

MALAYSIA & SINGAPORE SPECIALITIES

TOUR REPORT 2024

3 - 14 / 19 March 2024

by Craig Robson

Our latest, new and improved Malay Peninsula tour itinerary included Singapore for the first time. This sunny tropical island certainly came up trumps, delivering memorable encounters with Red-legged Crane, both Blue-winged and Mangrove Pittas, and the critically endangered Straw-headed Bulbul. Amongst the other highlights there were Banded Woodpecker, Long-tailed Parakeet, and Copper-throated Sunbird. As one might expect, conditions were modern and comfortable, with smooth-running logistics, and this continued after we crossed into West Malaysia, to explore the lowland and montane forests there. Panti Forest produced the much-wanted Rail-babbler for the third consecutive trip, as well as the likes of Blyth's Frogmouth, Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo, Red-naped Trogon, White-crowned Hornbill, Red-crowned Barbet, and Finsch's Bulbul. Up at Fraser's Hill, our patience finally paid off with great views of a family of Malayan Partridges, as well as Black, Malayan and Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes, and Blue Nuthatch. At Bukit Tinggi, we were treated to amazing views of Mountain Peacock Pheasant and, luckily, a lovely Ferruginous Partridge. Rhinoceros Hornbill, Bamboo Woodpecker, Long-billed Spiderhunter, and Siamang were further highlights. Finally, during the optional post-tour extension to the immense Taman Negara, we added such gems as Malayan Crested Fireback, Rufous-collared and Malayan Blue-banded Kingfishers, Scarlet-rumped Trogon, Wrinkled Hornbill, Malayan Banded and Garnet Pittas, Crested Jayshrike, Malayan Black Magpie, Malayan Black-capped and Black-throated Babblers, Malaysian Blue Flycatcher, and Thick-billed Spiderhunter.

The tour began at our hotel in Singapore, where we got together for our first dinner, and planned ahead. We had a full day and a morning to seek out the best birds here, starting off with a morning on Pulau Ubin, a birdy island off the NE coast, accessed by what are quaintly referred to as Bumboats. It was surprisingly quiet and peaceful at dawn, and we walked a few miles to the west, and then back in time for lunch at one of the small restaurants. One of our primary targets, was the excessively persecuted and Critically Endangered Straw-headed Bulbul, a bird that has been relentlessly hunted down for the contemptible cagebird trade, due to its beautiful voice. For now, at least, it is still easy enough to see here, and at other spots in Singapore. There were also many pittas calling, and we soon had some nice views of Blue-winged, and later on Mangrove too. It was interesting to see these two closely related birds calling almost side-by-side. A pair of Copper-throated Sunbirds rounded things off nicely. In the afternoon, we visited the Botanical Gardens, where we had the most amazing close views of three Red-legged Crakes, one of Singapore's other star birds. There were large numbers of Pied Imperial Pigeons, a couple of perched Long-tailed Parakeets (amongst the much commoner introduced Red-breasted's), and some confiding Olive-

winged Bulbuls. A few hours of our final morning were spent at Lower Peirce Reservoir, where we enjoyed our first Banded Woodpeckers and Mourning Babblers.

After returning our rental van to the airport, we took a taxi to Woodlands Train Checkpoint, and crossed the border into West Malaysia. After picking up our new rental van, we drove the relatively short distance to Kota Tinggi for a four-night stay. Kota Tinggi was our base for visits to nearby Gunung Pantii Forest Reserve, where we had three full days to search for the secretive Rail-babbler. Our first early morning visit proved to be a very lucky one, as we soon heard the familiar airy whistle of the aforementioned species and, before long, had managed to lure it into full view at close range. This early success came as a bit of a shock, and we were very lucky, as we never heard the species again during the remainder of the trip! With a vehicle at our own disposal, and the leader as driver, we were able to bird all along the track through the lowland forest here and stop wherever we pleased. The birding is never quite the same from one year to the next at Pantii, and among the many other highlights this time, were a day-roosting Blyth's Frogmouth, Whiskered Treeswift, Raffles's and Red-billed Malkohas, a tour write-in Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo, Little Green Pigeon, Red-naped Trogon, White-crowned and Black Hornbills, Red-bearded Bee-eater, Red-crowned Barbet, Buff-necked Woodpecker, Hairy-backed, Yellow-bellied, Finsch's, Cream-vented and Asian Red-eyed Bulbuls, Rufous-tailed Tailorbird, Sooty-capped and Fluffy-backed Tit-Babblers, Rufous-tailed Shama, and Yellow-breasted and Crimson-breasted Flowerpeckers. Mammal sightings included Lar Gibbon and a colony of Lesser Sheath-tailed Bats.

