

Birding at Panti Forest Reserve (June 8-10, 2009)

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Trip Objectives

This trip was a precursor to an extended three week birding tour in Borneo for Stephen Eccles and Robert Hindle. Stephen had birded with me at Panti in September 2003 but missed some of the birds then as the breeding season was over. For Robert, this was his first birding experience in Sundaic lowland rainforest.

Weather

The weather for birding was excellent being fair or cloudy though slightly humid. It did threaten to rain on the afternoon of our second day but the thunderstorm rolled elsewhere.

Itinerary

8 June: Arrived at Terminal 3 at 06h20. Picked up Stephen and Robert at 07h45 and headed straight for Malaysia. Due to heavy traffic, we only arrived in the Bunker Track, Panti at 10h15, after a short roti canai stopover. Birded till 13h00, then retired to Kota Tinggi for lunch. Checked in Hotel Seri Kota and dumped our luggage. Headed back to Panti at 15h00 and birded till 18h00. Dinner at 19h00 and retired at 20h30.

9 June: Woke up at 05h00. Met clients at 05h30 and headed for Bunker after a quick breakfast in the market. Reached Bunker at 06h30 and birded till 12h00. Lunch at KT from 12h30 to 13h30. Rested till 15h30 then headed back to Bunker. Birded till 20h00. Late dinner at KT. Retired at 22h00.

10 June: Woke up at 05h00. Met clients at 06h00 and breakfast at canai shop. Birded from 07h00 till 11h30 then headed back to KT to check out and have lunch. Headed back to Singapore at 14h00, reaching Garden Hotel at 15h30. Birded a short while at SBG looking for Red-legged Crake but it didn't show. Ended tour at 17h30.

Birding Highlights

Overall, the weather was warm and humid but dry. Bird activity was about average although at times, downright depressing! We did not encounter any significant waves and

birded all the way to the second stream, due to the presence of the Malaysian army at the first stream throughout our stay.

Day One (8 June)

We arrived at the Bunker Track, Panti Forest Reserve at 10h15, after a short roti canai stopover. We spent time at the shrine area and birded till 13h00. Highlight was a stunning **Rufous-backed Kingfisher** perched close and a pair of **White-crowned Forktail** in addition to the usual crowd of bulbuls and babblers. We retired to Kota Tinggi (KT) for lunch. Checked in Hotel Seri Kota and dumped our luggage. Headed back to Panti at 15h00 and birded at the shrine and swamp till 18h00. Best bird of the afternoon was a **Grey-chested Jungle-flycatcher** near the shrine. We ended the day on 54 species. Dinner at 19h00 and retired at 20h30.

Day Two (9 June)

Woke up at 05h00. Met clients at 05h30 and headed for Bunker after a quick breakfast in the market. Reached Bunker at 06h30 and birded the swamp, shrine and then the second stream till 12h00. We bumped into a Johor bird photographer at the swamp and had some bird activity here. Once again, **Checker-throated Woodpeckers** were much in evidence but no sign of the much desired **Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon** or **Black-and-white Bulbul**. At the shrine, we heard at close **Rail Babbler** but the ground was inaccessible. However, we managed to pull in close views of **Chestnut-rumped**, **Black-throated**, **White-chested**, **Black-capped** and **Fluffy-backed Tit-babblers**. At the second stream, we heard a **Great Argus** calling close by. Excited by its persistent call, we spent over an hour getting to the display ground which we found after crossing a stream. Of course, the bird was nowhere to be seen. Lunch at KT from 12h30 to 13h30. Rested till 15h30 then headed back to Bunker, where we spent time around the second stream. The best bird here was a lone **Black Hornbill** and up to four **White-bellied Woodpeckers**. Birded till 20h00 waiting for nightjar and owls but none showed up. Late dinner at KT. Retired at 22h00. We ended the day on 76 species.

Day Three (10 June)

Woke up at 05h00. We birded from 07h00 till 11h30 focusing on the swamp, shrine and second stream. We bumped into Con Foley and friend just before the swamp and got views of both **Scarlet-rumped** and **Diard's Trogons** near the swamp. There was no sign of the **Rail Babbler** at the shrine so we headed back to the second stream where we heard again the **Great Argus** and saw nesting **Rufous Woodpeckers** and **Black-and-yellow Broadbills**. Just after 11h30 we returned to KT to check out and have lunch. We ended the morning on 66 species.

After lunch, we headed back to Singapore at 14h00 to avoid the nasty school holiday evening jam at the causeway, reaching Garden Hotel at 15h30. We also birded a short while at SBG looking for **Red-legged Crane** but it didn't show. Ended tour at 17h30.

Overall, we recorded 106 species of birds (including 19 heard only) and 7 species of mammals in two-and-a-half days of birding.

FULL SPECIES LIST

Note: An asterisk next to the species name indicates heard only.

