

Birds of the Forests of Peninsular Malaysia: A photographic guide

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Contents

Foreword	9
Preface	11
Acknowledgements	12
Introduction	13
Why only forest birds? 13, Lowland forests 14, Montane forests 15, Mangrove forests 15, Conservation and ecology 16, Migration 18, Breeding 19, When to go birding 20, Equipment 20, Submitting bird records 21, Bird watching or bird photography? 21, Birding ethics 21, Department of Wildlife and National Parks (PERHILITAN) contact information 22, How to use this book 22, Abbreviations and Symbols 26, Glossary 27, IUCN status 28, Places mentioned in the book 28, Referencing 32, Bird Plumage 34, Map of Birding Sites in Peninsular Malaysia 35	
Birds of the Lowland Forests	36
Bird names are given after the Family names following the taxonomic sequence of the Malaysian Nature Society's <i>A Checklist of the Birds of Malaysia (2016)</i> , updated by the eBird website of Cornell University's Department of Ornithology.	
<i>Phasianidae</i>	37
Chestnut-necklaced Partridge 37, Red Junglefowl 38, Crested Fireback 39, Malayan Peacock-Pheasant 41, Great Argus 43	

<i>Ardeidae</i>	45
Black Bittern	
<i>Accipitridae</i>	46
Crested Serpent-Eagle 46, Blyth's Hawk-Eagle 47, Wallace's Hawk-Eagle 49, Crested Goshawk 50, White-bellied Sea-Eagle 52	
<i>Falconidae</i>	53
Black-thighed Falconet	
<i>Columbidae</i>	54
Asian Emerald Dove 54, Little Green-Pigeon 55, Cinnamon-headed Pigeon 56, Thick-billed Pigeon 57, Jambu Fruit-Dove 58, Green Imperial-Pigeon 59, Pied Imperial-Pigeon 60	
<i>Cuculidae</i>	61
Chestnut-winged Cuckoo 61, Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo 62, Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo 63, Indian Cuckoo 64, Banded Bay Cuckoo 65, Plaintive Cuckoo 66, Brush Cuckoo 67, Little Bronze-Cuckoo 68, Violet Cuckoo 69, Drongo-Cuckoo (Square-tailed and Fork-tailed) 70, Chestnut-bellied Malkoha 71, Green-billed Malkoha 72, Raffles's Malkoha 73, Red-billed Malkoha 74, Chestnut-breasted Malkoha 75, Short-toed Coucal 76, Greater Coucal 77	
<i>Strigidae</i>	78
Sunda Scops-Owl 78, Barred Eagle-Owl 79, Buffy Fish-Owl 80, Spotted Wood-Owl 81, Brown Boobook 82	
<i>Podargidae</i>	83

Large Frogmouth 83, Gould's Frogmouth 84, Blyth's Frogmouth 85		winged Woodpecker 116, Checker-throated Woodpecker 117, Olive-backed Woodpecker 118, Buff-necked Woodpecker 119, Orange-backed Woodpecker 120, Grey-and-buff Woodpecker 121, Great Slaty Woodpecker 122	
<i>Caprimulgidae</i>	86		
Grey Nightjar 86, Large-tailed Nightjar 87			
<i>Hemiprocnidae</i>	88	<i>Psittacidae</i>	123
Whiskered Treeswift		Blue-rumped Parrot 123, Long-tailed Parakeet 124, Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot 125	
<i>Trogonidae</i>	89	<i>Calyptomenidae</i>	126
Red-naped Trogon 89, Diard's Trogon 90, Scarlet-rumped Trogon 91		Green Broadbill	
<i>Alcedinidae</i>	92	<i>Eurylaimidae</i>	127
Blue-eared Kingfisher 92, Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher (Rufous-backed and Black-backed) 93, Banded Kingfisher 95, Rufous-collared Kingfisher 96		Black-and-red Broadbill 127, Banded Broadbill 128, Black-and-yellow Broadbill 129, Dusky Broadbill 130	
<i>Meropidae</i>	97	<i>Pittidae</i>	131
Blue-throated Bee-eater 97, Red-bearded Bee-eater 98, Blue-tailed Bee-eater 99, Chestnut-headed Bee-eater 100		Garnet Pitta 131, Giant Pitta 132, Malayan Banded-Pitta 133, Blue-winged Pitta 134, Hooded Pitta 135	
<i>Bucerotidae</i>	101	<i>Vangidae</i>	136
Oriental Pied-Hornbill 101, Black Hornbill 103, Rhinoceros Hornbill 104, Great Hornbill 105, Bushy-crested Hornbill 106, Wreathed Hornbill 107		Large Woodshrike 136, Rufous-winged Philentoma 137	
<i>Megalaimidae</i>	108	<i>Aegithinidae</i>	139
Sooty Barbet 108, Blue-eared Barbet 109, Red-crowned Barbet 110, Red-throated Barbet 111, Yellow-crowned Barbet 112, Gold-whiskered Barbet 113		Common Iora 139, Green Iora 140, Great Iora 141	
<i>Picidae</i>	114	<i>Acanthizidae</i>	141
Rufous Piculet 114, Banded Woodpecker 115, Crimson-		Golden-bellied Gerygone	
		<i>Campephagidae</i>	142
		Lesser Cuckooshrike	
		<i>Laniidae</i>	143
		Tiger Shrike 143, Brown Shrike 144	

