

# PENINSULAR MALAYSIA TRIP REPORT JANUARY 2018

By Andy Walker



The gorgeous Silver-eared Mesia was seen well during our time in the mountains.



This customized tour commenced in Kuala Lumpur on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 and concluded back there on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The tour followed our set-departure route and covered several key birding sites in Peninsular Malaysia, visiting various habitats from coastal mangrove forests up to the highlands of the Titiwangsa range, which runs southward from the border of Thailand and forms the backbone of the peninsula. We also concentrated effort on the world famous and stunningly bird-rich Taman Negara National Park. The tropical rainforest here is said to be 130 million years old, and it is a spectacular sight full of a huge array of wildlife. We targeted many of the highly-sought species to be found in Malaysia, such as pittas, trogons, broadbills, hornbills, and kingfishers, as well as three difficult and localized Malaysian endemics (a partridge, a peacock-pheasant, and a whistling thrush).

The tour connected with many exciting birds, such as Crested Fireback, Malaysian and Ferruginous Partridges, Mountain and Malaysian Peacock-Pheasants, Great Argus, Lesser Adjutant, Black Baza, Black-thighed Falconet, Blyth's Hawk-Eagle, Helmeted, Wreathed, Black, Oriental Pied, and Rhinoceros Hornbills, Speckled and Rufous Piculets, Great Slaty and Orange-backed Woodpeckers, Buffy Fish Owl, Mangrove, Blue-winged, and Hooded Pittas, Stork-billed, Banded, and Rufous-collared Kingfishers, Diard's, Scarlet-rumped, Red-headed and Orange-breasted Trogons, Green, Black-and-red, Black-and-yellow, Dusky, and Silver-breasted Broadbills, Crested Jay, Black Magpie, Mangrove Blue Flycatcher, Mangrove Whistler, Malayan Whistling Thrush, Straw-headed and Black-and-white Bulbuls, Malayan Laughingthrush, and Silver-eared Mesia.

A total of 309 bird species were recorded (286 seen), along with an impressive list of other animals, including Silvered and Dusky Leaf Monkeys, Pale-thighed Langur, Siamang, and Lar Gibbon, as well as a range of beautiful butterflies, including the incredible Rajah Brooke's Birdwing. Species lists are at the end of this report.

# Peninsular Malaysia Tour:

# Day 0, $6^{th}$ January 2018. Pre-tour arrival into Kuala Lumpur

Paul and Ken arrived during the morning and met up with Birding Ecotours leader Andy Walker and local guide Weng Chun. The afternoon was spent at leisure.

# Day 1, 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Kuala Lumpur area

After an early breakfast we headed out to a forest not too far from Kuala Lumpur. Our first stop of the day yielded **Buff-rumped Woodpecker**, **Raffles's Malkoha**, **Brown Shrike**, **Crested Goshawk**, and **Chestnut-winged Babbler** along with several more common species such as **Common Tailorbird**, **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Germain's Swiftlet**, and **Grey-rumped Treeswift**. **Black-and-yellow Broadbill** was calling but remained deep in the forest. It was Sunday morning, so there were many locals out and about taking their morning exercise, so we decided to head off to a quieter area and were duly rewarded for doing so.



We staked out a small stream in the hope that we might see **Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher**, but, unfortunately, although we heard one fly past, it didn't stop and sit for us. While waiting here we did get to watch some interesting behavior from a pair of **White-chested Babblers** that were catching small fish! We were also visited by a pair of tiny **Rufous-chested Flycatchers**, and as the morning progressed a number of interesting birds came in and showed well. The picks of these birds included **Black Magpie**, **Dusky Broadbill**, **Rufous Piculet**, **Checker-throated**, **Crimson-winged**, **Buff-rumped**, and **Maroon Woodpeckers**, a stunning male **Yellow-rumped Flycatcher**, **Greater Racket-tailed Drongo**, **Little Spiderhunter**, **Purple-naped Sunbird**, **Golden-whiskered Barbet**, and **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**.

The afternoon was very hot, and activity slowed down a fair bit, although a walk along a river gave us a few new birds, most prized of these were the views we had of a male **Rufous-collared Kingfisher**, a really pretty bird. We also found a male **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **Blue-winged Leafbird**, **Eastern Crowned** and **Arctic Warblers**, and **Pin-striped Tit-Babbler**.

Our final roadside stop of the day before we drove back to our hotel gave us some good, close views of **Black-thighed Falconet** and flyovers of **Lesser Fish Eagle** and **Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot** - a decent end to a great first days birding in the country.



This male Rufous-collared Kingfisher showed very well as it sat low in the dense forest.

#### Day 2, 8th January 2018. Shah Alam area

After an early breakfast we left our base at Putrajaya for the Shah Alam area. We drove through some fairly heavy rain showers, but luckily our birding stops managed to dodge these. The



typical common birds were noted as we drove to our birding site, such as **Blue-tailed Bee-eater**, **Oriental Dollarbird**, **White-throated Kingfisher**, and **Pink-necked Green Pigeon** - a very colorful mix of birds. Our first stop in some mangroves gave us our first **Laced Woodpecker** of the trip, and then we hit a small tidal waterbody, where we found many exciting species such as **Collared**, **Common** and **Stork-billed Kingfishers**, **Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker**, **Common Flameback**, hundreds of **Barn** and **Pacific Swallows**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Ashy Tailorbird**, **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Golden-bellied Gerygone** and the stunning **Copper-throated Sunbird**. Here we also saw our first Silvered Leaf Monkeys and Long-tailed Macaques.

