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Together with my wife Agnetha I spent 2,5 weeks in Malaysia but this was not primarily a birdingtrip. But I managed to do some birding together with a hired guide. Otherwise I did the birding around the places we stayed and in connection with the activities included in our package for example in Sukau. But a list of birds and some details about the places I birded and some general information could perhaps be interesting to read about and of some use. We visited **Borneo, Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi**. The trip was booked through a agency in Malmö called **ABC-Tours**. They gave us some recommendations according to our wishes, we agreed and everything worked out perfectly.

I had bought both **Field Guide to the birds of Borneo by Susan Myers** and **Birds of Borneo by Phillipps**, the latter one I brought along. This book has some plates in the beginning which shows which birds to expect in different habitats and some pages in the end with information about places to bird and targetbirds. I thought this was very useful for me but from local birders I learned that they preferred Myers book, because of better plates and better descriptions. For the mainland and Langkawi I had bought the new update of **Birds of S.E Asia by Craig Robson**. This thick and heavy book was frustrating in some ways which I discovered when I started to use it. There are no maps indicating where to find the specific birds together with the plates. Instead breeding areas and wintering areas are described in text form at the end of the book and is it very hard to understand because of references to countries and areas within the countries. Very hard to relate to. On the pages with the plates

there is very little information about the bird, for example nothing about the size of the bird. This information is in the end of the book together with general information about each bird. I think this is one of the worst guidebook (the plates are OK) I have used during my trips but I have understood there is no other option or?

Our trip

Borneo

Kota Kinabalu/Shangri-la Rasa Ria

We started our trip with a four days stay at the luxury resort **Shangri-La Rasa Ria**, which is situated about 45 minutes north of Kota Kinabalu. Kota Kinabalu is the main town on the Malaysian part of Borneo and it takes about 2,5 hours by plane from Kuala Lumpur to get there. I found a report from 2001 about the area around the hotel on the Swedish webpage www.club300.se. The area is called **Dalit Bay**. That report is from a trip there in January/February and the difference from that one is that many wintering birds had moved on again. For example I had no brown shrikes and almost no waders. The map in Patrik Brehmers report was very useful (a big thanks) but the trails which he calls left and right road does not exist anymore due to the vegetation. On the map some trees are marked almost like a circle not far from the Club House and that area is reachable by a small gravel road across the golf course. Around that area I had many nice birds. The area around the hotel includes a fantastic beach almost 2 km long, some more open parts inside of the beach together with some small forest area and a fantastic golf course to bird on. It was really nice to take long relaxing walks here and do some birding at the same time. Everything about the hotel was perfect from the friendly staff, beautiful garden and pool area, and the 5 excellent restaurants to choose from and the climate. We had upgraded our stay to **Ocean Wing** and it was really worth it, one of best places we ever stayed at during our trips around the world. A true paradise to relax in. I had about 50 species during the stay all within walking distance. Often I took an early morning walk for 1-2 hours before breakfast (and what a breakfast that was included for us staying at the Ocean Wing!!!) and then Agnetha and I took a long walk late in the afternoon along the fantastic beach before dinner. On Borneo it is possible to bird from about 6.00 am but on the mainland and on Langkawi it is from 7.00 am. That is because Borneo is located that much more east and there is no time difference.

One of the days we rented a car including a driver through the hotel as we wanted to go to **Mount Kinabalu Park** and for this we paid MYR 500. We like to hike and then we also got the opportunity see some more about Borneo and do some birding in a different biotope. The park is located at above 1500 m.a.s.l. and is home for many exciting birds including some endemics. I had read about birding and hiking in the park and asked our driver to drive up to the power station and then we had the easy part of hiking down to the main area. We had

the idea of hiking down the Bukit Ular trail and some other trails. At the power station we met a park guide and asked him where the trail started. But he told us to hike the Liwagu trail instead, which turned out to be a mistake. This trail was very steep, narrow, slippery and not easy to walk and went through dense jungle. We had to support each other at the hardest parts and our mood was declining. We were lucky that we brought a lot of water and some snacks because the about 7 km took at least three hours. We were really exhausted when we arrived back to the civilization. During the hike it was almost impossible to do some birding and during the whole time I identified perhaps five species including **bornean whistler**, **sunda laughingtrush** och **mountain wren-babbler**. We went immediately to a café for some food, which was not really good but we needed the energy.

Unfortunately it was getting late and we were forced to go back to our hotel as it took about 1,5 hour. It would have been much better to walk and bird along the main road and then around the hotel and botanical garden, but sometimes things do not work out according to your plans. If you want to do some serious birding in this area I advise you to stay at least one night here, see other trip reports from this area. In the evening we had another fantastic dinner watching the beautiful sunset before going to bed early as the plane left Sandakan at 7.00 am and pickup was at 5.00 am. Now we had four adventurous days ahead of us. This part was a package which included a stay at the turtle island **Selingan**, a visit to **Sepilok Orangutang Center** and two nights at Sukau Rainforest Lodge along Kinabatangan River. This package we can highly recommend. Of the birds only seen around Rasa Ria I can highlight **black-nest swiftlet**, **large-tailed nightjar**, **asian palm swift**, **pie'd thriller**, **white-breasted woodswallow**, **dusky munia**, and a **peregrine** of the beautiful dark race *ernesti*.



Northeastern Borneo

So an early wakeup call and then away to the airport for a 50 minutes flight to **Sandakan**. During the flight we noticed that the weather were changing to the worse, dark clouds and showers were seen everywhere. During the landing we went through heavy rain which stopped at touchdown. It was clearly worse weather here, no sun and low clouds. We were picked up by our guides from **Borneo Eco Tours** and went to a hotel in Sandakan for some breakfast. When one of the guides, Mirwan, found out that I was a serious birder he went back home to get his own binoculars. His specialty was birds and that helped me a lot during these days. Sandakan looks more rough and worn than Kota Kinabalu and the Chinese influence is more noticeable here. Sandakan was occupied the Japanese during the second world war and there are a lot of historical sites to visit due to this.

