

Malaysia



The Peninsular



23rd to 30th March, 2007



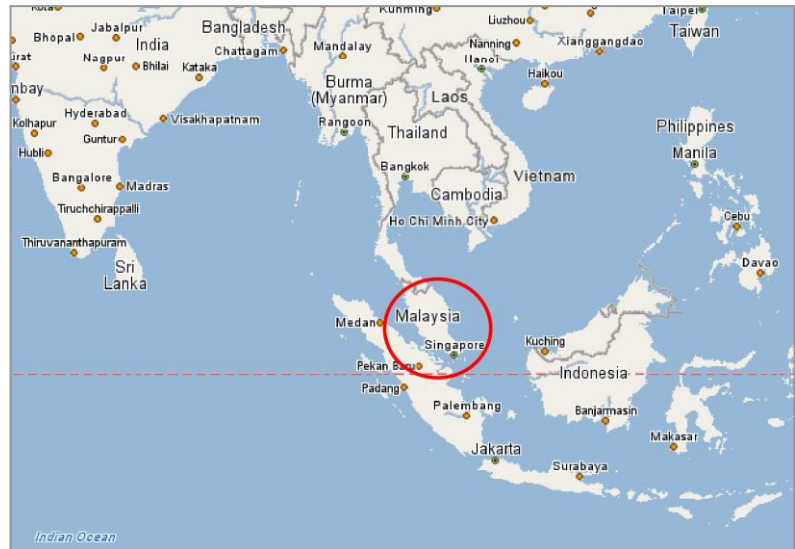
Thursday 23 rd	The Gap Resthouse & Old Road	12:00 – 17:50
Friday 24 th	Boat transfer from Kuala Tembeling to Taman Negara Taman Negara	9:30 – 11:45 12:00 – 19:00
Saturday 25 th	Taman Negara	7:30 – 19:00
Sunday 26 th	Taman Negara Boat transfer from Taman Negara to Kuala Tembeling	7:30 – 12:40 14:00 – 16:00
Monday 27 th	Jelai Hotel Telekom Loop Hemmant Trail Fraser's Hill waterfall	7:00 – 9:00 10:00 – 14:00 14:30 – 17:30 18:00 – 19:00
Tuesday 28 th	Jelai Hotel New Road, Fraser's Hill Old Road The Gap Resthouse	7:00 – 9:00 10:00 – 14:15 15:00 – 18:20 18:20 – 19:30
Wednesday 29 th	Jelai Hotel Hemmant Trail Bishop's Trail Fraser's Hill tip	7:00 – 9:00 10:00 – 11:00 11:00 – 15:00 15:30 – 19:30
Thursday 30 th	Kuala Selangor Small rice fields Kuala Selangor	7:00 – 12:30 13:00 – 14:30 15:00 – 17:00

PENINSULAR MALAYSIA

March 23rd to 30th, 2007

Introduction

Our last four birding trips had been to the New World, and previous trips included Africa and also the Indian subcontinent. We thus had a craving for South-east Asia, and I had found the infrastructure and birding possibilities on Malaysian Borneo to have mouth watering potential on a family holiday there in 2005. This all pointed to a trip to Peninsular Malaysia, depending on the specific birding potential there. We thus paid a visit to one or two of the appropriate



stands at the British Birdwatching Fair, and additional research made the decision for us. The location of the area throws up a blend of species from the Indian subcontinent, migrants from northern and eastern Asia, and new or larger exponents of families such as broadbills, babblers, bulbuls, pittas, etc.

The itinerary brought up some interesting ideas. In essence, we had a week, and it was obvious that the major site that had to be visited was Fraser's Hill, with its massive potential for higher elevation species. Taman Negara caused us a bit of a problem. Some reports said that it had a good species list, but that the forest birding involved made it frustrating, and in some cases, disappointing. The view we took was that as well as the actual birds, we wanted some forest birding, and the outcome was that we were very happy with both the birds and the experience. There were also some other sites which reared their heads, such as the Genting and Cameron Highlands, but they offered a similar type of habitat to Fraser's Hill, so we opted for a look in to Kuala Selangor, and its coastal / mangrove opportunities. We found this blend to be perfect, and while our main goal is quality of birds and to enjoy what we see rather than size of list, we felt that about 190 species for a week in what is essentially forest birding is more than fulfilling. The location of the three sites also meant that there wasn't much travelling involved, with the longest journey being 3 hours from Fraser's Hill to Kuala Selangor.

Timing and weather

As with many equatorial locations, the concept of dry and wet seasons is more of a comparative statement than a factual one. February and March are more accurately termed the drier season, and this was the reason for our March trip. There is an argument for going a little later, say in May, since this is when many of the birds are singing, making them easier to locate. However, although we were lucky with the rain, since it only actually poured during a few hours on our first day, and for an hour on the last afternoon, when it rains it rains torrentially, making birding either difficult or impossible. When we arrived at Fraser's Hill, we were informed that we were fortunate to have missed four days of this type of weather.

Another consideration here is the activity of the pests, namely mosquitoes and leeches. Mosquitoes were present during our visit, but presented a minor irritation. At Taman Negara, there are some Malaria transmitting beasts, and so prophylaxis with proguanil / chloroquine is advised. Leeches have the potential to be a major problem, particularly in the closed forests after rain. We came across birders who had numerous plasters on their bodies, since leech bites often include an anticoagulant, leaving a constant streaming of blood for some hours. We had invested in leech socks and sprayed them with 50% deet, which is a definite recommendation.

Travel

The flights we had were very near perfect. This is based on the fact that we used Amsterdam as a hub, which is a superbly efficient airport, and the flight times from Newcastle / Amsterdam / Kuala Lumpur meant that we arrived in Malaysia early morning (touch down at 7am, in the car at 8:15am, and at our first site at 11:40am), yet left just before midnight (giving us what amounted to an extra days birding on the last day!). KLM / Malaysia airlines also offered top class service, with the food on the latter being amongst the best I have experienced (includes Malaysian breakfast, which has to be tried if offered!). The airport is conveniently located well outside of the city of Kuala Lumpur, meaning that you do not have to taste the mayhem of city driving.

For car hire, we booked on the internet direct with National Car Rental. I aimed for a larger and well known international outlet for various reasons, and not many of those names that are worldwide operate in Malaysia. However, the price and package (including insurance) from National can be recommended. We were given an almost new Proton Wira 1.5L automatic which served our purposes beautifully. The roads in Malaysia are very well maintained, being almost pothole free, and the signposting is generally very good. Even the minor roads seem to be well maintained.

Sites

Taman Negara

This reserve, which means "Nature Reserve" in Malay, is huge in area, and boasts a species list of around 350. It is set in the lowlands of central Malaysia, and the prime habitat is dense rainforest. This means that the birding can be quite sporadic and very tiring physically, but time spent here can be very rewarding. The reserve used to be reached only by boat, but there is also now a road which can be used to gain access. However, I would strongly recommend staying the night before in Jerantut (leave the car here), booking the river and transfer to the jetty at the office within the sister hotel of the Hotel Sri Emas, and enjoy the birds and tranquillity from the 12 seater motorised boat.

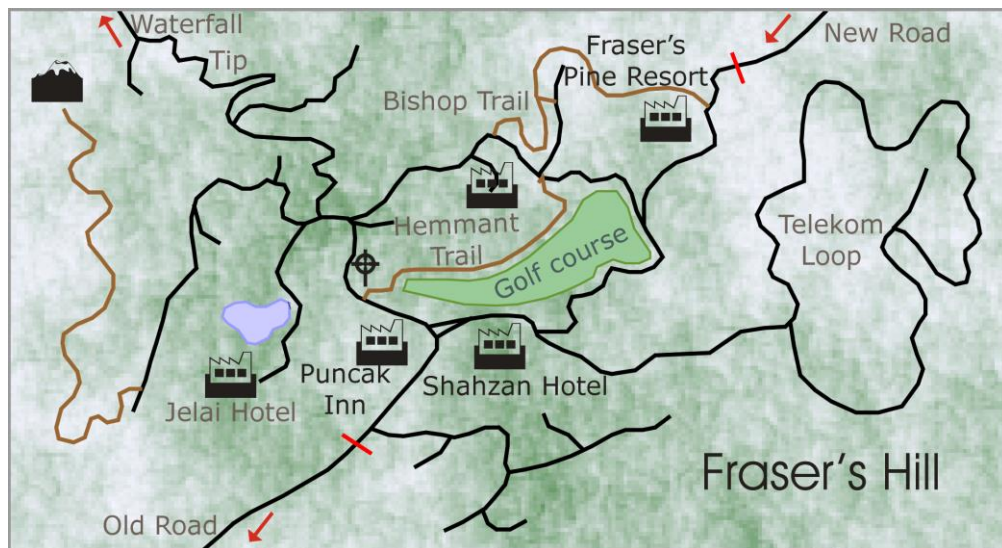
The accessible part of the reserve is at the confluence of the Tembeling and Tahan rivers. There are two choices of accommodation - the Mutiara Resort, which is situated within the reserve itself, or cheaper accommodation on the opposite bank of the river. Although more expensive, the former is situated within the prime birding area, with a good number of species within the grounds of the resort itself. At either end of the resort are entrances to the forest trails. The one at the western end leads to the Bumbun Tabing trail, which follows the course of the Tahan river. This can be very productive, although we didn't have the time to walk the 3km to the hide. The swimming area (Lubok Simpon) has good potential for viewing kingfishers. At the eastern end of the resort is the Bukit Tereseck trail, which also branches off to the canopy walkway. We found this section to be



both busy with tourists and also quiet for birds. However, on the route to Bukit Tereseke is the Jenut Muda trail, which eventually joins up with the river walk. This is both quiet and also much better for birds. Leech socks are a very good idea on these trails. Between rooms 89 and 90 is the entrance to the Bumbun Tahan, or swamp hide. This is really worth spending some time at. You can sit for hours, often without any other people to disturb the peace, and watch many species come and go in the forest clearing that the hide overlooks.

Fraser's Hill (Bukit Fraser)

This has to be one of the prime birding areas in Peninsular Malaysia. It consists of a resort area within the highlands, set at just over 1000m. Thus, it offers a wide selection of highland species, without quite entering the montane habitat. The time when a rotating one way system used only one road up to the area seems to have passed, since the New Road up was in service during our visit. Temperatures are also a lot cooler than in Taman Negara and Kuala Selangor, although sun protection is still advised. We had read that the area is usually shrouded in mist, but we encountered little to trouble us, and were also lucky in missing the rain, which would render some of the trails tricky to negotiate.



Much of the birding can be done from the well maintained road system within the resort, including productive areas such as the Telekom loop and roads down to The Gap. The use of a car is also recommended, since the distance between the trails can be up to 2km. The trails seemed to be all open and negotiable during our visit, with none really challenging. Two extra recommendations are also worthwhile - the Julai Hotel is a must at first light, when 20-30 species visit the small car park in front of reception, and the waterfall an hour before dusk, when there are no tourists, and the possibility of Slaty-backed Forktail and Malaysian Whistling-thrush is high.