Leaving this area for our next birding spot we found Black-winged Kite, Brahminy Kite, Greater and Lesser Coucals, hundreds of Spotted and Zebra Doves, Scaly-breasted Munia, Paddyfield Pipit, and Red-wattled Lapwing. We then spent an hour or so focusing on one of our main trip targets, and eventually we all saw at least one of the two, simply stunning, Mangrove Pittas that were giving tantalizing views but eventually showed fairly well. These birds just glow in the dark mangrove forests. After enjoying these we started to look at some of the other birds around the mangroves, adding three Little Bronze Cuckoos, many Germain's Swiftlets, Long-tailed Shrike, and best of all a pair of Lesser Adjutants. These humungous storks were elegantly walking through an area of grassland.

After checking into our hotel in Shah Alam after lunch we sat out the heat of the middle of the day. The afternoon birding session was fairly quiet in terms of number of species, but we did pick up a few new birds such as Forest Wagtail, Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike, Crested Serpent Eagle, Asian Brown Flycatcher, and good views of a perched Crested Goshawk too.



This **Mangrove Pitta** was keeping well-hidden but gave the occasional good view as it moved through the mangrove forest.



### Day 3, 9th January 2018. Shah Alam area and Kuala Selangor

We awoke to a huge thunderstorm that lasted a couple of hours, so we took a relaxed breakfast and enjoyed the plentiful food and drink that was on offer. As the rain eased off we headed towards some parkland, where between frequent showers we picked off several rather nice birds. The main target birds of the morning were Blue-winged and Hooded Pittas. Blue-winged Pitta popped into view nicely and quickly, getting to its favored area; however, **Hooded Pitta** was less obliging. It was heard calling a couple of times, with only Paul getting brief but very good views. There were plenty of other birds here too. A gorgeous Banded Woodpecker showed nicely when it dropped down into good light out of the gloom, and a roving flock of Large Woodshrikes were noted. Brown Shrikes were plentiful, and there were numerous Bluecrowned Hanging Parrots, which typically mainly were flyovers, but a couple were seen to land briefly. We got fantastic looks at Pink-necked Green Pigeon foraging in a fruiting tree. along with Common Iora, Asian Glossy Starling, and both Yellow-eared and Spectacled Spiderhunters. Several Blue-throated Bee-eaters made a change from the Blue-tailed Beeeaters we'd seen plenty of during the last couple of days (though later in the day we also saw plenty of the latter too). Other species noted at the site included Sooty Barbet, Green-backed Flycatcher, and Black-naped Oriole.



Blue-winged Pitta showed exceptionally well, despite the rain!

We headed back to the hotel for lunch, took a late check-out, and then drove an hour or so up the coast to our new hotel at Kuala Selangor, spotting a **Lesser Adjutant** flying along the road on



the way. A brief stop near the lighthouse at Kuala Selangor produced **Coppersmith** and **Lineated Barbets**, **Red-whiskered Bulbul**, another **Lesser Adjutant**, a couple of flyovers from the same **Black Baza**, and spectacularly low overhead displaying from a pair of **White-bellied Sea Eagles**.

After checking into our hotel for the night we took a quick walk along a mangrove-lined channel, where we eventually saw **Black-capped** and **Collared Kingfishers**, had a brief glimpse of a vocal **Greater Flameback** on one side of the channel while two **Common Flamebacks** sat in a tree on the opposite side, and saw a small flock of **Whiskered** and **Little Terns**. It was, however, rather hot and quite quiet, but **Oriental White-eye** and **Golden-bellied Gerygone** were also noted. We then went to a Chinese fish restaurant along the river, where we enjoyed a very nice meal and followed it up with a bit of night-birding, where we saw a couple of **Large-tailed Nightjars**, heard a **Sunda Scops Owl**, and saw the huge **Buffy Fish Owl**. A great way to end another really enjoyable day!



This male Greater Flameback showed very nicely during our time in the mangroves.

# Day 4, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Kuala Selangor

We took a morning walk around the Kuala Selangor Nature Park, an interesting mix of forest and mangroves. As we entered the forested area a flock of a dozen or so **Ashy Minivets** flew through, some stopping long enough for good views. The first new bird of the day was one of our main targets of the morning, the gorgeous **Mangrove Blue Flycatcher**. This bird showed very well and was certainly making the most of the plethora of mosquitoes that were about. After



enjoying watching this bird we continued around the park, picking up Coppersmith Barbet, Malaysian Pied Fantail, Ashy Tailorbird, Laced Woodpecker, Little Bronze Cuckoo, and over a dozen Black Bazas.



This male Mangrove Blue Flycatcher was making good use of the hundreds of mosquitoes that were present in the woodland.