After breakfast we went to the boat which would take us to the turtle island, **Selingan Island**. The boat trip took about one hour and it was a really bumpy ride. The waves were quite high due to windy conditions and because of that the boat could not go with full speed. The boat had two outboard motors each with 150 h.p. so if conditions allowed it we could go really fast ,like 40 knots. Some rain showers came and went, sometimes we hit waves with a loud bang. We heard from our guide that last week the trip was cancelled three times due to the weather but we managed it. During the boat trip I saw very few birds, some white egrets, three fishing **great crested terns** and one **black-headed gull**. When we arrived to the small island the weather had improved a little, but it was a mixture of sun and rain showers for the rest of the day. Now we were in a small nature reserve consisting of around 10 islands belonging both to the Philippines and to Malaysia. Here they do research and take the eggs laid by the two species of sea turtles which occur on the islands, **green turtle** and **hawksbill turtle**. They have a hatchery here and the reason is that they want to increase the survival rate of the baby turtles. Selingan Island is the only island you are allowed to visit and stay over at. About 40 persons per night are allowed. We checked in and went to our simple lodging, what a difference to Rasa Ria but there are other fantastic experiences here. When we went on the trail on the way to our house I heard some strange sounds coming from a small area with some trees and bushes and I asked Mirwan what is was. He soon pointed to some birds on the ground, **tabon scrubfowl**, a bird I have not thought of seeing at all. I have understood that it is a hard bird to find but here it was really easy with a family of 4-6 seen and heard all the time. When we got closer to our house suddenly a black and white bird came flying over our heads and settled in a tree. It was beautiful **pieb imperial dove** and that was another pleasant surprise. After the lunch you could choose between snorkeling, relaxing on the beach or take a walk around the island. The island is so small it takes not more than half an hour to walk around it. You can see other islands around the horizon but you definitely get a Robinson Cruse feeling here. The only things you hear are the waves and the loud calls from the **collared kingfisher** and the **yellow-vented bulbul**.

After the dinner we had a look at the exhibition about the turtles, the work and research that they are doing on the island. Also a film was shown, very interesting. After this all we could do was to wait for the signal that a turtle has landed, which we were allowed to see. After darkness it is forbidden to walk the beaches because not to disturb the turtles. The research station has people scanning the beaches for a suitable turtle which we are allowed to get close to but with strict rules. This evening the call came early around nine o'clock and you felt the excitement among us. The good thing about this area is that it is season all year around and you are almost sure to a turtle. There is a high season with a high number of landings and a low season with fewer ones. We had only to go a few hundred meters to the place where the female green turtle was laying her eggs. This time she only lay about 55, sometimes it is around 100. Because of that it did not took that long after we arrived that she was filling the hole and went back to the sea. That was a little bit of bad luck but in spite of that what an experience!! Every discovered turtle is registered and all eggs are taken to the hatchery for safety reasons in order to increase survival rate. There are big lizards, monitors, on the island who are fond of the eggs and birds of prey are waiting for the small turtles trying to reach the sea. The last thing we did that night was releasing the small baby turtles that were hatched during the day, this night about 50. To see these small creatures be placed on the beach in the light of the moon and with eager legs trying to reach the sea as quickly as possible, is a sight you never forget and a fantastic experience. You went to bed with a smile on your face. If I remember correctly there were 19 turtle landings that night. Some other birds I saw around the island were **white-bellied sea-eagle, brahminy kite, emerald dove, greater sandplover, two lesser sandplover** and the trips only **lesser little green-pigeon**.

After an early breakfast we headed back to **Sandakan**, less wind today but a little bit of rain. First we were going to visit the famous orangutan center **Sepilok** which is situated about 30 minutes outside the city and at the edge of the rainforest. Here they are nursing wounded or abandoned orangutans. Sometimes they get information about young orangutans being kept as pets, which is against the law, and then they go and bring them to the center. The orangutans within the center are half wild/tame. There is no fence around the area so the orangutans can leave the area and disappear into to the jungle, which also happens. But some orangutans are placed at suitable habitats around Borneo. At Sepilok they have an information center with a small exhibition where you also can watch a film about the project, which is very interesting. A good thing is that by visiting the center you are supporting the project. Every day at 10 am and 15 pm they feed the orangutans but also other apes are seen there for example different macaques. You walk around the area at a boardwalk and after just 20 meters of walking a female was sitting on the rail with a baby in her arms. We were forced to pass her at close range which she did not like, which you could see in her eyes. After a while we came to the feeding place, now the sun was shining and it became very hot. After the food was placed on a platform it did not take long before the first apes appeared. Suddenly the alfemale which is 21 years old arrived and all other apes moved away. Later two females arrive each carrying a baby and two-three other species of

primates. But I also saw some birds here for example **oriental pied hornbill**, **green imperial-pigeon**, **plaintive cuckoo**, **blue-eared barbet**, my only **rufous-tailed tailorbird**, **crested serpent eagle** and **long-tailed parakeets**. Not far from Sepilok another center called **RDC(Rainforest Discovery Center)** is located, but more about that later.

After Sepilok we went to the harbor of Sandakan for a lunch at a Chinese restaurant. Then off to the boat which was going to take us up along **Kinabatangan River** to **Sakau Rainforest Lodge**. That took almost three hours and sometimes it was full speed ahead on open water, on narrow channels through mangrove and on the river. When arriving we checked in to newly renovated rooms, a really fantastic place to stay. The lodge, which has received awards, is owned by the same company which arranged the whole of our 4 days package, **Bornean Eco-Tours**. We can highly recommend this company and staying at this lodge. During our stay we experienced a friendly staff and good service, but most important was that the guides were very good and even at birds. During the four days we had company with another Swedish pair, Patricia and Robert. (thanks for your nice company). It was us four that shared boat and guide during our stay at Sakau. Other lodges have much bigger boats and more people together while exploring the river, so our arrangement was perfect for me being both birder and photographer. When we travelled on the main river we used a normal outboard motor but when we went into smaller rivers or channels the guide used an electrical motor. It was really a fantastic experience to move so silent and get the opportunity to get close to animals without scaring them away.