<i>Oriolidae</i>	145	Finsch's Bulbul 171, Grey-cheeked Bulbul 171, Yellow-bellied Bulbul 172, Buff-vented Bulbul 173, Ashy Bulbul 174, Streaked Bulbul 175	
Dark-throated Oriole			
<i>Dicruridae</i>	146		
Crow-billed Drongo 146, Greater Racket-tailed Drongo 147			
<i>Rhipiduridae</i>	148		
Spotted Fantail			
<i>Monarchidae</i>	149		
Black-naped Monarch 149, Japanese Paradise- Flycatcher 150, Asian Paradise-Flycatcher (Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher and Amur Paradise- Flycatcher) 151			
<i>Corvidae</i>	153		
Black Magpie 153, Large-billed Crow 154			
<i>Eupetidae</i>	155		
Malaysian Rail-babbler			
<i>Hirundinidae</i>	155		
Barn Swallow 156, Pacific Swallow 157			
<i>Sittidae</i>	158		
Velvet-fronted Nuthatch			
<i>Pycnonotidae</i>	159		
Puff-backed Bulbul 159, Black-headed Bulbul 160, Straw-headed Bulbul 161, Black-crested Bulbul 162, Scaly-breasted Bulbul 163, Grey-bellied Bulbul 164, Stripe-throated Bulbul 165, Olive-winged Bulbul 166, Cream-vented Bulbul 167, Red-eyed Bulbul 168, Spectacled Bulbul 169, Hairy-backed Bulbul 170,			
		<i>Cisticolidae</i>	176
		Dark-necked Tailorbird 176, Rufescent Prinia 177	
		<i>Zosteropidae</i>	178
		Oriental White-eye 178, Everett's White-eye 179	
		<i>Timalidae</i>	180
		Pin-striped Tit-Babbler 180, Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler 181, Chestnut-winged Babbler 182, Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler 183, Black-throated Babbler 184, Chestnut-rumped Babbler 185	
		<i>Pellorneidae</i>	186
		Moustached Babbler 186, Sooty-capped Babbler 187, Scaly-crowned Babbler 188, Rufous-crowned Babbler 189, Puff-throated Babbler 190, Black-capped Babbler 191, Short-tailed Babbler 192, Ferruginous Babbler 193, Abbott's Babbler 194, Large Wren-Babbler 195	
		<i>Irenidae</i>	196
		Asian Fairy-bluebird	
		<i>Stenostiridae</i>	197
		Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher	
		<i>Muscicapidae</i>	198
		Asian Brown Flycatcher 198, Brown-streaked Flycatcher 199, Ferruginous Flycatcher 200, Hill Blue- Flycatcher 201, Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher 202, Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher 203, Rufous-chested Flycatcher 204,	

