at TN, 08/3, we had great views along the Blau Trail

**Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus***

Heard a lot, yet seen on only two dates at TN

**Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus***

A nice surprise was a party seen along the OGR at FH on 05/3; their comical oversized beaks and call were most strange

**Rusty-naped Pitta *Hydrornis oatesi* - H**

Of course, heard only at FH, near the golf course on 05/3

**Malayan Banded Pitta *Hydrornis irena* - H**

Sadly, despite our best efforts, we could not get views of up to four calling birds at TN on 08/3

**Garnet Pitta *Erythropitta granatina* - H**

Our third 'heard-only' pitta and another frustrating episode at Krau and TN – close on both occasions, but no cigar!

**Hooded Pitta *Pitta sordida***

Hurrah! We actually saw two of these: firstly at SA on 01/3 then at Krau on 06/3 – very much enjoyed...

**Blue-winged Pitta *Pitta moluccensis***

...however, not as much as the amazing bird at SA on 01/3 that came out onto a log and posed brilliantly.

What a bird and maybe BOTT

**Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea***

As usual, seen and heard at KS mangroves, 02/3, with our best views from the viewing platform

**Bar-winged Flycatchershrike *Hemipus picatus***

Several parties seen at FH on two dates

**Black-winged Flycatchershrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus***

Two dates at TN and again small parties

**Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus***

First seen at SA Botanical Gardens, with five on 01/3, then also at FH on 05/3

**Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhoptera***

One only along the swamp Trail at TN, 07/3

**White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus***

Only seen at the KS ricefields on 01/3 – posing nicely in pairs on the wires

**Common lora *Aegithina tiphia***

Seen and heard on tow dates at the coast, we had nice views of this 'mini oriole'

**Green lora *Aegithina viridissima***

Very smart, with prominent wing bars, we had good views on two dates at TN

**Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei***

A very likely 'split', those in Malaysia likely to be called (amazingly enough) 'Malaysian Cuckooshrike' *C. larutensis*; oddly not seen on our first day at FH, we then saw several on the next three days

**Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata***

Only the female is really bar-bellied, we saw these on two days at TN, 09/3 and 10/3

**Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata***

Seen at the same sites and same days as Bar-bellied; one perched well along the Canopy Trail, 09/3

**Pied Triller *Lalage nigra***

Monochromatic but smart, seen only near the coast at KS

**Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus***

Good-sized wintering or migrant parties were noted at KS and Krau/TN on five dates

**Grey-chinned Minivet *Pericrocotus solaris***

The common minivet at FH, we had several on two dates

**Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus speciosus***

Up to four at FH on two dates and also seen displaying at TN on two dates – those above us at Simpon beach are noteworthy

**Mangrove Whistler *Pachycephala cinerea***

Just the one in the mangroves at KS, as usual

**Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus***

Again, as usual just singles in the forest or at forest clearing: one at FH on 04/3 and one along canopy Trail, TN, on 09/3

**Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus***

Commoner near the coast, we saw only a few this year on five dates

**White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca***

Seen on two dates: three down the NGR on 04/3; several the next day up the OGR

**Blyth's Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus***

Heard often, but hard to see if the males are calling from the tops of the highest trees, we saw several on three dates at FH

**Black-eared Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius melanotis***

Also nice to see, these follow feeding parties through the forest; first seen at Telekom Loop, 03/3, then two subsequent dates at FH

**Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus***

Only seen at the elephant clearing at TN on 09/3

**Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis***

Seen at various, well-spread locations in the lowlands; firstly at SA on 01/3

**Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus***

Up to five seen on two dates at FH, with good views of some

**Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus***

A small drongo, we saw this first at The Gap, FH, on 05/3, then two at TN along the Canopy Trail, 09/3, with one bird (probably immature) having very brown wings

**Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer***

Only seen at FH on three dates – rarely with full tails...maybe they had been fighting...

**Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus***

Our first was at SA on 01/3, then several each day at Krau and TN

**White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis***

Seen well at FH on three dates

**Malaysian Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica***

Only found at the lowland forests of KS on two dates

**Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea***

Seen on three dates at TN, but the most noteworthy sighting was at Krau on 06/3 where a female was found on a precarious nest hanging above the road

**Blyth's Paradise Flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis***

Now split into three species, 'Asian Paradise Flycatcher', is now treated as Blyth's in Malaysia. Much shorter crested and grey-breasted compared with Indian birds, we saw one at TN on 08/3

**Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus***

Heard on two dates at TN, but seen on only one along Blau Trail, 08/3

**Black Magpie *Platysmurus leucopterus***

Two along the Blau Trail, 08/3

**Common Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis***

Sadly, just one found at FH on 03/3

**House Crow *Corvus splendens***

Seen in large numbers near the coast and lowlands

**Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchos***

Noted on nine dates in higher numbers than usual

**Rail-babbler *Eupetes macrocerus* – H**

We heard this species at three sites at TN, but always distantly: Blau Trail and Simpon Trail

**Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis***

Two were in riverside trees on our boat trip up the Tahan River, 08/3

**Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea***

Two days at FH, 04/3 and 05/3, found in feeding parties – always stunning

**Cinereous Tit *Parus cinereus***

Two males at the KS mangroves on 02/3

**Straw-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus zeylanicus***

Sometimes mimicked by White-rumped Shama, we had superb views at Simpon beach, TN, on 08/3 then at least six the next day along the river. The IUCN state that due to 'relentless trapping...it is believed to number fewer than 2,500 mature individuals', and is evaluated as Endangered.

**Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps***

Seen on five dates at Krau and TN

**Black-crested Bulbul *Pycnonotus flaviventris***

Noted on two dates at FH, with our best views don the NGR

**Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus***

Found only on our last day at TN, with two near the campsite

**Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni***

Three at SA, one day at FH, then numerous at Krau/TN – often seen in the fruiting tree near our chalets

**Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier***

Seen commonly on seven dates

**Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus***

First noted at SA, 01/3, then at KS the next day; finally seen at TN on 09/3

**Asian Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus***

Found at SA, then at Krau and TN each day – likes hotter climates

**Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos***

The last bulbul to be found on tour, with two at the campsite, TN, on 10/3

**Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus***

Seen and heard on two dates at FK; crested, white-throated and richly coloured above

**Grey-cheeked Bulbul *Alophoixus bres***

Similar to Ochraceous, which it replaces at Krau and TN; seen on three dates in low numbers, firstly at the Krau feeding station, 06/3

**Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus***

First seen at the Krau feeding station then on two subsequent dates

**Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger***

Also first seen at Krau, we then saw this at TN on 08/3

**Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea***

Three dates at TN, but in low numbers

**Mountain Bulbul *Ixos mcclellandii***

Of all the bulbuls this is one of the favourites: noted on three days at FH often feeding on track-side berries

**Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis***

Replaces Mountain Bulbul in the forest of TN; seen on 09/3

**Cinereous Bulbul *Hemixos cinereus***

Two dates at FH: hanging about the edge of a feeding flock along the NGR on 04/3 and a couple the next day up OGR

**Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica***

Seen daily

**Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica***

Ditto

**Rufous-bellied Swallow *Cecropis badia***

The ten plus seen en route to FH, but the Selangor Dam, were calling and perching by the road; also noted by the hotel at FH on two dates

**Pygmy Wren-babbler *Pnoepyga pusilla***

Seen and/or heard on two dates at FH, but pretty elusive this year

**Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliosus***

Not really a 'warbler' as such so perhaps best called 'Bamboo Bush Warbler', we had two or three on two dates at FH

**Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cucullatus***

Not really a tailorbird and called a "Leaftoiler" in a recent book; noted only at FH on three dates, often in mixed flocks