From Kota Tinggi, we had a relatively long drive up to Fraser's Hill. Fortunately, Malaysia has a good network of modern toll roads, so the journey was not too bad at all. We settled-in at the quaint Ye Olde Smokehouse, for a three-night stay. Some important endemics were on the want-list here. The normally straightforward Malayan Partridges had fledged young, and their routine was more erratic than usual but, with perseverance, we eventually connected with the pair and their three well-grown offspring. Three important laughingthrushes, Black (now considered closer to scimitar babblers!), Malayan and Chestnut-capped all gave fantastic views, as did the tolerably common Mountain Fulvetta. Other highlights at Fraser's were Little Cuckoo-Dove, the strange and unique Fire-tufted Barbet, Black-browed Barbet, crowd-pleasing Long-tailed Broadbills, 'Grey-throated' Minivet (a potential split from Grey-chinned), Pygmy Cupwing, Black-eared and White-browed Shrike-Babblers, Black-and-crimson Oriole, 'Southern' Mountain Bulbul, the superb Blue Nuthatch, Rufous-bellied Swallow, Hume's White-eye (split from Everett's), 'Malay' Streaked Wren-Babbler, Long-tailed Sibia, 'Southern' Grey-throated Babbler, Rufous-browed Flycatcher, the local *dichrorhynchus* form of Blue Whistling Thrush, Pygmy Flycatcher, White-tailed Robin, and 'Malay' Lesser Shortwing. Both Pale-thighed and Dusky Langurs were on show.

It was a relatively short and easy drive to our next birding location at Bukit Tinggi. Based at the astonishing if not bizarre Colmar Tropicale resort, a mock medieval French village, we only had to travel a short distance to nearby hill forest in search of our main target birds: particularly the endemic Mountain Peacock-Pheasant and equally lovely, though more widespread Ferruginous Partridge. With an evening and full day at our disposal, we were able to sit in wait and obtain superb prolonged close views of the peacock-pheasant, a real treat. The partridge has become more erratic in its behaviour recently, but fortunately it also came in, and gave some fine unobstructed views. There were many other interesting species here too, with Bushy-crested and the more spectacular Rhinoceros Hornbills, Orange-breasted Trogon, several Bamboo Woodpeckers, Grey-bellied, Scaly-breasted, Ochraceous and Cinereous Bulbuls, Slaty-backed Forktail, and Long-billed and Spectacled Spiderhunters. We also had some wonderful views of a pair of Siamangs here.

The main tour ended after our final morning at Bukit Tinggi, and we said goodbye to some of our number who were bound for Kuala Lumpur Airport by taxi. For the rest of us, there was a fairly lengthy drive to Taman Negara, where we arrived by mid-afternoon, after securely parking the van, and crossing the river by boat to the park headquarters.

Based in very comfortable air-conditioned cabins, nestled at the forest edge, we had four whole days to explore what we could of this enormous and well-protected tropical rain forest reserve. The park trail system stretches far and wide from Kuala Tahan, and we explored what we could of it during our stay. The riverside trail to Tabing Hide and beyond, was one of the most productive, and yielded Black-bellied Malkoha, Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo, a pair of Rufous-collared Kingfishers, Banded Kingfisher, Grey-and-buff, Checker-throated, Orange-backed, Maroon and Great Slaty Woodpeckers, Green Broadbill, uncharacteristically showy Crested Jayshrikes and Malayan Black Magpies, a range of 'babblers', including Sunda Scimitar, Ferruginous, Moustached, Rufous-crowned, Malayan Black-capped, Malayan Swamp and Chestnut-winged, Malaysian Blue and Rufous-chested Flycatchers, and Thick-billed Spiderhunter. Pride of place went to a superb male Malayan Banded Pitta that we managed to lure into view. The marvellous calls of Great Argus were often heard but it has been some time now since a dancing ground has been accessible. Branching-off along the Bukit Teresek loop involved a bit more physical effort but resulted in fine views of Garnet Pitta when a tree-calling individual was finally spotted, as well as Scarlet-rumped Trogon, a nesting pair of Buff-rumped Woodpeckers, a wintering Crow-billed Drongo, the smart Black-throated Babbler, and a rather elusive Large Wren-Babbler. We visited Lubuk Simpon, a well-known river-access point, on several occasions, with very early mornings being best. Malayan Blue-banded Kingfisher gave fantastic views this year, and we also spotted our only Wrinkled Hornbills of the trip. There were also lots of Silver-rumped Spinetails, and Lesser Fish Eagle. Close to our accommodation the Swamp Loop was often quite birdy, with surprisingly tame groups of Malayan Crested Firebacks. The accommodation clearing is usually a great place to see a range of species, although this year there were no fruiting trees to speak of. Nevertheless, we scoped Black-thighed Falconet and tempted-in a male Indochinese Blue Flycatcher. A bizarre daytime encounter with a humungous Red Giant Flying Squirrel was completely unexpected. Daily pre-dawn owling sessions enabled us to locate Reddish Scops Owl and Gould's Frogmouth, though both proved very tricky to show. Sunda Scops Owl (or Collared, taxonomy-dependent) showed well closer to the main clearing. Three Crested Jayshrikes huddled side-by-side at their night-roost were unforgettable.