For those wanting some expert advice, or even some field guidance, Durai is a well known character at Fraser's Hill. He has an intimate knowledge of the area and its birds, and will guide birders while asking for nothing in return (hence a donation to the Information Centre where he is based is appropriate). His email address is durefh@hotmail.com.

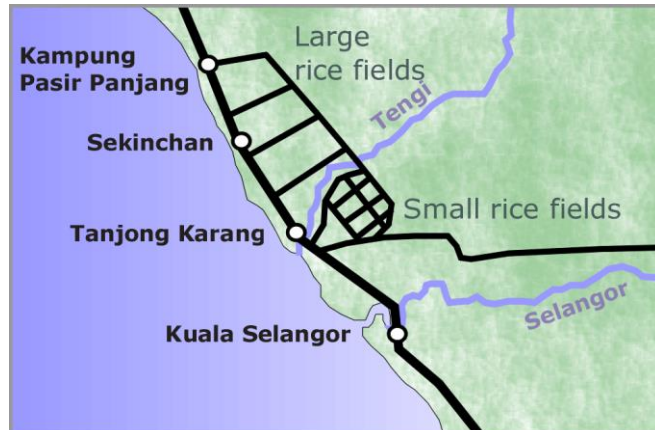
The Gap

Many guides lump this with Fraser's Hill, since it is the area at the bottom of the 8km access roads to the resort. However, it does contain a different range of species to the former, being set at a lower altitude. It can be covered in two ways - staying at the Gap Resthouse which is now open again and apparently very cheap with good food, or driving down from Fraser's Hill. We did the latter, which gave the benefit of still being available to see the Gap birds, but also stirring up one or two nightjars in the car headlights on the

return journey back up again. From The Gap, it is also worth walking up the Old & New roads, as well as along the main road towards Raub (which we did on the first day without seeing a great deal).

Kuala Selangor

With the birding at Fraser's Hill being so good, we left late on the last full day to pigeonhole the last day for Kuala Selangor and the rice fields to the North, thinking that it would be very hot and offer a limited range of birds. We were pleasantly surprised to find that, although it was hotter here than other sites, it certainly wasn't unbearable, especially early morning when there was peak activity. In addition, the birding here, especially at the Kuala Selangor reserve, is stunning, and we could quite easily have spent a few days here. The reserve is located adjacent to the River Selangor, where it opens out into the sea at the Strait of Malacca. The entrance and visitor centre is much more modern than we expected (entrance fee 4 ringgits). The meat of the reserve consists of a circular loop, which encircles 2 lagoons, and has a large concrete tower hide overlooking the central one. The trees which lined the circular loop held a wide range of birds on our visit. From the path adjacent to the sea is a recently constructed concrete boardwalk through the mangroves, which is a must, since this is where the mangrove specialities such as Mangrove Blue-flycatcher and Pied Fantail can be seen. We also had four species of woodpecker from here.



About 15km north of Kuala Selangor is the rice fields area. We were possibly just a week or two too late for the bulk of the migrating raptors, so just looked around some of the small fields to the East of Tanjong Karang. These still produced some good birds, including White-breasted Woodswallow. However, to do this area properly, the larger fields around Sekinchan are the targets, but we decided to head back down to Kuala Selangor for a second visit given the time we had left. It has to be said that a car is almost a must for this site, since the rice fields can go on for some kilometres.

Accommodation

Hotel Sri Emas (Jerantut) www.taman-negara.com/contactus.htm

Jerantut is half an hour by bus from the jetty at Kuala Tembeling, where the boat leaves for Taman Negara. If the 9am transfer is taken, staying overnight at Jerantut is recommended. There seem to be a few hotels in the town, but this one is the most well known. At 30 ringgits for a room, it is very cheap and basic, but more than suitable for its needs. In addition, the sister hotel over the road, where we had our room, is also the location of the boat transfer booking office (although we had booked our river transfer on the internet with the Mutiara Taman Negara), where you can pay the low cost of the bus ride to the jetty (the bus leaves from outside of this building). The car can either be left outside of the hotel, or can be driven to the jetty and left there for a small fee.

Mutiara Taman Negara Resort www.malaysiaforestresorts.com/index.html

Although much cheaper accommodation is available in the village across the river (easily reached by on demand boats for 1 ringgit), we paid the extra for this more

convenient location (price about 450 ringgits for 2 for one night, which included breakfast and an evening meal). The benefit is birding on the doorstep. We had a meal at one of the floating restaurants across the river, which was even cheaper than the low prices in the resort restaurant, although the cuisine is more Chinese than Malaysian and, to my mind, not as interesting. Accommodation is in the form of spacious cabins throughout, and all have impressive air conditioning. Beware of taking optics straight from this environment to the humid air outside in the morning, since condensation can be a problem.

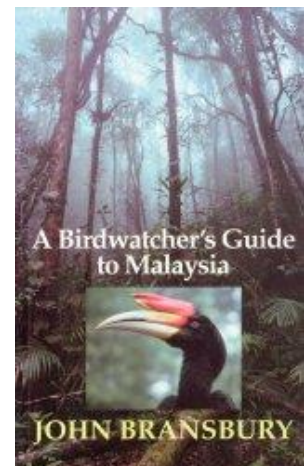
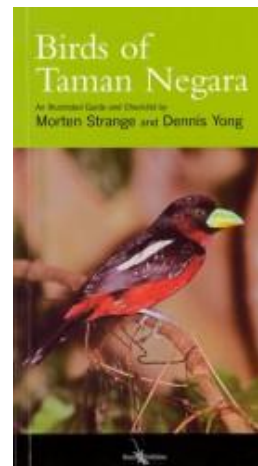
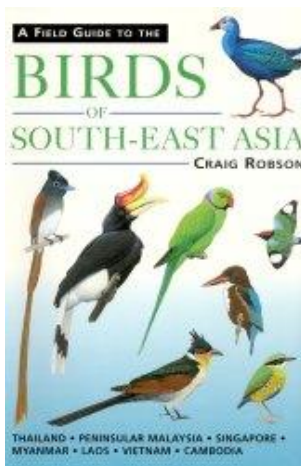
Shahzan Inn (Fraser's Hill) www.journeymalaysia.com/highfrasersshahzan.htm

There is a reasonable variety of accommodation around Fraser's Hill, with the Silverpark and Fraser's Pine Resort looking large and busy. The Puncak Inn still seems to be the budget option, and we were told that it has now rectified the moist bedding problem. However, we plumped for the slightly more middle class Shahzan, and weren't to be disappointed, (especially at 125 ringgits per night including a hearty breakfast). The meals are also very good here, and again inexpensive. Since the hotel was mainly empty during our visit, we were allowed to check out late afternoon on our last day (5pm) which gave us a chance to freshen up and pack before leaving for the next destination. A tip is to try to get a room on the 3rd floor, since there is a rear car park which opens on to this level. Another option is the Jelai Hotel, which has the benefit of good birding in front of the reception each morning. However, the management seemed reluctant to cook food to the few guests there.

De Palma Inn (Kuala Selangor) www.depalmahotel.com/kuala_selangor.htm

There seem to be two options for Kuala Selangor - this hotel or the cabins within the reserve. The latter seemed to be much better kept than we had expected, and are situated at the head of the first of the trails. However, at 142 ringgits for 2 for one night (again including breakfast), and being only 5 minutes drive from the park entrance, the cabins of the De Palma are also a good choice. The curries in the restaurant are also recommended, and another bargain at 10 ringgits. As with all the other hotels used, the air conditioning adequately coped with the outside heat.

References



For identification, "A field guide to the Birds of South-east Asia" by Craig Robson (New Holland) is probably the best.

In addition, "The Birds of Fraser's Hill" and "The Birds of Taman Negara" by Morten Strange have good quality photographs of the birds which can be expected at both sites, with additional tips on the areas to cover when there.

"A Birdwatcher's Guide to Malaysia" by John Bransbury (Waymark) is an excellent reference for the sites. It gives reasonable directions and good maps of the sites themselves, although some, such as that of Kuala Selangor, are now out of date.

We used two maps for getting around in the car. The Freytag and Berndt 1:600000 map of Malaysia is the better for driving between sites, but we also found the Periplus map of Peninsular Malaysia had a good road layout of the motorways around Kuala Lumpur.

SITES VISITED

The Gap Rest House and the Old Road

Day 1

After what amounted to a possible record time from alighting from the aeroplane at about 7:10am and climbing into the driving seat of the hire car at 8:20am, we made good headway up the motorways past Kuala Lumpur and found our route fairly easily. There wasn't much of interest during the journey, apart from assorted mynas which were passed in good numbers, a few crows, and various *hirundines* which looked to be mainly Barn Swallows. As soon as we left the motorway and joined the smaller roads, the habitat became much more interesting, consisting of smaller winding roads through the hills, and we quickly noted Hill Myna at a reservoir only 3-4km from the initial turn off. The ascent was slow, but was surrounded by lush hillsides, until we reached the first of the Holy Grails in the shape of The Gap Resthouse, which we were surprised to find open once more.



The Gap Resthouse



Hills from the terrace of The Gap Resthouse

The birding around the rest house started off very well, with a pair of Black-crested Bulbuls playing in bushes across the road, and Oriental Magpie-robin singing just above. Pacific Swallows were constantly in and out of the eaves of the Resthouse, with one or two perched just above us. House Swifts were amongst the more numerous *hirundines* overhead. We didn't have much luck on a brief sortie to the rear of the building, so the decision was made to begin a trek up the Old Road towards Fraser's Hill. However, this move was greeted by the beginnings of what was to be torrential rain, leaving us with the decision to return to the shelter of the rest house terrace, watching anything that may pop up from there while waiting for the weather to improve.

We watched the rain fall with some venom for around 45 minutes, and despite there being very little avian activity during this time, it was a pleasure to be in such lush equatorial surroundings. We did spot Streaked Spiderhunter, which returned once or twice to an adjacent flowering tree. When the rain had subsided to a drizzle, we made our way down the main road for about half a kilometre, which was very quiet apart from some workmen at the base of the New Road. The only bird added here was Common

Tailorbird. The decision was therefore made to head up the Old Road, which is now the one way descent from Fraser's Hill. This was again very quiet for the first kilometre, after which the bird life erupted in the form of a large bird wave. Copious Large Woodshrikes began the melee, then a couple of species of Drongo (Bronzed & Greater Racket-tailed), interspersed with views of Fiery Minivets, Sultan Tit, Chestnut-capped Laughing-thrush, and Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike.



The rain began to fall more heavily again, but this did not dissipate the birds.

The drongos hung around for some time, with the Large Woodshrikes being a constant feature, and then some of the Bulbuls started to appear, with Ochraceous at first, followed by the initially confusing local race of Ashy, and White-headed putting in an appearance a little later. We ventured further afield (ie another 20 metres up the track) to find another wave of new species. This included Blue-winged Leafbird to add to an earlier Greater Leafbird, some White-bellied Yuhinas, a very confiding Sultan Tit, Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrikes above, and a brief Lesser Cuckoo-shrike. More Chestnut-capped Laughing-thrushes and Common Tailorbird preceded Red-bearded Bee-eater and Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, with an impressive sunning action in the descending mist. By now the rain had started to subside again, leaving the air warm, humid, and totally overcast, with the mist gradually creeping in. We had now been in the same spot for over an hour.