After some quick snacks we left for our first trip on the river. Shortly we saw our first promiscuous monkeys, the males with their big hanging noses and the females with small upturn noses. During the two days we also saw other primates like macaques and langurs but we also saw flying foxes, a small python and many other creatures. The highlight was an old truly wild orangutan, a rare sight to see and a hallelujah moment. We made a try to see wild elephants but failed, you have to have a lot of luck to see them. The lodge was visited by a small herd of elephants just a week before our stay and you were still able to see tracks. When it comes to wildlife and diversity it is only the Amazonas that beats Borneo.

We went a little bit up the river and went through a narrow channel to a small lake. Now we saw many new birds like **black-yellow broadbill**, **oriental darter**, the only **bushy-crested hornbill** I saw, the beautiful **rhinoceros hornbill**, **wallace's hawk**, **hill mynia** and **slenderbilled crow** and many others. At the lake a **whiskered tern** was flying around. On our way back I noticed a big bird high in a tree and when we got closer my suspicion was confirmed, a **storm's stork**. This was a bird I had hoped to see and it was easier than expected. We had about 8-10 sightings and even one from our restaurant by the river at the lodge. Next morning we went down the river and then up a much smaller one switching to the electrical motor. New birds were **white-crowned shama**, **black och white-crowned hornbill**, **red-naped trogon**, **black-and-red broadbill**, **chestnut-breasted malcoa**, a pair **whitebellied woodpecker** and a beautiful **Malaysian blue flycatcher**. The highlight of the

morning were six **crested fireback** that were flying across the river one by one just ahead of us, according to our guide a rare bird to see in the jungle. Back at the lodge I found **Asian fairy-bluebird, black-headed bulbul, yellow-breasted flowerpecker, asian paradise flycatcher, greater racket-tailed drongo, olive-winged bulbul** and **brown barbet**. After lunch we went for a guided tour on their boardwalk. Here we were shown different plants and how to use them like a plant they make poison for arrows, very interesting. Later in the afternoon we tried the elephants but it was now we saw the wild orangutan standing high in a tree looking at us, what a luck and what a moment. New species during the afternoon were **lesser coucal, Japanese sparrowhawk** and **crested goshawk**. In the evening we had a night tour on the river. The guide had a handheld strong headlight and with the help of that he discovered both birds and animals, don't really understand how he did it as we say almost nothing. We saw **yellow bittern, common kingfisher, blue-eared kingfisher** and **storkbilled kingfisher**, some of them so close you could almost touch them. To see flying foxes at sunset was another fantastic sight. Next day after breakfast we went the same way back to Sandakan. We saw a big crocodile which lay sunbathing on the riverbed but it disappeared quickly when we stopped to take a photo of it. New bird on the way back was **lesser fish-eagle**. The conclusion of our stay at Sakau lodge is that it was a fantastic adventure. The place was really nice to stay at, had a nice buffet style restaurant down by the river where you could sit and eat. Or you could just study the nature or the traffic on the river, the only way of transportation for many people along the river. We were a little bit unlucky with the weather, some rains but luckily not during the boat trips but a lot of clouds which meant lack of light and that made it hard to get nice photos.



Back in Sandakan we went to an English teahouse for a nice lunch and a cold beer. It was located at a height above the city and with a view of the sea and of course they had a

crocket ground on the premises. Now it was time to say goodbye to Patricia and Robert. They were going to catch a flight back to Kota Kinabalu and after some days they were going to do the tough hike up to the peak of Mount Kinabalu, 4095 m.a.s.l. Agnetha and I had to stay another day because there was no flight to Kuala Lumpur later that afternoon. We had booked one night at **Sepilok Rainforest Lodge** which is situated in a beautiful area not far from Sepilok Orangutan center and just 20 minutes walk from the famous **RDC**. So after a quick check in we went for walk to RDC and our plan was to spend a couple of hours there exploring the trails and do some bird watching. The center is a really nice place to visit with a lot of well maintained trails in almost jungle like nature. This is one of the best places to see the endemic and the only bird of its family, **Bornean Bristlehead**. Not far from the entrance there is a fantastic canopy walk made of steel so it is very stable to walk on. The canopy walk also has two lookout towers where you are almost above the trees. Here it is very nice to stand and do some bird watching and it did not take that long before we had seen birds like **scarlett minivet**, **red-breasted malkoha**, **raffles's malkoha**, **lesser green leafbird** and a flying **lesser fish-eagle**. We talked to some other bird watchers and they told us that they had seen the Bristlehead the day before, so now it was a tense waiting. But unfortunately it started to rain heavily and we had to give up. This was a big disappointment as the center has a lot of potential and I had really looked forward to the afternoon here. I can strongly recommend to stay a whole day here if you ever go to Borneo and if so you should of course also go to the Danum Valley, perhaps the best place to bird on Borneo. But as this was not a birding trip we dropped that option. But if you go to Danum Valley do not forget so bring leech socks!! Next day we had an early flight to K.L. so after nine fantastic days we took farewell of Borneo, a place you are longing to go back to.



Kuala Lumpur

When you arrive to city you are thinking how good the infrastructure is, from the rather newly build airport to all the nice roads leading in and out from the center. Within the center of K.L. there are some small parks but it is not worth it trying to bird here. But a visit to

Petronas Towers and its famous “**Skybridge**” is highly recommended, ask at your hotel about the best way to get tickets. At the bottom of the towers there is a really big nice shopping mall, which my wife liked, but things are not cheap here. There is also a shopping mall called Plaza Low Yat in K.L. with just electronically things like cameras, computers, telephones. There are a lot of shops there but many of them have the same things. Things are not that cheap here either but perhaps you can bargain. I mostly saw “standard things” so if you are looking for something like advanced lenses or cameras, this is not the right place. Not far from Petronas Towers on the way to the TV-tower we found a fantastic Italian restaurant named Trattoria Cucina Italiana, really nice food!!! After four days of buffet style food on Borneo with a lot of rice this was a nice change.

