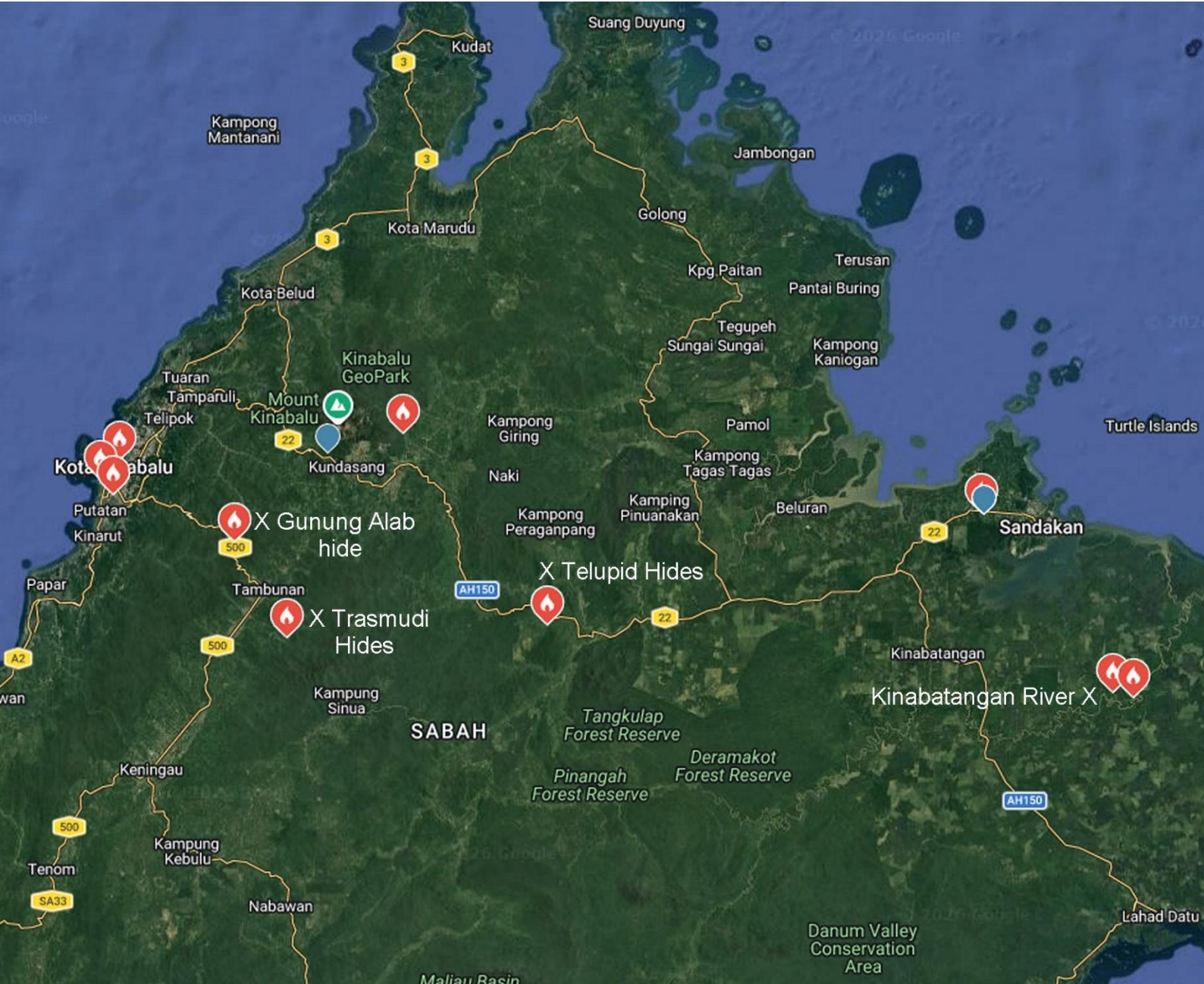


A Birding Trip to

Sabah, Borneo



3rd to 10th July, 2026



Friday, 3 rd July	Rainforest Research Centre, Sepilok	Jalan Fabian Road / Evening walk
Saturday, 4 th July	Rainforest Research Centre, Sepilok	
	Kinabatangan River	River Cruise / Night Walk
Sunday, 5 th July	Kinabatangan River	River Cruise x2 / Morning Walk
Monday, 6 th July	Kinabatangan River	River Cruise
	Rainforest Research Centre, Sepilok	
Tuesday, 7 th July	Telupid Forest Reserve	2 hides
Wednesday, 8 th July	Kinabalu Park	Early walk Visitor Centre area
		Morning – Power Station Road
		Afternoon – Poring Hot Springs
Thursday, 9 th July	Mount Trasmudi--KK Lee Hides	Upper and lower hides
	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area	Viewing area and Station road
Friday, 10 th July	Kota Kinabalu	Prince Philip Park
		Wetland Ramsar Site
		Penampang rice paddies

BIRDseen

birdseen.com

Sabah, Borneo

3rd to 10th July, 2026

The aim of this trip was to cover part of Sabah from Sandakan to Kota Kinabalu over a week covering three different types of birding – forests, stakeout hides, and river cruises. This would also focus on any extra mammals and snakes which we could chance upon. It seemed the best way to do this was to organise it ourselves (rather than pay twice the amount for a company to plan it for us) landing at Sandakan and departing at Kota Kinabalu. A car wouldn't be required until we had departed the river cruise, where a bus transfer was provided in the package price to the airport car rental location as one of their stops. All accommodation had been pre-booked, which would have gone along smoothly if Booking.com hadn't been hacked prior to the trip, and personal details mined such as booking information leading to many scam and fraud messages, as well as the closing down of one of our hotels (which was messaged to us when we were in transit in Kuala Lumpur airport).



River cruise



Forest

Driving in Sabah and Malaysia in general is fairly easy and straightforward, particularly with SatNavs and Google Maps these days, although many of the roads are in some disrepair so can add time on to any journey. The same is true for booking hotels ahead of time, although many still use social media sites rather than booking sites or their own websites so various means need to be looked at especially in outlying areas such as Telupid and possibly Tambunan, which don't have a lot of accommodation available. In retrospect tackling the three types of birding in such a short time certainly worked particularly well for us, partly because we're not exactly listers so don't need to have either high numbers of species seen or all target species ticked off. With this in mind, of the three types of birding we undertook the hides were particularly fruitful for quantities of excellent birds, in particular at Trasmudi. Forest birding is always hard work but again some quality species were seen, and the river cruise offers not just some impressive birds (although in small numbers of species) but also the addition of excellent mammal watching as well.



Hides

SITE INFORMATION

Sepilok Research and Discovery centre



This facility is designed as an educational base with a focus on Bornean forests, and also a means to access and experience the forests first hand. It is contained within the Sepilok Forest, not far from the Orang Utan rescue and rehabilitation centre. The structure of the trails is either at ground level, where the range is from easy to longer 7km yomps over uneven ground, or the canopy skywalk, an impressively built structure that gives a different access to the birds and other wildlife at a higher elevation.

There is a basic entrance fee for the usual opening hours which are between 8am and 5pm. However, a more appropriate plan is to visit the ticket office before 5pm closing and purchase a ticket which allows entry to the trails from 6am, when there is more bird (and general wildlife) activity. Another attraction is the evening nocturnal walk. Again tickets need to be purchased before 5pm for that same evening.

River Junkie River Cruise package

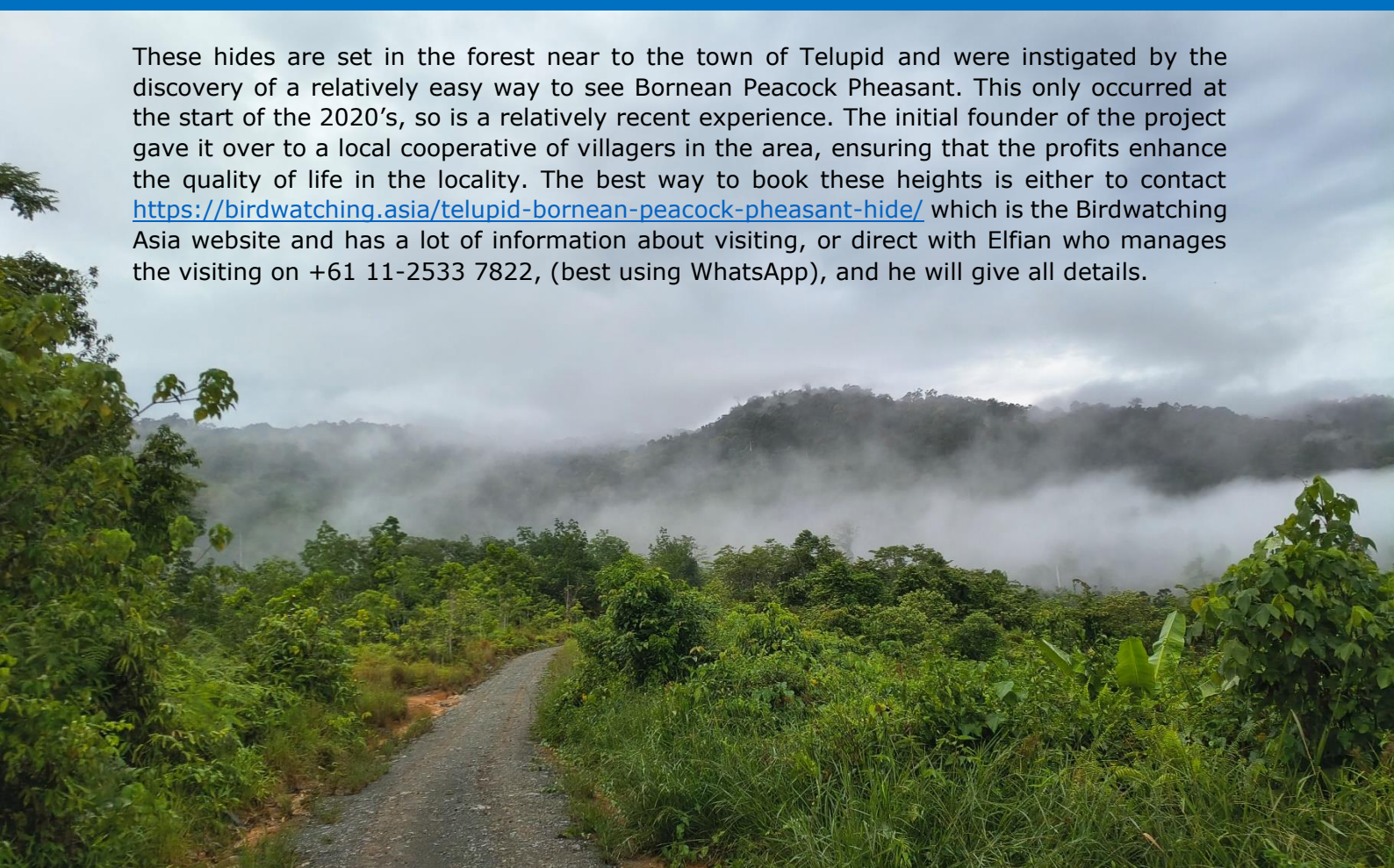


One of the experiences not to be missed by wildlife enthusiasts to Sabah is a short package cruise on the Kinabatangan river. Most of the companies which conduct these experiences not only do the river cruise itself but also other activities such as walks around their land for more personal wildlife contact. We chose River Junkie, which is the name of the company who are based at the Hornbill Lodge accommodation, which is one of the seemingly many that exist on the banks of the river itself.