As we entered the mangrove forest section of the park we picked up several different birds, including the rather plain but geographically interesting **Mangrove Whistler** along with the similarly interesting **Golden-bellied Gerygone**. After the brief fly-through the previous day by a **Greater Flameback** we got some cracking close-up views of a male that showed incredibly well. **Cinereous Tit** too also showed well, as did **Ashy Drongo**, **Pied Triller**, **Malaysian Pied Fantail**, **Oriental White-eye**, and numerous **Collared Kingfishers**.

As we left the mangroves for some more open areas on our way out of the park we noted **Yellow-bellied Prinia**, **Ashy Tailorbird**, and a couple of **Brown Shrikes**. The sky was full of the calls of three **Crested Serpent Eagles** along with several **Brahminy Kites**, a pair of **White-bellied Sea Eagles**, and both **Edible-nest** and **Germain's Swiftlets**.

Back at our hotel we packed our bags, enjoyed a local lunch, and then commenced our journey from the sweltering lowlands to the much cooler Fraser's Hill. The drive took a couple of hours, most of it through heavy rain. We made two stops along the way, one for **House Swifts**, the



other for a small flock of the beautiful **Whiskered Treeswift**. We also saw several new primates along the drive, such as Pig-tailed Macaque, Pale-thighed langur, and Siamang.

Once we arrived at the top of the mountain we stopped at an area to look for one of our main target birds of the area, the endemic **Malaysian Partridge**. Despite hearing one call they didn't show, but we did have excellent views of **Malayan** and **Chestnut-capped Laughingthrushes** and **Spectacled Spiderhunter** before it got dark, also finding a flock of **Long-tailed Sibia** visiting the bird tables at our hotel.

We had a wonderful dinner at the local Chinese restaurant and then, despite the cloud dropping down and covering most of the hill, took a short night drive. We had great views of **Grey Nightjar** and **Brown Wood Owl** as well as hearing a couple of distant **Mountain Scops Owls**. However, equally impressive was the giant Atlas Moth that flew in to check us out.

## Day 5, 11th January 2018. Fraser's Hill

We made an early start to look for one of the most difficult endemics in Peninsular Malaysia, Malayan Whistling Thrush. Unfortunately, despite hearing the high pitch call of one in the valley below us, it failed to show. As it started to get light enough to see properly we started picking up new birds. Fire-tufted Barbet is one spectacular bird, and a close-up view was fantastic. But it was suddenly bettered when a squirrel started alarm-calling and we turned around to find a Blyth's Hawk-Eagle sitting right behind us. A very lucky encounter! Several Little Cuckoo-Doves and Mountain Imperial Pigeons flew through from their roosting sites, along with several Pacific Swifts. A male Black-and-crimson Oriole flew in and landed at the top of a tree and was joined by several Grey-chinned Minivets, while nearby there was a flock of Mountain Fulvetta with a lone Golden Babbler, White-throated Fantail, and a couple of Mountain Bulbuls.

After breakfast back at our hotel we took a drive around the local area. It started raining, at times quite heavily, and unfortunately continued through the morning. Despite the poor weather we persisted, making good use of our vehicle and the various shelters dotted around. We were successful in finding many great birds over the course of the day and got some fantastic views of most, such as Pygmy Wren-babbler, Grey-throated Babbler, Large Niltava, White-throated Fantail, Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo, White-tailed Robin, Rufous-browed Flycatcher, Mugimaki Flycatcher, Long-tailed Sibia, Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush, Everett's White-eye, and the gorgeous Silver-eared Mesia. The final bird we saw before we headed back to our hotel for lunch was the endemic we'd been looking for the previous evening, Malaysian Partridge. One was very nervous and spent most of the time hidden, but we all got views of the bird.

Unfortunately, there was no let up in the rain all afternoon, and we struggled to see many species that we hadn't seen earlier in the day, like **Verditer Flycatcher**, **Large Cuckooshrike** (formerly considered a subspecies of the Javan Cuckooshrike complex), **Sultan Tit**, **Grey Wagtail**, and **Malayan Laughingthrush**.





Rufous-browed Flycatcher is common but usually secretive, but not this one!



Commonly heard but not commonly seen, this White-tailed Robin gave us some close views.



### Day 6, 12th January 2018. Fraser's Hill

Another early start saw us back at the same stakeout as the previous morning, and it was still raining. After sitting in the dark for 20 minutes our target bird started calling and gradually came closer. We waited to see if it would come into view. Unfortunately, and frustratingly, the **Malayan Whistling Thrush** chose to walk into the only part of our view that only Andy could see, before it decided to turn around and walk back the way it came, and there was no further sign of it as it called further and further down the valley. We headed back to the hotel for breakfast, where we had **Yellow-browed Warbler** and **Blue-winged Minla** in the parking lot.

Due to the continued heavy rain and poor visibility we decided to drop down in altitude on the mountain to an area known as 'The Gap' in hopes that the weather conditions would be better a bit lower. As we drove down the slope we hit a very rapidly moving bird wave (mixed flock). It was hard to get on the majority of birds, but we did find Hill Blue Flycatcher, Lesser Rackettailed Drongo, White-bellied Erpornis, Grey-chinned Minivet, and Ochraceous Bulbul. Further down still, and we found White-rumped Shama, Black-crested and Cinereous Bulbuls, Golden-whiskered and Black-browed Barbets, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, and Asian Fairy-bluebird. We thought we had escaped the poor weather, but it soon caught up with us, so we made a hasty retreat even further down the mountain.



**Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush** is one of several beautiful laughingthrushes enjoyed on the tour.



On getting to 'The Gap' we found a covered area to sit under; it was still raining. As luck would have it we parked next to a fruiting tree; all we needed was for the cloud to lift again and the rain to ease. We sat it out for a couple of hours and had bouts of dry weather, but not much. During these better periods we saw some great birds, such as Red-headed Trogon, Black Laughingthrush, Orange-bellied and Blue-winged Leafbirds, Little Spiderhunter, Black-throated Sunbird, Stripe-throated, Ochraceous, and Black-crested Bulbuls, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo, and Green-billed Malkoha. We also had an interesting time working through the flock of swifts and hirundines that were present despite the rain, and we identified Edible-nest, Black-nest, and Plume-toed Swiftlets, House Swift, Barn Swallow and Asian House Martin.

It came time to head back up the mountain. There was no sign of a let-up of the poor weather, as would be the theme for the whole afternoon. We saw a few good birds on our drive, such as a stunning male **Mugimaki Flycatcher**, **Golden Babbler**, **Mountain Tailorbird**, and **White-throated Fantail**. The late afternoon was pretty much a write-off due to continued heavy rain; it just wasn't safe to be out, as evidenced by several fresh tree falling over the road, including one that almost did us some damage. Sometimes it pays to look at monkeys! We did hear **Greater Yellownape** but had zero chance of seeing it, so we enjoyed a cold beer, ate a nice dinner, and hoped for better weather and luck over the coming days.

# Day 7, 13th January 2018. Fraser's Hill to Taman Negara

We awoke to find that the rain had finally almost stopped; it was much lighter. We again went to our **Malayan Whistling Thrush** stakeout and were again rather unfortunate. The bird was seen flying through but landed out of sight before continuing down the valley and out of range. Evidently a very tricky bird to see well! After breakfast we spent some time birding around the roads near our hotel, but most of what we saw were repeats of the birds seen the previous days, although a pair of **Little Pied Flycatchers** were very nice near a familiar tree fall, as was a very vocal **Lesser Shortwing**.

When the weather started taking a turn for the worse we started off down the mountain toward Taman Negara. We took our time along the exit road and bumped into a couple of nice mixed flocks, in which we found Scaly-breasted, Mountain, Cinereous and Black-crested Bulbuls, Speckled Piculet, Everett's White-eye, Verditer, Taiga, Asian Brown, and Mugimaki Flycatchers, Fire-breasted and Orange-bellied Flowerpeckers, Eastern Crowned, Chestnut-crowned, and Yellow-browed Warblers, and Grey-chinned Minivet. A pair of Wreathed Hornbills gave fantastic perched and flyover views a couple of times, as did a Blyth's Hawk-Eagle and an Orange-breasted Trogon. As we were driving past a river a large, dark thrush was spotted on the side of the road; it was the mythical Malayan Whistling Thrush! Everybody except Paul saw it, which was incredibly unfortunate, as it was all down to luck, when we came around a corner in the road, as to who could see it before it flushed. Despite all our best efforts it could not be relocated.

As we left the mountain to continue our journey we spotted a few nice birds that we made stops for, such as **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, **Crested Serpent Eagle**, and **Whiskered** and **Greyrumped Treeswifts**. After a late lunch stop we came into an interesting site where we found **Rufous-bellied Swallow**, **Dusky Crag Martin**, **Peregrine Falcon**, and, best of all, a stunning male **Banded Kingfisher**. What a beautiful bird!



As we neared Taman Negara and our accommodation for the night a brief roadside stop yielded a pair of **Red-bearded Bee-eaters**, plenty of low-level **Grey-rumped Treeswifts**, and a **Silver-rumped Spinetail**, while the sound of a male **Great Argus** rang out around the mountainside. A little further along the road we found a **Brown-backed Needletail**, our tenth species of swift for the day!



**Banded Kingfisher** male that posed at length for us as we journeyed between the mountains and the lowlands.

After a quick dinner and checklist session we took a night drive near the village. Over the course of an hour or so we heard **Large Frogmouth** and saw two **Large-tailed Nightjars**, **Eastern Barn Owl**, and **Buffy Fish Owl**. An enjoyable end to a long day.

## Day 8, 14th January 2018. Taman Negara

Unsurprisingly, it was still raining in the morning, so we took a drive through a nearby forest. Things started off very slowly with a few highlights such as **Lesser Fish Eagle**, **Changeable Hawk-Eagle**, and **Thick-billed**, **Large**, and **Pink-necked Green Pigeons**. As we continued we came to a decent mixed flock that kept us entertained over the course of the next hour or so. The flock contained numerous bulbuls of several species, including **Black-headed**, **Streaked**, **Cinereous**, **Cream-vented**, **Asian Red-eyed**, **Spectacled**, **Stripe-throated**, and **Yellow-vented Bulbuls**, allowing a great comparison to be made between these species. Other birds in and



around this flock included Lesser Cuckooshrike, Black-bellied Malkoha, Little Cuckoo-Dove, Greater Green Leafbird, Asian Fairy-bluebird, Common Hill Myna, and Red-throated Sunbird. Pressing on back to our hotel we found another gathering of birds; these included the bird of the morning, the rare Black-and-white Bulbul, Black-and-red Broadbill, Red-billed Malkoha, Ashy Minivet, Green Iora, and Little Green Pigeon. Here we also had our first sighting of the spectacular Rhinoceros Hornbill, a bit distant, but nevertheless and impressive beast. Black-thighed Falconet and another Changeable Hawk-Eagle were sitting on dead snags atop huge trees, and we then had better looks of another Rhinoceros Hornbill drying out in the top of a bare tree. Swifts of several species were ever-present, often very low and close.