One of the days I got the permission to do some serious birding and had contacted an agency called **Endemic guides** (www.endemicbirds.com) and asked for some suggestions. I chose an alternative where we were going to visit three different biotopes. From the beginning I had thought about going to Fraser’s Hill but that takes about 2,5 hours to go there one way so I dropped that. My guide Lee thought we were going to see about 60 species but at the end it was 80 of which 53 were lifers, a really good day I think. We paid 600 MYR (about 1200 SEK) for the whole including transport. We were picked up by Lee around six and drove northeast out of town. Lee was a little bit quite but he found a lot of birds and when we saw or heard birds he was very good to explain and describe what to look for, I can highly recommend him. We started to bird around 07.30 at a rest place near Langchang and it was situated on a small hill with a good view. Soon we had some nice new birds like **gold-whiskered barbet**, **black-thighed falconet**, **java myna**, the beautiful **orange-bellied flowerpecker** and **brown shrike**. A little bit further up the road we stopped by a big dead tree and had **common tailorbird**, **black magpie**, **buff-rumped woodpecker**, **scarlet-backed flowerpecker** and **black hornbill**. Even further up the road we left the car and walked down a gravel road through different habitats like ponds with fish farming, open fields and areas with trees. We had many fantastic birds here like **stripe-throated bulbul**, **rufous** and **orange-backed woodpecker**, **longbilled** and **little spiderhunter**, **black-bellied malkoa**, **red junglefowl**, **blue-rumped parrot** (which Lee was excited about), **abotts babbler**, **black-winged flycatcher-shrike** and my first **oriental honey buzzard**.

Next stop was just 10-15 minutes away in a nature reserve called Krau Forest. Here it is high and dense vegetation so new kind of birds. The first bird Lee heard close to the road was a **banded pitta** and Lee tried some playback to get it closer. Suddenly it was very close and we got a really good view of it, what a beautiful bird!! Other species here were **buff-vented**, **ashy**, **streaked** and **puff-throated bulbul**, **Abbott’s**, **ferruginous**, **chestnut-rumped**, **chestnut-winged** and **sooty-capped babbler**, **scarlett-rumped trogon**, one heard **angus pheasant**, **banded kingfisher**, **white-rumped shama**, and **rufous-winged philentoma**. Here it was very helpful to have a local guide as all these bulbuls and babblers makes life hard for a birder from Sweden. We also had some migrating raptors here like about 25 **oriental honey buzzard** and some sparrowhawks, probably Japanese. Last stop of the day was on the way

back to K.L. and it is called **Genting Highlands**, less than an hour away from K.L. It is a very popular place to visit with casinos, amusement park and big hotels. According to Lee the area have about 27 millions visitor per year. The area is located at about 1000 m.a.s.l. so the air is fresher and it also means different birds. We walked a road through a bird sanctuary and had a lot of really nice birds like **orange-bellied leafbird**, **mugumiki flycatcher** (unfortunately just females), **black-crested bulbul**, **black-browed barbet**, **fire-breasted flower-pecker**, **arctic warbler**, **tiger shrike**, **long-tailed sibia**, a short glimpse of the beautiful **red-bearded bee-eater**, **red-headed trogon**, **streaked wren-babbler**, **oriental magpie robin** (now the race erimelas) and **green-billed malkoha**. Around five we got back to our hotel and were very pleased with our day, even Agnetha enjoyed coming outside the city and do some walking in nice surroundings. After a shower we once again went back to the Italian restaurant and included a nice bottle of red wine together with the excellent food to celebrate that we had survived a another hard day of vacation. We only spent two and a half days in K.L. but if you have more time you should make it to Fraser's Hill and Taman Negara, two really good places to bird.



Langkawi

Our last stop in Malaysia was the island Langkawi which is situated in the northwest. It takes about one hour by plane from K.L. Now it was time for six days with a more relaxing time on the beach. The first days the weather was nice but then we got the same rain that hit Thailand but luckily not as bad as they got it. The rain really drenched the island for some days which was unusual for season. Normally the rain starts in May. We stayed on the northwestern side at a place named **Mutiara Burau Bay**. It was a nice, clean and cozy place to stay at but some refreshing were highly due. The surroundings were nice to walk in and do some birding and the beach was nice. The resort is within walking distance to the cable car which takes up the mountain 700 m.a.s.l. We can really recommend this if the weather is

nice. We had nice weather going up but after a short while low clouds surrounded us and it started to rain. At the top there is a big hanging bridge which should be nice to do some birding from but it was closed due to weather condition. But on the way down we saw two amazing **great hornbills** sitting close by. I did some birding early in the morning around the resort and along the beach. The birding was good and I had some new species like **pacific reef heron** (always dark morph), **chestnut-headed bee-eater**, **red-wattled lapwing**, **forest wagtail**, **brown-backed needletail**, **baya weaver**, **richards pipit** och **japanese sparrowhawk**. One day between the showers we took a taxi to Kuah, the main town. It took 40 minutes and the price was only 40 MYR. We visited a shopping center, not that good, and the jetty at the harbor with the big symbol of Langkawi, the fish eagle. But not far from the jetty there is a lovely park called Legend Park. It was full with puddles but suddenly the sun was shining so we took a walk here and found many birds and some new like **grey-rumped treeswift**, **rufous-bellied swallow** and a female **besra**.

One day I had booked a guide through www.junglewalla.com but that day got postponed two days due to the weather. The name of the guide was Wendy. She and a driver picked me up around 07.00 and soon we were on the way to an area called **Datai**. It is located at the northwestern part of the island and is home to two luxury resorts. The company is working together with the resorts like arranging morning nature walk, and because of that they are allowed into their private grounds. This area is good for woodpeckers and pigeons. Wendy was very friendly, spoke good English but felt a little bit unsure sometimes. But she knew where to find the birds and worked hard to get them. One the way to Datia we stopped and had a look at a nest with **changeble hawk-eagle** and at the same place we heard a **blue-winged pitta**. When we arrived to Datai we drove up to the resort and checked out a very big tree at their parking space. The first bird we saw was **large green-pigeon** and we heard a **great slaty woodpecker** which we were not able to see. Here we also had a **white-bellied sea-eagle** in its nest. We had a lot of birds here but few new ones. The next stop was **Gunung Raya**, which is the name of the highest point on the island 881 m.a.s.l. We walked along the road at about 500-700 m.a.s.l. and sometimes we had a fantastic view over a beautiful valley and the island. Now we had some really nice birds and new ones as well. A **great hornbill** flew above our heads and we had **thicket blue flycatcher**, **wreathed hornbill** (hornbill number 7 for the trip), a really stunning male **ruby-cheeked sunbird**, **crescent serpent eagle** and **crested goshawk**. Then we went to a small pond near the driver's home and had a look at the local specialty, **lesser whistling-duck**. Then it was time to go back to the hotel for some siesta but around three in the afternoon they picked me up again. We started birding at the resort **Beriaya Resort**, which is just north of our resort and on the same beach. At the small stream which ends on their part of the beach there is a small area of mangrove that you are able to access due some floating "bridge". We were looking for the **brown-winged kingfisher**. Today it was really hot and here even hotter, but luckily I saw the kingfisher after a short while. Next stop was the area around the airport and the reeds that are found there. We drove on the road around the airport and I noticed many birds standing on the grass there. When we got closer I saw that it was several hundred **oriental pratincole**,