Just when we had decided that the mist was getting the better of the birding, up sprung a treeful of Black-browed Barbet, Ashy Bulbul, and White-bellied Yuhina. This sparked off another half an hour in one spot. We tried unsuccessfully for better views of the trio through the mist, but calls from either side of the road and some patience found a couple of skulking Marbled Wren-babblers. This topped off an eventful half a kilometre of the Old Road, and even then we had subsequent views of Chestnut-breasted Malkoha and a few minivets.

Jerantut to Taman Negara

Day 2



The River



The boat

The transfer bus from Jerantut to the Tembeling ferry eventually arrived at the hotel to pick us up. Stopping on the way to fill up with fuel, we arrived at the jetty 20 minutes late, which bore no significance at all since the boat just seems to leave when all have arrived. Of interest from the bus was a Chinese Pond-heron in a fowl litter laden stream in Jerantut. We had read reports that the 2½ hour boat journey upriver to Taman Negara was picturesque but relatively birdless, but this certainly wasn't our experience.

Hirundines and swifts were profuse, but we did also locate some interesting species, some of which were new to us. Kingfishers, which would have been an odds on bet, had to be waited for, but we eventually picked up half a dozen White-breasted & 3 Black-capped Kingfishers. Many Bee-eaters were seen, but it took some time to pick up the chestnut cap and long tail streamers of Blue-throated. Perhaps prize of the journey was a single Crested Serpent-eagle, sitting motionless on a bare branch as we sped past. 4 or 5 Hornbills flew over, looking all dark, but no identifying marks could be attributed to them. Despite the many sand banks on the meanders of the river, we picked out only one wader - a Red-wattled Lapwing. Compared with the bus which can now be used for the transfer, the boat has to be the method of choice, due both to the birds which can be encountered, and also the experience itself.

Taman Negara



Cabin within resort area



Path through resort

Once the gear had been stashed in the capacious cabin that we were to call home for the next two nights, we set off with the intention of exploring the resort area. It was immediately obvious that, despite the clouds, this location was much hotter than in the highlands yesterday. In addition, the birding was hard going to begin with, although this may also have been due to the starting time of around midday. Most of the species seen were in the canopy, and mainly consisted of a few species of bulbuls, but we were happy to add Streak-throated & Black-headed to Yellow-vented Bulbul. Oriental Magpie-robin continued to be a ubiquitous feature. Scanning just above the roof line of the chalets, we did manage occasional sightings of Blue-crowned Hanging-parrot, and a little later, the only White-bellied Sea-eagle of the trip. The layout of the chalets lends itself to easier views of the birds, since the forest encircled the long stretch of cabins set adjacent to the river. However, it wasn't until we reached the reception area that we added a small group of Ashy Minivets.

Fed by the thought of some of the mammals and birds illustrated on the large board next to reception, we trudged off to the location of the campsite, which consisted of a small clearing to the western end of the resort. Birding was at much the same doggedly slow pace here. As we sat and drank in the magnificence of the rain forest surrounding us for an hour or so, we picked up a small group of Rufous-fronted Babblers which frequented the area for some time. Amongst these was an Ochraceous Bulbul, proving surprisingly tricky at first until it was eventually pinned down. A stunning Crimson-winged Woodpecker appeared just behind the sitting Bulbul. A family of tourists which appeared at the entrance to the Bumbun Tabing trail reported seeing what sounded like a group of firebacks or pheasants along the path. We took the decision to explore this option, and donned the uncomfortable but necessary leech socks. This move was proven positive when a Common Flameback appeared beside us only 100m or so into the forest, followed by a less obliging but no less stunning Black-and-red Broadbill, which was to be seen in the same location on the two subsequent days. Asian Fairy-bluebird followed, alighting in a tree directly above us, requiring neck breaking contortions.



Bumbun Tabing trail



Swimming area on Tahan river

There wasn't much else to report until we reached the river, where a much more obliging Ochraceous Bulbul welcomed our reaching the resort swimming spot. We had enjoyed a break at this initially peaceful haven, before a group of tourist boats hammered past breaking the tranquillity. We were just about to leave when a Stork-billed Kingfisher skimmed by and landed about 100m downstream. During this time, one of the short tailed unmarked babblers appeared next to us. We were fortunate enough to see this bird quite well, and also to make the decision of it being Abbott's Babbler, due to the unstreaked breast, and concolourous head to back. The return along the trail unearthed more Rufous-fronted Babblers, before again briefly picking out the Black-and-red Broadbill. Back at the campsite, the second Raffles's Malkoha was pinned down in the canopy, as well as Hairy-backed Bulbul, demonstrating its characteristic face markings. The afternoon was just about winding up when a pair of Black-thighed Falconets was homed in on, perched in a large bare tree to the rear of the camp site. We had expected to have to visit the local village to see these, making this a fortuitous encounter. In flight there is the possibility that they could lose themselves quite easily in a gathering of *hirundines*.

Taman Negara

Day 3

Following a hearty curry breakfast at 7am, we had the full day in front of us to explore the forest tracks. We set off to look for the entrance to the Bukit Tereseck trail at the eastern end of the resort, but ended up loitering at this location for about an hour, due to the constant avian traffic here. Taller trees held birds such as Chinese Pond-heron, a strange visage when perched about 30m up, a small flock of Daurian Starlings, numerous Blue-crowned Hanging-parrots, and a Golden-throated Barbet perched directly overhead. Some Green-pigeons were unfortunately too brief for identification. Chestnut-breasted Malkohas were a constant feature throughout the hour, and we had fun trying to sort out



Eastern end – Bukit Tereseck entrance



Bukit Tereseck trail

the swifts overhead. With occasional good views, we eventually spotted the white vents of needletails, and then tried to pick out the colours on the back. Most seemed to have the dark back of Brown-backed Needletail. Following the Malkohas to the river boundary, we found a single Asian Fairy-bluebird, leading to superb views of Crimson-winged Woodpecker. As yesterday, Bulbuls were common, adding Olive-winged to the growing list. A juvenile Cuckoo next to the river defied identification, being of the Banded Bay / Plaintive persuasion. A Coppersmith Barbet added to the earlier Golden-throated, which by coincidence was perched in the same tree.

Just as we were about to proceed to the forest, a group of 15 or so tourists with guide were milling around the entrance gate. Potential disaster! However, we leapfrogged past them, and immediately stirred up an Abbott's Babbler. We followed the course of the river for over 1½km until we reached the canopy walkway. This was a fairly intensive trudge to here, and all we had to show for our efforts was a pair of Brown Fulvettas. Dark forest birding at its most difficult! The intention was then to traverse the canopy walkway, offering the potential of a new habitat for wildlife, but we were immediately put off by the crowds gathered and the amount of noise they were making, and so we cut off towards Bukit Teresek. The initial climb was quite steep, and up until the junction with the Jenut Muda trail was festooned with noisy tourists.

The decision to then take the Jenut Muda trail proved to be an instant success. We encountered our first bird wave after only about 50m, which was initiated by Spotted Fantails and White-bellied Yuhina. It was also found to contain Asian Paradise-flycatchers, Large Woodshrike, and Arctic Warbler. We feasted on this for 15 minutes, walked a little further, and discovered Black-naped Monarch and Blue-winged Leafbird. It was hot and humid throughout, but some high potential semi open areas interspersed the darker canopy covered forest. Half way along the trail, we encountered a group of 2-3 large Woodpeckers, and one of the pecking birds was seen to be Orange-backed. The other 2 were Crimson-winged. A group of 2 male and 2 female Crested Firebacks then appeared on the path in front of us, seemingly totally unperturbed by our presence. More Blue-winged Leafbirds preceded a small group of Ferruginous Babblers next to a stream. Another benefit of this trail was that it was almost humanless, apart from one lone hiker who passed by late on. We eventually reached the junction with the Bumbun Tabing trail, deciding to take a break from the undulating and tree root festooned paths to sit by the river for a short time, made all the more pleasant by feeding Tickell's Blue-flycatcher.

The long walk to the Bumbun Tabing hide was scrapped for the ease of the Bumbun Tahan hide, located adjacent to the resort. This was held back a little due to a Spiderhunter rush, with initial Grey-breasted followed by a stationary Little, a male Orange-bellied Flowerpecker, and unidentified female sunbird. Just behind was the impressive sight of Long-billed Spiderhunter feeding briefly. Another stop had to be made for our first Dollarbird. The Bumbun Tahan hide is only a 50m boardwalk away from the resort cabins, and is a two storey concrete hide looking on to a single tree positioned in the centre of a large clearing in the forest. Over the next couple of hours, quite a few impressive species were unearthed. Black-headed & Yellow-vented Bulbuls were the predominant resident, with Asian Fairy-bluebird almost as common (up to 7-8 at any one time). More impressive visitors to the tree included an Oriental Pied Hornbill feeding on the fruits, a handful of Thick-billed Green-pigeons, and a single White-breasted Kingfisher. 2 Black-and-red Broadbills together added to the first earlier in the day, with Hill Mynas regular visitors. From the edge of the jungle, we were surprisingly happy with the arrival of a chicken in the guise of wild Red Junglefowl.



Bumbun Tahan from hide

We dragged ourselves away from the hide at 5pm, to cover the western end of the resort until dark. As time progressed, the clouds approached and the thunder began, but the rain staved off allowing us enough time for a stab at some extra birds. Looking over the river, the Blue-throated Bee-eaters which had been seen from the boat on arrival were landing on the wires across the water. The lack of tail streamers confused matters a little, but all were of this species. While studying them, a Spotted Dove flew in, and a Hornbill passed overhead. Perhaps best addition to the Bulbul tally was a pair of Straw-headed, which landed near us enough for a good examination of this scarce species. Following them led us on to a pair of mating Black-bellied Malkohas, and retreating to the front of the cabins we discovered a single female Dark-necked Tailorbird and 3-4 Black-naped Orioles constantly calling from the treetops.

Taman Negara

Day 4

There had been torrential rain the previous evening and for most of the night, evidenced by the piles of sand and clay deposited on the paths throughout the resort. Passing an Emerald Dove plodding its way through the cabins, we went straight to the Bumbun Tahan hide, and spent 1½ hours there. Many of the previous resident familiars were there again, with a few House Swifts overhead, which also harboured a couple of Silver-rumped Needletails. Among the many more common Bulbuls were a few Streaked, which initially took some sorting out. The bare tree to the rear of the clearing held many Thick-billed Pigeons, but searching revealed a rather large Gold-whiskered Barbet. Blue-throated Bee-eaters joined the throng, as well as the late arrival of a male and female Little Green-pigeon, alongside a Blue-crowned Hanging-parrot.