	Korean Flycatcher 205, Green-backed Flycatcher 206, Rufous-tailed Shama 207, White-rumped Shama 208, Blue Whistling-Thrush 210, Chestnut-naped Forktail 211, Blue Rock-Thrush 212		
<i>Turdidae</i>	Orange-headed Thrush	213	
<i>Sturnidae</i>	Asian Glossy Starling 214, Common Hill Myna 215	214	
<i>Chloropseidae</i>	Greater Green Leafbird 216, Lesser Green Leafbird 217, Blue-winged Leafbird 218	216	
<i>Dicaeidae</i>	Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker 219, Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker 220, Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker 221, Orange-bellied Flowerpecker 222, Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker 223	219	
<i>Nectariniidae</i>	Ruby-cheeked Sunbird 224, Van Hasselt's Sunbird 225, Temminck's Sunbird 226, Crimson Sunbird 227, Purple-naped Spiderhunter 228, Little Spiderhunter 229, Spectacled Spiderhunter 230, Grey-breasted Spiderhunter 231	224	
<i>Estrildidae</i>	Pin-tailed Parrotfinch	232	
Birds of the Montane Forests		233	
<i>Phasianidae</i>	Grey-breasted Partridge 234, Ferruginous Partridge 235, Mountain Peacock-Pheasant 236	234	
	<i>Columbidae</i>		238
	Little Cuckoo-Dove 238, Yellow-vented Pigeon 239, Wedge-tailed Pigeon 240, Mountain Imperial-Pigeon 241		
	<i>Cuculidae</i>		242
	Dark Hawk-Cuckoo 242, Sunda Cuckoo 243		
	<i>Strigidae</i>		244
	Collared Owlet 244, Brown Wood-Owl 245		
	<i>Trogonidae</i>		246
	Red-headed Trogon 246, Orange-breasted Trogon 247		
	<i>Megalaimidae</i>		248
	Fire-tufted Barbet 248, Golden-throated Barbet 249, Black-browed Barbet 250		
	<i>Picidae</i>		251
	Lesser Yellownape 251, Greater Yellownape 252		
	<i>Eurylaimidae</i>		253
	Long-tailed Broadbill 253, Silver-breasted Broadbill 254		
	<i>Pittidae</i>		255
	Rusty-naped Pitta		
	<i>Vangidae</i>		256
	Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike		
	<i>Campephagidae</i>		257
	Fiery Minivet 257, Grey-chinned Minivet 258, Scarlet Minivet 259, Large Cuckooshrike 260		

<i>Vireonidae</i>	261	<i>Timalidae</i>	277
Blyth's Shrike-Babbler 261, Black-eared Shrike-Babbler 262		Golden Babbler 277, Grey-throated Babbler 278	
<i>Oriolidae</i>	263	<i>Pellorneidae</i>	279
Black-and-crimson Oriole		Buff-breasted Babbler 279, Streaked Wren-Babbler 280, Rufous-winged Fulvetta 281	
<i>Dicruridae</i>	264	<i>Leiothrichidae</i>	282
Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo		Mountain Fulvetta 282, Himalayan Cutia 283, Black Laughingthrush 284, Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush 285, Malayan Laughingthrush 286, Long-tailed Sibia 287, Silver-eared Mesia 288, Blue-winged Minla 289, Chestnut-tailed Minla 290	
<i>Rhipiduridae</i>	265	<i>Muscicapidae</i>	291
White-throated Fantail		Rufous-browed Flycatcher 291, Verditer Flycatcher 292, Little Pied Flycatcher 293, Mugimaki Flycatcher 294, Snowy-browed Flycatcher 296, Large Niltava 298, Lesser Shortwing 300, Siberian Blue Robin 300, Malayan Whistling-Thrush 302, Slaty-backed Forktail 303, White-tailed Robin 304, White-throated Rock-Thrush 305	
<i>Corvidae</i>	266	<i>Turdidae</i>	306
Common Green-Magpie		Siberian Thrush	
<i>Paridae</i>	267	<i>Chloropseidae</i>	307
Sultan Tit		Orange-bellied Leafbird	
<i>Sittidae</i>	268	<i>Dicaeidae</i>	308
Blue Nuthatch		Fire-breasted Flowerpecker	
<i>Pycnonotidae</i>	269	<i>Nectariniidae</i>	309
Ochraceous Bulbul 269, Mountain Bulbul 270		Black-throated Sunbird 309, Streaked Spiderhunter 310	
<i>Pnoepygidae</i>	271		
Pygmy Cupwing			
<i>Cettiidae</i>	272		
Mountain Tailorbird			
<i>Phylloscopidae</i>	273		
Yellow-browed Warbler 273, Mountain Warbler 274, Chestnut-crowned Warbler 275, Yellow-breasted Warbler 276			