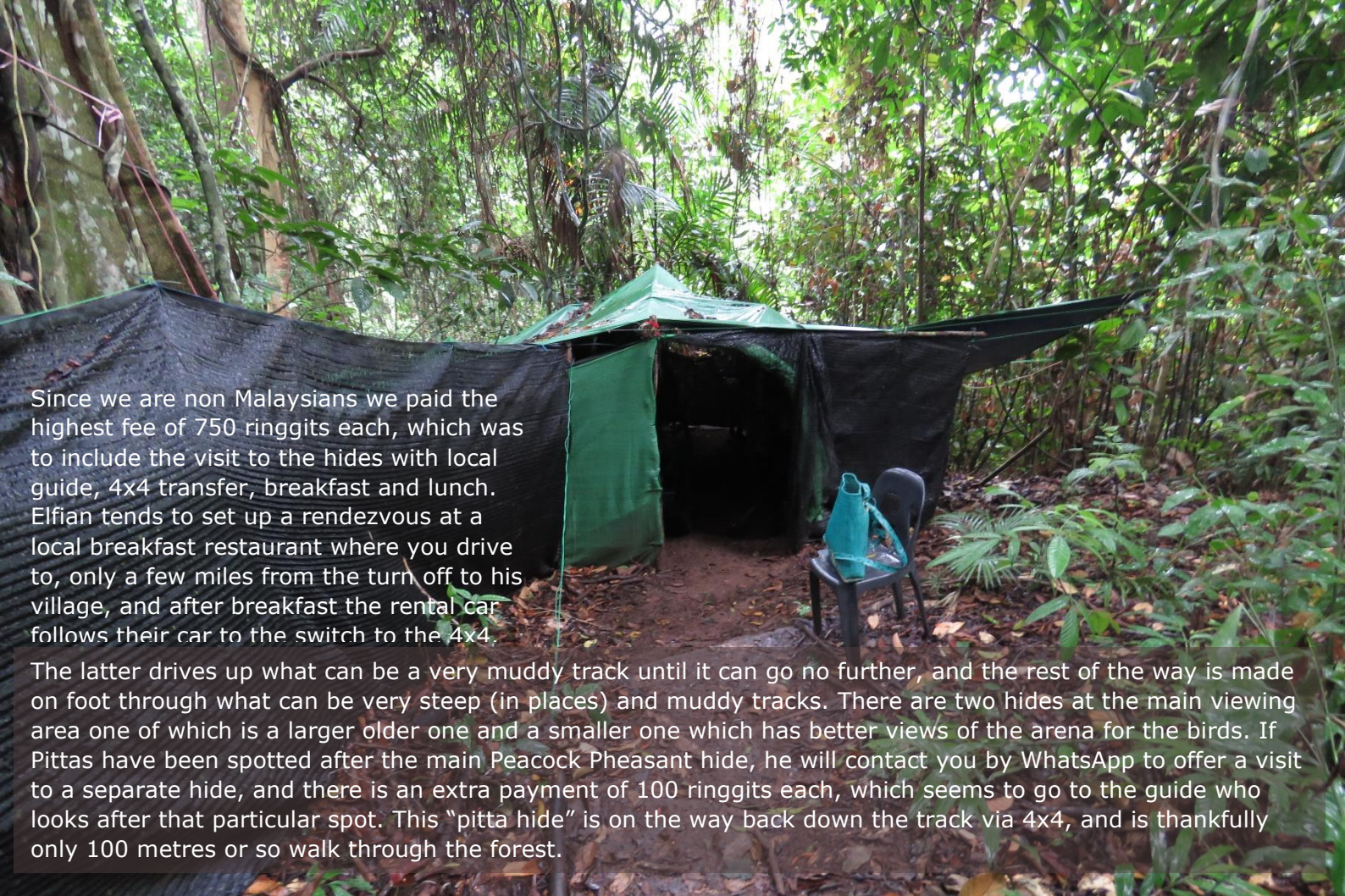


All have their own jetties to launch the small powered boats, usually seating around a dozen or so people for a more personal experience. Hornbill Lodge has very comfortable accommodation, with all the individual units looking on to the river itself with a full board package spanning from two to five nights. They also have some trails from the lodge itself on which they lead a wildlife walk (usually mid-morning) and nocturnal walks early evening. The tracks and paths they use can only be entered by tourists with a guide, mainly due to the dangers of the wildlife in the area such as Orang Utan and Elephants. For more details contact their website at: <https://www.river-junkie.com/>

Telupid hides



These hides are set in the forest near to the town of Telupid and were instigated by the discovery of a relatively easy way to see Bornean Peacock Pheasant. This only occurred at the start of the 2020's, so is a relatively recent experience. The initial founder of the project gave it over to a local cooperative of villagers in the area, ensuring that the profits enhance the quality of life in the locality. The best way to book these heights is either to contact <https://birdwatching.asia/telupid-bornean-peacock-pheasant-hide/> which is the Birdwatching Asia website and has a lot of information about visiting, or direct with Elfian who manages the visiting on +61 11-2533 7822, (best using WhatsApp), and he will give all details.



Since we are non Malaysians we paid the highest fee of 750 ringgits each, which was to include the visit to the hides with local guide, 4x4 transfer, breakfast and lunch. Elfian tends to set up a rendezvous at a local breakfast restaurant where you drive to, only a few miles from the turn off to his village, and after breakfast the rental car follows their car to the switch to the 4x4.

The latter drives up what can be a very muddy track until it can go no further, and the rest of the way is made on foot through what can be very steep (in places) and muddy tracks. There are two hides at the main viewing area one of which is a larger older one and a smaller one which has better views of the arena for the birds. If Pittas have been spotted after the main Peacock Pheasant hide, he will contact you by WhatsApp to offer a visit to a separate hide, and there is an extra payment of 100 ringgits each, which seems to go to the guide who looks after that particular spot. This "pitta hide" is on the way back down the track via 4x4, and is thankfully only 100 metres or so walk through the forest.

Trasmudi and Gunung Alab hides



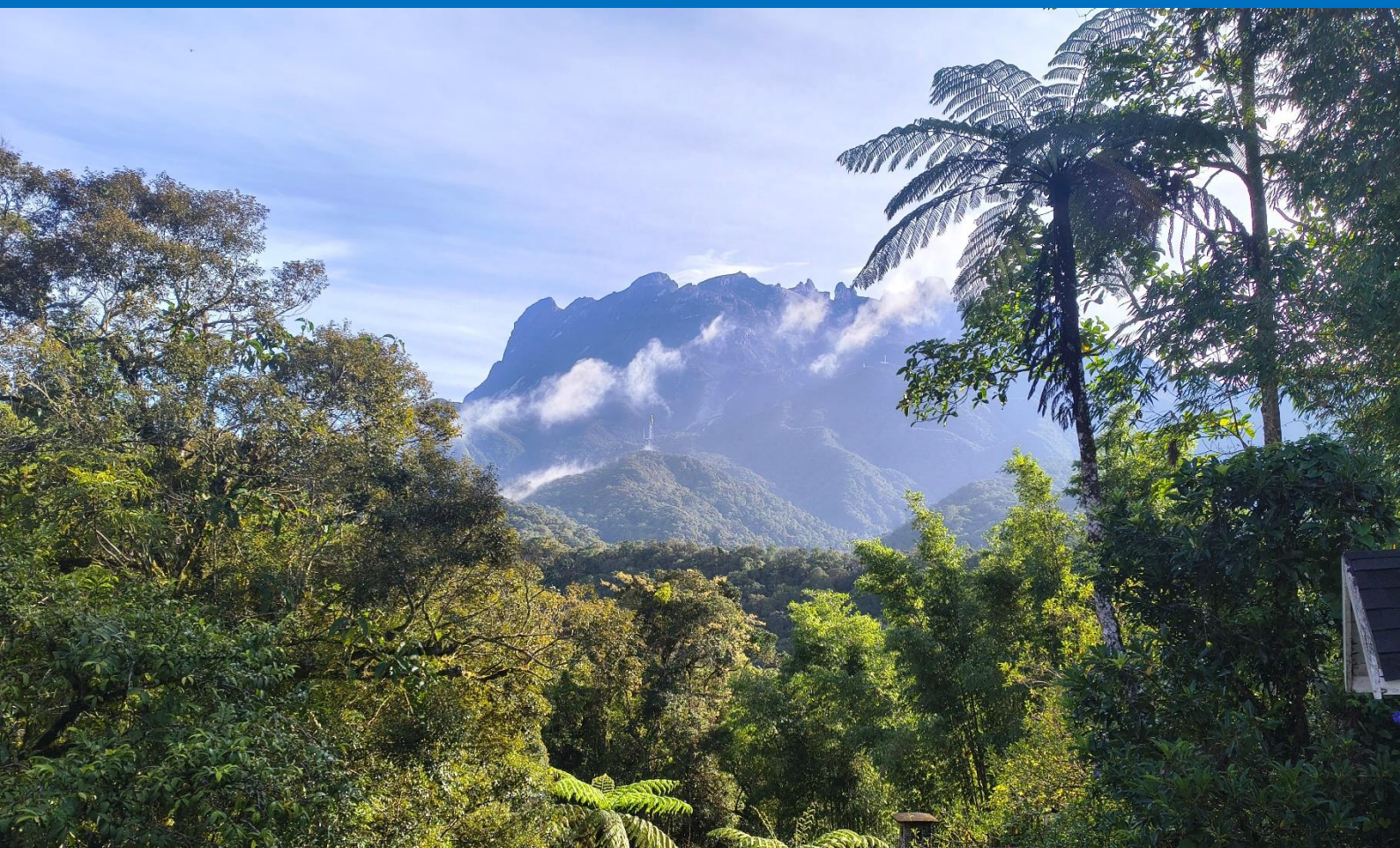
Both of these hides are owned by Mr KK Lee. It is best to contact him via WhatsApp on +60 13-801 4582.

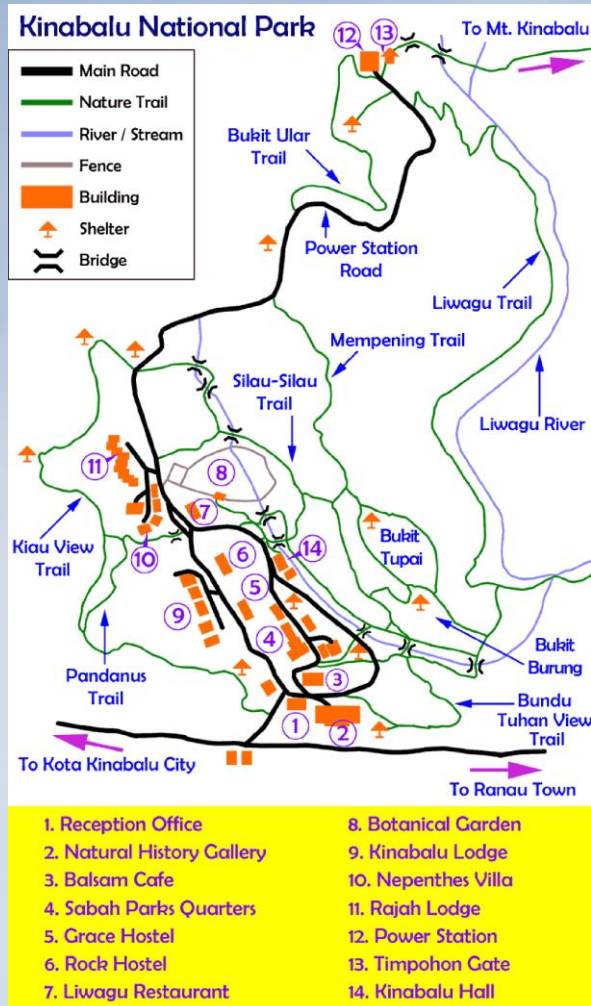
At Trasmudi there is also the choice of another hide owned by Mr C P Song. I'm not as sure of his setup, but he would be hard to push to get anywhere near the classy hide of Mr. Lee. It is clearly signed from the main road, where there is a left turn pulling off from the Tambunan road. Within the man lower hide he has a plethora of viewing screens with comfortable viewing cutouts and even offers snacks and coffee.