After packing up at the hotel, and after enjoying close, eye-level views of several gorgeous **Asian Fairy-bluebirds**, two more **Black-and-red Broadbills**, **Brown-backed Needletail**, and a **Grey-breasted Spiderhunter**, we caught a boat to the Mutiara Taman Negara Resort for our next three nights' stay in the jungle.

A nice buffet lunch was enjoyed while watching a female **Great Argus**, and after a short rest we headed out into the forest of Taman Negara National Park for the first time. The forest can be a tricky place for birding, but with patience there are plenty of rewards. During our afternoon walk we were rewarded with views of **Crested Jay**, **Green Broadbill**, **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, **Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo**, **Black-bellied Malkoha**, **Scaly-crowned**, **Rufous-crowned** and **Chestnut-winged Babblers**, **Red-bearded Bee-eater**, and just as it was getting dark a male and two female **Crested Firebacks**, very impressive pheasants. We also had a stunning **Barred Eagle-Owl** and **Sunda Scops Owl** outside our rooms after dinner.



This male **Crested Fireback** was keeping a careful eye on his two females as the forest was rapidly plunging into the darkness of night.



### Day 9, 15th January 2018. Taman Negara.

We took a morning boat ride along the river from our lodge, picking out four species of impressive hornbills along the way: Helmeted, Black, Wreathed, and Rhinoceros Hornbills. It was great to see Helmeted Hornbill particularly; over recent years this species has been massively hunted almost out of existence for its casque, It is now considered Critically Endangered by IUCN. We also saw the by now extremely rare Straw-headed Bulbul; again, once common, this beautiful songster has become a firm favorite of the pet trade and its wild population has plummeted dramatically over the last 20 years. It is now classified as Endangered by IUCN. There were plenty of other birds to enjoy on our boat ride, such as Lesser Fish Eagle, Short-toed Coucal, Chestnut-naped Forktail, Stork-billed Kingfisher, Crested Jay, Darkthroated Oriole, Blue-throated Bee-eater, Ferruginous and White-chested Babblers, Buffvented and Hairy-backed Bulbuls, Silver-rumped Spinetail, Buff-necked Woodpecker, and numerous Black-and-red Broadbills and Raffles's Malkohas.

We decided to jump out of the boat and walk the last few hundred meters back to our accommodation, and this turned out to be a good move with several new/interesting birds seen, such as **Orange-backed** and **Crimson-winged Woodpeckers**, **Green Broadbill** (incredible eyelevel views), **Scarlet-rumped Trogon**, **Crow-billed Drongo**, **Rufous-winged Philentoma**, and **Rufous-crowned**, **Moustached**, **Chestnut-rumped**, and **Chestnut-winged Babblers**.



This Green Broadbill gave us some mouthwatering eye-level views.

After a light lunch and rest we headed back into the forest for a short walk. It was fairly quiet, but we managed to eke out a few new birds along the way, such as **Sooty-capped** and



**Horsfield's Babblers**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, and **Tiger Shrike**. We also had an impressive foraging flock of **Brown-backed Needletail** and **Pacific Swift**, some of them shooting overhead by a matter of meters – a very cool sight and sound!

A short early-evening walk nearly got us a **Blyth's Frogmouth**, but it unfortunately remained too far away and out of sight.

# Day 10, 16th January 2018. Taman Negara

This was a very hot day with temperatures much higher than those over the last few days, and bird activity was much lower, considered to be a result of this. We took a short pre-dawn walk near our rooms and heard **Sunda** and **White-fronted Scops Owls**, but although both birds responded, neither came close enough to see through the thick vegetation they were hiding behind. As we passed our accommodation on our way to breakfast we could hear three **Bluewinged Pittas** calling from the immediate vicinity of their roosting areas.

After breakfast we headed into the forest and almost immediately were rewarded with the sight of a Malayan Peacock-Pheasant, which showed well. A pair of Yellow-bellied Bulbuls passed through briefly but showed well, as did a Black Magpie. We then hit a small but vocal bird wave (mixed species flock) made up of Chestnut-winged, Moustached, Sooty-capped, and Scaly-crowned Babblers, Rufous-winged Philentoma, and Banded Woodpecker.

On entering another trail we soon caught up with a different mixed flock; the standout bird of this flock was **Dark-throated Oriole**. We found the odd bird here and there, such as **Blue-eared Barbet**, **Yellow-crowned Barbet**, **Chestnut-breasted Malkoha**, and **Black-naped Monarch**, but the activity really dropped off and it was quiet for the rest of the day, leaving us to enjoy some spectacular butterflies such as Great Mormon, Yellow Archduke, and Horsfield's Baron around the lodge grounds.