some flying around in small flocks. There were also a lot of **Richard's pipit** and some **Paddyfield's**. When you get the opportunity to see them together it is quite easy to separate them, the jizz is quite different between them. Then we went to a hiding by the reeds and had a look at some **grey-headed swamphen** and a familiar bird but new for the trip, the **common moorhen**. In the reeds and in the surroundings there were a lot of **baya weavers**. At a nearby field with some trees Wendy knew we could perhaps see the **plain-backed sparrow** and after some effort we saw a couple, nice. During the time we looked for the sparrow small flocks of different munias were flying by on their way to the roosting places in the reeds. Suddenly I noticed some **white-headed munia** among them so one more target bird was ticked. As it was getting late we headed back towards the hotel. We drove on smaller roads through rice fields and here we had a lot of herons, **little egret, little heron, great egret, purple heron, eastern cattle egret** and **Chinese pond-heron**. Due to weather the birding did not go that well so Wendy called me in the evening and offered to guide me again next morning without any charges, which I gladly accepted. I paid 700 MYR for one day which is on the high side, so with another half day it sounded more reasonable.

Next day was our last one but the flight was not until late in the evening. So Wendy picked me again early in the morning for some bonus birding. I choose Datai again as it is not that far away. At the big tree we today found a **thick-billed green- pigeon**. We also found a noisy family of **great slaty woodpecker**, which we could study for a while. We also saw a cooperative **blue-winged pitta**. During these 2-3 hours we had some good birding and other species were **white-rumped shama, dollarbird, pin-striped tit-babbler, a great hornbill** sitting very close, **orange-breasted flowerpecker, asian fairy-bluebird** and **emerald dove**. Back at the resort again Agnetha and I spent the last hours on the beach, did the packing and then off to the airport. Our flight back home was delayed and there were a lot of problems, but that is a long story so I leave it out. A short conclusion is that we are very pleased with our journey and everything worked out fine. The weather could have been a little bit better but that is something you cannot decide over. I saw 187 species and of them 168 were lifers, not bad not being just a birding trip. Borneo was definitely the highlight, go there!!

List of birds

RR = Shangri-La Rasa Ria, Kota Kinabalu, Borneo

KR= Kinabatangan River runt Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Borneo

LK=Langkawi

RDC=Rainforest Discovery Center, Sepilok, Borneo

Langchang, Krau Forest och Genting ligger 1-1,5 tim nordöst om Kuala Lumpur

- 1 **Tabon scrubfowl** (*Megapodius cumingii*) 4-6 on Selingan Island
- 2 **Crested fireback** (*Lophura ignita*) 1 male + 5 females Sukau,

- 3 **Red junglefowl** (*gallus gallus*) 1 at Langchang
- 4 **Great argus** (*argusianus argus*) 1 heard Krau forest
- 5 **Lesser whistling-duck** (*dendrocygna javanica*) 10-12 in a small pond, small flocks flying around in the same area, not far from Gunung Raya golf resort
- 6 **Storm's stork** (*ciconia stormi*) at least 6-8 at KR
- 7 **Oriental darter** (*anhinga melanogaster*) 2 in the colony of herons by the golf house RR, a few along KR
- 8 **Yellow bittern** (*ixobrychos sinensis*) 1 at golf course RR, 1 during the night tour KR
- 9 **Little heron** (*butorides striata*) a few KR, 8-10 on LK
- 10 **Grey heron** (*ardea cinera*) 1 flying across golf course RR
- 11 **Purple heron** (*ardea purpurea*) 40-50 in a colony on the island by the golf house RR, 3 at KR, common on LK
- 12 **Eastern cattle egret** (*bubulcus coromandus*) common on Borneo and LK
- 13 **Great egret** (*ardea alba*), a few golf course RR, a few KR and LK
- 14 **Little egret** (*egretta garzetta*) 4-5 in rice fields LK
- 15 **Pacific reef-heron** (*egretta sacra*) at least 2 along the beach at the resort LK, 3 at the marina not far from our hotel LK, all of the dark morph.
- 16 **Chinese pond-heron** (*ardeola bacchus*) 1 outside the airport K.L., common in rice fields on LK.
- 17 **Black-thighed falconet** (*microhierax fringillarius*) 1 at the rest place and one along the gravel road Langchang
- 18 **Peregrine falcon** (*falco peregrinus ernesti*) 1 flying by with prey at the golf course RR
- 19 **Brahminy kite** (*haliastur indus*) the most common bird of prey, seen everywhere
- 20 **Crested serpent-eagle** (*spilornis cheela*) 1 at Sepilok, 1 at KR, 1 at Langchang, 1 at Gunung Raya LK,
- 21 **White-bellied sea-eagle** (*haliaeetus leucogaster*) seen daily RR and KR, common LK
- 22 **Lesser fish-eagle** (*ichthyophaga humilis*) 1 pair fishing KR and 1 at Sepilok
- 23 **Crested goshawk** (*accipiter trivirgatus*) 1 at KR, 1 at Gunung Raya LK
- 24 **Besra** (*accipiter virgatus*) 1 female sitting very close to us near the harbor of Kuah LK
- 25 **Japanese sparrowhawk** (*accipiter gularis*) 1 male KR, probably 3-4 migrating Krau forest seen far away, 1 female RR
- 26 **Oriental honey-buzzard** (*pernis ptilorhynchus*) 1 at Langchang, about 25 migrating at Krau forest
- 27 **Changeable hawk-eagle** (*nisaetus limnaeetus*) 1 pair with nest on the way to Datai KL
- 28 **Wallace's hawk-eagle** (*nisaetus nanus*) a few seen daily along KR
- 29 **White-breasted waterhen** (*amaurornis phoenicurus*) a few in the garden of RR, a few at the golf course RR, 1 at KR
- 30 **Grey-headed swamphen** (*porphyrio poliocephalus*) 4-5 at a hiding Bonton Reeds LK
- 31 **Common moorhen** (*gallinula chloropus*) 2 at the same place as g.h. swamphen
- 32 **Oriental pratincole** (*glareola maldivarum*) a couple of hundred on the airport LK
- 33 **Red-wattled lapwing** (*vanellus indicus*) common on LK in grassy areas