There is also a second hide which is around a 100 metres climb up a steep bank, but this is where some of the more exotic pheasants and partridges can be seen. It was also Mr. Lee who originally ran the Gunung Alab station hides which are now owned by the Forestry Commission. As replacement it seems he has taken over the now closed Gunung Alab hotel, and turned part of it into a very long and open viewing screen. For us his charge per person per day for both hides was a total of 500 ringgits. It has to be said, particularly with the Trasmudi hides, this is worth every ringgit. It should be noted that when self-driving some sat navs (ie ours!) start out in the Trasmudi direction from Tambunan, but then veer off to a dead end. It is worth watching for the Trasmudi road directional signs as well as using the technology.

Kinabalu Park





This park covers a huge area to include not just Mount Kinabalu and the trails around the visitor centre but also Poring Hot Springs. So it should be noted that the 10 ringgits entry charge applies to all those parts above visited for any one day, so no need to pay extra at Poring. The short circular loop trail around the visitor area below Mount Kinabalu, where the 10 ringgits are paid to security as you enter through the main gate, can be walked from anytime in the morning and the car parked at any point on this loop. To drive further up the main (Power Station) road through the Security Gate, a permit needs to be had which, costs no extra, from the rescue kiosk next to the main entrance gate. With the magic entry lanyard the main Power Station Road can then be driven up to the climbers' drop off and the best birding area of this main road can be accessed. Also for those wanting to do a night-time walk, the self-same mountain rescue kiosk needs to be visited before closing at 5:00pm to book a guide for the evening, who is then paid directly. The cost was 250 ringgits for the two of us in total, and torches obviously a huge benefit here.

The Mount Kinabalu area was very much more productive than Poring Hot Springs. One of the main reasons is that the canopy walkway at the latter has now been shut for slightly over a year and there were no signs of repairs being conducted and finished anytime in the near future. Hence it is left to the long walk to the upper waterfall which can take some hours for birding. We just covered the area up to the first waterfall, which was disturbed by tourists, but there is a way just downstream where the river can be accessed without the interference of civilians. In retrospect if time is of the essence it is probably a better bet to spend more time at Mount Kinabalu and miss Poring Hot Springs



Tips for the trip



Electricity plugs are of the UK standard type and even the most basic accommodation seems to have plenty of sockets



Car hire. To cover the itinerary we had required a one-way payment as extra to the rental cost for the car. We used Avis who were very supportive, particularly since in Sabah there seems to be a maximum rental age of 65. This seemed to be for all rental agencies. Avis helps with this by suggesting obtaining a medical letter from a doctor showing proficiency to drive



Driving – is on the left-hand side of the road. However, it needs to be noted that some of the roads in Sabah are quite poor with many stretches from Sandakan under repair, with a speed limit of 40 kph. Ironically some of the more out of the way roads such as in the mountains are of significantly better quality. Also be aware of the Malaysian driving where they will overtake anywhere, which is not particularly legal, but there are police checks occasionally on this



Landing card. UK passport holders have no need to obtain a visa for a short stay, however an electronic landing card needs to be completed up to three days before landing in Malaysia. These can be had at:

<https://imigresen-online.imi.gov.my/mdac/main?registerMain>

Be aware of the nice surprise at the end where there is a charge from £49 (up to £69 pounds if you are frightened into wanting it sent more urgently within two hours). For the former lower payment, the landing card is emailed within 24 hours. This is then tagged electronically to the passport.



Airport transfers. From Sandakan airport to any local accommodation, there seemed to be plenty of taxi drivers hanging around outside of arrivals, where there is a standard charge of 50 ringgits. To return to pick up the rental car, River Junkie included pick up from the accommodation on the way to the Hornbill Lodge, and a drop off at the end at the airport for rental car etc.



Weather. Not surprisingly, it is hot in Sabah. We had up to 35°C on many days, but the very high humidity was an even greater burden, especially when negotiating the ups and downs of forest trekking



Insects. These were not a major issue. Malaria is not a huge risk, with the advice being prevention of bites only. Very few mosquitoes were actually come across. Leaches can occur, so leach socks after wet weather are a must

Sepilok area

Jalan Fabian Road



This trip seemed to have doom written all over it from the early days of planning when the wonderful Mr Donald Trump decided to threaten our jet fuel supplies with a sortie into Iran. Around the same time most of our bookings were with Booking.com who were subsequently hacked and we were sent many spam and fraudulent scam emails and messages, some even through their own website which threatened another side of the planning. Hence it was with great relief and surprise that all three outbound flights were on time, and we even dug out the suitcases particularly quickly at Sandakan airport to leave the airport building in almost record time - around 20 minutes from touchdown to departing. Even the journey from the airport to our accommodation near to the rainforest research centre was easy, with a couple of taxi drivers milling around outside the exit offering what turned out to be an excellent ride for the princely sum of 50 ringgits.



Pacific Swallow



Black-cheeked Barbet

Arriving more or less on time had been part of our planning since the rainforest research centre conduct evening walks for night-time species, and they also allow birders to enter the park at 6:00am before the usual 8:00am opening. However, both rely on turning up at their ticket desk itself before it shuts at 5:00pm. The walk from our accommodation was only around 15 minutes to the ticket office and we did our first birding on the way as well, with the prize of 50 ringgit each bookings for the evening walk (8:00pm to 10:00pm, since the early 6pm slot was full for the next few weeks). We also purchased tickets to allow us entry to the park following morning at 6:00am for 30 ringgits each.



Chestnut Munia

We ended up spending three hours slowly walking the area, including a break for a snack and a beer near the research centre, offering predictably an excellent reintroduction to some of the commoner Bornean birds, with a few tasty morsels thrown in. We concentrated our efforts on the Jalan Fabia stretch of road, which eventually passes the research centre entrance after around 600 metres. Most of this road is coated with forest on either side opening up in places to help track down the birds themselves. Top picks away from the abundant swifts overhead, bulbuls and glossy starlings were the group of three Black-eared Barbets in the same tree, with a second pair calling overhead while we had our snack at a restaurant. Fantails here were represented by a few Pied Fantails, and very brief Little Bronze Cuckoo flew across our path, picked out before it departed into the denser foliage. Among the swifts and swiftlets a couple of Silver-rumped Swifts stood out, while patience and skill following their flight had to be taken to see the bright white rump on square tail.



We had sort of hoped having to choose the later evening walk which seemed less popular would mean fewer of people. The sight of another 40 expectant tourists was a bit of a downer, but the guides sensibly divided these into groups of 10. We needn't have worried about being satiated on this just less than two hour scroll around the research forest since within minutes we had been shown a Bornean Pit Viper, the first of three of this species that we would encounter. Outside of the expected interesting insects and reptiles, another highlight was being shown a charismatic small Western Tarsier which was placed by itself on the lower story about 10 metres down into the forest from the track. How they find these beasts is unbelievable yet there it was right in front of us.



Rainforest discovery centre (morning visit)

Having snaffled our tickets for early entry the previous afternoon we were keenly displaying them at the security guards' desk on the stroke of 6:00am. Even better it seemed nobody else had had the same idea so the forest was our own for a short while at least. Once we went past the main building complex of the visitor centre we decided to go straight for the Pitta Path hoping the name would give us some luck with at least one of the pittas of the reserve. With the rain that we had had the previous day, the obvious idea of donning leech socks was sensible if not the coolest thing to do. This path was a typical forest narrow path with plenty of ups and downs (seeming more ups than downs) as we progressed and the humidity was very high. Sweat was dripping almost straight away. Predictably there were plenty of bird sounds but in such thick primary forest as this it was difficult to pick many of these birds out but we did make our way fairly slowly searching leaf litter either side and on the track in front of us.



We eventually came to a couple of potential directions for the path, one of which seemed to go on for seven kilometres, not a great idea in this type of humidity and heat so we turned left toward what was posted as the Sepilok Giant Cypress tree. We passed three of these before one which had a seat next to it where we decided to snatch a sit for 5 minutes. This was an excellent decision since shortly after we picked up on call, and then saw, White-necked Babbler in the bushes behind us keeping to the interior but giving good views nevertheless. With this spur on the bird side we descended for what we assumed (correctly as it turned out) was the path which eventually met with the canopy walkway. But at a division in the paths, we came across a Hungarian birder who had just seen Black-crowned Pitta (*above – video capture image*). We exchanged notes on the Pitta from him and the Babbler from us and continued a short way up the Ridge Trail. We heard the Pitta calling quite quickly but it took some time to eventually get excellent views as it patrolled its own small territory.



Banded Woodpecker

This trail did lead to the beginning of the canopy walkway which we took some time to walk along. By this time it was just after 8:00am and still fairly quiet until a Rhinoceros Hornbill flew overhead breaking the silence in no uncertain manner. The rest of the time we spent slowly going along the walkway, broken up by a visit to the cafe of course for a few bottles of water and rice breakfast. With the thick forest around, birding in some ways was slow but we did pick up exceptional birds on the way. Of the two Broadbills we saw Black-and-yellow was the first encountered on the way to the cafe, and Banded Broadbill followed later when we were returning to exit the reserve to depart for the river trip. Woodpeckers were represented by a single tree-hammering Banded.



Rhinoceros Hornbill



Black-and-yellow Broadbill



Banded Broadbill

Afternoon Rainforest discovery centre (following River Cruise)

We were dropped off at the airport by the River Junkies' transfer bus to easily pick up our hire car. We then doubled back to our original location of the main forest discovery lodge for a couple of hours before we set off on the journey inland to Telupid. We would have been tempted to stay a little longer but were advised by the rental company to try to travel in daytime due to potholes and the issues with heavy rain on the Telupid road.

So, we battled through the very high humidity and eventually heavy rain shower where we sheltered and watched from one of the lookout towers.

A potential sign of good things to be had was a Black Eagle over our heads in the car park before even entering the research centre. Birding was quite slow with birds feeling few and far between, yet enjoyable due to the potential and still digging out one or two good birds. After picking out a couple of the already seen Red-eyed Bulbuls, we heard loud raucous calls that belonged to a pair of Black Hornbills. They maintained their disgusting dialogue until the female left in the oncoming rain shower, even perching in view as the heavy raindrops hit her head. Once the rain had stopped we made our way along one of the arms of the skywalk tower and came across a small group of birds at the top of the canopy identifying only one but as Green Iora. Back along this short stretch of the walkway and we picked out a juvenile Indian Cuckoo, after initially identifying it as Plaintive Cuckoo. Despite the heat and slowness of picking up birds a couple of hours went by fairly quickly, so we decided to leave mid-afternoon rather than leave it until later going on the advice of the rental company and the state of the roads in disrepair.