A short afternoon walk resulted in similar birds to the morning, with the addition of a pair of **Puff-backed Bulbuls**, **Tickell's Blue Flycatcher**, and **Great Slaty Woodpecker**. A tiny Lesser Oriental Chevrotain was the mammalian highlight.

## Day 11, 17th January 2018. Taman Negara to Bukit Tinggi

This was mostly a travel day to get from Taman Negara to our final stop of the tour at Bukit Tinggi. We did some morning birding near Taman Negara, where we got some very nice views of Black-and-yellow Broadbill, Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot, and Yellow-vented Flowerpecker, along with more looks at Asian Fairy-bluebird, Black-bellied Malkoha, and plenty of more common birds. We also had brief looks at Blue-rumped Parrot and Rufous Woodpecker and some prolonged views of some very beautiful Whiskered Treeswifts.

A forest stop-off after lunch allowed us all to get fantastic views of **Hooded Pitta** as well as the surprisingly gorgeous **Black-throated Babbler**, **Yellow-bellied** and **Hairy-backed Bulbuls**, and **White-rumped Shama**. The highlight bird of the day, however, was the stunning male **Diard's Trogon** that showed remarkably well in the late afternoon. As the sun was setting a flock of **Black Baza** flew through all too quickly, but we found a large flock of **Oriental Pied Hornbills** foraging on termites, which was quite entertaining to watch. Not every day you see hornbills 'flycatching'.





**Diard's Trogon** is one of the most impressive-looking of Asia's trogons, and we got fantastic, lengthy views of this male.

#### Day 12, 18th January 2018. Bukit Tinggi to Kuala Lumpur

Fittingly, the final day of the tour started off as a wet one, but luckily it finished raining while we ate breakfast. We headed straight to an area of forest, where we patiently sat and waited. After not much time at all we were rewarded with our last endemic of the tour, the rare and secretive Mountain Peacock-Pheasant, not just the one bird but three! An adult female with two very young chicks entertained us, and it was great to be able to watch them feed. A short while later things got even better when a covey of three **Ferruginous Partridges** appeared. These are really spectacular birds and really take some beating. After soaking in the amazing views of these two species we moved locations slightly and caught up with a few other species, such as Tiger Shrike, Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler, Sooty Barbet, Long-billed Spiderhunter, Large Woodshrike, Blue-winged Leafbird, Plaintive Cuckoo, and Sultan Tit.

After a wonderful Chinese lunch we drove back to Kuala Lumpur. A couple of brief final birding stops on the way produced a few new trip birds such as Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker, Lesser Green Leafbird, Crested Honey Buzzard, Pied Triller, Lesser Whistling Duck, Yellow Bittern, Watercock, Black-backed Swamphen, Baya Weaver, and very good looks at a pair of Green Iora.



With that it was off to the airport, where this very enjoyable tour concluded. A huge thank you must go to Weng Chun for his constant efforts in striving to get us views of so many awesome birds, and a massive thank you also to Ken and Paul for making this trip so enjoyable. I look forward to the next one!



To see the endemic **Mountain Peacock-Pheasant** with a couple of young babies in tow was a truly fantastic sight and a great end to our tour.



# Bird List<sup>1</sup> Following IOC 7.3

Common Name (IOC 7.3)	Scientific Name (IOC 7.3)	Trip
	ANSERIFORMES	
Ducks, Geese and Swans	<u>Anatidae</u>	
Lesser Whistling Duck	Dendrocygna javanica	1
	GALLIFORMES	
Pheasants and allies	<b>Phasianidae</b>	
Malaysian Partridge	Arborophila campbelli	1
Ferruginous Partridge (NT)	Caloperdix oculeus	1
Red Junglefowl	Gallus gallus	Н
Crested Fireback	Lophura ignita	1
<b>Mountain Peacock-Pheasant (VU)</b>	Polyplectron inopinatum	1
Malayan Peacock-Pheasant (VU)	Polyplectron malacense	1
Great Argus (NT)	Argusianus argus	1
	CICONIIFORMES	
<u>Storks</u>	<u>Ciconiidae</u>	
Painted Stork (NT)	Mycteria leucocephala	1
Lesser Adjutant (VU)	Leptoptilos javanicus	1
	PELECANIFORMES	
Herons, Bitterns	<u>Ardeidae</u>	
Yellow Bittern	Ixobrychus sinensis	1
Black-crowned Night Heron	Nycticorax nycticorax	1
Striated Heron	Butorides striata	1
Chinese Pond Heron	Ardeola bacchus	1
Eastern Cattle Egret	Bubulcus coromandus	1
Grey Heron	Ardea cinerea	1
Purple Heron	Ardea purpurea	1
Great Egret	Ardea alba	1
Intermediate Egret	Ardea intermedia	1
Little Egret	Egretta garzetta	1
	ACCIPITRIFORMES	
Kites, Hawks and Eagles	<u>Accipitridae</u>	
Black-winged Kite	Elanus caeruleus	1
Crested Honey Buzzard	Pernis ptilorhynchus	1
Black Baza	Aviceda leuphotes	1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Species in **bold** text are Malaysian endemics. The following notation after species names is used to show conservation status following BirdLife International: CR = Critically Endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, NT = Near-threatened, and I = Introduced. Birds 'heard only' are marked with 'H' in the Trip column, all other species were seen.