We had a short stroll around the resort, where we found a sunning Raffles's Malkoha, and another nearby Chestnut-breasted Malkoha. A single Black-thighed Falconet was on a bare tree in the centre of the resort. Two decisions that we then made proved quite fruitful. The first was to go back to the Bumbun Tabing trail alongside the river, and the second was to don the ever attractive leech socks, since standing for some time did attract one or two of the little miscreants, possibly following last night's rain. After passing the regular site of the Black-and-red Broadbill, we chanced upon a Buff-necked Woodpecker. This landed briefly next to the footpath, but it also put us on to a pair of Green Broadbills, which frequented the vicinity for about quarter of an hour. This proved to be a very good spot, since we were also visited by a few Black-naped Monarchs and Greater Racket-tailed Drongos. While searching for the Black-and-red Broadbill, we picked up a very small, rufous and virtually tail-less skulker - a stunning Rufous Piculet. We were a little surprised by its habit of feeding more or less in the undergrowth. We did pop down to the river to look for kingfishers, which we didn't find, and the water level looked to be about 20-30cm higher after the previous night's deluge. On the return, we successfully relocated the Black-and-red Broadbill, with a small group of Crested Firebacks ghosting out of the forest on to the path.

Last stop before departure from Taman Negara was at the Bumbun Tahan hide. It was now midday, very hot, and despite the array of common Bulbuls, variety was less than earlier in the morning, apart from the addition of Long-tailed Macaques playing around the central tree. We were just about to leave when a White-bellied Woodpecker was found edging its way up a bare tree to the rear of the clearing.

Jelai Hotel, Fraser's Hill

Day 5

After the hard work we had invested at Taman Negara to see birds, the first two hours at Fraser's Hill was a bit of a shock to the system. We were at the car park of the Jelai Hotel before first light, and were lucky to be greeted by clear skies and dry weather - apparently the previous 4 days had been wet resulting in less birding opportunities. As the light of dawn improved, the car park, which is not particularly large, proved to be a Mecca for birds. The hotel is a well known location for this with 20-30 species usually seen, which was probably more or less our personal tally. The cavalcade was initiated by Silver-eared Mesias and Mountain Fulvettas, with constant Long-tailed Sibias milling around. An early Green Magpie stayed just long enough to pinch the choicest of the scraps on the menu. Different species were added as we patrolled the tarmac, with the



melee including Javan Woodshrike, feasting on large green cicadas, many sightings of Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos without tail streamers, restless Blue-winged Minlas, a very confiding male Mugimaki Flycatcher, Chestnut-crowned & -capped Laughing-thrushes, single elusive Golden Babbler, a much more confiding White-throated Fantail, almost constantly present Orange-bellied Leafbirds, Chestnut-crowned Warbler, and beautiful Verditer Flycatcher, shining iridescent in the early morning rays. Fork-tailed Swifts were added when looking overhead, as well as flyovers of a few Mountain Imperial-pigeons.

Telekom Loop



We decided to take the car from the hotel to the start of the loop, and this proved to be a very sound move, since the winding road to this point is quite long and mostly uphill. The tarmac road which forms the loop offers a very pleasant walk, with very little in the way of gradients to climb, running through broken forest with some good views of the surrounding hills. First birds were some of the familiar species from the morning, including Little Cuckoo-dove, Silver-eared Mesia, and copious Mountain Fulvettas, until we stumbled across our first new bird of the walk in the form of Little Pied Flycatcher. A pair of Fiery Minivets were found just before a small barred concrete building at the side of the road, which gave a home to hundreds of Black-nest Swiftlets. They were difficult to identify at first, despite being on their nests, but the dark rump and feathered legs pinned them down as the local race. We diverted off the loop up a small access road to one of the hotels, which is where we saw the best bird wave of the location. First were a couple of Chestnut-capped Laughing-thrushes, followed by Golden Babblers and Mountain Fulvettas, probable Grey-chinned Minivets, preceding two species of Shrike-babbler (initially a poorly marked Black-eared, and then a White-browed, which stayed around for a short while). A few Silver-eared Mesias were intermixed. Back on the loop, a female Mugimaki Flycatcher hanging around in



Black-nest Swiftlet colony

a ravine preceded a male just above us, with close Sultan Tit overhead. Looking down into what appeared to be a private garden, we had superb views of a dapper Rufous-browed Flycatcher, which shone warm brown when caught in the rays of the sun, contrasting with its shining white throat. This or another individual was subsequently spotted in the foliage next to the road. Compared to the heat and high humidity of Taman Negara, the conditions here were much more temperate, with little or no humidity.

Hemmant Trail

This is the first of the trails which we tackled in the area, and was reputed to be fairly wide and flat, which was exactly what we found for most of its length. The birding was reasonably quiet, but did start well with a pair of Large Niltavas. Mountain Fulvettas were the predominant species as usual, but we did also add female Mugimaki Flycatcher, another Rufous-browed Flycatcher, and White-throated Fantail. A further male Large Niltava greeted us at the end of the trail.

We thought that the walk back along Jalan Lady Maxwell Drive to the car would then be purely functional, but the birds here were even better than on the trail. After about 100m, we picked up some large birds flying into an overhead canopy, which proved to be 5-6 Fire-tufted Barbets, which seemed to be feeding on fruits that we failed to pick out. They were eventually joined by a brace of Black-browed Barbets, one calling characteristically regularly. 2-3 Little Pied Flycatchers were in trees adjacent to these. We crossed an excellent bird wave a little further on, started by Black-eared Shrike-babbler, which stopped in our tracks. Other members of the group were Long-tailed Sibilias, Chestnut-crowned Laughing-thrush, Rufous-capped Warbler, a stunning Speckled Piculet, racket tail-less Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos, and a couple of Golden Babblers.

Just as we passed the beginning of the Hemmant's Trail again in the car, we passed a couple of Belgian birders encountered earlier. They informed us that they had been watching an adult Lesser Shortwing feeding a juvenile, and it took no persuasion for them to take us to the spot. The adult was eventually located after about 20 minutes, being generally quiet and most definitely skulking.



Hemmant Trail



Fraser's Hill waterfall

The last stop of the day was to be the waterfall, stopping off at the rubbish tip which appeared barren at this time. We were at the waterfall car park by about 6pm, and we meandered along the tarmac path to the site of the huts to find a pair of Slaty-backed Forktails feeding unconcernedly in the stream. Our progress towards the waterfall unearthed subsequent sightings of the Forktails. As we headed back to the footbridge near to the original location of the Forktails, we heard what we presumed to be the call of a Whistling-thrush, and did eventually track down a Malayan Whistling-thrush. This was quite a jumpy bird, giving us only 3 very brief views.

Jelai Hotel**Day 6**

Arriving here before first light again, more of yesterday's menu was again on offer. As expected, there was the addition of one or two new species, first of which was Grey-throated Babbler, which was a very active and difficult bird to pin down. Two individuals fed voraciously at ground level in the corner of the car park for 5 minutes, with Golden Babbler present again. A pair of Black-and-crimson Orioles spent more time here, compared to an almost fly-through yesterday. The Mugimaki Flycatcher was replaced by Little Pied Flycatcher in the same bush this morning. The noisiest guests were again Streaked Spiderhunters and Orange-bellied Leafbirds, and most obvious species Long-tailed Sibias. One of the local monkeys bounded past us, with another noisy pair in the trees on the opposite side of the road, showing mid to light grey body, darkish tail, and blackish eyebrows - a Banded Leaf-monkey. A huge raptor passed over, but was seen too poorly to even guess at identification. Just as we were about to leave, the Little Pied Flycatcher put in a much more prolonged appearance, and a slow amble back to the reception found a single male Fire-chested Flowerpecker feeding on the flowering bush adorning the entrance to the hotel.



After breakfast, we chose the walk down the first 3km or so of the New Road. The car was parked at the no entry signs signifying the one way system, next to Fraser's Pine Resort. The new tarmac flows through open forest, offering occasional vistas of the valley below. The weather during the walk was very pleasant, with an earlier promise of searing heat subsiding to a cloudy sky with a lingering threat of rain. We had expected raptors and Hornbills in good numbers, but we only saw one of each (Black Eagle and Great Hornbill overhead). The walk is good for barbets, with many calling throughout. They did prove difficult to see, but a few small groups were pinned down, with only Black-browed being identified. A few smaller Barbets were too elusive to identify. We did encounter one or two small bird waves passing through, which included Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike, a Grey-chinned Minivet, Verditer Flycatcher and Sultan Tit. Also noticeable was the fact that we started to turn up Bulbul species once again, despite the fact that they seemed to be absent in the Fraser's Hill resort area. Predominant were Black-crested, but we also found some elusive Ochraeous Bulbuls, as well as one or two Stripe-throated Bulbuls. Bronzed Drongos were a regular feature. Of the birding highlights along the New Road, an early Slaty-backed Forktail was amongst the first and most unexpected, found under the first bridge down from where we parked the car. We were also taken aback by a showy Banded Woodpecker, pecking at the trunk of a dead tree for some time. A Black Laughing-thrush appeared in an adjacent bush. Another species of note was Hill Prinia - we saw two separate and very elusive birds.

The Old Road

After 2 sightings of Black Eagle from The Gap Resthouse, we set off once again on the Old Road incline. This was very hard going for the first 2km or so, with barely a bird to be seen or heard, apart from the odd Black-crested Bulbul. From then on, the walk became very rewarding, since we picked up singles and small groups of birds regularly. A

Black Laughing-thrush on the ascent was added to by a pair on the descent, being constantly on the move as they fed their way alongside the road. The first bird wave included 4 Grey-chinned Minivets, a couple of Orange-bellied Leafbirds, a Blue-winged Leafbird, and Verditer Flycatcher. Barbets were heard regularly as we climbed, and again proved elusive. Singles of Black-browed & Gold-whiskered Barbet were seen well, the latter feeding on a tree festooned with small red fruits. A small Flycatcher which obliged by feeding from a single bare tree was relatively easily identified as Siberian (or Dark-sided as it is known locally), demonstrating the dark breast sides and undertail covert edges. We also followed up the muted drumming of a smallish Woodpecker, whose location was masked to a greater extent by the raucous noise from a cicada, but was eventually located in the thick of the vegetation pecking at a bamboo stem - Bamboo Woodpecker had been found! Some of the Bulbuls were at first a little mystifying, but we eventually recognised them as more of the local race of Ashy Bulbul.

The Gap Rest House

We arrived here at about 6:30pm, pulled up a some chairs on the front terrace, ordered a couple of coffees, and lazily birded from here until dark. One of the target species was Bat Hawk, but we confidently expected one or two other birds as well. After the usual Black-crested Bulbuls and a couple of dapper Greater Racket-tailed Drongos, a pair of Asian Fairy Bluebirds landed some way in front of us, with the male performing aerobatics as he caught insects high up in the air. Three birds which landed in the tree opposite were quickly whittled down to one, which hung around long enough to reveal itself as Dusky Broadbill. As the light began to



Vegetation opposite The Gap Resthouse

fade, we thought we had picked up Bat Hawk, but this turned out to be 3 Large-tailed Nightjars, silhouetted beautifully against the darkening evening sky. Last birding incident was well into darkness, when the slow drive back up the New Road highlighted two Nightjars in the beam of the car, the first flying off quickly, but the second, a Savannah Nightjar, posing for some time on the road in front of us.