Birds

Great Argus *Argusianus argus**
Rufous Woodpecker *Celeus brachyurus*
White-bellied Woodpecker *Dryocopus javensis*
Banded Woodpecker *Picus miniaceus*
Checker-throated Woodpecker *Picus mentalis*
Maroon Woodpecker *Blythipicus rubiginosus*
Buff-rumped Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tristis*
Buff-necked Woodpecker *Meiglyptes tukki*
Red-crowned Barbet *Megalaima rafflesii*
Red-throated Barbet *Megalaima mystacophanos**
Blue-eared Barbet *Megalaima australis**
Black Hornbill *Anthracoceros malayanus*
Diard's Trogon *Harpactes diardii*
Scarlet-rumped Trogon *Harpactes duvaucelii*
Oriental Dollarbird *Eurystomus orientalis*
Rufous-backed Kingfisher *Ceyx rufidorsa*
Banded Kingfisher *Lacedo pulchella**
Rufous-collared Kingfisher *Actenoides concretus**
Red-bearded Bee-eater *Nyctyornis amictus**
Blue-throated Bee-eater *Merops viridis*
Indian Cuckoo *Cuculus micropterus**
Banded Bay Cuckoo *Cacomantis sonneratii**
Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus**
Rusty-breasted Cuckoo *Cacomantis sepulcralis**
Violet Cuckoo *Chrysococcyx xanthorhynchus*
Chestnut-bellied Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus sumatranus*
Raffles's Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus chlorophaeus*
Chestnut-breasted Malkoha *Phaenicophaeus curvirostris*
Blue-rumped Parrot *Psittinus cyanurus**
Blue-crowned Hanging Parrot *Loriculus galgulus*
Long-tailed Parakeet *Psittacula longicauda*
Glossy Swiftlet *Collocalia esculenta*
Silver-rumped Spinetail *Rhaphidura leucopygialis*
House Swift *Apus nipalensis*
Whiskered Treeswift *Hemiprocne comata*
Common Emerald Dove *Chalcophaps indica*
Zebra Dove *Geopelia striata*
Little Green Pigeon *Treron olax*
Thick-billed Green Pigeon *Treron curvirostra*
Crested Serpent Eagle *Spilornis cheela**
Crested Goshawk *Accipiter trivirgatus*
Changeable Hawk-eagle *Spizaetus cirrhatus*
Dusky Broadbill *Corydon sumatranus*

Banded Broadbill *Eurylaimus javanicus**
Black-and-yellow Broadbill *Eurylaimus ochromalus*
Green Broadbill *Calyptomena viridis*
Golden-bellied Gerygone *Gerygone sulphurea*
Asian Fairy-Bluebird *Irena puella*
Greater Green Leafbird *Chloropsis sonnerati*
Lesser Green Leafbird *Chloropsis cyanopogon*
Blue-winged Leafbird *Chloropsis cochinchinensis*
Malaysian Rail-babbler *Eupetes macrocerus**
Crested Jay *Platylophus galericulatus**
Dark-throated Oriole *Oriolus xanthonotus*
Lesser Cuckooshrike *Coracina fimbriata*
Scarlet Minivet *Pericrocotus flammeus*
Black-winged Flycatcher-shrike *Hemipus hirundinaceus*
Greater Racket-tailed Drongo *Dicrurus paradiseus*
Black-naped Monarch *Hypothymis azurea*
Green Iora *Aegithina viridissima*
Rufous-winged Philentoma *Philentoma pyrhopterum*
Grey-chested Jungle-flycatcher *Rhinomyias umbratilis*
Oriental Magpie-robin *Copsychus saularis*
White-rumped Shama *Copsychus malabaricus*
White-crowned Forktail *Enicurus leschenaulti*
Common Hill Myna *Gracula religiosa*
Pacific Swallow *Hirundo tahitica*
Black-headed Bulbul *Pycnonotus atriceps*
Puff-backed Bulbul *Pycnonotus eutilotus*
Olive-winged Bulbul *Pycnonotus plumosus*
Cream-vented Bulbul *Pycnonotus simplex*
Red-eyed Bulbul *Pycnonotus brunneus*
Spectacled Bulbul *Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos*
Yellow-bellied Bulbul *Alophoixus phaeocephalus*
Hairy-backed Bulbul *Tricholestes criniger*
Buff-vented Bulbul *Iole olivacea*
Streaked Bulbul *Ixos malaccensis*
Everett's White-eye *Zosterops everetti**
Dark-necked Tailorbird *Orthotomus atrogularis*
Rufous-tailed Tailorbird *Orthotomus sericeus*
White-chested Babbler *Trichastoma rostratum*
Short-tailed Babbler *Malacocincla malaccensis**
Black-capped Babbler *Pellorneum capistratum*
Moustached Babbler *Malacopteron magnirostre**
Sooty-capped Babbler *Malacopteron affine*
Rufous-crowned Babbler *Malacopteron magnum**
Black-throated Babbler *Stachyris nigricollis*
Chestnut-rumped Babbler *Stachyris maculata*
Chestnut-winged Babbler *Stachyris erythroptera*
Striped Tit-babbler *Macronous gularis*
Fluffy-backed Tit-babbler *Macronous ptilosus*
White-bellied Yuhina *Yuhina zantholeuca*
Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus maculatus*
Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker *Prionochilus percussus*
Orange-bellied Flowerpecker *Dicaeum trigonostigma*
Plain Flowerpecker *Dicaeum concolor*
Plain Sunbird *Anthreptes simplex*
Red-throated Sunbird *Anthreptes rhodolaema*
Ruby-cheeked Sunbird *Anthreptes singalensis*

Purple-naped Sunbird *Hyprogramma hypogrammicum*
Purple-throated Sunbird *Nectarinia sperata*
Little Spiderhunter *Arachnothera longirostra*
Thick-billed Spiderhunter *Arachnothera crassirostris*
Spectacled Spiderhunter *Arachnothera flavigaster*
Yellow-eared Spiderhunter *Arachnothera chrysogenys*
Grey-breasted Spiderhunter *Arachnothera affinis*

Mammals

Dusky Leaf-monkey *Presbytis obscura*
Long-tailed Macaque *Macaca fascicularis*
Pig-tailed Macaque *Macaca nemestrina*
White-handed Gibbon *Hylobates lar**
Black-banded Squirrel *Callosciurus nigrovittatus*
Slender Squirrel *Sundasciurus tenuis*
Cream-coloured Giant Squirrel *Ratufa affinis*

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