Our time was soon up on this relatively short tour and, after crossing the river once more, we headed for Kuala Lumpur Airport to catch our respective flights home or relax overnight before a flight the following day.

SYSTEMATIC LIST OF SPECIES RECORDED DURING THE TOUR

Species marked with the diamond symbol (◊) are either endemic to the country or local region or considered 'special' birds for some other reason (e.g., it is only seen on one or two Birdquest tours; it is difficult to see across all or most of its range; the local form is endemic or restricted-range and may in future be treated as a full species).

The species names and taxonomy used in the bird list follows Gill, F., Donsker, D., & Rasmussen, P. (Eds). **2024. IOC World Bird List (v14.1)**.

Where the subspecies seen is/are known, these are often given in parentheses at the end of the species comment.

BIRDS

Ferruginous Partridge ◊ *Caloperdix oculeus* One showed well at Bukit Tinggi, but not for long.

Malayan Partridge ◊ *Arborophila campbelli* Endemic. After a long wait, a family of five at Fraser's Hill.

Malayan Crested Fireback ◊ *Lophura rufa* Very confiding at Taman Negara; at least ten.

Great Argus ◊ *Argusianus argus* Heard-only.

Mountain Peacock-Pheasant ◊ *Polyplectron inopinatum* Endemic. Incredible views of two or three at Bukit Tinggi.

Red Junglefowl *Gallus gallus*

Large-tailed Nightjar *Caprimulgus macrurus*

Gould's Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus stellatus* One at Taman Negara.

Blyth's Frogmouth ◊ *Batrachostomus affinis* One day-roosting at Panti Forest.

Grey-rumped Treeswift *Hemiprocne longipennis*

Whiskered Treeswift ◊ *Hemiprocne comata* A pair at Panti Forest.

Plume-toed Swiftlet *Collocalia affinis*

Germain's Swiftlet *Aerodramus germani*

Silver-rumped Spinetail ◊ *Rhaphidura leucopygialis* Good numbers at Taman Negara.

Brown-backed Needletail *Hirundapus giganteus*

Pacific Swift *Apus pacificus*

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Greater Coucal *Centropus sinensis*

Raffles's Malkoha ◊ *Rhinortha chlorophaea* Occasional at Panti and Taman Negara.

Red-billed Malkoha *Zanclotomus javanicus* Two singles at Panti Forest (*pallidus*).

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*

Chestnut-bellied Malkoha ◊ *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus* One at Panti Forest.

Black-bellied Malkoha ◊ *Phaenicophaeus diardi* Just one at Taman Negara.

Green-billed Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus tristis*

Asian Koel *Eudynamys scolopaceus* Heard-only.

Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*

Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii*

Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus* Heard-only.

Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis*

Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo *Surniculus lugubris*

Moustached Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococcyx vagans* A highly reactive bird at Taman Negara.

Dark Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococcyx bocki* Several heard in the uplands; one showed well at Fraser's Hill.

Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo ♦ *Hierococcyx fugax* Great views of this write-in at Pant.

Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus* Heard-only.

Sunda Cuckoo ♦ *Cuculus lepidus* Heard-only.

Rock Dove (Feral Pigeon) (feral) *Columba livia*

Spotted Dove *Spilopelia chinensis*

Little Cuckoo-Dove *Macropygia ruficeps* Just a couple at Fraser's Hill (*malayana*).

Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*

Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*

Little Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron olax* Just small numbers at Taman Negara and Pant Forest.

Pink-necked Green Pigeon *Treron vernans*

Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra* Small numbers at Taman Negara and Pant Forest.

Large Green Pigeon ♦ *Treron capellei* A handful at Taman Negara, mostly in flight.

Mountain Imperial Pigeon *Ducula badia*

Pied Imperial Pigeon *Ducula bicolor* 35 at Singapore Botanical Gardens.

Red-legged Crake ♦ *Rallina fasciata* Unbelievable close views of three at Singapore Botanical Gardens.

White-breasted Waterhen *Amaurornis phoenicurus*

Red-wattled Lapwing *Vanellus indicus*

Asian Openbill *Anastomus oscitans*

Oriental Darter *Anhinga melanogaster* One at Pulau Ubin, Singapore.

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*

Grey Heron *Ardea cinerea*

Purple Heron *Ardea purpurea*

Black-winged Kite *Elanus caeruleus*

Crested Honey Buzzard *Pernis ptilorhynchus*

Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela*

Blyth's Hawk-Eagle ◊ *Nisaetus alboniger*

Changeable Hawk-Eagle *Nisaetus cirrhatus* Heard-only.

Rufous-bellied Eagle *Lophotriorchis kienerii*

Black Eagle *Ictinaetus malaiensis*

White-bellied Sea Eagle *Ichthyophaga leucogaster*

Lesser Fish Eagle *Ichthyophaga humilis*

Brown Boobook (B Hawk Owl) *Ninox scutulata* Heard-only. Taman Negara.