Jelai Hotel

Day 7

Back again to the Jelai Hotel for the third day in a row, and we were greeted this morning with a fairly high mist which proved no impedance to the birding. The variety of birds was predictably much the same as we had seen the previous two days, and no new species were recorded. Black-and-crimson Orioles were much more obliging, staying around a lot longer than the brief appearances already shown, even stopping to feed on insects close to. In a similar vein, the Green Magpie considerably extended its visit, being seen on and off for about half an hour. We had seen Everett's White-eye on the Telekom Loop, but three birds here were our first for the hotel, as was an Arctic Warbler. On cue at 9am, the Fire-chested Flowerpecker again put in an appearance, this time feeding on different bushes from yesterday.

Bishop's Trail

The post breakfast task was to tackle the Bishop's Trail, and for this we decided to park at the mosque and approach via the Hemmant's Trail once more. This was another good decision, since the trail was a lot more lively than on yesterdays visit. Black-throated Sunbird was immediately before the entrance, with a couple of poorly marked Black-eared Shrike-babblers and Mountain Fulvettas a few metres into the walk. One or two small bird waves passed through, notably containing more Black-eared Shrike-babblers, Grey-throated Babblers, Golden Babblers, and the ubiquitous Mountain

Fulvettas. White-throated Fantails were putting on a bit of a show - one at each end of the trail - and a single male Large Niltava was at the centre of the trail. A Little Pied Flycatcher was perched briefly on the golf course edge. There was no sign of the Lesser Shortwing seen the previous day, but this was a very brief stop.



We crossed over Jalan Lady Maxwell Drive to enter the Bishop's Trail, exiting about 1½km later at the Muar Cottage. This is probably the easiest direction to take, since the first few hundred metres is much more manicured, and despite having some short steep spots, there are ropes and even (artificial) tree stumps to help the climbing. As we progressed towards the junction with the Maxwell Trail, the slopes became a little steeper, and the path wilder and narrower. Yet the trail wasn't nearly as challenging or enclosed as we had expected. The tactic was to find open areas or streams and stay at these for some time to wait for the birds. We didn't encounter any bird waves in the 3 hours it took to cover the walk, which overall was very productive. Prizes we claimed were Red-headed Trogon, and brief Blue Nuthatch, which were both species we had wanted to see. The first of 2 separate Rufous-browed Flycatchers was very approachable, which may have been due to the possible presence of a nest. We sat at the first stream for some time and picked up Mugimaki Flycatcher, along with 2-3 Mountain Bulbuls. 2 Fire-tufted Barbets passed through. All this was to the backdrop of calling Gibbons, enhancing the truly equatorial experience.

Fraser's Hill rubbish tip

Since the hotel management had been accommodating enough to allow us to check out in the late afternoon, no doubt aided by the hotel being mainly empty, we had time to visit the tip before departing Fraser's Hill. This is one of the intrigues of birding, where paradoxically a seemingly unwelcoming site can be good for birds. On arrival, we immediately picked out a pair of Lesser Yellownapes, exchanging nest duty in a large bare tree. A Blue Nuthatch made two visits on a smaller bare tree to the windward edge of the tip. A Fiery Minivet and Black-browed Barbet were later additions.

Kuala Selangor

Day 8

We had thought that this was to be a fill in stop on the last day in Malaysia, but the reality was quite the opposite. This is an absolute must see site on any itinerary, offering a new variety of birds from the inland habitats, many in profusion and very close proximity. Much work seems to have been put in around the reserve, since reports as recent as 2002 mentioned that the mangrove boardwalk was no more. Conversely, the mangroves have been provided with a new concrete walkway, with railings showing more wear than their recent construction would suggest. The hides have also been renewed, with the central lagoon being dominated by a concrete observation tower. Two high wooden towers greet the entrance to the mangroves, overlooking the second lagoon. Our loop consisted of an initial visit to the central tower, followed by a clockwise walk, taking in the mangroves. The short walk from the reception to the bridge over the water was quiet when we arrived just after 7am, but the birds sprang into action once we had crossed this bridge, with brief Rufous-chested Flycatcher and singing Common Iora

amongst the first. A Sunbird proved to be male Ruby-cheeked. The central lagoon was very quiet, so we ventured around the grassy track. New birds constantly appeared, with many Pink-necked Pigeons, Black-naped Orioles, perched Brahminy Kites, and Ashy Tailorbirds adding to the White-breasted Waterhens avoiding the troops of Long-tailed Macaques.



Central lagoon from tower hide



Ditch surrounding lagoons

The mangroves proved as good if not even better. We had four species of Woodpecker along the boardwalk, all showing well, from the small Brown-capped Pygmy, a trio of obliging Laced Woodpeckers which stayed in the same tree for some time, up to Common & Greater Flamebacks. Sounds were dominated by Collared Kingfishers, with at least 6-7 raucously calling throughout the mangroves, and this was to be the only place that they were seen. One pair seemed to be nesting in the hole of a dead tree. The only other Kingfishers of note were two Black-capped which were more distant. At the apex of the mangrove loop, we also had hidden views of Crested Serpent-eagle, perched almost on the shore side of the trees to the calls of Mangrove Blue-flycatcher. Pied Fantails showed very briefly, along with the washed out local race of Great Tit.



New birds continued as we left the mangrove walk. A very obliging Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker fed unconcernedly on the same flowering tree for some time. A Little Bronze-cuckoo alighted on branches adjacent to the Flowerpecker, eventually calling before departing. Turning the corner of the walk revealed a pair of singing Ashy Tailorbirds, while a superb Greater Coucal flew into view on the opposite side of the dyke, landing in the open. Black-naped Oriole was just along from this. As we were completing the loop, we stirred up two birds from the path, one a dove, the other a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo, landing in a bush opposite briefly before flying further in. As we approached the bridge once again at the end of the loop, a Yellow-bellied Prinia was singing overhead. Two Olive-backed Sunbirds were also in this area. A third and less brightly coloured species of Sunbird was seen on the loop - 2 individual Plain-throated Sunbirds. We spent a little more time in the concrete tower looking over the central lagoon, which seemed to hold a lot of promise, but apart from a couple of irritating Macaques which insisted on climbing the stairs trying no doubt to steal from us, it held only Common Sandpipers and a few mixed herons. Just as we were about to leave the tower, a group of 4 Ashy Minivets landed in the canopy beneath us.

On the track back to the visitor centre, which is only about 100m long, we found a pair of Barred Eagle-owls. Unfortunately, they landed within the very dense foliage, but

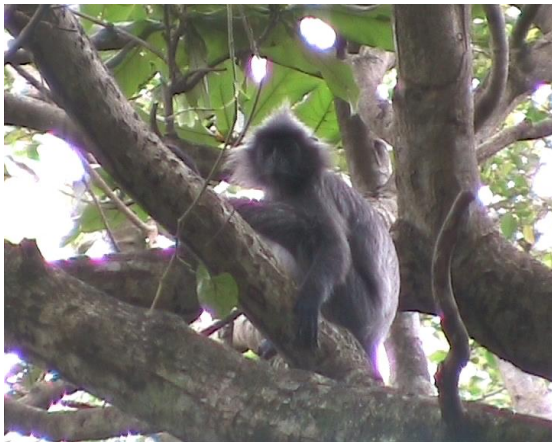
could be picked out quite well in the telescope. They landed next to each other, and at one point were preening one another. There was also a small group of Silver Leaf-monkeys here, showing characteristic whitish crests and ear tufts.

Small rice fields

Over an hour was spent driving around only the small rice fields, about 13km North of Kuala Selangor. These are particularly reputed for raptors, but we were possibly just a little late for this passage. Despite being named the small rice fields, they are nonetheless very extensive, leaving us to drive a couple of the main roads and one or two of the lesser roads. Many water channels crossed the fields as well as following the main roads, giving excellent cover for hiding herons. Almost as soon as we arrived, we found one of the specialities of the area - White-breasted Woodswallows. There were also small numbers of Nutmeg Mannikins, Blue-tailed Bee-eaters, and Brown Shrikes. The second Coucal of the day - a much drabber Lesser Coucal - was briefly in the rice plants. The area seemed infested with Common Mynas, along with one or two Javan Mynas. While we did see some egrets, they were far from numerous. Commonest were Chinese Pond-herons, looking immaculate in maroon breeding dress.



Kuala Selangor



Silver Leaf-monkey

We could have spent more time at the rice fields and also headed up to the larger rice fields near to Sekinchan, but decided against this in favour of a return to Kuala Selangor, following a good morning there. This move wasn't to disappoint. Overall, the birds in the afternoon were much quieter than during our earlier visit, and the day ended as the trip had begun with rain, thankfully less torrential than at The Gap Resthouse. We paid a cursory greeting to one of the Barred Eagle-owls, still in the same place as we had left it, crossed the bridge, and after a short visit to the tower hide, quickly found a very obliging Tiger Shrike. This was much more of a skulker than its Red-backed cousin. A

pair of Abbott's Babblers were on the opposite side of the grassy track. The mangrove loop was also a lot quieter, holding only two of the four Woodpeckers, but we did find the nest of the Brown-capped Woodpeckers, with both birds in attendance. As the rain started to fall, a Crested Goshawk flew over before departing towards the sea. We spent a short time under the protection of the tower hide from the rain, but it was as quiet as before for birds, apart from a Chestnut-winged Cuckoo which landed in a bush on a small island within the central lagoon. Also here were a pair of Common Ioras, and a pair of wet and bedraggled Blue-throated Bee-eaters to the rear.

SPECIES SEEN

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea

This was the most common heron at Kuala Selangor, with at least 20 birds in the area

Great Egret

Ardea alba

~4 birds were at Kuala Selangor

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta

This species was encountered in small numbers at various sites throughout the week. Where possible each one was checked for the possibility of Chinese Egret, but only one bird showed the potential of bill and leg colour, although this was far from conclusive. A single bird was seen both on the outward and home boat journeys from Jerantut to Taman Negara, with 2 at the Kuala Selangor reserve, and ~5 at the small rice fields

Chinese Pond-Heron

Ardeola bacchus

As compared with the more straw coloured Indian Pond-Heron of the Indian subcontinent, the breeding plumage of this species is a lot more striking, and most of the birds that we saw were in these maroon based colours: Jerantut (1 in a particularly disgusting rubbish laden channel within the town); 1 at Taman Negara; 3 at Kuala Selangor; ~12 spread throughout the small rice fields



Striated Heron

Butorides striatus

These small yet raucous individuals are usually easy to pick up: 2 from the boat on both boat journeys; ~10 at Kuala Selangor

Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus

None had been seen until we arrived at Kuala Selangor, where they were a regular feature, with at least 20 birds seen. A few were perched within the reserve, but most were seen in flight, with a circling flock of ~10 birds above us at one time



White-bellied Sea-Eagle

Haliaeetus leucogaster

We were surprised to see only one bird, and this over Taman Negara resort on the first afternoon there

Crested Serpent-Eagle

Spilornis cheela

2 birds seen, with possibly more heard. The first was from the boat travelling to Taman Negara, perched in a large tree adjacent to the river. The second was perched in trees within the mangroves at Kuala Selangor, seen from the boardwalk, but was only partially in view