Birds of the Mangrove Forests

<i>Ciconiidae</i>	311	<i>Pittidae</i>	336
Lesser Adjutant	312	Mangrove Pitta	
<i>Ardeidae</i>	313	<i>Oriolidae</i>	337
Grey Heron 313, Purple Heron 314, Little Egret 315, Chinese Pond-Heron 316, Striated Heron 317, Black- crowned Night-Heron 318		Black-naped Oriole	
<i>Accipitridae</i>	319	<i>Rhipiduridae</i>	338
Brahminy Kite		Malaysian Pied-Fantail	
<i>Rallidae</i>	320	<i>Paridae</i>	339
Slaty-breasted Rail		Cinereous Tit	
<i>Columbidae</i>	321	<i>Pycnonotidae</i>	340
Pink-necked Pigeon		Red-whiskered Bulbul 340, Yellow-vented Bulbul 341	
<i>Alcedinidae</i>	322	<i>Cisticolidae</i>	342
Common Kingfisher 322, Brown-winged Kingfisher 323, Stork-billed Kingfisher 324, Ruddy Kingfisher 325, White-throated Kingfisher 326, Black-capped Kingfisher 327, Collared Kingfisher 328		Ashy Tailorbird	
<i>Megalaimidae</i>	329	<i>Muscicapidae</i>	343
Coppersmith Barbet 329, Lineated Barbet 330		Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher	
<i>Picidae</i>	331	<i>Nectariniidae</i>	344
Sunda Woodpecker 331, Streak-breasted Woodpecker 332, Laced Woodpecker 333, Common Flameback 334, Greater Flameback 335		Plain-throated Sunbird 344, Olive-backed Sunbird 345, Copper-throated Sunbird 346	
		<i>Motacillidae</i>	347
		Eastern Yellow Wagtail 347, Grey Wagtail 348, White Wagtail 349, Forest Wagtail 349	
		References	350
		Index	352

Foreword

I probably should not be but still am caught up by how little time it took for birding as a hobby in Malaysia to expand out of the hands of a small, eccentric clutch mainly of expats into a top-flight outdoor pursuit recognised and accepted nationally. As author Rosli Omar implies in his Preface there could never have been a real break in its history, but in the late 1960s and early 70s those first Malaysians bold enough to have ventured forth wielding scopes and binoculars in public certainly started something. Over the few decades since, natural history discoveries, to say nothing of the length of the country's bird species list, have burgeoned as never before — proportionate to the growing numbers and skills of eyes and ears in the field, backed by the advent of modern-format identification guides and, of course, equipment advances. Just as in the early 1960s the first truly portable field tape-recorder opened a new world of bird-sound recognition, solving age-old forest puzzles virtually overnight, so modern-era birding, too, has had its revolution. Computerised of course, with a high point surely in the arrival of digital photography, its camera gear quickly pressed into field service by gadget-savvy Malaysians (among whom the pioneering of digiscopy is just one well-known story).