Black Hornbill



Indian Cuckoo

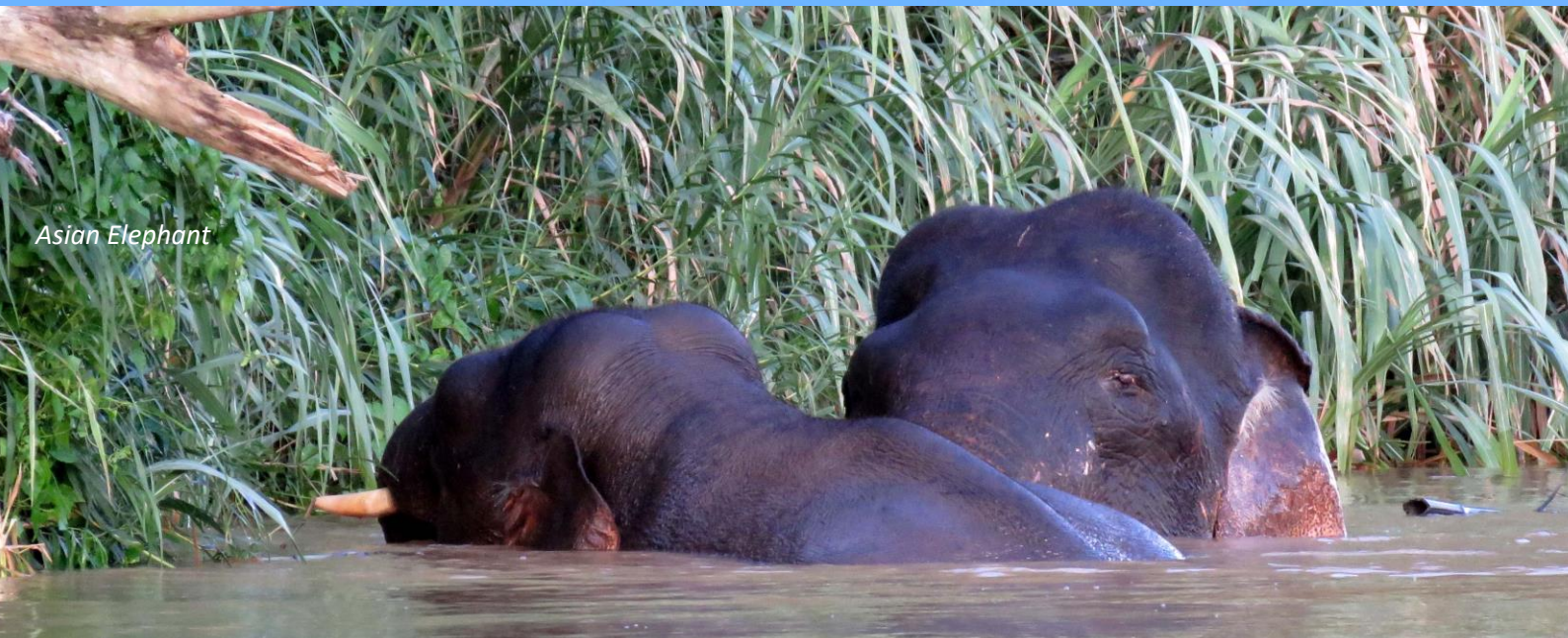
River Junkies at Hornbill Lodge

First early evening river cruise



White-bellied Sea Eagle

We weren't too sure what the format of the river cruise would take such as whether it was a large boat with everybody on board or smaller individual boats. After we saw there were 20 to 30 people congregating our anxieties were alleviated when the group was narrowed down somewhat to 4 smaller groups, although ours still contained 12 people. However, the boats were nice and small with two rows of 6 meaning no middle seats to be taken and we managed to purloin the front row just to see what was ahead and coming. Naturally since this is not a specific birding cruise, more a general tourist orientated affair there was a lot of emphasis on the mammals which could be found. That being said the birds were much more difficult to pinpoint from the river, and when particularly interesting birds showed these were examined by the boatman.



Asian Elephant

Since the mammals were more the stars of the show it's worth mentioning that half decent views of Proboscis Monkeys, which are the specialist primate of the mangroves here, were indeed taken in. Supporting casts of Macaques, more common Long-tailed and less common Pig-tailed were fairly easy to observe and quite often get good views of. In fact, the last group seen were a very large group of Long-tailed with Pig-tailed mixed in, although there was an obvious hostility between two species. One of the biggies for the tourists is the Bornean subspecies of Asian Elephant, the smallest elephant in the world, and initially a pair and then later on at a different site a trio were very easily watched as they either fed within the water as the first pair did or on the riverside vegetation as the other did. Remarkably the first raptor of the trip was a very obliging adult White-bellied Sea Eagle (*above*) directly overhead. The other notable bird was our first Oriental Pied Hornbill which was picked out well by the boatman towards the end of the cruise. An earlier largish Hornbill which was seen flying over the trees on the shore was called out as Wrinkled by the boatman, although I would prefer much better views before identifying specifically. All in all, a very pleasant way to spend an early evening with some excellent mammals and a few decent birds as well along with a pleasurable ride along the fairly wide river

Nighttime forest walk

This was in the confines of the land belonging to the lodge. We were in the same group as we had been on the river cruise, which is not necessarily a benefit in single file tracks with 12 people following the guide, sometimes missing out on some of the information being pointed out. However, the walk did start very well with a roosting Straw-headed Bulbul, or at least that's what it was claimed as it appeared as a ball of feathers on a leaf. This was closely followed by Slow Loris which an earlier group found, still within the area of the accommodation reception. The recommendation of wearing one of the provided pairs of wellies was well founded, although the mud was not quite as predicted up to the knees as we had been led to expect, yet they were still various muddy areas within the forest. Worryingly one of these had an elephant's footprint in it and it had been said that if they were in the area we would have to make a hasty exit from the forest itself. We spent a little over an hour in the wagon train mainly looking at rather impressive small frogs, insects and a wonderful centipede. From the birding perspective we did have an added bonus of a Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher (*right*) roosting right above us over the track.



First early morning river cruise

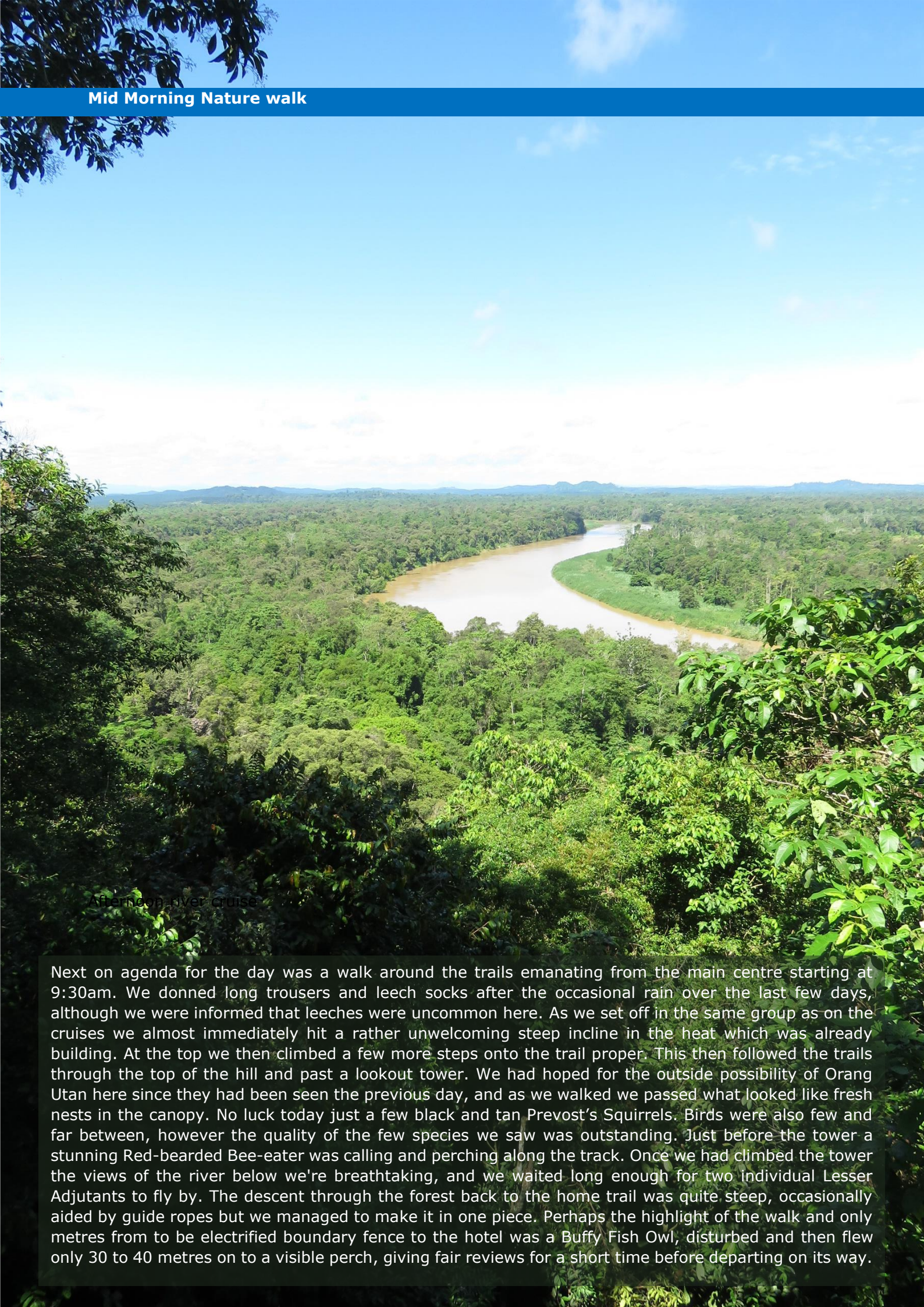
As we departed the jetty at 6:00am the light of morning was already strong and of great potential for seeing wildlife. The experience this morning was quite different from the previous evening, perhaps because of the time of day or the light itself, or even because we went the opposite way upriver this time, but many more birds were seen than before. We even started with White-bellied Sea Eagle before we had approached the boat to board, which augured well for the morning. After the customary small group of Long-tailed Macaques busying themselves around a few houses on the shore, a pair of Dusky Langurs responded in trees above in the beautiful morning light. It wasn't long before we came across the first of a few pairs of Oriental Pied Hornbills, customarily in the pair that they usually form. Just beyond was a single Dollarbird at the pinnacle of a tree with the greens and blacks showing beautifully. We followed the shore to our right for some time with the other being in quite a bit of shade until after half an hour or so.



Dollarbird

Once we switched our allegiance to the opposite shore, now in decent light, we picked out first an Oriental Darter and then at least three Purple Herons sunning themselves to the apex of single trees (*bottom below*), and more Oriental Pied Hornbills (*right*). In the distance we could see another trio of Dollarbirds together, each inhabiting its own particular tree. Of the white egrets, Medium seemed to be the more common along these waters. As we were watching one a pair of Wallace's Hawk Eagles passed overhead, one perching itself long enough for distant views, nearly in outline (*centre below*). We spent about one and three quarter hours on the cruise and just before returning found a fairly young Saltwater Crocodile partly in the channels at the edge of the riverbank





Mid Morning Nature walk

Afternoon river cruise

Next on agenda for the day was a walk around the trails emanating from the main centre starting at 9:30am. We donned long trousers and leech socks after the occasional rain over the last few days, although we were informed that leeches were uncommon here. As we set off in the same group as on the cruises we almost immediately hit a rather unwelcoming steep incline in the heat which was already building. At the top we then climbed a few more steps onto the trail proper. This then followed the trails through the top of the hill and past a lookout tower. We had hoped for the outside possibility of Orang Utan here since they had been seen the previous day, and as we walked we passed what looked like fresh nests in the canopy. No luck today just a few black and tan Prevost's Squirrels. Birds were also few and far between, however the quality of the few species we saw was outstanding. Just before the tower a stunning Red-bearded Bee-eater was calling and perching along the track. Once we had climbed the tower the views of the river below were breathtaking, and we waited long enough for two individual Lesser Adjutants to fly by. The descent through the forest back to the home trail was quite steep, occasionally aided by guide ropes but we managed to make it in one piece. Perhaps the highlight of the walk and only metres from the electrified boundary fence to the hotel was a Buffy Fish Owl, disturbed and then flew only 30 to 40 metres on to a visible perch, giving fair reviews for a short time before departing on its way.