Blue-eared Barbet	Psilopogon duvaucelii	1
Coppersmith Barbet	Psilopogon haemacephalus	1
Sooty Barbet (NT)	Caloramphus hayii	1
Woodpeckers	<u>Picidae</u>	
Speckled Piculet	Picumnus innominatus	1
Rufous Piculet	Sasia abnormis	1
Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker	Yungipicus moluccensis	1
White-bellied Woodpecker	Dryocopus javensis	Н
Banded Woodpecker	Chrysophlegma miniaceum	1
Checker-throated Woodpecker	Chrysophlegma mentale	1
Greater Yellownape	Chrysophlegma flavinucha	Н
Crimson-winged Woodpecker	Picus puniceus	1
Laced Woodpecker	Picus vittatus	1
Common Flameback	Dinopium javanense	1
Greater Flameback	Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus	1
Maroon Woodpecker	Blythipicus rubiginosus	1
Orange-backed Woodpecker	Reinwardtipicus validus	1
Rufous Woodpecker	Micropternus brachyurus	1
Buff-rumped Woodpecker	Meiglyptes tristis	1
Buff-necked Woodpecker (NT)	Meiglyptes tukki	1
Great Slaty Woodpecker (VU)	Mulleripicus pulverulentus	1
	FALCONIFORMES	
Caracaras, Falcons	<u>Falconidae</u>	
Black-thighed Falconet	Microhierax fringillarius	1
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	1
	<b>PSITTACIFORMES</b>	
Old World Parrots	<b>Psittaculidae</b>	
Blue-rumped Parrot	Psittinus cyanurus	1
Long-tailed Parakeet (NT)	Psittacula longicauda	Н
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot	Loriculus galgulus	1
	PASSERIFORMES	
<u>Broadbills</u>	<b>Eurylaimidae</b>	
Green Broadbill (NT)	Calyptomena viridis	1
Black-and-red Broadbill	Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos	1
Silver-breasted Broadbill	Serilophus lunatus	Н
Black-and-yellow Broadbill (NT)	Eurylaimus ochromalus	1
Dusky Broadbill	Corydon sumatranus	1
<u>Pittas</u>	<u>Pittidae</u>	
Hooded Pitta	Pitta sordida	1
Blue-winged Pitta	Pitta moluccensis	1



Mangrove Pitta (NT)	Pitta megarhyncha	1
Australasian Warblers	<b>Acanthizidae</b>	
Golden-bellied Gerygone	Gerygone sulphurea	1
Woodshrikes and allies	<b>Tephrodornithidae</b>	
Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus picatus	1
Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike	Hemipus hirundinaceus	1
Large Woodshrike	Tephrodornis virgatus	1
Rufous-winged Philentoma	Philentoma pyrhoptera	1
<u>Ioras</u>	<u>Aegithinidae</u>	
Common Iora	Aegithina tiphia	1
Green Iora (NT)	Aegithina viridissima	1
Cuckooshrikes	<u>Campephagidae</u>	
Large Cuckooshrike	Coracina macei	1
Lesser Cuckooshrike	Coracina fimbriata	1
Pied Triller	Lalage nigra	1
Ashy Minivet	Pericrocotus divaricatus	1
Grey-chinned Minivet	Pericrocotus solaris	1
Scarlet Minivet	Pericrocotus speciosus	1
Whistlers and allies	<b>Pachycephalidae</b>	
Mangrove Whistler	Pachycephala cinerea	1
<u>Shrikes</u>	<b>Laniidae</b>	
Tiger Shrike	Lanius tigrinus	1
Brown Shrike	Lanius cristatus	1
Long-tailed Shrike	Lanius schach	1
Vireos, Greenlets	<u>Vireonidae</u>	
White-bellied Erpornis	Erpornis zantholeuca	1
Blyth's Shrike-babbler	Pteruthius aeralatus	Н
Figbirds, Orioles	<u>Oriolidae</u>	
Dark-throated Oriole (NT)	Oriolus xanthonotus	1
Black-naped Oriole	Oriolus chinensis	1
Black-and-crimson Oriole	Oriolus cruentus	1
<u>Drongos</u>	<u>Dicruridae</u>	
Ashy Drongo	Dicrurus leucophaeus	1
Crow-billed Drongo	Dicrurus annectans	1
Bronzed Drongo	Dicrurus aeneus	1
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus remifer	1
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Dicrurus paradiseus	1
<u>Fantails</u>	Rhipiduridae	
White-throated Fantail	Rhipidura albicollis	1
Malaysian Pied Fantail	Rhipidura javanica	1