Crested Goshawk

Accipiter trivirgatus

1 flew over us at Kuala Selangor

Black Eagle

Ictinaetus malayensis

1 flew over us on the New Road at Fraser's Hill, with 2 sightings from the porch of The Gap Resthouse

Black-thighed Falconet

Microhierax fringillarius

This small and enigmatic falcon was one of the birds on the must see list, and the

literature seemed to suggest that the best place to see them was the small village on the opposite side of the river to the Taman Negara resort. However, we were lucky to pick up a pair perched in a bare tree from the camp site at Taman Negara, and a third individual was on a smaller tree, but slightly closer, towards the centre of the resort

Red Junglefowl

Gallus gallus

I've never been so pleased to see a chicken! A smart cock bird strolled out of the jungle to show itself at the edge of the clearing of the Bumbun Tahan hide at Taman Negara. The next day, a much more dowdy female was at the same spot

Crested Fireback

Lophura ignita

Two groups of these birds appeared in front of us along the forest trails of Taman Negara, 1 on the Bumbun Tabing trail, the other the Jenut Muda trail. Despite their size and the striking glossy black of the males, they give no warning of their approach, and seem to just emerge in front of you, slowly feeding before disappearing again into the forest. Equal numbers of males and females were in the two groups of 4 and 8 respectively



White-breasted Waterhen

Amaurornis phoenicurus

Common at Kuala Selangor, where ~10 were along the grassy paths encircling the central lagoons, with a further 4 birds at the small rice fields

Red-wattled Lapwing

Vanellus indicus

Only seen from the boat on the Jerantut / Taman Negara transfer, with 1 on the outward journey, and 5 on return

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos

2 seen from the boat on the Taman Negara to Jerantut boat journey, and 3 at Kuala Selangor

Spotted Dove

Streptopelia chinensis

1 at Taman Negara, and ~12 throughout the small rice fields, usually perched on wires

Little Cuckoo-Dove

Macropygia ruficeps

The 5 birds seen were briefly in view, with the first at the Jelai Hotel showing off its back, and the 2 pairs on the Telekom Loop flying over the road in front of us



Emerald Dove

Chalcophaps indica

The best view was of a bird strolling along the ground beside a chalet in the Taman Negara resort on the first morning. Another was flying over the Bumbun Tahan clearing, with a further 2 fly throughs at Kuala Selangor

Zebra Dove

Geopelia striata

Not as common as I had expected: 2 were in the centre of Jerantut, and ~ 8 were at the small rice fields



Little Green-Pigeon

Treron olax

After having seen many Thick-billed Pigeons landing in the trees to the centre of the Bumbun Tahan clearing, a pair of Little Green-Pigeons were eventually picked out

Pink-necked Pigeon

Treron vernans

Very common around Kuala Selangor, with ~40+ birds seen

Thick-billed Pigeon

Treron curvirostra

The most common pigeon at Taman Negara - all were seen from the Bumbun Tahan hide, with slightly more males than females. 9 were there on the first day, with ~20 on the second visit

Mountain Imperial-Pigeon

Ducula badia

Seen reasonably regularly at Fraser's Hill, with all birds flying over. 6, 2, and 2 seen on subsequent days, with most in the early morning from the Jelai Hotel

Blue-rumped Parrot

Psittinus cyanurus

2 females seen only, one in the Taman Negara resort, and the other from the Bumbun Tahan hide

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot

Loriculus galgulus

Seen regularly around the Taman Negara resort, they were either feeding at the tops of the high trees, or picked up flying overhead with their high pitched buzzing call: 3, 10, and 8 seen on subsequent days

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo

Clamator coromandus

2 separate individuals seen at Kuala Selangor. One was picked up flying across the drain and into the adjacent trees, the second was one of the last birds seen in the rain from the tower hide, landing in one of the bushes of the central lagoon

Himalayan Cuckoo

Cuculus saturatus

Picked up on call at the start of the Bishop's Trail on Fraser's Hill, a single bird was seen briefly in the canopy

Little Bronze-Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx minutillus

This bird was a bit of surprise, since it landed in the bushes in front of us while walking on the grassy footpath between the lagoons and mangroves at Kuala Selangor



Asian Koel

Eudynamys scolopacea

Only 2 males seen, one at Kuala Selangor, and another at the small rice fields

Black-bellied Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus diardi

3 together at Taman Negara resort area

Raffles' Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus

A difficult to pin down pair were found at the camp site of Taman Negara on the first day, but a male on the last morning at the resort centre was much more obliging, spreading its plumage on a bare branch above our heads



Chestnut-breasted Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus curvirostris

2 were along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon in the rain, with another more obliging pair within the resort at Taman Negara

Greater Coucal

Centropus sinensis

1 was at Taman Negara on the first afternoon, but a second at Kuala Selangor was much more obliging, perching and calling for some time in the open on the opposite side of the drain



Lesser Coucal

Centropus bengalensis

1 briefly at the small rice fields showed its smaller size and distinctive dull black plumage well

Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus

While waiting for a Bat Hawk to put in a potential appearance in front of The Gap Resthouse, 3 large nightjars of this species flew in front of us above the treeline in the diminishing light. A fourth, or one of the three returning, flew over us a few minutes later

Savanna Nightjar

Caprimulgus affinis

2 nightjars were on the New Road when we were returning from the evening vigil at The Gap Resthouse. The first flew up before we could see any identification markers, but the second was watched for some time in the car headlights

Glossy Swiftlet

Collocalia esculenta

~25 over The Gap Resthouse and Old Road on the first afternoon; ~10 mixed with other swifts over the Jelai Hotel one morning

Black-nest Swiftlet

Aerodramus maximus

These small swiftlets are notoriously difficult to identify in flight, so we were lucky to find a small breeding colony in a barred hut on the Telekom Loop at Fraser's Hill. Even so, they still took some sorting out, until the feathered legs could be seen on some, and the dark body of the local race stumbled on



Silver-rumped Needletail

Rhaphidura leucopygialis

2 of these rather smart birds were over Taman Negara on the last morning

Brown-backed Needletail

Hirundapus giganteus

~40 were over Taman Negara. It took some time before we could see the backs of these birds, since they were directly overhead, and there was probable confusion with other needletails

Fork-tailed Swift

Apus pacificus

Quite common in the Fraser's Hill area, with ~12 over the Jelai Hotel, 2 over the Telekom Loop, and many over The Gap Resthouse

House Swift *Apus nipalensis*

Seen on most days in reasonable numbers, with a peak of ~50 on the first day over The Gap Resthouse

Red-headed Trogon

Harpactes erythrocephalus

This is the most common trogon around Fraser's Hill, but some work has to be put in to see them. Our birds were along the Bishop's Trail, which is probably one of the best locations to see them, since they tend to stick within the closed forest. 2 sightings of possibly the same bird were seen



Stork-billed Kingfisher

Pelargopsis capensis

1 flew into a tree downriver of us from the swimming area along the Bumbun Tabing trail at Taman Negara, and a second flew past the boat on the return journey to Jerantut

White-throated Kingfisher*Halcyon smyrnensis*

Quite easily the most common and confiding of the kingfishers, this species also occupies the most varied habitat, from river to open fields, and even along the roadsides. The only time we didn't see them was while at Fraser's Hill. The highest concentration was at the small rice fields, where ~15 were present

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

Most of these were seen on the boat transfers, with 3 on the first journey, and 2 on the return. 3 were also at Kuala Selangor

Collared Kingfisher*Todirhamphus chloris*

Very noisy and obvious in the mangroves at Kuala Selangor, with ~8 birds present. One pair seemed to be making a nest in the hole of a dead tree

Red-bearded Bee-eater*Nyctyornis amictus*

Only one of these forest dwelling species seen, on the first day in the rain along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse

Blue-throated Bee-eater*Merops viridis*

The most common and widespread bee-eater, initially seen in good numbers from the boat going to Taman Negara. 30+ were subsequently on each day in the Taman Negara area. Another ~10 were at Kuala Selangor

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

~8 were at Kuala Selangor, with another ~10 around the small rice fields

Dollarbird*Eurystomus orientalis*

2 were seen briefly at the Taman Negara resort, with a much closer and better illuminated bird from the boat on the return river journey

Oriental Pied-Hornbill*Anthracoceros albirostris*

2 were seen in the central tree of the Bumbun Tahan hide clearing

Great Hornbill*Buceros bicornis*

1 bird in flight from the New Road down from Fraser's Hill

Fire-tufted Barbet*Psilopogon pyrolophus*

The first of these rather large and outstanding barbets was a group of six feeding in a fruiting tree with a couple of the more vocal Black-browed Barbets along the Jalan Lady Maxwell Road. A further 2 separate individuals were along the Bishop's Trail

**Gold-whiskered Barbet***Megalaima chrysopogon*

Only two seen - 1 along the trails at Taman Negara, and another in the late afternoon walk up the Old Road from The Gap Resthouse

Golden-throated Barbet*Megalaima franklinii*

A single bird was seen on the first afternoon perched on a bare branch at Taman Negara resort grounds

Black-browed Barbet*Megalaima oorti*

Quite easily the most common barbet, both in birds seen, and also by call, which was a constant feature particularly around Fraser's Hill. The Gap Resthouse (first afternoon) 2;

Hemmant's Trail (2); New Road from Fraser's Hill (1); Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse (2); Bishop's Trail (4); Fraser's Hill rubbish tip (1)

Coppersmith Barbet *Megalaima haemacephala*

Only one of these diminutive birds was seen, perched in the same tree as the Gold-whiskered Barbet a few minutes after the latter had departed

Speckled Piculet *Picumnus innominatus*

Piculets tend to be difficult to catch up with at the best of times, but spotting this immaculately marked little bird ascending tree covered branches along Jalan Lady Maxwell Road on Fraser's Hill was our second piculet

Rufous Piculet *Sasia abnormis*

This stunning little warm rufous bird was very close to along the Bumbun Tabing trail, just 100m or so from the camp site entrance, but was keeping close to the ground in thick cover so gave only occasional views

Brown-capped Woodpecker *Dendrocopos moluccensis*

A pair were busily feeding young in a dead tree adjacent to the mangrove boardwalk at Kuala Selangor

White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*

A single bird was picked out on a bare tree, scaling the trunk in the distance to the rear of the clearing at the Bumbun Tahan hide

Banded Woodpecker *Picus mineaceus*

The finding of this bird was quite a coup, since they are far from common, and it seemed to be hammering out a hole in a dead tree. It was about 2km down on the New Road from Fraser's Hill

Lesser Yellownape *Picus chlorolophus*

A pair of birds were visiting a nest hole to the rear of the rubbish tip at Fraser's Hill. We had at first expected them to be the much more common Greater Yellownape, but the barring on the belly and obvious white moustachial stripe proved otherwise

Crimson-winged Woodpecker *Picus puniceus*

A few birds were seen at Taman Negara, with 4 separate individuals around the resort area



Laced Woodpecker *Picus vittatus*

Two groups of 3 were at Kuala Selangor, the first spending some time in the same spot in the mangroves, the second group in the trees near to the entrance