Buffy Fish Owl



Red-throated Bee-eater



Lesser Adjutant

Second afternoon river cruise

The cruise today left half an hour earlier than the one the previous afternoon yet still arrived at the lodge at 6pm, giving us extra time on the river. plans seemed to be to again motor downriver at speed to try yet more riverside mangroves and a few even smaller channels than yesterday. A lot of the initial traversing of the river was done at great speed, but we did stop for our first Kingfisher of the main river in the form of Stork-billed. A pair of Wrinkled Hornbills also flew over at this time and a record image of the second bird was our first proof that we didn't just need to take the word of the boatman. A short way along the main river from here we found much closer Proboscis Monkeys than yesterday, a seemingly small family group of three on trees overhanging the river.



Taking one of the smaller channels off the main course of the river quickly resulted in more Proboscis Monkeys (*above*) and also our first Silver Leaf Langurs. Further down this same channel was a diminutive Blue-eared Kingfisher, only the second Kingfisher of the river. It was just after we left this channel that we had a message that an Orang Utan had been found and so we made way towards this site. When we arrived, there were surprisingly few boats - perhaps half a dozen or so - and it took some time to locate our target. It was found right in the canopy of a tree behind other tall trees on what had seemed initially to be its nest, but with a great deal of patience it could be seen (with difficulty) actually on the nest itself. At long last a truly wild individual, compared to the rehabilitated ones we had seen in Sepilok many years ago. Before we got back to the lodge a mother and calf elephant were spotted.

Second early morning river cruise

Our fourth and last river cruise on the second morning of the visit was taken downriver again as with the two previous evening cruises. The morning wasn't quite as clear and invigorating as the previous one, however there was no rain so not so bad. The reason for the direction was self-evident when after a few minutes we pulled into the side of the river to look at an Orang Utan nest in the canopy to the rear of the bank. Some time was spent looking at this for movement, but it was self-evidently too early for the sleepy apes. So we made our way further downriver and after passing a pair of Oriental Pied Hornbills a block of five Bushy-crested Hornbills passed overhead.



Exploring the smaller channels was again the way to go. We had the best views yet of Proboscis Monkeys in three separate small groups including the last which had performing males right out in the open. A mother comforted a baby Silver Leaf Langur, and before leaving this channel the boat sped up as it was obviously heading back to check out the Orang Utan nest again. Great decision, since when we arrived both mother and baby eventually left the comfort of their bed for the night and in particular the youngster put on an excellent show. A great way to finish off the four cruises and as we headed back for breakfast we also passed both Purple Heron and Nankeen Night Heron at the top of riverside on high trees.

Telupid Hides



For our purposes the hides here were managed by a chap called Elfian. We had arranged to meet at 6:00am at a restaurant on the way so that we could have breakfast and then follow him to his village where we would leave our rental car and take the rest of the journey in 4x4 (*image above*). The breakfast, which was included in the rather extravagant price of 1500 ringgits for two people, unfortunately didn't go down too well since they only had plain roti which should be very easy to make, but still wasn't available 20 minutes later. With time ticking and birding time being munched up we decided to leave and feast on grain bars instead. We were met by one of the local lads and then his uncle who drove the 4x4 over some quite worrying mud and inclines, to then alight ourselves on to the further mud and make our way on foot up the forest for around half an hour to the main hide.



This whole setup is based around the finding of Bornean Peacock Pheasant (*above*) in the area and since this is much prized for many international birders there is a reason for the fairly high cost to come here. The hides are as expected - basic canvas with holes put in and plastic chairs perched on slippery mud within. However, it all adds to the experience especially when the mail Peacock Pheasant appeared within 5 minutes of our arrival. It strutted around the area for some time returning two to three times, the final time with the female when it started to show off a little. It was also good to see that we had one or two supporting cast in the form of White-crowned Sharma, and a brace of fabulous Bulbuls namely Short-tailed and a pair of Black-browed. As time went on we noticed that the Peacock pheasant didn't return, and this may have been due to the fact that a magnificent male Bornean Crested Fireback (*below*) entered the arena. Apparently the two species do not like to mix readily.



While we were watching the Fireback we had a message from Elfian asking if we would like to see Hooded Pitta. While this would cost an extra 100 ringgits each we didn't miss a heartbeat before agreeing to come and try. And to be fair it appears the extra money went to a chap who manages the hide and who had found the aforementioned bird. The descent down from the Peacock hide wasn't quite as treacherous as we thought it might have been despite the wet mud from earlier rains. We descended the whole of the route we had taken back to the 4x4 which then stopped only a short way before the main track back to humanity to meet the guy in charge of this hide. Expecting another trek up muddy slopes, which by the way do have leeches no matter what you have been told, we were pleased that it was only about 100 metres on the level through forests to our destination.



Once in the hide the call was played on a hidden speaker in the arena of leaves and soil cleared for the bird and it only took a few minutes before it appeared with good views, albeit briefly. We waited the bird out for another one to two hours in which time it appeared very briefly in the background but were rewarded eventually when it landed on a branch and a clear view from the hide, staying for some time. We weren't entirely convinced that the bird was responding to the constant calls which had been emanating from the speaker since it did have nesting material in its bill and may have used this as a stop off to its potential nest site. Nevertheless, an excellent site with very few other species apart from Greater Coucal and another White-crowned Sharma. Absolute quality birding time with quality birds.

Kinabalu Park

Setting the alarm for 5:00am seemed a little optimistic when the first light didn't appear until 45 minutes or so later. However, by the time we had negotiated the security gate where we paid our 50 ringgits each entrance for the park, we had a walk in the poor but increasing light from the visitor centre along the one way road in the thick forest. At first there was a mist and the light was quite poor but very early Whistling Thrush (*right*) augured well for this little sortie. While in very poor light the average views we had of this were improved by return views somewhat later. Many birds were singing around us but were quite difficult to see until a Chestnut-crested Yuhina pre-empted a Penan Bulbul. Just before the apex of this small loop track, we came across a very rich small area which was initiated by a family party of Grey-throated Babblers. When we returned to this little area a short while later they were still there this time joined by singles of Yellow-breasted Warbler and Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (*below right*). We then needed to return to register to take the car further up the tracks for what was deemed much better birding.



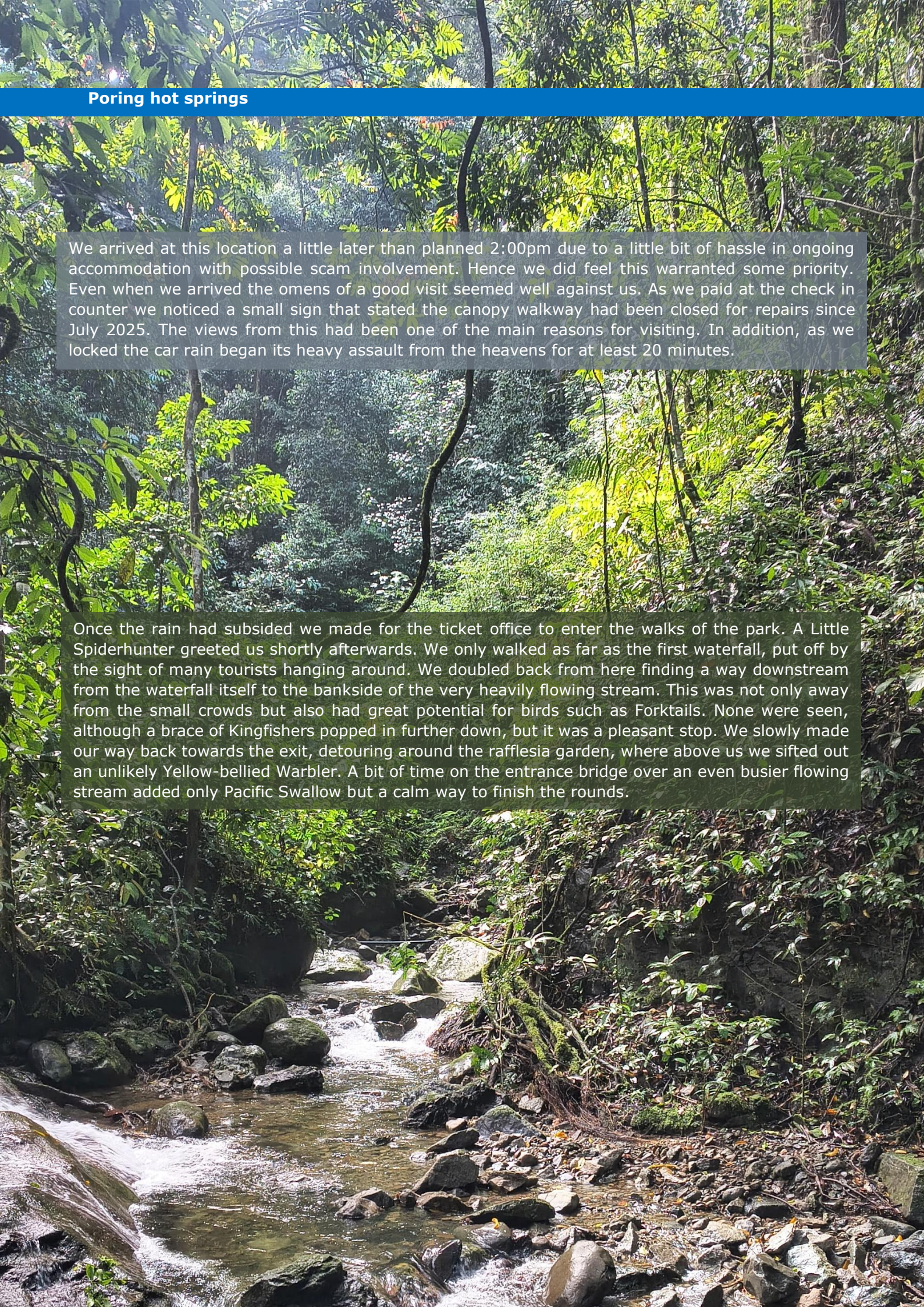
After we had registered for bird watching, which cost no more extra, we did have to fill in an online form and gain a neck lanyard to allow us access with the car beyond the Security Gate. We spent the next three hours walking the main track uphill which we had covered downhill the previous evening on a night walk. At first the weather was cool with quite a heavy mist and poor light, but this did improve as the morning went on. It's also very typical forest birding with birds needing hard work when looking for them and more calls than sightings, however we did see some good birds in the three hours. This difficulty is shown by a bird guide who we passed a couple of times who hadn't seen some of the specialities for his customers so we weren't doing too badly.