Digital photo images have long since become the normal currency of online communications between birdwatchers — and for those who happen to have been photographer first, birder second (Rosli touches on this distinction), the whole point anyway. Vicariously, everyone

shares the excitement of the photographer, with positive feedback into the community overall as there can hardly have been a more effective recruiting sergeant for birding. It follows as well that this flow of images from the field is a powerful part of the glue that holds the mildly interested versus fully dedicated ends of the birding spectrum together. Among those who vet and analyse information from the field on behalf of everyone else, there is yet more to be had: confirmation (or otherwise) of potentially tricky sight identifications and, provided it comes with a basic 'when' and 'where', an incidental but permanent record of potentially new natural history information. Here might turn up, for example, a nest or nestling plumage previously unknown to science (still plenty of those in Malaysia), an undescribed behaviour, identifiable prey captured or being processed, or fruits or nectar being taken, potentially nameable from an included view of the plant.

Taking all of that into account, as many will know, over the years a number of birdwatchers in Malaysia (as also in neighbouring countries) have put selections of their photographs into book form, published mainly locally and in some instances privately — but importantly where quality production still comes in at a just about acceptable buying price. Rosli Omar, birdwatcher of longstanding, under poignant personal circumstances, has returned full-time to that first love, now adds himself to this list. Dedicated wildlife observer, he is a purist, rejecting any shortcut to the capturing of the perfect image that might interfere with his subject's natural behaviour or wellbeing. His Introduction makes clear that he is also a conservationist, concerned not only with attracting and educating new birders to the fold but with spreading among them urgent concern over the fate of the bird communities that his book covers. In that connection, to my knowledge, this is the first publication of its kind in Malaysia devoted to the avifaunas of one particular set of habitats — the country's natural forests. Surely not before

time; there is no hiding from the risks still run by what remains of these communities, or from the storm of development that virtually within the lifetime of the Malaysian birding community itself has all but swept away one of the wonders of the biological world: plains-level Lowland forest. Unrivalled in grandeur, focus of regional species endemism, and richer per unit area at least in trees and birds than anywhere barring possibly parts of Amazonia, once gone this great reservoir of evolution cannot be put back. Behind his contribution, Rosli's message must surely at very least be that no new generation of Malaysian birders shall be allowed to grow up lulled into believing the landscapes and wildlife left to be inherited are in any sense 'normal'.

Enjoy the book; I look forward to seeing more from this author.

David Wells,

March 2018

Preface

In 2012 I was teaching at the University of Malaya, Department of Electrical Engineering. My declining eyesight lead me to concentrate on what I loved best, bird watching or birding. This involved walks in the forests which I found to be a calming influence, a oneness with nature, the forests and its creatures. It was a good feeling, and so here I ended my academic career and renewed my love affair with birds, forests and nature.

As I enjoyed my personal experiences birding I realised that it was vitally important to record Peninsular Malaysia's birds as they are becoming rarer or even worse, at some point may become extinct. This is especially true of our forest birds. Photography gives me a wonderful opportunity to record birds while studying them in their natural habitats. With my sizeable collection of birding photos, it was only natural to want to share them in a more permanent form, i.e., a book, to record their precarious situation and highlight the amazing diversity in our forests. This complements the fact that Malaysia is ranked 12 out of 17 mega-diverse countries in the world.

My secondary goal with this book is to share my love for birds and nature with the general public, nature enthusiasts, and especially schoolchildren through photography and bird study. Together we must conserve our birds and forests before it is too late.

My photographic method is to walk quietly in the forest with my camera handheld. Handholding as opposed to the use of a tripod allows

for fast-spotting photography, not much different from my former days of birding with binoculars only. Thus, it remains a pleasure to ramble through the forests as before. Given that the use of a tripod hampers mobility and flexibility, I typically will only use it when photographing in a fixed location. Because I see my photography as a record and study of birds behaving naturally in their environment I do not use playback birdcalls or lure-feeding. Playback calls and feeding have their problems and are incompatible with the study, appreciation, and love of birds. The photos I take are not only photographed in the wild, but also mostly from chance encounters.

In retrospect, I am glad I decided to make the leap from academia to bird and nature photography. Perhaps my only regret is not having made this shift earlier.