Common Flameback *Dinopium javanense*

A single bird in Taman Negara resort on the first afternoon was one of the first woodpeckers seen. It took until the last day to see more of this species, when 6 were at Kuala Selangor, mostly in the mangroves area



Greater Flameback *Chrysocolaptes lucidus*

Searching through the Common Flamebacks unearthed a pair of their Greater cousins, in a pair at the junction of the mangrove boardwalk and the path adjacent to the mangroves

Orange-backed Woodpecker *Reinwardtipicus validus*

A single female was along the Jenut Muda trail in Taman Negara. As with many of the other woodpecker sightings, it was initially picked up with its tapping, but we were lucky enough to see it reasonably well through the thick foliage

Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*

A single bird was alongside the Bumbun Tabing path at Taman Negara. It was while watching this bird that we came across a pair of Green Broadbills

Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus*

While sitting on the terrace of The Gap Resthouse one evening, a trio of these landed in a tree on the opposite side of the road, and one of the 3 stayed put for good scope views

Black-and-red Broadbill *Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos*

The first bird seen was a little bit of a shock to the system, being larger than expected, and with a lump of a blue bill on its gleaming black and red plumage. It gave us a bit of a runaround - despite being able to locate its territory three days running, it had a habit of disappearing into the dense foliage. A pair on the tree in the clearing from the Bumbun Tahan hide gave much more prolonged poses

Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*

Another surprise, mainly with the difficulty in finding this startling bird in mind. We came across the pair along the Bumbun Tabing trail while watching a Buff-necked Woodpecker, and they were a lot more obliging than the Black-and-red Broadbill holding territory a little further along the trail



Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

Quite common in the lowlands, although they seemed absent around Fraser's Hill

Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*

Much more common than Barn Swallow throughout, the only day they weren't identified was the full day at Taman Negara when we were mainly in the forests



Striated Swallow *Cecropis striolata badia*

The half a dozen birds we saw were at first thought to be a variant of Red-rumped Swallow, but the deep rufous underparts identified them as the Peninsular Malaysia race

Javan Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina javensis*

The only site for these was at the Jelai Hotel on Fraser's Hill. A single bird was present on all three morning visits, happily gorging itself on large green cicada type insects. A further group of 4 flew over on the second morning



Lesser Cuckoo-shrike *Coracina fimbriata*

A single individual was in the bird wave along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon

Pied Triller *Lalage nigra*

Only present at Kuala Selangor, where 3 adults and a juvenile (all separate individuals) were in the mangroves

Fiery Minivet *Pericrocotus igneus*

A male and 3 females were together along the Old Road from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon, and a pair were along the Telekom Loop

Scarlet Minivet

Pericrocotus flammeus

2 males and a female were together along the Old Road from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon

Ashy Minivet

Pericrocotus divaricatus

5 birds were at Taman Negara on the first afternoon, with a group of 4 and another lone individual at Kuala Selangor, the group from the tower hide, and the single singing early morning next to the grassy foopath



Grey-chinned Minivet

Pericrocotus solaris

A group of 4 were along the Old Road

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike

Hemipus picatus

6 were in the mixed bird wave on the first afternoon along the Old Road: 2 along the New Road; 2 on the second visit along the Old Road; 2 at the Fraser's Hill rubbish tip

Straw-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus zeylanicus

This species is now struggling worldwide, and is one of those which is more impressive in real life than in the books. Apparently, Taman Negara is one of the more reliable places to see the species these days, but it was still a welcome surprise when a pair appeared for a short time within the resort grounds

Black-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus atriceps

As opposed to the above species, this smart yellow and black bulbul is numerous around the Taman Negara area, with ~50 birds seen on any one of the three days spent there



Black-crested Bulbul

Pycnonotus melanicterus

This is almost the highland equivalent of the Black-headed Bulbul, being very similar in all but the black crest. It was very common around The Gap Resthouse and the slopes below Fraser's Hill (although not seen on Fraser's Hill itself), with ~12 at the former site, and many along the New Road

Stripe-throated Bulbul

Pycnonotus finlaysoni

The stronghold of this species seemed to be the lowlands around Taman Negara, where ~20 were seen on the third day, with lower numbers on the first two days. However, 2 were also seen along the New Road below Fraser's Hill



Yellow-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus goiavier

Another lowland species (apparently), with ~50 seen on the third day at Taman Negara. They seem almost as common and obvious as Black-headed Bulbul here. Similar numbers were also seen at Kuala Selangor

Olive-winged Bulbul

Pycnonotus plumosus

~15 were around Taman Negara resort on the second day there

Spectacled Bulbul

Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos

A single bird appeared for a brief time in the forest edge adjacent to the camp site at Taman Negara

Ochraceous Bulbul

Alophoixus ochraceus

This is a noisy yet reasonably elusive bird, seen both at the Fraser's Hill area (7&10 up the Old Road, 6 down the New Road) and Taman Negara (~6 near to the camp site)



Hairy-backed Bulbul

Tricholestes criniger

2 of these birds, showing the characteristic face markings, were at the camp site of Taman Negara

Streaked Bulbul

Ixos malaccensis

5 birds were seen on the central tree from the Bumbun Tahan hide

Ashy Bulbul

Hemixos flavala

The local race of these birds threw us at first, but the black face proved the vital clue to the identity. 2 were amongst the bird wave along the Old Road in the rain on the first day along the Old Road, with another 2 along the Bishop's Trail

Mountain Bulbul

Ixos mcclllandii

2 were feeding for some time in the canopy of a single tree along the Bishop's Trail

Greater Green Leafbird

Chloropsis sonnerati

1 in the bird wave along the Old Road on the first afternoon

Blue-winged Leafbird

Chloropsis cochinchinensis

2 along the Old Road on the first afternoon; 4 and 3 on successive days at Taman Negara resort area



Orange-bellied Leafbird

Chloropsis hardwickii

This species was very obvious around Fraser's Hill, often being very confiding. Best spot for good views was at the Jelai Hotel, where both males and females fed almost at arms length: Jelai Hotel (5, 6, 4); New Road (2); Old Road (2); Bishop's Trail (2); Fraser's Hill rubbish tip (2)



Common Iora

Aegithina tiphia

The birds in Peninsular Malaysia are of the black-capped race. 3 males and a female were at Kuala Selangor

Malayan Whistling-Thrush

Myophonus robinsoni

For many birders, this is one of the top target birds of the area, due to its scarcity and also shy and retiring habits. It seems to be best seen either early morning or late evening, often on a flypast next to a stream. We were lucky to see a bird perched for a short time at the waterfall of Fraser's Hill, fanning its tail before moving on

Lesser Shortwing

Brachypteryx leucophrys

Perhaps even more difficult to pin down than the above species, any report containing these usually only mentions call heard only. Our good fortune continued when a helpful pair of Belgian birders showed us the location for an adult they had found feeding a young bird along the Hemmant's Trail, and after a half hour vigil, the adult duly reappeared for its waiting audience

Hill Prinia

Prinia atrogularis

2 separate skulking birds were seen along the New Road below Fraser's Hill

Yellow-bellied Prinia

Prinia flaviventris

A single singing bird was next to the grassy path at Kuala Selangor

Common Tailorbird

Orthotomus sutorius

Old Road (3, 1); Telekom Loop (likely to be this species, but Mountain Tailorbird can't be ruled out); Kuala Selangor (1)

Dark-necked Tailorbird

Orthotomus atrogularis

A single female was in a low bush next to the chalets at Taman Negara resort

Ashy Tailorbird

Orthotomus ruficeps

Very common around Kuala Selangor, both visually and in song, with ~30 birds seen

Arctic Warbler

Phylloscopus borealis

2 at Taman Negara, 1 on the Old Road above The Gap Resthouse, and 1 at the Jelai Hotel

Chestnut-crowned Warbler

Seicercus castaniceps

2 together at the Jelai Hotel; 1 along the Hemmant's Trail

Siberian Flycatcher

Muscicapa sibirica

A very obliging bird was perched on the top of a bare tree in a gully along the Old Road. This species was known as Dark-sided Flycatcher

Asian Brown Flycatcher

Muscicapa dauurica

Seen every day in small numbers, and in all habitats. 1-2 were seen on almost every day, apart from 2 along the Telekom Loop and 2 later along the Hemmant's Trail



Mugimaki Flycatcher

Ficedula mugimaki

A stunning male was very close to in the car park of the Jelai Hotel on the first morning there. We subsequently saw separate individual male and female along the Telekom Loop, a male along the Hemmant's Trail, a male down the New Road from Fraser's Hill, and another male along the Bishop's Trail



Rufous-browed Flycatcher

Ficedula solitaria

This is another of those birds which looks so much better in the flesh than in the guide books. They are reputed to be quite a shy and retiring bird, but we were treated to some good views of the 4 seen. The first was in excellent light in an open wooded gully along the Telekom Loop, with a second bird the same afternoon along the Hemmant's Trail. Best views were of a second Bishop's Trail bird, which looked to be feeding young next to the trail

Rufous-chested Flycatcher

Ficedula dumetoria

A single male was seen early on at Kuala Selangor

Little Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula westermanni

These dapper little Flycatchers can be quite confiding, as demonstrated by the one we saw in the same bush as the first Mugimaki Flycatcher outside of the Jelai Hotel, but on the following morning. Other birds were lone individuals along the along the Telekom Loop (2) and Hemmant's Trail (2)



Verditer Flycatcher

Eumyias thalassina

As with some of the other Flycatchers (eg Little Pied & Rufous-browed), these were only seen in the highlands around Fraser's Hill, as well as 3 separate birds along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse: Jelai Hotel (male and female on each morning visit); 2 separate birds along the New Road

Large Niltava

Niltava grandis

In good light the blue males are stunning, although most of the sightings were in the cover of the forest: Hemmant's Trail (pair and separate male); New Road (male); Hemmant's Trail 2nd visit (male)



Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis tickelliae

A single male was feeding at the swimming area of the river along the Bumbun Tabing trail at Taman Negara

Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis rufigaster

A male was heard singing along the mangrove boardwalk of Kuala Selangor, before being eventually sighted quite close to where we were standing

Grey-headed Canary-flycatcher

Culicicapa ceylonensis

2 were in the bird wave along the Jenut Muda trail, 1 was along the Telekom Loop at Fraser's Hill, and 1 was down the Old Road

Oriental Magpie-Robin

Copsychus saularis

A very common sight in all habitats throughout, with between 4-12 birds being seen on any particular day. The race here is the white-bellied form, as opposed to the black-bellied form found on Borneo



Slaty-backed Forktail

Enicurus schistaceus

This was one of the birds we wanted to see, both due to its looks and also the difficulty in seeing them. Forktails tend to be very shy, hiding along river courses whenever they can. We were thus both surprised and pleased to find a pair showing well at the Fraser's Hill

waterfall. We were even more surprised to find a different third bird first thing the next morning below the first stream bridge reached while descending the New Road

White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*

1 briefly along the Bumbun Tabing trail at Taman Negara on the second day there

White-throated Fantail *Rhipidura albicollis*

The higher elevation fantail. A very close bird at the Jelai Hotel was followed by 3 along the Telekom Loop, and 1 the same day along the Hemmant's Trail. On the second walk along the Hemmant's Trail, a further 2 were seen