**Yellow-browed Warbler *Phylloscopus inornatus***

Heard more often than seen, commonly at FH, but also at TN

**Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis***

Recorded on three dates: the KS mangroves and at TN – in the fruiting tree. All those heard and seen were identified as Arctic Warbler, despite some mooting that those at the KS mangroves are Kamchatka

**Pale-legged Leaf Warbler *Phylloscopus tenellipes***

A small group of four were seen and heard along the river at TN on 09/3

**Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Seicercus castaniceps***

A lively and vociferous species and enjoyed at FH on one day only, 03/3

**Pallas's Grasshopper Warbler *Locustella certhiola***

One that scurried down a channel at the KS ricefields on 01/3 looked to be lost, but with patience we eventually gained some views in flight and heard it sing (BOTT for at least one...)

**Zitting Cisticola *Cisticola juncidis***

Several at the KS ricefields on 01/3

**Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens***

One at The Gap on 05/3

**Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris***

Seen in the overgrown ditches at KS mangroves on 02/3 then also en route near Lanchang on 06/3

**Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius***

Seen or heard on six dates, from SA and the KS hotel on 01/3 to TN

**Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis***

Seen at FH on two dates in mixed flocks

**Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus***

A single seen well and heard along the Canopy Trail at TN on 09/3

**Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps***

Only found at the KS mangroves on 02/3

**Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps***

Seen at a couple of feeding stations at FH on 03/3 and 05/3

**Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis***

Several seen at the Krau feeding station, 06/3 then seen or heard at TN on two dates

**Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera***

Heard at Krau, but only seen at TN, firstly along the Swamp Trail, 07/3

**Golden Babbler *Stachyridopsis chrysaea***

Seen regularly at FH, often in small groups with Mountain Fulvetta

**Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis***

Seven dates and typically in small conversational groups; first seen SA on 01/3

**Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis***

Three dates at FH, often in groups with Golden Babbler and Blue-winged Minla

**Streaked Wren-Babbler *Napothera brevicaudata***

Up to two on two dates at FH, with the first near the top of the OGR on 03/3

**Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti***

Seen well eventually and heard along the Canopy Trail at TN on 09/3

**Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre***

Recorded on four dates, but only seen on one, 07/3, along the Swamp Trail

**Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine***

Seen and heard on five dates at the end of the tour; the first at Krau on 06/3 then four dates at TN

**Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum***

Just a couple at TN on 07/3

**White-chested Babbler *Trichostoma rostratum***

One seen from the boats feeding along the edge of the Tahan River on 09/3

**Ferruginous Babbler *Trichostoma bicolor***

Several seen at the feeding station at Krau on 06/3; often have a quite disheveled look

**Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli***

A good looking small babbler seen only on two dates at FH, the best at a feeding station on 05/3

**Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus***

A stunner and very charismatic; seen well at FH on three days often about the hotel feeders, but easily the best views were gained at Jelai on 05/3

**Black Laughingthrush *Garrulax lugubris* - H**

Elusive and thinly spread, we heard this along the OGR on 05/3 but failed to see it

**Malayan Laughingthrush *Trochalopteron peninsulae***

Not seen as often as Chestnut-capped, but the maroon and olive green coloration is a nice combination; seen at FH on three dates, with our best views at the hotel feeder or nearby feeding station

**Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera***

Sneaking about on high branches, this odd looking species was found in mixed flocks at FH on three dates

**Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris***

Stunning and seen well on three dates, with those about the hotel or at Jelai the best

**Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides***

Seen daily at FH, often on good-sized groups

**Oriental White-eye *Zosterops palpebrosus***

Seen at our KS hotel or at the mangroves close by, 02/3. The taxonomy of white-eyes is in a bit of a mess

**Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti***

Noted on three dates at FH, with good numbers in mixed flocks along NGR

**Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella***

The first was a male at The Gap, 05/3, but then seen daily at Krau and TN on five dates

**Blue Nuthatch *Sitta azurea***

One of the BOTT; pairs seen at different locations on three days at FH, with one pair even coming down to eye level giving good views

**Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis***

Seen in very high numbers in the coastal lowlands, with large flocks about; seen at SA, KS, FH and TN

**Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa***

Two at SA Botanical Gardens in flight, then much better at Lanchang, 06/3, and TN on our last day

**Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus***

Seen in good numbers on all dates away from FH

**Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis***

Six dates and in slightly higher numbers than normal

**Daurian Starling *Agropsar sturninus***

Good-sized flocks were seen at SA park and Botanical Gardens and at KS on 01/3

**Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis***

Seen daily, with lovely views of several birds at the fruiting tree at the TN resort

**White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus***

Seen and heard on five dates away from FH, with our first at SA Botanical Gardens, but the best at the Krau feeding station

**Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica***

The default flycatcher in winter and seen in low numbers on seven dates

**Rufous-browed Flycatcher *Anthipes solitarius***

Small and perfectly formed we enjoyed these on two dates at FH, with cracking views of a couple

**Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis banyumas***

Seen and heard at FH on two dates, with good views of a pair down NGR on 04/3

**Tickell's Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis tickelliae***

Seen and heard on three days at TN, with the best views at the campsite on 10/3

**Mangrove Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis rufigastra***

A male was found at the KS mangroves on 02/3 and showed well as it sang

**Large Niltava *Niltava grandis***

Seen on just two days at FH: a roadside male on 03/3, then a pair at a feeding area near the hotel on 05/3

**Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus***

Several seen and heard at FH on three days, with one bird setting up territory just outside the hotel

**Lesser Shortwing *Brachypteryx leucophrys***

Seen and heard on two dates at FH, with good views of one in particular

**Siberian Blue Robin *Larvivora cyane***

A shy non-breeding adult male visited the feeding station at Krau on 06/3

**Chestnut-naped Forktail *Enicurus ruficapillus***

One was seen from the boats on the Tahan River, 09/3 – always good to see

**Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus***

The pair that frequented the road at the top of the OGR on 04/3 were very much enjoyed; another seen the same day from a bridge along the NGR

**Narcissus Flycatcher *Ficedula narcissina***

An elusive male was in the KS mangroves on 02/3

**Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki***

Several were noted at FH on three dates, but never more than three on any day

**Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni***

A pair showed very outside the hotel at FH on 04/3 – the male even singing; a couple more the same day at other spots

**Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati***

Noted on two days at TN, the first being along the Canopy Trail, 09/3

**Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon***

Only one at the elephant clearing at TN on 09/3

**Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis***

Noted on four dates: two days at FH during which we saw several; up to two at TN on two dates

**Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii***

Only seen at FH on two dates, but seen well close to the hotel a couple of times

**Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus***

Just the one at Krau on 06/3

**Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus percussus***

Again just one, a male, at Simpon beach, TN, on 08/3

**Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum***

Again just one at TN on 09/3

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma***

A common flowerpecker at FH

**Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus***

The common flowerpecker at FH, with plenty seen on three days

**Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum***

A male at SA, 01/3, and another at Selangor Dam, 02/3; one at TN 09/3

**Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis***

Only found at SA Botanical Gardens, with a pair feeding young near the chalets

**Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis***

Common at KS and at TN – must like the warmth

**Purple-naped Sunbird *Hypogramma hypogrammicum***

Seen on our last day at TN. The Purple-naped Sunbird is taxonomically challenged and its scientific name is likely to be called *Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum* in future

**Olive-backed Sunbird *Cinnyris jugularis***

One was seen 06/3 en route to TN at Krau

**Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata***

A smart sunbird and seen daily at FH; in good light the male is quite crimson at times

**Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra***

Seen at SA and at FH on two dates

**Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris***

We gained good views on our last day at TN as it sang and called at close range near the campsite