- 34 **Lesser sand-plover** (*Charadrius mongolus*) 2 resting on Selingan Island
- 35 **Greater sand-plover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii*) about 25 on the beach RR and 8 resting on Selingan Island
- 36 **Common sandpiper** (*Actitis hypoleucos*) the most common wader, a few seen everywhere during the trip
- 37 **Whiskered tern** (*Chlidonias hybrida*) 1 in winter plumage KR
- 38 **Great crested tern** (*Thalasseus bergii*) 3 on the way to Selingan Island
- 39 **Black-headed gull** (*Chroicocephalus ridibundus*) 1 on the way to Selingan Island
- 40 **Rock pigeon** (*Columba livia*) seen everywhere
- 41 **Green imperial-pigeon** (*Ducula aenea*), 1 at Sepilok,
- 42 **Pied imperial-pigeon** (*Ducula bicolor*) 1 on Selingan Island
- 43 **Spotted dove** (*Streptopelia chinensis*), common RR, a few at Sepilok, 3 at Lanchang and 2 at LK,
- 44 **Emerald dove** (*Chalcophaps indica*) 2 on Selingan Island, 1 at Langchang, 2 at Datai LK
- 45 **Zebra dove** (*Geopelia striata*) common RR, a few at Langchang and on LK
- 46 **Little green-pigeon** (*Treron olax*) 2 on Selingan Island
- 47 **Pink-necked green-pigeon** (*Treron vernans*) the most common green pigeon and many times seen in small flocks
- 48 **Thick-billed green-pigeon** (*Treron curvirostra*) 2 at Datai Resort LK in the big tree
- 49 **Large green-pigeon** (*Treron capellei*) 1 in the same tree
- 50 **Blue-rumped parrot** (*Psittinus cyanurus*) 2 along the gravel road Langchang
- 51 **Long-tailed parakeet** (*Psittacula longicauda*) 1 small flock at Sepilok and one flock at the rest place Langchang
- 52 **Plaintive cuckoo** (*Cacomantis merulinus*) 8-10 at different places but not at RR, often heard
- 53 **Black-bellied malkoha** (*Phopodytes diardi*) 1 along the gravel road Langchang
- 54 **Green-billed malkoha** (*Rhopodytes tristis*) 2 at Genting
- 55 **Raffles's malkoha** (*Rhinorhiza chlorophaea*) 2 at RDC, 1 at Langchang, 1 at Datai LK
- 56 **Chestnut-breasted malkoha** (*Zanclostomus curvirostris*) 1 at KR,
- 57 **Greater coucal** (*Centropus sinensis*) 1 each RR, KR, Krau Forest and one with a captured frog LK
- 58 **Lesser coucal** (*Centropus bangalensis*) 1 at KR, 1 at Langchang
- 59 **Large-tailed nightjar** (*Caprimulgus jotaka*) 2 along a sandy trail inside the beach at RR
- 60 **Glossy swiftlet** (*Collocalia esculenta*) common at RR and the easiest one to identify of the swiftlet
- 61 **Black-nest swiftlet** (*Aerodramus maximus*) a few together with many glossy swiftlets one evening at RR,
- 62 **Brown-backed needletail** (*Hirundapus giganteus*) 3-4 over Mutiara Burau Bay LK, 2 at Datai
- 63 **Asian palm-swift** (*Cypsiurus baliensis*) 2 at RR
- 64 **House swift** (*Apus affinis*) common