Pied Fantail *Rhipidura javanica*

The mangrove fantail. 4 were seen from the mangrove boardwalk at Kuala Selangor

Spotted Fantail *Rhipidura perlata*

The lowland forest fantail. 4 were found in the forest trails of Taman Negara

Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*

Only seen at Taman Negara, where one was seen on the full day there, and 7 on the last morning

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher *Terpsiphone paradisi*

Only 2 seen, in the bird wave along the Jenut Muda trail

Black Laughingthrush *Garrulax lugubris*

4 birds were seen on the second full day at Fraser's Hill; 1 briefly along the New Road while watching the Banded Woodpecker; a pair followed a single male along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse on the last morning in the area

Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush *Garrulax mitratus*

Very common and vocal around Fraser's Hill, where there were at least 20 on any day



Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush *Garrulax erythrocephalus*

Much less common and brash than the above species, apart from a trio feeding at the Jelai Hotel. Away from here, only one was seen, along the Bishop's Trail

Ferruginous Babbler *Trichastoma bicolor*

A pair was in the undergrowth along the Jenut Muda trail

Abbott's Babbler *Malacocincla abbotti*

One of the nightmares of the area - very similar to Horsfield's Babbler, the 6 individuals seen were in view for some time (eventually) and a combination of concolourous back and unmarked breast helped with identification: swimming area of Bumbun Tabing trail at Taman Negara (2,1); beginning of Bukit Tereseck trail (1); Kuala Selangor (2)



Marbled Wren-Babbler *Napothera marmorata*

The wren-babblers have an appeal of their own, mainly due to their subtle and well marked colours and their secretive nature. This species typifies these, and is one of the hard to see residents of the Fraser's Hill area. We were lucky to sit out the calls of 3 birds along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon. The birds were

frequenting a densely foliated gully next to the road, and it took some time to see them in the depths of the understorey

Rufous-fronted Babbler *Stachyris rufifrons*

Quite common at Taman Negara. With ~12 on the first day (most easily seen around the camp site), and 2 & 3 on subsequent days

Golden Babbler *Stachyris chrysaea*

Occasional at Fraser's Hill: Jelai Hotel (1, 1); Telekom Loop (2); Hemmant's Trail (1, 1)

Grey-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigriceps*

3 were in an active feeding group at the Jelai Hotel, with a pair of birds along the Hemmant's Trail

Striped Tit-Babbler *Macronous gularis*

A pair were at Kuala Selangor

Silver-eared Mesia *Leiothrix argenteauris*

Common at Fraser's Hill, and very easily seen, both at the Jelai Hotel (~8 each morning), and along the Telekom Loop (~8)



White-browed Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius flaviscapis*

1 was in a mixed bird wave along the Telekom Loop

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler *Pteruthius melanotis*

One of this species was seen immediately after the above, this a poorly marked individual. Much brighter birds were subsequently seen along the Hemmant's Trail (2)

Blue-winged Minla *Minla cyanouroptera*

Most of the birds seen were at the Jelai Hotel, where they were feeding very actively. Up to 5 were seen on any one morning, with an additional 2 birds seen at the mosque car park before walking the Hemmant's Trail



Brown Fulvetta *Alcippe brunneicauda*

Only one pair seen, and we had to strain our necks to see them, since they were directly above us shortly after starting the walk along the Bukit Teresek trail

Mountain Fulvetta *Alcippe peracensis*

This species was very common around the highlands of Fraser's Hill. A few were present on each morning at the Jelai Hotel, but many more were seen around the resort, particularly when walking the trails, with at least 25 seen on any one day



Long-tailed Sibia *Heterophasia picaoides*

Another very common and seemingly omnipresent species around Fraser's Hill. A small and noisy group were at the Jelai Hotel each morning, and more were seen around the resort in general, with ~20 on any one day

White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*

Old Road above The Gap Resthouse (2, 1); Jenut Muda trail at Taman Negara (2); Hemmant's Trail (1)

Golden-bellied Gerygone*Gerygone sulphurea*

Surprisingly, only one of these drab and uncharacteristic birds was seen at Kuala Selangor, and this was also one of the first birds seen on the visit to the reserve

Great Tit*Parus major*

3 rather grey birds of the local race at Kuala Selangor

Sultan Tit*Melanochlora sultanea*

As opposed to the grey Great Tit of the region, the Sultant Tit is large and bright, making it rather a spectacular sight. They were also seen regularly in small numbers: Old Road above The Gap Resthouse (2); Jelai Hotel (2 on each morning); Telekom Loop (1); New Road down from Fraser's Hill (1); Bishop's Trail (2); Fraser's Hill rubbish Tip (1)

**Blue Nuthatch***Sitta azurea*

If we were pushed, we would admit that this was one of the birds we really wanted to see during the visit. However, we gathered that they were quite difficult to see, since they prefer to keep to the closed forest, and are usually stumbled upon in a bird wave. The first of our two birds almost fitted these particulars, being seen only briefly along the Bishop's Trail, although not in a bird wave. The second rewrote expectations, landing twice on a bare tree in the open on the periphery of Fraser's Hill rubbish tip

Ruby-cheeked Sunbird*Chalcoparia singalensis*

Separate male and female individuals at Kuala Selangor

Plain-throated Sunbird*Anthreptes malacensis*

2 separate males at Kuala Selangor

Olive-backed Sunbird*Cinnyris jugularis*

2 separate males at Kuala Selangor

Black-throated Sunbird*Aethopyga saturata*

Seen quite regularly at Fraser's Hill: Jelai Hotel (1); Telekom Loop (2); Old Road (1); Bishop's Trail (4). All records refer to males, since a few female sunbirds were seen at Fraser's Hill, and apparently only this species occurs there, but we could not confirm their identity

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

2 birds seen on separate days at Taman Negara, around the resort area

Little Spiderhunter*Arachnothera longirostra*

Only one seen, in a tree at Taman Negara resort. This bird occupied the same branch for some time, picked up easily since it was calling at first

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

2 seen at Taman Negara resort

Streaked Spiderhunter*Arachnothera magna*

The only spiderhunter to occur at Fraser's Hill, this species was seen regularly. They are very vocal, including in flight, and confiding when perched / feeding: Jelai Hotel (up to 4



each morning); Telekom Loop (1); Hemmant's Trail (1); Old Road (2, 1); Fraser's Hill rubbish tip (1); Bishop's Trail (1)

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*

Only one seen - a very obliging male directly above us in the same tree as the more or less static Little Spiderhunter

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker *Dicaeum ignipectus*

This is apparently the only flowerpecker to be found in the higher altitudes of Fraser's Hill, and the good views we had of a male visiting the Jelai Hotel on two successive days left little doubt as to its identity

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker *Dicaeum cruentatum*

A single male was watched feeding for some time in the same flowering tree at Kuala Selangor



Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti*

All the birds seen seemed to be of this species, although the race of Oriental in the lowlands has less yellow above the bill, and so has to be seen extremely well or heard for separation: Telekom Loop at Fraser's Hill (3); Jelai Hotel (2); Kuala Selangor (6)

Black-naped Oriole *Oriolus chinensis*

Very common and vocal at the lower altitudes: Taman Negara, mainly in the resort area (1, 8, 2); Kuala Selangor (12)

Black-and-crimson Oriole *Oriolus cruentus*

Only seen at the Jelai Hotel on all three early morning visits. The single and elusive bird on the first day was joined by a second on the subsequent days, when they became much more obliging and vocal



Asian Fairy-bluebird *Irena puella*

This species was only seen at Taman Negara, particularly from the Bumbun Tahan hide, where they were present in some numbers, with up to 6 males being seen in the lone tree at any one time. Only one pair was seen on the first day, with ~10 males and 6 females on the second, with another 7 males on the third day

Tiger Shrike *Lanius tigrinus*

Perhaps a little bit of a surprise, this skulking shrike was the reward for not prolonging our visit to the rice fields on the last day, and deciding to return to Kuala Selangor instead. It occupied low bushes next to the loop and adjacent to the drain



Brown Shrike *Lanius cristatus*

The first bird was along Lady Maxwell Drive at Fraser's Hill after completing the Bishop's Trail. 5 were around the small rice fields on the last day, all on telegraph wires

Large Woodshrike *Tephrodornis gularis*

6 were in the mixed wave of birds along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon. A single bird was seen there on the second visit later in the week, and another was along the trails at Taman Negara

Black Drongo *Dicrurus macrocerus*

There can be some confusion in the region with Ashy Drongo, where the race is darker than those encountered in India. Not all are said to show the distinctive loreal spot: presumed up to 10 along the Old Road from The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon; 4 at Taman Negara; 2 at Kuala Selangor

Bronzed Drongo *Dicrurus aeneus*

A more delicate and shiny plumaged bird than Black Drongo, this species was seen at higher altitudes, with most at Fraser's Hill (12 along the New Road, 1 and 2 along the Old Road up from The Gap Resthouse)



Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus remifer*

Most of the birds seen had lost their rackets, with this species being more of a higher altitude bird than Greater: Jelai Hotel (2 on each morning); Telekom Loop (1); Hemmant's Trail (2); Bishop's Trail (4)



Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*

3 and then 2 birds were seen from the terrace of The Gap Resthouse; up to 6 birds seen on each day at Taman Negara

White-breasted Woodswallow *Artamus leucorhynchus*

Only seen at the small rice fields, where they are a relatively recent colonist. ~12 birds were seen here, either perched on telegraph wires, or in flight



Green Magpie *Cissa chinensis*

A single bird was a regular visitor each morning to the Jelai Hotel, usually staying only for brief periods

House Crow *Corvus splendens*

Common in the lowlands, most often seen from the car en route

Slender-billed Crow *Corvus enca*

~5 were at Kuala Selangor

Large-billed Crow *Corvus macrorhynchus*

4 along the New Road down from Fraser's Hill; 2 over Fraser's Hill. Many more crows were seen throughout the week, but not specifically identified

Asian Glossy Starling *Aplonis panayensis*

~40 around Taman Negara; 1 at Kuala Selangor

Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*

1 on the first day's journey before arriving at The Gap Resthouse; 1, 4 at Taman Negara, usually from the Bumbun Tahan hide; 1 at Kuala Selangor

Javan Myna *Acridotheres javanicus*

At least 15 were at Kuala Selangor



Jungle Myna *Acridotheres fuscus*

Quite common around Taman Negara (15+)

Common Myna *Acridotheres tristis*

Probably common but not specifically identified while driving, only 2 were pinned down at Taman Negara, but they were very common around Kuala Selangor



Daurian Starling *Sturnia sturnina*

At least 20 were seen on the full day at Taman Negara, in 2 good sized groups perched at the top of bare trees from the resort

Eurasian Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*

Mainly seen en route, they were common around Jerantut

Baya Weaver *Ploceus philippinus*

5 non breeding birds were at the small rice fields

Nutmeg Mannikin *Lonchura punctulata*

4 in a group at the small rice fields

White-bellied Munia *Lonchura leucogastra*

8 flew over us and landed on a tree while descending the Old Road on the return to The Gap Resthouse on the first afternoon

TOTAL SPECIES = 189