The birds were kicked off with a pair of Sunda Laughingthrushes which gave reasonable to poor views as they chased around in the forest. The White-throated Fantails which followed further up the hill were in a way much more obliging although they never stopped still for better views. They were also in league with a few Yellow-breasted Warblers and Grey-throated Babblers. First really good birds of this particular walk were a group of at least six Bornean Green Magpies (*below*). Bornean Treepies within the same family were seen in singles but with very much poorer views. We decided to walk back down to the car and cover the area just beyond the entrance gate to this walk and this was a very good decision. Before we left and before we were reminded to check out at the accommodation a couple of Chestnut-crested Yuhinas seemed to indicate the presence of a bird party. This proved to be the right intuition when a family of Bornean Whistlers (*above*) played around branches in front of our eyes for a while. A Mountain Leaf Warbler was also picked up with them.



The background image of the entire page is a lush, dense tropical forest. Sunlight filters through the thick canopy of green leaves and branches, creating a dappled light effect. The trees are tall and slender, with various types of foliage visible, including some with bright green leaves and others with darker, more muted tones. The overall atmosphere is serene and natural.

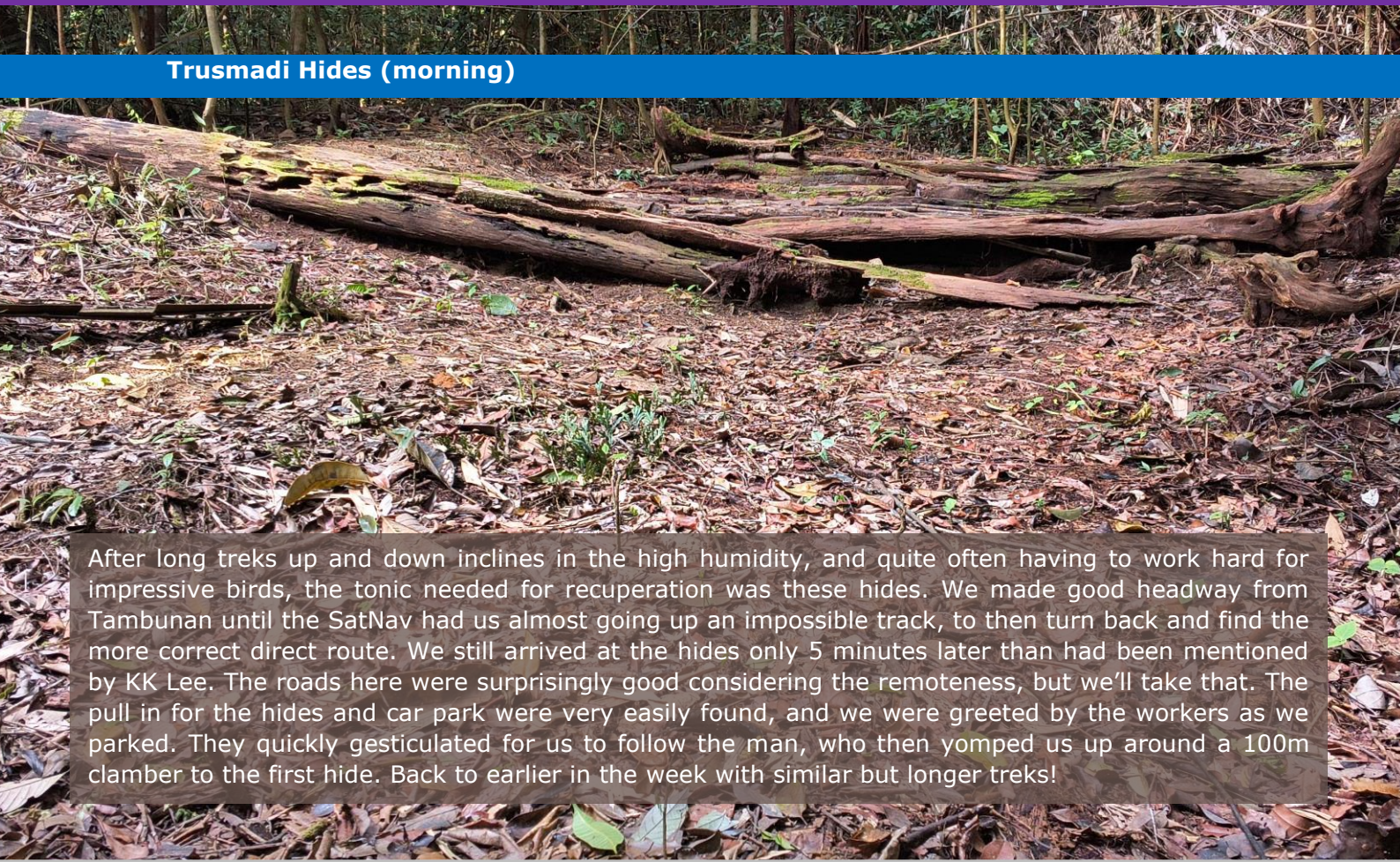
Poring hot springs

We arrived at this location a little later than planned 2:00pm due to a little bit of hassle in ongoing accommodation with possible scam involvement. Hence we did feel this warranted some priority. Even when we arrived the omens of a good visit seemed well against us. As we paid at the check in counter we noticed a small sign that stated the canopy walkway had been closed for repairs since July 2025. The views from this had been one of the main reasons for visiting. In addition, as we locked the car rain began its heavy assault from the heavens for at least 20 minutes.

Once the rain had subsided we made for the ticket office to enter the walks of the park. A Little Spiderhunter greeted us shortly afterwards. We only walked as far as the first waterfall, put off by the sight of many tourists hanging around. We doubled back from here finding a way downstream from the waterfall itself to the bankside of the very heavily flowing stream. This was not only away from the small crowds but also had great potential for birds such as Forktails. None were seen, although a brace of Kingfishers popped in further down, but it was a pleasant stop. We slowly made our way back towards the exit, detouring around the rafflesia garden, where above us we sifted out an unlikely Yellow-bellied Warbler. A bit of time on the entrance bridge over an even busier flowing stream added only Pacific Swallow but a calm way to finish the rounds.

Trusmadi and Gunung Alab Hides

Trusmadi Hides (morning)



After long treks up and down inclines in the high humidity, and quite often having to work hard for impressive birds, the tonic needed for recuperation was these hides. We made good headway from Tambunan until the SatNav had us almost going up an impossible track, to then turn back and find the more correct direct route. We still arrived at the hides only 5 minutes later than had been mentioned by KK Lee. The roads here were surprisingly good considering the remoteness, but we'll take that. The pull in for the hides and car park were very easily found, and we were greeted by the workers as we parked. They quickly gesticulated for us to follow the man, who then yomped us up around a 100m clamber to the first hide. Back to earlier in the week with similar but longer treks!



This was the first of the two hides here, is slightly higher, and we suspect the one highlighting Bulwer's Pheasant. As it happens, we didn't see one, but this was of no consequence compared to the constant show of superb birds. Even our first few minutes had Bornean Banded Pitta. Two Partridge species were on show here – Red-breasted first (*video capture right*) and then Crimson-headed. We spent 2 hours in this first hide and even that seemed cut short when we descended to the second hide, located at the main parking area. And the huge benefit – only the two of us in the hide! It wasn't just these star birds that made this hide so engrossing. Of the more expected or common birds, more or less all put in repeated appearances, giving something to look at almost constantly. Of the Babblers Grey-throated, Temminck's & Sunda Scimitar became the norm, while a female Dayak Blue Flycatcher kept the ID skills honed. Repeated encores were also made by Orange-headed Thrushes and Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes. All in all an unforgettable experience.



Bornean Banded Pitta



Penan Bulbul



*Crimson-headed
Partridge*



Another 2+ hours were then spent in the second and much larger hide. Hide demeans this construction. Loads of lookout ports, mini kitchen, carpeted steps down, and even a good working toilet. The open area overlooked by the hides had even more light than the first hide and offered an even larger array of species. Again, they were almost constant. The other quality worth mentioning is the temperature here. Around 20°C and not at all humid. Heaven. We were even served a couple of fresh cups of coffee while delighting in the avian feast. Partridges here were the impressive Crested (*below*), each time in their small band of 8 or so. Many of the species already seen were replicated here, including a second Banded Pitta, but notable additions were Checker-throated Woodpecker, Whistling Thrush, Bicoloured Babbler, Scimitar Babbler, Emerald Dove, and a couple more Dayak Blue Flycatchers to confuse further. It was a hard decision to either stay longer or try out the comparison of Gunung Alab.



Dayak Blue Flycatcher



Checker-throated Woodpecker



*Mountain
Barbet*



Orange-headed Thrush



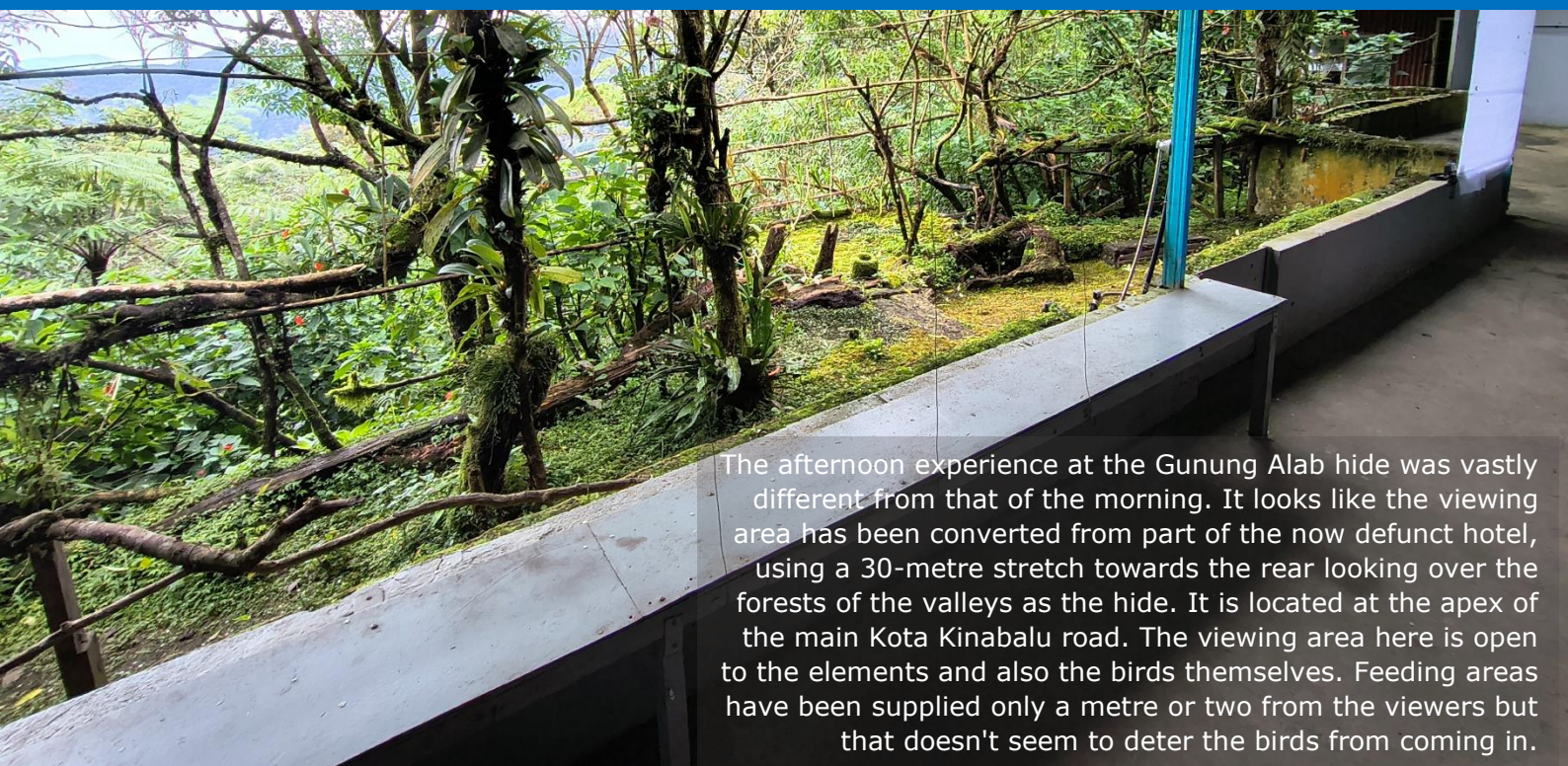
Temminck's Babbler

Bicoloured Babbler



Emerald Dove

Gunung Alab (afternoon)



We were here in the afternoon which is the quieter part of the day, so birds were fairly few and far between, however there were one or two good birds to be seen from this viewing area. A family of two parents and one juvenile Little Pied Flycatchers (*below left*) had made their home here. It wasn't too long before a pair of Golden-naped Barbets (*below right*) also put in appearance, unfortunately quite often blending in with the surrounding leaves. Temminck's Sunbird was also in the area, but we were only able to view the female on a few occasions. Only other species at the actual viewing area were Temminck's Babbler and a pair of Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes.