**Long-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera robusta***

Seen along the NGR, FH, on 04/3

**Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster***

Two showed well near the chalets at the Botanical Gardens, SA, on 01/3

**Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera modesta***

Several at SA on 01/3 and, more unusually, one at TN on 09/3

**Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna***

Bright lime green above and with orange legs, we enjoyed seeing these at FH on three dates

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus***

Common away from FH

**Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus***

Seen at the coast near SA and KS and at Jelantut on our last day

**Chestnut Munia *Lonchura atricapilla***

Seen initially at Batang Bertunjai then en route to KL on the last day

**Forest Wagtail *Dendronanthus indicus***

One at the KS mangroves, 02/3

**Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea***

Seen on three dates at FH, often around the roads, then one along the Tahan River, TN, on 09/3

**Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus***

Seen at the Botanical Gardens, SA, on 01/3, then at Lanchang on 06/3



White-rumped Shama at the feeding station at Krau – those are mealworms not leeches... © Brian Small, Limosa

**MAMMALS**

Common Treeshrew *Tupaia glis*

Siamang *Symphalangus syndactylus*

Lar (White-handed) Gibbon *Hylobates lar*

Silvered Leaf-Monkey *Presbytis cristata*

White-thighed Leaf-Monkey *Presbytis siamensis*

Spectacled (Dusky) Leaf Monkey *Trachypithecus obscurus*

Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor*

Grey-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus caniceps*

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops macclellandii*

Low's Squirrel *Sundasciurus lowii*

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*

Smooth-coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata*

Malayan Porcupine *Hystrix brachyura*

Smooth-coated Otter *Lutrogale perspicillata*

Wild Boar *Sus scrofa*

Lesser Mouse-deer *Tragulus kanchil*

**BUTTERFLIES**

Rajah Brooke's Birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana*

Common Birdwing *Troides helena*

Common Rose *Pachliopta aristolochiae*

Black-and-white Helen *Papilio nephelus*

Common Mormon *Papilio polytes*  
Common Mime *Papilio clytia*  
Common Bluebottle *Graphium sarpedon*  
Tailed Jay *Graphium agamemnon*  
Redbase Jezebel *Delias pasithoe*  
Common Yellow Jezebel *Delias baracasa*  
Striped Albatross *Appias libythea*  
Large Tree Nymph *Idea hypermnesta*  
Yellow Orange Tip *Ixias pyrene*  
Orange Emigrant *Catopsilla scylla*  
Malayan Grass Yellow *Eurema nicevillei*  
Plain Tiger *Danaus chrysippus*  
White Tiger *Danaus melanippus*  
Blue Glassy Tiger *Idiopsis vulgaris*  
Swamp Tiger *Danaus affinis*  
Striped Blue Crow *Euploea mulciber*  
Great Crow *Euploea phaenareta*  
Magpie Crow *Euploea radamanthus*  
Horsfield's Baron *Tanaecia iapis puseda*  
Archduke *Lexias pardalis*  
Commander *Moduza procris milonia*  
Common Four-ring *Ypthima huebneri*  
Common Five-ring *Ypthima baldus*  
Malayan Lacewing *Cethosia hypsea*  
Common Yeoman *Cirrochroa tyche*  
Banded Yeoman *Cirrochroa orissa*  
Small Leopard *Phalanta alcippe*  
Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia*  
Common Sailer *Neptis hylas*  
Psyche *Leptosia nina*  
Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra*  
Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*  
Malayan Viscount *Tanaecia pelea*  
Common Earl *Tanaecia julii*  
Great Egg-fly *Hypolimnas bolina*  
Chocolate Soldier *Junonia iphita*  
Elbowed Pierrot *Caleta elna*  
Common Imperial *Cheritra freja frigga*  
Common Hedge Blue *Acytolepis puspa*  
Dark Grass Blue *Zixeeria karsandra*  
Pea Blue *Lampides boeticus*  
Common Cerulean *Jamides celeno*  
Common Posy *Drupadia ravindra*  
Fulvous Pied Flat *Pseudocoladenia dan*  
Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*