- 65 **Grey-rumped treeswift** (*hemiprocne longipennis*) 2 around the eagle on the jetty in Kuah LK
- 66 **Red-naped trogon** (*harpactes kasumba*) 1 flew across the river and then started to call, all the time with seven calls
- 67 **Scarlet-rumped trogon** (*harpactes duvaucelii*) 1 male Krau Forest
- 68 **Red-headed trogon** (*harpactes erythrocephalus*) 1 pair Genting
- 69 **Banded kingfisher** (*lacedo pulchella*) 1 heard Krau forest
- 70 **Stork-billed kingfisher** (*pelargopsis capensis*) 1 at RR, 1 during the night tour KR
- 71 **Brown-winged kingfisher** (*pelargopsis amauroptera*) 1 along the small stream between Mutiara Burau Bay and Beriaya Resort, often perching 100-150 meters upstream
- 72 **White-throated kingfisher** (*halcyon smyrnensis*) 1 at Langchang, rather common LK,
- 73 **Collared kingfisher** (*todiramphus chloris*) common around RR, 1 pair on Selingan Island, a few on LK
- 74 **Blue-eared kingfisher** (*alcedo meninting*) 1 during the night tour KR
- 75 **Common kingfisher** (*alcedo atthis*) 2 during the night tour KR, 1 at Bonton Reeds LK
- 76 **Blue-throated bee-eater** (*merops viridis*) 5-6 at RR on the southern part of the beach, 3 at KR, 12 migrating Genting, a few on LK
- 77 **Chestnut-headed bee-eater** (*merops leschenaulti*) rather common around the resort LK, many sighting on LK, migraters?
- 78 **Red-bearded bee-eater** (*nyctyornis amictus*) 1 at Genting
- 79 **Dollarbird** (*eurystomus orientalis*) common but not around RR
- 80 **Bushy-crested hornbill** (*anorrhinus galeritus*) 1 flying across KR
- 81 **Oriental pied hornbill** (*anthracoceros albirostris*) 1 at Sepilok, rather common KR, 1 at Langchang, common on LK
- 82 **Black hornbill** (*anthracoceros malayanus*) a few along KR, 1 at Langchang,
- 83 **Great hornbill** (*buceros bicornis*) 2 seen from the Langkawi Cable car, 1 at the resort LK, 1 at Datai LK, 1 at Gunung Raya LK
- 84 **Rhinoceros hornbill** (*buceros rhinoceros*) a few seen daily along KR,
- 85 **White-crowned hornbill** (*berenicornis comatus*) 1 at KR
- 86 **Wreathed hornbill** (*aceros undulates*) 1 at Gunung Raya LK
- 87 **Gold-whiskered barbet** (*megalaima chrysopogon*) 2 at Langchang
- 88 **Black-browed barbet** (*megalaima oorti*) 1 at Genting
- 89 **Blue-eared barbet** (*megalaima australis*) 1 at Sepilok
- 90 **Brown barbet** (*Calorhamphus fuliginosus*) 2 ex by the lodge KR, 1 at Krau Forest
- 91 **Sunda pygmy woodpecker** (*dendrocopos moluccensis*) 1 at RR, 1 at KR
- 92 **White-bellied woodpecker** (*dryocopus javensis*) 2 at KR
- 93 **Great slaty woodpecker** (*mulleripicus pulveruletus*) first only heard at Datai but later 5 were seen together at the gate with a gard at the end of the road
- 94 **Rufous woodpecker** (*micropternus brachyurus*) 1 at Langchang
- 95 **Buff-rumped woodpecker** (*meiglyptes tristis*) 2 at Langchang
- 96 **Orange-backed woodpecker** (*reinwardtipicus validus*) 1 at Langchang rest place

- 97 **Black-and-red broadbill** (*Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*) 2 at KR, 1 at Langchang
- 98 **Black-and-yellow broadbill** (*Eurylaimus ochromalus*) 1 at KR
- 99 **Blue-winged pitta** (*Pitta moluccensis*) 1 ex along the road to Datai, same place as the nest of the changeable hawk-eagle, 1 at Datai
- 100 **Banded pitta** (*Pitta guajana*) 1 at Krau forest
- 101 **Pied triller** (*Lalage nigra*) 1 at RR
- 102 **Black-winged flycatcher-shrike** (*Hemipus hirundinaceus*) 2 at Langchang
- 103 **Scarlet minivet** (*Pericrocotus speciosus*) 1 male RDC
- 104 **Bornean whistler** (*Pachycephala hypoxantha*) 1 at Mount Kinabalu ENDEMIC
- 105 **Black-naped oriole** (*Oriolus chinensis*) 1 at Langchang, rather common on LK
- 106 **White-breasted woodswallow** (*Artamus leucorhynchus*) 3-4 at RR
- 107 **Rufous-winged philentoma** (*Philentoma pyrhoptera*) 1 at Krau forest
- 108 **Pied fantail** (*Ptilidura javanica*) common RR, a few at KR, 1 at Sepilok
- 109 **Asian paradise-flycatcher** (*Terpsiphone paradisi*) 1 female at the lodge KR
- 110 **Bronzed drongo** (*Dicrurus aeneus*) 1 at Mount Kinabalu, a few at KR
- 111 **Greater racket-tailed drongo** (*Dicrurus paradiseus*) 1 at the lodge KR, 1 at RDC, a few at Langchang and Krau forest, common LK
- 112 **House crow** (*Corvus splendens*) a few at the airport Kuala Lumpur
- 113 **Slender-billed crow** (*Corvus enca*) common KR
- 114 **Southern jungle crow** (*Corvus macrorhynchos*) former name large-billed crow? Divided into two species, a few at Langchang, common LK
- 115 **Black magpie** (*Platysmurus leucopterus*) 1 at Langchang
- 116 **Common iora** (*Aegithina tiphia*) common at RR often heard, 1 at Sepilok, 1 at Langchang, 1 at Datai
- 117 **Tiger shrike** (*Lanius tigrinus*) 1 at Genting
- 118 **Brown shrike** (*Lanius cristatus*) 3 ex Langchang, quite common on LK, migrating birds?
- 119 **Crimson sunbird** (*Aethopyga siparaja*) 1 pair with nest at the golf house RR, 1 at Sepilok, 1 at Gunung Raya LK
- 120 **Olive-backed sunbird** (*Cinnyris jugularis*) common RR, 1 at Legend Park Kuah LK
- 121 **Brown-throated sunbird** (*Antheptes malacensis*) common, seen everywhere even in the center of K.L.
- 122 **Ruby-cheeked sunbird** (*Chalcoparia singalensis*) 1 pair Gunung Raya, 1 at Datai
- 123 **Little spiderhunter** (*Arachnothera longirostra*) several at Langchang, 1 at Krau forest
- 124 **Long-billed spiderhunter** (*Arachnothera robusta*) 1 pair with nest at Langchang
- 125 **Yellow-breasted flowerpecker** 1 at the lodge Sakau,
- 126 **Yellow-rumped flowerpecker** (*Prionochilus xanthopygius*) 1 beautiful male KR ENDEMIC
- 127 **Orange-bellied flowerpecker** (*Dicaeum trigonostigma*) 1 at Langchang, 1 at Datai LK
- 128 **Fire-breasted flowerpecker** (*Dicaeum ignipectus*) 1 beautiful male Genting
- 129 **Scarlet-backed flowerpecker** (*Dicaeum cruentatum*) 1 at Langchang, 1 at Datai LK,
- 130 **Lesser green leafbird** (*Chloropsis cyanopogon*) 1 at RDC canopy tower