However, there was a diversion for an excellent birding experience. We were asked whether we would like to see Bornean Shortwing just 5 to 10 minutes walk from the feeding station. Obvious answer. One of the two guides seemed keen to take the car and when walking up the incline for 5 minutes we could see why, what she hadn't counted on was the fact we rather liked walking to see our birds. At a cluttered stream running under the track (which eventually goes to Gunung Alab station) is the site off the pair of Bornean Shortwings. She put out some mealworms and played the song of the male, yet while waiting we heard then glimpsed a Bornean Stubtail (*above right*) creeping through the undergrowth. The male Shortwing (*above left*) took this opportunity to pop out as we were watching the Stubtail. The Stubtail itself showed improved views, although not entirely close for some time so we took the opportunity to watch this. We then turned our attention back to the Shortwing and it wasn't long before the female appeared on the parapets of the bridge in front of us. She reappeared a couple of times before the male was spotted a little higher up the slope, but some patience eventually found him also in front of us at the same location.



We eventually tore ourselves away and returned to the viewing area. New birds were few and far between even following the release of a Sunda Bamboo Pit Viper which had been rescued from the restaurant the previous evening. Not far off 5:00pm we were thinking of wrapping things up due to the lack of new birds when a family of four Indigo Flycatchers (*above*) decided to reignite the party.



They were joined by a Sunda Scimitar Babbler (*above*) and the Temminck's babbler which had been seen earlier. Shortly after at one of the feeding stations a few metres down one of the Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrushes which had been fairly regular was joined by a pair of Chestnut-crested Yuhinas. They stopped briefly for a very active bath before departing in short measure.

Kota Kinabalu

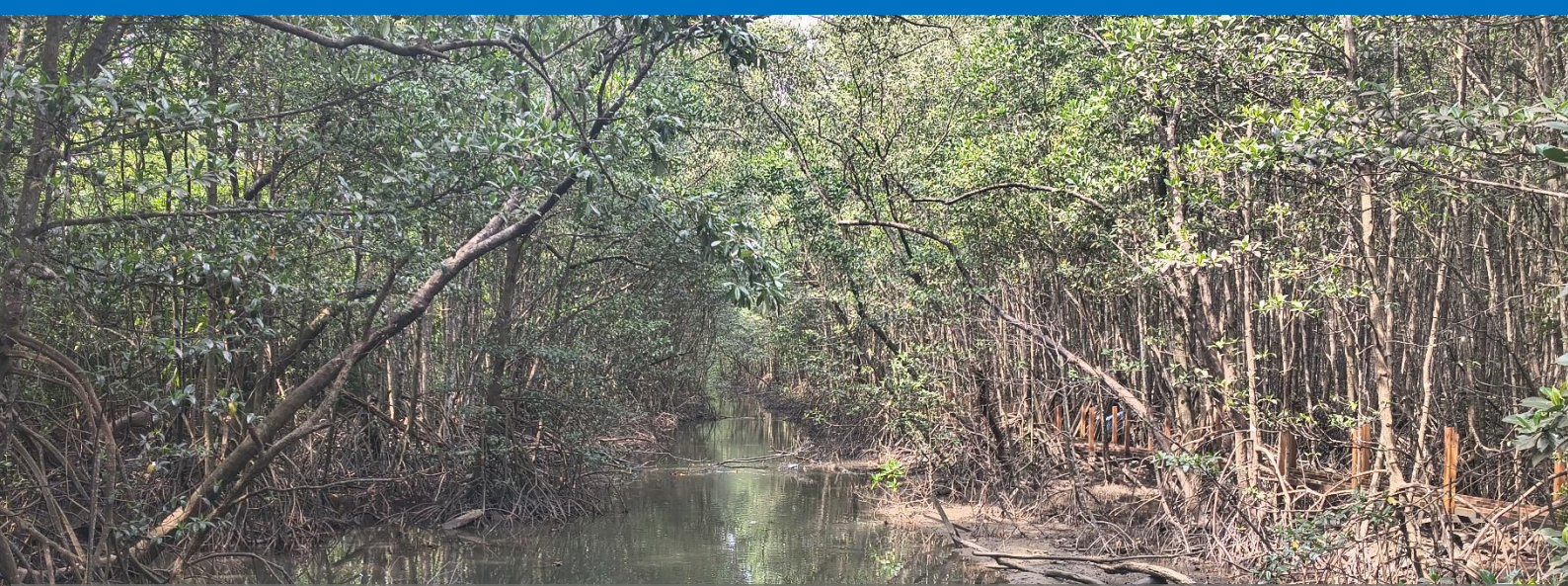
Prince Philip park



Since most of the local birding sites opened at 8:00am we decided to go here since it was open access and also before the tourists clocked in. We expected a park much as those in the UK with intersecting paths etc. Being Borneo, they do it a bit differently. There are plenty of trees but also building work, bulldozing down areas and the access to the trees themselves is difficult so watching from the outside is necessary including from roads. Ironically we walked along the beach where it seems a little more natural, but most birds were seen around where we parked, which was a little dire, and along the sides of the access roads

The area is best known for two species of parrots. The "most wanted" is a bit ludicrous since Blue-naped Parrot (*right*) is an import from the Philippines – we did manage to get a single individual of "the parrot". Much more impressive were the groups of Long-tailed Parakeets (*below*) which we came across as soon as we parked the car. Indigenous here they are also an impressive species looking very slender and impressive with their long tails and slender builds. Also early in this area were surprisingly jumpy Collared Kingfishers which were common through the walk, and a pair of Sunda Pygmy Woodpeckers which seemed to have a nest in one of the tree holes. Small groups of Pied Imperial Pigeons were a lovely contrast to the individual Green Imperial Pigeons and a small group of Pink-necked Green Pigeons. Walking along the access road we chanced upon a single Blue-throated Bee-eater perched at the top of a bare tree and a couple of singing Yellow-bellied Prinias. All in all not a bad haul from what probably is a not particularly attractive area where the day trippers come for a toddle along the sand.





From Prince Philip park it is only about 15 to 20 minutes' drive across town to the wetland research centre. This is a locality based next to the coast which is comprised of mangrove forest with a circular boardwalk through for access. Bad news today or for that matter the year is that half of the boardwalk is not accessible due to being replaced. However, we did do a slow walk along the remaining accessible boardwalk to the bird hide at the end. There were a fair few different birds calling but generally difficult to see. In the mangroves a trio of Little Herons including one juvenile were the first birds to be spotted. Most of the birding activity was from the hide where we spent almost an hour. Prize amongst the sightings here were a few birds of prey, initially a Brahminy Kite with a larger bird of prey which proved to be Changeable Hawk Eagle. Shortly after, and below what looked like a nest, a very light phase, almost white juvenile female Changeable Hawk Eagle alighted a couple of times. Also, from here were a brief passing Stork-billed Kingfisher and much more obliging pair of Ashy Tailorbirds. Once we left the hide, Common Iora was seen above but we also noticed a change in the wind speed and also cloud formations overhead. We increased our pace a little to the well covered education area along the boardwalk and this was an excellent decision since almost as we reached it the heavens opened for at least 20 minutes. Impressive when you have a roof over your head looking out on to the rain falling heavily over the mangrove beds.



Little Heron

Penampang rice fields and paddies



We had heard that these rice fields which are not too far from the airport used to offer good wetland birding when they truly were rice paddies over a reasonable area. Over recent years tracks either side of a concreted drainage canal have been built on by some housing, but it also seems that the rice fields themselves are now just leftover wet areas with overgrowth. As we parked the car just off the main road from our approach a Striated Grassbird next to us offered good potential. As we walked down the track starting to scan to our left where there were also small areas of marsh with reeds we were pleased to see not one, but two Purple Swampphens (*left*) fly over from an adjacent marshy area to the other, then giving acceptable views perched at the top of the reed stems. Also here were White-breasted Waterhen and a Common Moorhen. As we wandered further down Chestnut Munias were in large numbers with one or two Dusky Munias to be found as well. However, another bird reported some time ago was Wandering Whistling Duck and we did see one fly over and head into the marsh with another two added later on. Last of the bygone species but which also resurrected itself while here was Cinnamon Bittern which was seen flying over the track in front of us and into a field not to be seen again.

LIST OF SPECIES

BIRDS

	Wandering Whistling Duck	<i>Dendrocygna arcuate</i>
10 Jul	Penampang rice paddies & fields (2+1)	
	Crested Partridge	<i>Rollulus rouloul</i>
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (Group of 8 at lower hide)	
	Red-breasted Partridge	<i>Arborophila hyperythra</i>
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (Group of 3 at upper hide)	
	Bornean Crested Fireback	<i>Lophura ignita</i>
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (1 male)	
	Crimson-headed Partridge	<i>Haematortyx sanguiniceps</i>
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (Group of 3 at upper hide)	
	Bornean Peacock-Pheasant	<i>Polyplectron schleiermacheri</i>
7 Jul	Male and female at Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve	
	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (1)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1); Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (1)	
	Raffles's Malkoha	<i>Rhinortha chlorophaea</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 within hotel grounds)	
	Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (1 on main track just after exiting 4x4 transfer)	
	Little Bronze Cuckoo	<i>Chalcites minutillus</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (1)	
	Indian Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus micropterus</i>
6 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (Juvenile from forest canopy walkway)	
	Spotted Dove	<i>Spilopelia chinensis</i>
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~40)	
	Common Emerald Dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (2 from lower hide)	
	Pink-necked Green Pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (5); Penampang rice paddies & fields (2)	
	Zebra Dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (2)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~15); Penampang rice paddies & fields (3)	
	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
4 Jul	Kinabatangan River (3)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (6); Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (1)	
	Pied Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula bicolor</i>
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (Groups of 5,4,and 3 flew over)	
	Common Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
10 Jul	Penampang rice paddies & fields (1)	
	Purple Swamphen	<i>Porphyrio porphyrio</i>
10 Jul	Penampang rice paddies & fields (4)	