Wren-babblers	Pnoepygidae	
Pygmy Wren-babbler	Pnoepyga pusilla	1
Cettia Bush Warblers and allies	<u>Cettiidae</u>	
Yellow-bellied Warbler	Abroscopus superciliaris	1
Mountain Tailorbird	Phyllergates cuculatus	1
<b>Leaf Warblers and allies</b>	<b>Phylloscopidae</b>	
Yellow-browed Warbler	Phylloscopus inornatus	1
Arctic Warbler	Phylloscopus borealis	1
Eastern Crowned Warbler	Phylloscopus coronatus	1
Chestnut-crowned Warbler	Seicercus castaniceps	1
Cisticolas and allies	<u>Cisticolidae</u>	
Zitting Cisticola	Cisticola juncidis	Н
Rufescent Prinia	Prinia rufescens	1
Yellow-bellied Prinia	Prinia flaviventris	1
Common Tailorbird	Orthotomus sutorius	1
Dark-necked Tailorbird	Orthotomus atrogularis	1
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird	Orthotomus sericeus	1
Ashy Tailorbird	Orthotomus ruficeps	1
Babblers	<u>Timaliidae</u>	
Chestnut-backed Scimitar Babbler	Pomatorhinus montanus	1
Grey-throated Babbler	Stachyris nigriceps	1
Chestnut-rumped Babbler (NT)	Stachyris maculata	Н
Black-throated Babbler (NT)	Stachyris nigricollis	1
Chestnut-winged Babbler	Stachyris erythroptera	1
Golden Babbler	Stachyridopsis chrysaea	1
Pin-striped Tit-Babbler	Macronus gularis	1
Fulvettas, Ground Babblers	Pellorneidae	
Mountain Fulvetta	Alcippe peracensis	1
Abbott's Babbler	Malacocincla abbotti	1
Horsfield's Babbler	Malacocincla sepiaria	1
Moustached Babbler	Malacopteron magnirostre	1
Sooty-capped Babbler (NT)	Malacopteron affine	1
Scaly-crowned Babbler	Malacopteron cinereum	1
Rufous-crowned Babbler (NT)	Malacopteron magnum	1
White-chested Babbler (NT)	Trichastoma rostratum	1
Ferruginous Babbler	Trichastoma bicolor	Н
Buff-breasted Babbler	Pellorneum tickelli	1
<b>Laughingthrushes</b>	<u>Leiothrichidae</u>	
Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush	Garrulax mitratus	1
Black Laughingthrush	Garrulax lugubris	1







# Mammal, Reptile, Amphibian and Interesting Insects List

Common Name	Scientific Name	Trip
MAMMALS	MAMMALIA	
	SCANDENTIA	
	Tupaiidae	
Common Treeshrew	Tupaia glis	1
	PRIMATES	
	Cercopithecidae	
Silvered Leaf Monkey	Trachypithecus cristatus	1
Dusky Leaf Monkey	Trachypithecus obscurus	1
Pale-thighed Langur	Presbytis siamensis	1
Long-tailed Macaque	Macaca fascicularis fascicularis	1
Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	Macaca nemestrina	1
	Hylobatidae	
Siamang	Symphalangus syndactylus	1
Lar Gibbon	Hylobates lar	1
	CETARTIODACTYLA	
	Tragulidae	
Lesser Oriental Chevrotain	Tragulus kanchil	1
	Suidae	
Wild Boar	Sus scrofa	1
	RODENTIA	
	Spalacidae	
Indomalayan Bamboo Rat	Rhizomys sumatrensis	1
•	Sciuridae	
Plantain Squirrel	Callosciurus notatus	1
Red-cheeked Squirrel	Dremomys rufigenis	1
Grey-bellied Squirrel	Callosciurus caniceps	1
Pallas's Squirrel	Callosciurus erythraeus	1
Himalayan Striped Squirrel	Tamiops macclellandii	1
TOTAL		16
REPTILES	REPTILIA	
NUL TIDEO	SQUAMATA	
	Agamidae	1
Common Gliding Lizard	Draco sumatranus	1
Common Onumg Lizaru	Gekkonidae	1
Marbled Bent-toed Gecko	Cyrtodactylus quadrivirgatus	1



Large Forest Gecko	Gekko smithii	1
Tokay Gecko	Gekko gecko	1
Asian House Gecko	Hemidactylus platyurus	1
	Varanidae	
Common Water Monitor	Varanus salvator	1
	Scincidae	
Common Sun Skink	Eutropis multifasciata	1
TOTAL		7
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>	<u>AMPHIBIA</u>	
	ANURA	
	Megophrydae	
Malayan Horned Frog	Megophrys nasuta	1
	Rhacophonidae	
Common tree frog	Polypedates leucomystax	1
TOTAL		2
INSECTS	INSECTA	
	LEPIDOPTERA	
	Saturniidae	
Atlas Moth	Attacus atlas	1
	Uraniidae	
Tropical Swallowtail Moth	Lyssa zampa	1
•	Papilionidae	
Raja Brooke's Birdwing	Trogonoptera brookiana	1
Common Birdwing	Troides helena	1
Great Mormon	Papilio memnon	1
Common Mime	Papilio clytia	1
	Nymphalidae	
Smaller Wood Nymph	Ideopsis gaura	1
Great Eggfly	Hypolimnas bolina	1
Striped Blue Crow	Euploea mulciber	1
Yellow Archduke	Lexias canescens pardalina	1
Horsfield's Baron	Tanaecia iapis puseda	1
Malay Baron	Euthalia monina	1
Chocolate Soldier	Junonia iphita	1
Blue Pansy	Junonia orithya	1
Dark-branded Bushbrown	Mycalesis mineus	1
	Pieridae	
Painted Jezabel	Delias hyparete	1