Rosli Omar
April 2018

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A group of photo contributors also helped make this book a reality: Uzair Abd Rahman, Long Roslee Ngah (or Pak Long, an Orang Asal nature photographer), Danaraj Maniam (who heard about my project and offered to share his photos), Jason Tan, Sabri Abdullah, and John Turner, a fellow photographer (and global warming expert) who accompanied me on my birding trips whenever he was in the country. I am especially grateful to Yong Ding Li, a Singaporean with strong ties to Malaysia, who apart from being a contributor himself, put me in touch with others who contributed generously: partners Cheng Heng Yee and Oon Hong (acknowledged as Aviancatspace Cheng), Francis Yap, (all three from Singapore), and Choy Wai Mun. Ding Li read my Introduction chapter even while busy with his PhD dissertation, making very astute comments. Also, he alerted me to the latest news in the birding world thus ensuring the book is up-to-date.

I am thankful to Rosla Mustakim for assisting me in locating a few species, especially the Scaly-breasted Bulbul and Ferruginous Flycatcher; Nelson Khor for showing me the Brown Boobook (previously Brown Hawk-Owl). Amar-Singh HSS was helpful in many ways, not least his postings in the Birding Malaysia e-forum, providing many

titbits of information about birds especially their behaviours. One of these postings gave me an idea how to photograph the Chestnut-naped Forktail that I found to be so skittish before. He contributed a number of photos too. Tou Jing Yi, also from Birding Malaysia e-forum, helped me identify a few birds including the Malayan Whistling-Thrush I photographed at the Hemmant Trail, Fraser's Hill that I first thought was a White-tailed Robin, a bird that I have seen there a few times before.

Pazil Abd Patah and Ahmad Khusaini of the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN) were very kind to check that the Malay bird names were officially correct.

My very special thanks to Mike HN Chong for reviewing the various initial drafts with his comments, critiques and suggestions. His experience in the field significantly improved this book. Thanks also to tan beng hui, David Phillips and Leela Panikkar for reviewing and editing the draft.

For my early interest in the environment, which in a way led to my interest in bird watching and nature in general, I must thank Jomo Kwame Sundaram for introducing me to the State of the World book series. He also helped to ensure the successful publication of this book.

Last but certainly not least, I am grateful to David R. Wells, the doyen of Peninsular Malaysia birds, for his kindness in writing the Foreword.

Introduction

Why only forest birds?

This book focuses specifically on forest birds. There are no garden, shore, or open country birds. This is intentional because my aim is to create awareness about the conservation of forest birds as they are the most endangered with their fast disappearing habitat, the forests. Conserving forest birds also means conserving the forests and all their living creatures. The integrity of our forests and their biodiversity are essential for human survival.

The photos presented here will show how beautiful our forest birds are and may instill love for these beautiful creatures and the desire to conserve them. They are, after all, our heritage. As the Senegalese conservationist Baba Dioum said: “In the end, we will only conserve what we love, we will only love what we understand, we will only understand what we are taught” (cited in Wilson 1992). A caveat though: we need to conserve all birds, all creatures, all plants, not just those that are beautiful and loved. Every living being, beautiful or otherwise, has a role to play in the web of life.

Forest birds are from three types of forests: lowland, highland or montane, and mangrove forests. A forest may be primary, that is, has never been logged or disturbed, or secondary. Primary forests have the highest biodiversity of plants and animals including the richest habitat for birds. Having old, big trees, especially in the lowlands, some with holes in the trunks, primary forests enable hornbills, among others, to have their nests. When we refer to forests we generally refer to primary forests or at least secondary forests which are in an advanced state of

regeneration. Mature secondary forests tend to share a strong floristic composition with primary forests.

This book focuses on forest birds and includes what are described as “forest-edge” birds. These are birds that can be seen at the fringe of forests, before birders venture into the forest proper, or along forest roads and tracks cutting through a forest. For example, the “Bunker Track” in Panti Forest Reserve, Johor, or the jeep track from Sungai Relau to Kuala Juram of the Taman Negara Pahang, Merapoh entrance.