- 131 Orange-bellied leafbird** (*chloropsis hardwickii*) 1 pair Genting
- 132 Asian fairy-bluebird** (*irena peulla*) 1 at the lodge KR, 2 at the resort LK, 2 at Datai LK
- 133 Dusky munia** (*lonchura fuscans*) 3-4 around the golf course RR ENDEMIC
- 134 Scaly-breasted munia** (*lonchura punctulata*) 5-6 of the race *cabanisi* around the golf house RR, a few of the race *topela* at Langchang and a few on LK
- 135 Chestnut munia** (*lonchura atricapilla*) common RR, 3 at Sepilok
- 136 White-headed munia** (*lonchura maja*) 8-10 in flocks of other munias close to Langkawi airport
- 137 Plain-backed sparrow** (*passer flaveolus*) Wendy found the right spot and we saw at least 2 on the east side of Langkawi airport just outside the fence
- 138 Eurasian tree-sparrow** (*passer montanus*) seen here and there
- 139 Richard's pipit** (*anthus richardi*) common on LK, on the airport field LK several hundred where seen
- 140 Paddyfield pipit** (*anthus rufulus*) 1 at RR, many together with Richard's pipits at the airport LK
- 141 Forest wagtail** (*dendronanthus indicus*) 2-3 at hotellet LK, 1 at Datai
- 142 Baya weaver** (*ploceus philippinus*) a few around the marina south of the resort LK, huge flocks around the reeds at the airport and Bonton Reed
- 143 Crested myna** (*acridotheres cristatellus*) 1 on the way to RR
- 144 Javan Myna** (*acridotheres javanicus*) common during our trip from K.L.
- 145 Hill myna** (*gracula religiosa*) 2 at KR, 3 at Langchang, a few Datai LK
- 146 Common myna** (*acridotheres tristis*) common
- 147 Asian glossy starling** (*aplonis panayensis*) common
- 148 Oriental magpie robin** (*copsychus saularis*) the race *pluto* was common around RR, of the race *adamsi* 2 were seen along KR, at Genting we saw 2 of the race *erimelas*
- 149 White-rumped shama** (*copsychus malabaricus*) 1 at Krau forest, 1 at Datai
- 150 White-crowned shama** (*copsychus stricklandii*) 2-3 along KR and by the lodge in Sakau ENDEMIC
- 151 Tickell's flycatcher** (*cyornis tickelliae*) 1 male Guning Raya LK, 1 heard Datai
- 152 Malaysian blue flycatcher** (*cyornis turcosus*) 1 beautiful male KR
- 153 Mugimaki flycatcher** (*ficedula mugimaki*) 3 at Genting all females
- 154 Asian brown flycatcher** (*musciapa dauurica*) fairly common Langchang and Genting and on Langkawi
- 155 Ashy bulbul** (*hemixos flavala*) 2 at Krau forest
- 156 Black-headed bulbul** (*pycnonotus atriceps*) 1 at the lodge KR, 2 at Langchang, 1 at the resort LK, 1 at Datai LK
- 157 Black-crested bulbul** (*pycnonotus flaviventris*) 2 at Genting
- 158 Stripe-throated bulbul** (*pycnonotus finlaysoni*) 1 at Langchang
- 159 Yellow-vented bulbul** (*pycnonotus goiavier*) seen everywhere
- 160 Olive-winged bulbul** (*pycnonotus plumosus*) 1 at RR, 1 at the lodge KR
- 161 Red-eyed bulbul** (*pycnonotus brunneus*) 2 at the lodge KR, a few on Langkawi

- 162 Buff-vented bulbul** (*iole olivacea*) 1 at Krau Forest
- 163 Yellow-bellied bulbul** (*alophoixus phaeocephalus*) 1 at KR
- 164 Puff-troated bulbul** (*alophoixus pallidus*) 1 at Krau forest
- 165 Streaked bulbul** (*ixos malaccensis*) 1 at Krau forest
- 166 Barn swallow** (*hirundo rustica*) 4-5 at the beach RR, 2 on Selingan Island, a few at Langchang, a few at the resort LK, 4 at Legend Park, Kuah
- 167 House swallow** (*hirundo tahitica*) common on Borneo and LK
- 168 Rufous-bellied swallow** (*cecropis badia*) 2 at Legend park, Kuah, 1 at Beriaya Resort LK
- 169 Arctic warbler** (*phylloscopus borealis*) 1 at Genting, a few around LK
- 170 Grey-throated babbler** (*stachyris nigriceps*) 1 at Mount Kinabalu Park
- 171 Chestnut-winged babbler** (*stachyris maculata*) 1 at KR, 1 at Krau forest
- 172 Chestnut-rumped babbler** (*stachyridopsis chrysaea*) 1 at Krau forest
- 173 Pin-striped tit-babbler** (*macronus gularis*) 1 at Genting, 2 at Datai LK,
- 174 Streaked wren-babbler** (*napothera brevicaudata*) 1 at Genting
- 175 Bold-striped tit-babbler** (*macronous bornensis*) a few around RR
- 176 Sooty-capped babbler** (*malacoperon affine*) 1 at Krau forest
- 177 Abbott's babbler** (*malacoicencla abbotti*) 1 at Langchang, 1 at Krau forest, 1 at Datai
- 178 Ferruginous babbler** (*trichastoma bicolor*) 2 at Krau forest
- 179 Striped wren-babbler** (*kenopia striata*) 1 at Genting,
- 180 Mountain wren-babbler** (*napothera crassa*) 2-3 seen and heard at Mount Kinabalu Park
- 181 Sunda Laughing-thrush** (*garrulax palliatus*) 2 at Mount Kinabalu Park
- 182 Long-tailed sibia** (*heterophasia picaoides*) 6-7 together at Genting
- 183 Ashy tailorbird** (*orthotomus ruficeps*) common RR, 3 at Sepilok, 1 at the lodge KR, 1 at Langchang
- 184 Rufous-tailed tailorbird** (*orthotomus sericeus*) 1 at Sepilok
- 185 Common tailorbird** (*orthotomus sutorius*) 1 at Langchang, 1 at Datai
- 186 Rufescent prinia** (*prinia rufescens*) 2 at Langchang
- 187 Yellow-bellied prinia** (*prinia flaviventris*) 1 at the golf course RR, 1 at Langchang