Collared Owlet *Taenioptynx brodiei* Heard-only.

Reddish Scops Owl ◊ *Otus rufescens* One at Taman Negara, but elusive this year (*malayensis*).

Mountain Scops Owl *Otus spilocephalus* Heard-only.

Sunda Scops Owl ◊ *Otus lempiji* Seen at Taman Negara; but this population is really Collared Scops Owl.

Spotted Wood Owl ◊ *Strix selaputo* Heard-only. Two at Pantii Forest.

Brown Wood Owl *Strix leptogrammica* Heard-only. Taman Negara.

Red-naped Trogon ◊ *Harpactes kasumba* Seen well at Pantii Forest and Taman Negara.

Diard's Trogon ◊ *Harpactes diardii* Heard-only (*sumatranus*).

Scarlet-rumped Trogon ◊ *Harpactes duvaucelii* Several seen at Taman Negara; heard at Pantii.

Orange-breasted Trogon *Harpactes oreskios* A smart male at Bukit Tinggi (*uniformis*).

Red-headed Trogon *Harpactes erythrocephalus* One seen at Fraser's Hill (*chasei*).

White-crowned Hornbill ◊ *Berenicornis comatus* Two at Pantii Forest were a bonus.

Rhinoceros Hornbill *Buceros rhinoceros* A pair were scoped at Bukit Tinggi; heard elsewhere.

Helmeted Hornbill ◇ *Rhinoplax vigil* Heard-only. Distantly at Taman Negara.

Oriental Pied Hornbill *Anthracoceros albirostris* A few (*convexus*).

Black Hornbill ◇ *Anthracoceros malayanus* Small numbers at Pantl and Taman Negara.

Bushy-crested Hornbill ◇ *Anorrhinus galeritus* Scope views at Bukit Tinggi, with a noisy flock of at least six.

Wreathed Hornbill *Rhyticeros undulatus*

Wrinkled Hornbill ◇ *Rhabdotorrhinus corrugatus* Four at Lubuk Simpon, Taman Negara.

Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*

Rufous-collared Kingfisher ◇ *Actenoides concretus* A rather elusive pair seen at Taman Negara.

Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella* A nice male at Taman Negara.

Stork-billed Kingfisher *Pelargopsis capensis*

White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

Collared Kingfisher *Todiramphus chloris*

Malaysian Blue-banded Kingfisher ◇ *Alcedo peninsulæ* A male seen very well at Lubuk Simpon, Taman Negara.

Black-backed Dwarf Kingfisher ◇ *Ceyx erithaca* Heard-only. Singapore.

Rufous-backed Dwarf Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa* Single fly-by at Pantl.

Red-bearded Bee-eater ◇ *Nyctyornis amictus* Several seen this year.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater *Merops philippinus*

Blue-throated Bee-eater ◇ *Merops viridis*

Fire-tufted Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon pyrolophus* Common at Fraser's Hill.

Lineated Barbet *Psilopogon lineatus*

Golden-whiskered Barbet *Psilopogon chrysopogon*

Red-crowned Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon raflesii* Quite common at Pantl (*malayensis*).

Red-throated Barbet *Psilopogon mystacophanos*

Golden-throated Barbet *Psilopogon franklinii* Heard-only. Bukit Tinggi.

Black-browed Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon oorti* Common at Fraser's Hill; also, at Bukit Tinggi.

Yellow-crowned Barbet ◇ *Psilopogon henricii* Regularly heard; seen at Pantl Forest.

Black-eared Barbet *Psilopogon duvaucelii* One scoped at Bukit Tinggi. Split from Blue-eared.

Coppersmith Barbet *Psilopogon haemacephalus*

Sooty Barbet ◇ *Caloramphus hayii* Small numbers in the Malaysian lowland forests.

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker ◇ *Hemicircus concretus* One at Taman Negara.

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis* Heard-only.

Banded Woodpecker ◇ *Chrysophlegma miniaceum* Several in Singapore, and one at Fraser's Hill (*malaccensis*).

Checker-throated Woodpecker ◇ *Chrysophlegma mentale* Small numbers in the Malaysian lowland forests (*humii*).

Greater Yellownappe *Chrysophlegma flavinucha* A few seen at Fraser's Hill (*wrayi*).

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus* A few at Bukit Tinggi and Taman Negara (*observandus*).

Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus* Heard-only. Singapore.

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*

Orange-backed Woodpecker ◇ *Chrysocolaptes validus* Two to four at Taman Negara.

Bamboo Woodpecker ◇ *Gecinulus viridis* Four were seen very at Bukit Tinggi.

Maroon Woodpecker ◇ *Blythipicus rubiginosus* Occasional sightings in Malaysia.

Rufous Woodpecker *Micropternus brachyurus* Multiple widespread sightings (*squamigularis*).

Buff-rumped Woodpecker ◇ *Meiglyptes grammithorax* An incubating pair at Taman Negara, seen switching places.