White-breasted Waterhen		<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (1)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1); Penampang rice paddies & fields (3)	
Little Tern		<i>Sternula albifrons</i>
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (At least 10 fishing over sea just off shoreline)	
Lesser Adjutant		<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (2 separate individuals circling from hill watchpoint)	
Storm's Stork		<i>Ciconia stormi</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 flyover seen from room balcony)	
Oriental Darter		<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (2 on Centre lake)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
6 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
Cinnamon Bittern		<i>Botaurus cinnamomeus</i>
10 Jul	Penampang rice paddies & fields (1 flew over track between fields)	
Nankeen Night Heron		<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>
6 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1 perched on top of riverside tree late afternoon)	
Little Heron		<i>Butorides atricapilla</i>
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (4)	
Great Egret		<i>Ardea alba</i>
4 Jul	Kinabatangan River (2)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
6 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
Medium Egret		<i>Ardea intermedia</i>
4 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1 morning, 1 afternoon)	
Purple Heron		<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (4 morning, 1 afternoon)	
6 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)	
Silver-rumped Spinetail		<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (at least 2)	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (at least 2)	
Plume-toed Swiftlet		<i>Collocalia affinis</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (at least 1)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (at least 20)	
6 Jul	Kinabatangan River (at least 2)	
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (~10)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (1)	
Black-nest Swiftlet		<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (~12)	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (~20); Kinabatangan River (~50)	
Edible-nest Swiftlet		<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~30)	
Buffy Fish Owl		<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 flew and landed in forest adjacent to hotel buildings on morning walk)	
Crested Serpent Eagle		<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 from bedroom balcony)	
Wallace's Hawk-Eagle		<i>Nisaetus nanus</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (Pair together over river then landed in riverside tree)	

Changeable Hawk-Eagle	<i>Nisaetus cirrhatus</i>
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (2 from bird hide, including a pale juvenile female perched near possible nest site)	
Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malaiensis</i>
6 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 circling over car park)	
Brahminy Kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (1 flying viewed from bird hide)	
White-bellied Sea Eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga leucogaster</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River (1)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (1 over river, 1 from room balcony)	
Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>
4 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (pair from canopy walkway)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (pair)	
Bushy-crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>
6 Jul Kinabatangan River (group of 5 flew over river)	
Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>
6 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (pair from canopy walkway)	
Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River (1)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (6 morning cruise, 5 afternoon cruise)	
6 Jul Kinabatangan River (2)	
Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (a few had been identified by the boatman before a pair was seen well enough for photo ID)	
Oriental Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (4 morning cruise, 1 afternoon cruise)	
Red-bearded Bee-eater	<i>Nyctyornis amictus</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1)	
Blue-throated Bee-eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (3 opposite accommodation)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (4)	
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1)	
Blue-eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (1 perched close to boat in narrow channel)	
Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher	<i>Ceyx rufidorsa</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 roosting overhead during night walk)	
Stork-billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
6 Jul Kinabatangan River (1)	
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (1)	
Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (1)	
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (12); Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (2)	
Black-eared Barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (3 near Centre car park, 2 overhead within a restaurant grounds)	
Golden-naped Barbet	<i>Psilopogon pulcherrimus</i>
8 Jul Main Road, Kinabalu Park (3 calling only)	
9 Jul Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (2 in trees from hide)	
Mountain Barbet	<i>Psilopogon monticola</i>
9 Jul Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (calling from both upper and lower hides, before 2 were seen in feeding area of lower hide)	

	Banded Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma miniaceum</i>	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 hammering tree next to canopy skywalk)		
	Checker-throated Woodpecker	<i>Chrysophlegma mentale</i>	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (1 lower hide)		
	Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	<i>Yungipicus moluccensis</i>	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (pair visiting nest hole)		
	Blue-naped Parrot	<i>Tanygnathus lucionensis</i>	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1)		
	Long-tailed Parakeet	<i>Psittacula longicauda</i>	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~25)		
	Black-and-yellow Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 directly over canopy walkway)		
	Banded Broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus javanicus</i>	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 from canopy walkway)		
	Black-and-red Broadbill	<i>Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos</i>	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (2 separate birds at nests over edge of river)		
	Black-crowned Pitta	<i>Erythropitta ussheri</i>	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (male calling on Pitta Path near Ridge Path)		
	Bornean Banded Pitta	<i>Hydrornis schwaneri</i>	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (2 – 1 at upper hide, 1 at lower hide)		
	Western Hooded Pitta	<i>Pitta sordida</i>	
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (1 male at dedicated and managed hide, at base of track to main peacock hide)		
	White-breasted Woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (2)		
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1); Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (1)		
	Common Iora	<i>Aegithina tiphia</i>	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (3 above bird hide)		
	Green Iora	<i>Aegithina viridissima</i>	
6 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)		
	White-bellied Erpornis	<i>Erpornis zantholeuca</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (2)		
	Bornean Whistler	<i>Pachycephala hypoxantha</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (5)		
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (1 lower hide)		
	Sunda Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>	
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (2)		
	White-throated Fantail	<i>Rhipidura albicollis</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (2)		
	Long-tailed Shrike	<i>Lanius schach</i>	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1); Penampang rice paddies & fields (1)		
	Bornean Treepie	<i>Dendrocitta cinerascens</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (2 separate birds)		
	Bornean Green Magpie	<i>Cissa jefferyi</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (~6)		
	Sunda Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>	
4 Jul	Kinabatangan River (~20)		
6 Jul	Kinabatangan River (1)		
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1)		

	Ashy Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus ruficeps</i>
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (3)	
	Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 singing in hotel grounds)	
6 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (2)	
	Yellow-bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (2); Penampang rice paddies & fields (3)	
	Striated Grassbird	<i>Megalurus palustris</i>
10 Jul	Penampang rice paddies & fields (3)	
	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo javanica</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (~10)	
4 Jul	Kinabatangan River (2)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (2 morning, ~10 afternoon)	
8 Jul	Kinabalu Park--Poring Hot Springs (6)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~10); Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (~10)	
	Bornean Stubtail	<i>Urosphena whiteheadi</i>
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (1 on first part of track to Substation)	
	Yellow-bellied Warbler	<i>Abroscopus superciliaris</i>
8 Jul	Kinabalu Park--Poring Hot Springs (1 seen from underneath only. Small warbler shape including tail. White throat and yellow belly/vent obvious. Black though eye also seen, but not upperparts)	
	Yellow-breasted Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus montis</i>
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (9)	
	Mountain Leaf Warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trivirgatus</i>
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (1 in mixed Yuhina/Whistler flock)	
	Asian Red-eyed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (2)	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (2)	
6 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (2)	
	Olive-winged Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus plumosus</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (3)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (2)	
	Yellow-vented Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (3)	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1); Penampang rice paddies & fields (1)	
	Penan Bulbul	<i>Alophoixus ruficrissus</i>
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (1)	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (4)	
	Chestnut-crested Yuhina	<i>Staphida everetti</i>
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (3)	
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (2)	
	Bicoloured Babbler	<i>Cyanoderma bicolor</i>
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (2 lower hide)	
	Sunda Scimitar Babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus bornensis</i>
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (4); Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (1)	
	Grey-throated Babbler	<i>Stachyris nigriceps</i>
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (12)	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (4)	
	White-necked Babbler	<i>Stachyris leucotis</i>
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 Pitta Path)	
	Bornean Black-capped Babbler	<i>Pellorneum capistratoides</i>
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (2)	

	Short-tailed Babbler	<i>Pellorneum malaccense</i>	
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (1)		
	Temminck's Babbler	<i>Pellorneum pyrrogenys</i>	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (5); Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (10)		
	Sunda Laughingthrush	<i>Garrulax palliatus</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (2)		
	Chestnut-hooded Laughingthrush	<i>Pterorhinus treacheri</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (1)		
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (5); Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (2)		
	Asian Glossy Starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>	
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~50); Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (6)		
	Javan Myna	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>	
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (~20)		
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (~20)		
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (~10)		
	Orange-headed Thrush	<i>Geokichla citrina</i>	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (4, with both full orange head and black striped face variants present)		
	Oriental Magpie-Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>	
3 Jul	Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (1)		
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)		
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (2 lower hide)		
10 Jul	Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (1)		
	White-crowned Shama	<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>	
7 Jul	Ulu Telupid Forest Reserve (2)		
8 Jul	Kinabalu Park--Poring Hot Springs (1)		
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (1 lower hide)		
	Indigo Flycatcher	<i>Eumyias indigo</i>	
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (group of 4)		
	Dayak Blue Flycatcher	<i>Cyornis montanus</i>	
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (juvenile upper hide, male and female lower hide)		
	Bornean Whistling Thrush	<i>Myophonus borneensis</i>	
8 Jul	Main Road, Kinabalu Park (1)		
9 Jul	Mount Trusmadi--KK Lee Hides (1 lower hide)		
	Bornean Shortwing	<i>Brachypteryx erythrogyna</i>	
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (pair at nest site at base of Station Road)		
	Little Pied Flycatcher	<i>Ficedula westermanni</i>	
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (Family of pair and 1 immature)		
	Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum cruentatum</i>	
4 Jul	Sepilok Hideaway Guest House (2)		
	Little Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera longirostra</i>	
8 Jul	Kinabalu Park--Poring Hot Springs (1)		
	Bornean Spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera everetti</i>	
4 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)		
	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>	
5 Jul	Kinabatangan River (2)		
6 Jul	Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)		
	Temminck's Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga temminckii</i>	
9 Jul	Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area (1 female)		

Ornate Sunbird	<i>Cinnyris ornatus</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (3)	
4 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1)	
8 Jul Kinabalu Park--Poring Hot Springs (1)	
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (6)	
Baya Weaver	<i>Ploceus philippinus</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (2)	
10 Jul Penampang rice paddies & fields (6)	
Dusky Munia	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (1)	
10 Jul Penampang rice paddies & fields (2)	
Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (14)	
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu Wetland Ramsar Site & Education Centre (4); Penampang rice paddies & fields (~70)	
Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (~40)	
8 Jul Kinabalu Park--Poring Hot Springs (8)	
10 Jul Kota Kinabalu--Prince Philip Park (~25)	

MAMMALS

Asian Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River (2, 3)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (2)	
Long-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River (~50)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (16)	
6 Jul Kinabatangan River (1)	
Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>
3 Jul Jalan Fabian Road. Rainforest Research Centre, Sandakan (4)	
4 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (2); Kinabatangan River (15)	
Proboscis Monkey	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River (16)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (6)	
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (14)	
Sunda Silvery Langur	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (3)	
6 Jul Kinabatangan River (2)	
Dusky Langur	<i>Trachypithecus obscurus</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (2)	
Bornean Orangutan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>
5 Jul Kinabatangan River (1)	
6 Jul Kinabatangan River (Mother and immature)	
Lar Gibbon	<i>Hylobates lar</i>
4 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (4)	
Western Tarsier	<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>
3 Jul Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 during night walk)	
Malaysian Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>
4 Jul Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1 during night walk)	

Prevost's Squirrel*Callosciurus prevostii***4 Jul** Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (4)**5 Jul** Kinabatangan River (3)**6 Jul** Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (3)**Least Pygmy Squirrel***Exilisciurus exilis***5 Jul** Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (1)**6 Jul** Kinabatangan River--Hornbill Lodge/Myne Resort (2)**Red Giant Flying Squirrel***Petaurista petaurista***3 Jul** Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (1 during night walk)**SNAKES****Bornean Pit Viper***Craspedosephalus borneensis***3 Jul** Sepilok--Rainforest Discovery Centre (3 during night walk)**Sabah Pit Viper***Trimeresurus sabahi*

9 Jul Gunung Alab Restaurant & Motel area. The status of this stunning individual is dubious, since it was caught from wild in the restaurant the previous evening. It was subsequently released back into the wild from a close tree next to the restaurant viewing area