In their field guide, Jeyarajasingam and Pearson (2012) (for brevity, J&P 2012) list a total of 673 species in all habitats for Peninsular Malaysia, comprising 440 residents, 165 migrants, 50 vagrants, 14 ferals, and four that are — or believed to be — extinct locally (Green Peafowl and three vultures). MNS (2016) lists 677 Peninsular Malaysian species, 438 residents, 160 migrants, four Malay Peninsula (which includes extreme south Thailand) endemics, 35 globally threatened species.

In his seminal work, *The Birds of the Thai-Malay Peninsula, Volume One: Non-Passerines*, David Wells (1999) lists 320 species that regularly use the lowland forests, and 195 species in the montane forests, of which 76 residents are exclusively in this habitat (65 lower, and 12 commonest in upper montane). Excluding the coastal waders, the mangroves have 135 species, the least diverse of the three forest types. In Volume Two, Wells (2007) covers the “passerines”. Note that a few species listed by Wells are only in the Thai part of the Peninsula but generally birds in the Thai part are also available in Peninsular Malaysia because the habitats are similar.

In this book, altogether 301 species are presented consisting of 189 lowland, 72 montane, and 40 mangrove species. Some may exist in more than one habitat. In that case, they are listed in the habitat that they are most likely to occur, not where they were photographed.

Where comparison between two or more birds is important, they may be listed together in a common habitat. For example, the Common Iora is more common in mangroves than in lowland habitat but for easy comparison with the Green Iora of lowland forests, it is listed in the Lowland habitat section.

Lowland Forests

Elevation-wise this starts from sea level to 900m above sea level (from Wells (1999), and online sources; J&P 2012 and Whitmore (1985) put it at 750m). Within lowland forests, the plains-level forests (extreme lowland forests) are those below 150m, above which is the start of the steeppland boundary, i.e. forests on slopes or described as hilly country. The plains-level forests are especially important because they have the highest bird species and in general, highest biodiversity for fauna and flora. But it is also the most endangered category of forest.

The lowland forests are multi-layered, from the ground storey, lower to mid to upper storeys and the top most, the canopy, at about 25m high. This is the general structure of most forests but the lowland forest is especially characterised by an uppermost storey, the emergents, made up mostly of the dipterocarp species that “emerge” over the top of the general forest canopy. For example, the Kompas and Tualang trees can reach 50m tall (others can reach 85m). Often the lowland forest is described as the “lowland dipterocarp (rain)forest”. Rainforests are forests that received a lot of rainfall, as opposed to, say, dry deciduous forests. Rainfall in rainforests occurs less seasonally than deciduous forests which tend to have a strong seasonal pattern in rainfall distribution. The latter drop their leaves during the dry season. In primary forests, the ground and lower storeys are relatively clear compared to the secondary. Lianas are common, their limbs twisting away to the upper storeys seeking light.

For this book, lowland forests also include peat swamp forests such as those of the Pekan Forest Reserve, Pahang, and the North Selangor Peat Swamp Forest (139 bird species) which includes Raja Musa Peat Swamp Forest, Sungai Karang Peat Swamp Forest and Sungai Dusun Forest Reserve. Here, emergents can reach 40m in height. Another type of lowland forest is the freshwater swamp forest found for example around the Tasik Bera region, Pahang.

Birds whose habitat are only lowland forests include the **Malayan Peacock-Pheasant** (birds in bold are listed in this book), **Crestless Fireback**, **Black Partridge**, **Chestnut-necklaced Partridge**, **Giant Pitta**, **Garnet Pitta**, **Cinnamon-rumped Trogon**, and **Black-throated Babbler**. These birds are all listed under the Near-threatened or Threatened status by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Green Peafowl mentioned earlier, a lowland bird (but more often forest edge than deep forest) used to be seen in Peninsular Malaysia till the 1960s but is now presumed extinct here. Most birds in this habitat are listed under these two categories, and not only in Peninsular Malaysia but also in Sumatra, Borneo, and Java. These are all lands where the forests, especially lowland forests, are being felled with reckless abandon.