Buff-necked Woodpecker ◇ *Meiglyptes tukki* A couple at both Pantii and Taman Negara.

Great Slaty Woodpecker *Mulleripicus pulverulentus* Three showed nicely at Taman Negara.

Black-thighed Falconet *Microhierax fringillarius* One scoped at Taman Negara.

Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus* Several sightings at Taman Negara but all in flight.

Red-breasted Parakeet (introduced) *Psittacula alexandri* Common in Singapore.

Long-tailed Parakeet ◇ *Psittacula longicauda* Two scoped in Singapore.

Rose-ringed Parakeet (introduced) (Ring-necked P) *Psittacula krameri* Heard-only. Singapore.

Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot ◇ *Loriculus galgulus* Still widespread and quite common.

Long-tailed Broadbill *Psarisomus dalhousiae* A confiding pair at Fraser's Hill.

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus* One performed for us at Pantii.

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus*

Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*

Green Broadbill ♦ *Calyptomena viridis* A couple seen quite well, and others heard at Taman Negara.

Malayan Banded Pitta ♦ *Hydrornis irena* A superb male at Taman Negara.

Garnet Pitta ♦ *Erythropitta granatina* A lovely calling bird at Taman Negara, perched above us, and on the ground.

Blue-winged Pitta ♦ *Pitta moluccensis* Two were easily seen at Pulau Ubin, Singapore, others at Taman Negara.

Mangrove Pitta ♦ *Pitta megarhyncha* Two were seen well at Pulau Ubin.

Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea* Heard-only.

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus picatus*

Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis virgatus*

Common Iora *Aegithina tiphia*

Green Iora ♦ *Aegithina viridissima* More often heard than seen, but descent views.

Grey-chinned Minivet (G-throated M) *Pericrocotus [solaris] montanus* Just three at Fraser's Hill (*montanus*).

Ashy Minivet *Pericrocotus divaricatus*

Bar-bellied Cuckooshrike *Coracina striata* Heard-only. Taman Negara.

Large Cuckooshrike *Coracina macei*

Pied Triller ♦ *Lalage nigra* A male in Singapore.

Lesser Cuckooshrike *Lalage fimbriata* Heard-only. Taman Negara.

Black-eared Shrike-babbler ♦ *Pteruthius melanotis* Several at Fraser's Hill (*tahanensis*); with a pair nest-building.

White-browed Shrike-babbler *Pteruthius aeralatus* A male seen and many heard at Fraser's Hill (*cameranoi*).

White-bellied Erpornis *Erpornis zantholeuca*

Black-and-crimson Oriole ♦ *Oriolus cruentus* Good views of several at Fraser's Hill.

Black-naped Oriole (Sunda B-n O) *Oriolus [chinensis] maculatus*

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

Crow-billed Drongo ♦ *Dicrurus annectens* Another bonus bird, this time at Taman Negara.

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus* Small and short-crested *platurus*.

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

Malaysian Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea* Occasional at Taman Negara (*prophata*).

Blyth's Paradise-flycatcher *Terpsiphone affinis*

Crested Jayshrike ♦ *Platylophus galericulatus* Good views of 5 at Taman Negara (*ardesiacus*); 3 on a night-roost!

Malayan Black Magpie ♦ *Platysmurus leucopterus* Surprisingly good views of four at Taman Negara.

House Crow (introduced) *Corvus splendens*

Large-billed Crow (Southern Jungle C) *Corvus macrorhynchos*

Rail-babbler ♦ *Eupetes macrocerus* Very good views of one at Panti Forest. No other sight nor sound!

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher *Culicicapa ceylonensis*

Sultan Tit *Melanochlora sultanea*

Hairy-backed Bulbul ♦ *Tricholestes criniger* A few at Panti Forest.

Yellow-bellied Bulbul ♦ *Alophoixus phaeocephalus* Just one at Panti Forest.

Grey-cheeked Bulbul ♦ *Alophoixus tephrogenys* Several seen very well at Taman Negara.

Ochraceous Bulbul *Alophoixus ochraceus* Not uncommon in the uplands (*sordidus*).

Finsch's Bulbul ♦ *Iole finschii* A smart singleton at Panti.

Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole crypta* One of the commonest bulbuls in lowland forests (*crypta*).

Cinereous Bulbul ♦ *Hemixos cinereus* Two at Bukit Tinggi.

Streaked Bulbul ♦ *Ixos malaccensis* Small numbers at Taman Negara.

Mountain Bulbul (Southern M B) *Ixos [maclellandii] tickelli* A few at Fraser's Hill (*peracensis*).

Puff-backed Bulbul ♦ *Euptilotus eutilotus* A pair at Taman Negara.

Black-headed Bulbul *Brachypodius melanocephalus*

Spectacled Bulbul ◊ *Ixodia erythrothalmos* One of the commonest bulbuls in Malaysia.

Grey-bellied Bulbul ◊ *Ixodia cyanoventris* Several at Bukit Tinggi and Taman Negara.

Scaly-breasted Bulbul ◊ *Ixodia squamata* Two seen well at Bukit Tinggi (*weberi*).

Black-crested Bulbul *Rubigula flaviventris*

Cream-vented Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus simplex* Quite common at Pantli Forest, and easy to observe.

Olive-winged Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus plumosus* Easily seen in Singapore.

Asian Red-eyed Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus brunneus* Scattered locations, with best views at Pantli.

Straw-headed Bulbul ◊ *Pycnonotus zeylanicus* Easily seen at Pulau Ubin, Singapore.

Stripe-throated Bulbul *Pycnonotus finlaysoni*

Red-whiskered Bulbul (introduced) *Pycnonotus jocosus* One in Singapore.

Yellow-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus goiavier*

Pacific Swallow (House S) *Hirundo tahitica*

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Rufous-bellied Swallow ◊ *Cecropis badia* Several of these lovely swallows at Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi.

Pygmy Cupwing *Pnoepyga pusilla* Amazing close views of one at Fraser's Hill (*harterti*).

Yellow-bellied Warbler *Abroscopus superciliaris* Quite a few at Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi (*sakaiaorum*).

Mountain Tailorbird *Phyllergates cuculatus* One singing at Fraser's Hill (*malayanus*).

Eastern Crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus coronatus* One seen and others heard at Taman Negara.

Arctic Warbler *Phylloscopus borealis* Scattered sightings.

Chestnut-crowned Warbler *Phylloscopus castaniceps* Just one seen at Fraser's Hill (*butleri*).

Rufescent Prinia *Prinia rufescens* A few at Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi (*extrema*).

Yellow-bellied Prinia *Prinia flaviventris* Heard-only (*rafflesi*).

Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius*

Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird ◊ *Orthotomus sericeus* Seen nicely at Pantli; subsequently heard often.

Ashy Tailorbird *Orthotomus ruficeps*

Swinhoe's White-eye *Zosterops simplex* Heard-only; A couple in Singapore (*erwini*).

Hume's White-eye ◊ *Zosterops auriventer* Several studied closely at Fraser's Hill (*tahanensis*).

Pin-striped Tit-Babbler *Mixornis gularis*

Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler ◊ *Macronus ptilosus* An obliging pair at Panti Forest.

Golden Babbler *Cyanoderma chrysaeum* Quite common at Fraser's Hill (*chrysops*).

Chestnut-winged Babbler ◊ *Cyanoderma erythropterum* Small numbers at Taman Negara, with a pair nest building.

Black Laughingthrush ◊ *Melanocichla lugubris* Surprisingly good views of one at Fraser's Hill; heard at Bukit Tinggi.

Sunda Scimitar Babbler *Pomatorhinus bornensis* One finally showed at Taman Negara.

Large Scimitar Babbler *Erythrophenax hypoleucos* Heard-only. Bukit Tinggi.

Black-throated Babbler ◊ *Stachyris nigricollis* Great looks at one at Taman Negara.

Chestnut-rumped Babbler ◊ *Stachyris maculata* Seen nicely at Panti; subsequently heard a few times.

Grey-throated Babbler (Southern G-t B) *Stachyris [nigriceps] davisoni* Near-endemic. Seen well at Fraser's Hill.

Large Wren-Babbler ◊ *Turdinus macrodactylus* A tricky devil at Taman Negara.

Sooty-capped Babbler ◊ *Malacopteron affine* Not uncommon in the Malaysian lowland forests.

Scaly-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron cinereum*

Rufous-crowned Babbler ◊ *Malacopteron magnum* Good views of one at Taman Negara.

Moustached Babbler ◊ *Malacopteron magnirostre* A few at Taman Negara.

Collared Babbler *Gampsorhynchus torquatus* Heard-only. Fraser's Hill.

Malayan Black-capped Babbler ◊ *Pellorneum nigrocapitatum* Frequently encountered at Taman Negara.

Mourning Babbler ◊ *Pellorneum malaccense* Several in Singapore and at Panti Forest.

Buff-breasted Babbler *Pellorneum tickelli*

Malayan Swamp Babbler ◊ *Pellorneum rostratum* One along the riverside at Taman Negara.

Ferruginous Babbler ◊ *Pellorneum bicolor* One of these smart babblers at Taman Negara.

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*

Streaked Wren-Babbler ◊ (Malay S W-B) *Gypsophila [brevicaudata] leucosticta* Near-endemic. 2 at Fraser's Hill.

Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda* One briefly at Taman Negara.

Mountain Fulvetta ◊ *Alcippe peracensis* Near-endemic. Common at Fraser's Hill.

Malayan Laughingthrush ◊ *Trochalopteron peninsulae* Near-endemic. Four at a feeding site at Fraser's Hill.

Long-tailed Sibia ◊ *Heterophasia picaoides* Small groups at Fraser's Hill (*wrayi*).

Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush ◊ (Spectacled L) *Pterorhinus mitratus* Common Fraser's Hill; also, Bukit Tinggi.

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

Blue Nuthatch ◊ *Sitta azurea* Three crackers at Fraser's Hill (*expectata*).

Velvet-fronted Nuthatch *Sitta frontalis*

Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa* Occasional in lowland forests (nominate).

Javan Myna (introduced) *Acridotheres javanicus*

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Oriental Magpie-Robin *Copsychus saularis*

Rufous-tailed Shama ◊ *Copsychus pyrropygus* One seen by all at Panti Forest.

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

Dark-sided Flycatcher *Muscicapa sibirica* One at Bukit Tinggi.

Ferruginous Flycatcher *Muscicapa ferruginea* This write-in was seen well at Panti Forest.

Asian Brown Flycatcher *Muscicapa dauurica* One at Bukit Tinggi.

Verditer Flycatcher *Eumyias thalassinus*

Rufous-browed Flycatcher ◊ *Anthipes solitaris* A few seen well at Fraser's Hill. Tame.

Malaysian Blue Flycatcher ◊ *Cyornis turcosus* Several near the river at Taman Negara (*rupatensis*).

Indochinese Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis sumatrensis* A singing male at Taman Negara (nominate).

Hill Blue Flycatcher *Cyornis whitei* A singing male at Fraser's Hill.

White-tailed Robin *Myiomela leucura* Beautiful views of a lovely male at Fraser's Hill.

Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* One at Bukit Tinggi.

Blue Whistling Thrush (Malay B W T) *Myophonus [caeruleus] dichrorhynchus* One at Fraser's Hill.

Lesser Shortwing (Malay L S) *Brachypteryx [leucophris] wrayi* Several seen at very close range at Fraser's Hill.

Yellow-rumped Flycatcher *Ficedula zanthopygia* Another write-in, this time at Taman Negara (one female-type).

Mugimaki Flycatcher *Ficedula mugimaki* Several towards the end of the trip, another write-in.

Pygmy Flycatcher ♠ (P Blue F) *Ficedula hodgsoni* A nice male at Fraser's Hill.

Little Pied Flycatcher *Ficedula westermanni*

Rufous-chested Flycatcher ♠ *Ficedula dumetoria* A male seen well at Taman Negara; others heard.

Lesser Green Leafbird ♠ *Chloropsis cyanopogon* A few at Taman Negara.

Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis moluccensis* More sub-montane than the last species, and well distributed.

Orange-bellied Leafbird *Chloropsis hardwickii* Several at Fraser's Hill (*malayana*).

Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker ♠ *Prionochilus maculatus* Several seen well at Pantii (*oblitus*).

Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker ♠ *Prionochilus percussus* Just one at Pantii (*ignicapilla*).

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker *Dicaeum chrysorrheum*

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum minullum* A single bird at Taman Negara.

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus* A few at Fraser's Hill (*dolichorhynchum*).

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Chalcoparia singalensis*

Brown-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes malacensis*

Copper-throated Sunbird ♠ *Leptocoma calcostetha* A pair in Singapore.

Ornate Sunbird *Cinnyris ornatus* Split from Olive-backed.

Black-throated Sunbird *Aethopyga saturata* A few at Fraser's Hill (*wrayi*).

Purple-naped Spiderhunter *Kurochkinogramma hypogrammicum*

Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*

Thick-billed Spiderhunter ♠ *Arachnothera crassirostris* One seen very well at Taman Negara.

Long-billed Spiderhunter ♠ *Arachnothera robusta* An exceptional year: 2 at Bukit Tinggi and 3 at Taman Negara.

Spectacled Spiderhunter ◊ *Arachnothera flavigaster* Also seen at both Bukit Tinggi and Taman Negara.

Grey-breasted Spiderhunter ◊ *Arachnothera modesta* Heard-only.

Streaked Spiderhunter *Arachnothera magna*

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Paddyfield Pipit *Anthus rufulus*

MAMMALS

Short-tailed Gymnure *Hylomys suillus* A couple coming to feed at Fraser's Hill.

Yellow-throated Marten *Martes flavigula* One at Bukit Tinggi.

Southern Red Muntjac *Muntiacus muntjak*

Sambar Rusa *Rusa unicolor* Heard-only.

Lesser Sheath-tailed Bat *Emballonura monticola* Small roosting colony at Panti Forest; 29 individuals.

Common Treeshrew *Tupaia glis*

Long-tailed Macaque (Crab-eating M) *Macaca fascicularis*

Southern Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*

Pale-thighed Langur (White-t Surili) *Presbytis siamensis* A total of around 15 at Fraser's Hill.

Dusky Langur (D Leaf Monkey) *Trachypithecus obscurus* Common at Fraser's Hill.

Lar Gibbon *Hylobates lar* Often heard in Malaysian lowland forests; seen at Panti.

Siamang *Hylobates syndactylus* Often heard in Malaysia, with a pair showing really well at Bukit Tinggi.

Grey-bellied Squirrel *Callosciurus caniceps*

Black-striped Squirrel (B-banded S) *Callosciurus nigrovittatus*

Plantain Squirrel *Callosciurus notatus*

Prevost's Squirrel *Callosciurus prevostii* One at Tabing Hide, Taman Negara.

Asian Red-cheeked Squirrel *Dremomys rufigenis* Easily seen at Fraser's Hill.

Three-striped Ground Squirrel *Lariscus insignis* Small numbers in lowland forests; best at Panti, eating fallen fruit.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel *Petaurista petaurista* A crazy daytime sighting by our accommodation at Taman Negara.

Black Giant Squirrel *Ratufa bicolor* Non-leader.

Horse-tailed Squirrel *Sundasciurus hippurus*

Slender Squirrel *Sundasciurus tenuis*

Himalayan Striped Squirrel *Tamiops mcclellandi* Frequent at Fraser's Hill and Bukit Tinggi.

Indomalayan Long-tailed Giant Rat *Leopoldamys sabanus*

Brown Rat (introduced) *Rattus norvegicus*

REPTILES

Tockay Gecko *Gekko gekko*

Asian House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus*

Common Sun Skink *Eutropis multifasciata*

Rough-scaled Sun Skink *Eutropis rufigera*

South-east Asian Water Monitor *Varanus salvator*

Pink-headed Reed Snake *Calamaria schlegeli*

BUTTERFLIES

Common Mormon Swallowtail *Papilio polytes*

Rajah Brooke's Birdwing *Trogonoptera brookiana*

Five-bar Swordtail *Graphium antiphates*

Common Jay *Graphium doson evemonides*

Common Tree Nymph *Idea stollii*

Orange Gull *Cepora iudith*

Malayan Jezebel *Delias ninus*

Malayan Grass Yellow *Eurema nicevillei*

Lesser Darkie *Allotinus unicolor*

Common Ciliate Blue *Anthene emolus*

De Nicéville's Oakblue *Arhopala agrata*
Malayan Sunbeam *Caretis santana*
Common Posy *Drupadia ravindra*
Plains Cupid *Luthrodes pandava*
Violet Fourline Blue *Nacaduba subperusia*
Malay Red Harlequin *Paralaxita damajanti*
Forest Quaker *Pithecops corvus*
Tailless Lineblue *Prosotas dubiosa*
Common Lineblue *Prosotas nora*
Great Marquis *Bassarona dunya*
Banded Yeoman *Cirrochroa orissa*
Straight-banded Catseye *Coelites epiminthia*
Marble Map *Cyrestis cocles*
Autumn Leaf *Dollescallia bisaltide*
Common Palmfly *Elymnias hypermnestra*
Narrow-striped Faun *Faunis gracilis*
Peacock Pansy *Junonia almana*
Chocolate Pansy *Junonia iphita*
Pallid Faun *Melanocyma faunula*
White-bar Bushbrown *Mycalesis anaxias*
Purple Bushbrown *Mycalesis orseis*
Common Sailer *Neptis hylas*
Smooth-eyed Bushbrown *Orsotriaena medus*
Common Lascar *Pantoporia hordonia*
Clipper *Parthenos sylvia*
Malay Viscount *Tanaecia pelea*
Large Assyrian *Terinos atlita teuthras*
Tufted Jungle King *Thauria aliris*

Malay Cruiser *Vindula dejone*

Common Three-ring *Ypthima pandocus*

Gem Demon *Ancistroides gemmifer*

Chocolate Demon *Ancistroides nigrita*

Narrow-banded Velvet Bob *Koruthaialos rubecula*

MOTHS

Swallow-tailed Moth *Lyssa zampa*

DRAGONFLIES

Black Velvetwing *Dysphaea dimidiata*

Green Metalwing *Neurobasis chinensis*

Orange-tailed Marsh Dart *Ceriagrion cerinorubellum*

Blue Bush Dart *Copera vittata*

Blue Riverdamsel *Pseudagrion microcephalum*

Blue-spotted Flatwing *Podolestes orientalis*

Abbott's Tiger *Gomphidia abbotti*

Spear-tail Duskhawker *Gynacantha dohrni*

Grenadier *Agrionoptera insignis*

Ditch Jewel *Brachythemis contaminata*

Sultan *Camacinia gigantea*

Dark-tipped Forerst Skimmer *Cratilla metallica*

Asian Bloodtail *Lathrecista asiatica*

Scarlet Pygmy *Nannophya pygmaea*

Common Parasol *Neurothemis fluctuans*

Brown-backed Red Marsh Hawk *Orthetrum chrysis*

Blue-tailed Forest Hawk *Orthetrum triangulare*

Mangrove Marshall *Pornothemis starrei*

Rufous Marsh Glider *Rhodothermis rufa*

Crimson Marsh Glider *Trithemis aurora*