Examples of lowland forests include those in Taman Negara Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan; lower Gunung Telapa Buruk (Negri Sembilan); Ulu Langat Forest Reserve (part of Taman Warisan Negri Selangor/Selangor State Park); Panti Forest Reserve (Johor, which is largely a plains-level forest); Kledang-Sayong Forest Reserve; and the Perlis State Park Wang Kelian; Sungai Sedim Forest Reserve; Ulu Muda Forest Reserve (Kedah); and the extremely logging-threatened peat swamp Pondok Tanjung Forest Reserve (Perak).

Montane Forests

The montane forest is divided into two, the lower and upper montane. The lower is from 900m (or 750m per J&P 2012) to 1,450m. It is characterised by a rarity of dipterocarps and emergents, and as the elevation increases changes to oak, chestnut and laurel trees. Trees are generally smaller and shorter than those in the lowlands. Large tree ferns, conifers, and epiphytes (plants living on tree branches but are not parasitic) become common. Also rare are lianas that are common in the lowland forests.

Some examples of lower montane forests are those in Bukit Larut (Maxwell Hills) at about 1,000m–1,300m in Perak, Fraser's Hill (1,200m–1,330m), and Lower Cameron Highlands (Tanah Rata and below) (1,440m), both in Pahang.

There are fewer bird species here compared to the lowland forests but sighting frequency is often greater, especially in the hill stations. Note that having a high diversity does not mean greater abundance. We can have a high diversity of species but with a low population of each species, and conversely, low diversity but a high population of each species.

Upper montane is above 1,450m with the oak-laurel forest replaced by the cloud forest. Here, trees are stunted to only 10m high. Also called the ericaceous forest with conifers common, it lacks the multi-layered structure of the other forests, and the undergrowth is especially dense. Bird species are even less diverse here. Above the ericaceous is the elfin forest, the uppermost vegetation limit.

Some examples of the ericaceous forest are in Gunung Brinchang in upper Cameron Highlands, and Gunung Tahan, both in Pahang, and Gunung Ulu Kali, above Genting Highlands, on the Selangor-Pahang border.

Birds that are only of the montane habitat include the Peninsula endemics (those occurring only in Peninsular Malaysia and 11 degrees north into Thailand): **Mountain Peacock-Pheasant**, **Malayan Whistling-Thrush** and **Grey-breasted Partridge** (or Malaysian Partridge). Those that occur only in the upper montane include the **Chestnut-tailed Minla**, **Snowy-browed Flycatcher**, and Rufous-vented Niltava.

Mangrove Forests

These are salt-tolerant forests around estuaries and mud coasts. They receive a good supply of nutrients from the land. In old untouched forests, trees can reach up to 30m high, and are multi-layered in structure with emergents. The number of mangrove tree species reaches its maximum in South East Asia at 35 species under four genera: *Avicennia*, *Sonneratia*, *Rhizophora*, and *Bruguiera*. The mangroves are very important as a nursery for many fish species. They offer shelter from rough seas and predators, and provide nutrients at that early stage in the fishes' lives. But mangroves are most negatively affected by human felling for timber and the charcoal industry. By destroying the mangroves, we are in turn destroying a large part of our marine fish source. The importance of mangroves in protecting our coastal areas from wave and tidal action is clearly documented. 95 percent of its landward end has been cleared, mainly for aquaculture.

Bird species that totally depend on mangroves (and adjacent habitats) are the **Brown-winged Storkbill** and **Ruddy kingfishers**, **Greater Flameback** woodpecker, **Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher**, **Cinereous (or Great) Tit**, Black-hooded Oriole, **Copper-throated Sunbird**, and **Mangrove Pitta**. Also, the Great-billed Heron, Great Egret and Milky Stork exclusively use the mangroves for nesting although feeding elsewhere. The **Grey** and **Striated Herons**, as well as the **Black-crowned**

Night-Heron previously used the mangroves exclusively as well, but have since expanded their nesting sites (possibly due to the greater legal protection now provided?). Two species that are often seen in mangroves even if not exclusive to it are the **Collared Kingfisher** and **Laced Woodpecker**.

Most mangroves are on the west coast of the Peninsula because Sumatra shields it from the Straits of Malacca forming high swells from strong winds that could otherwise leave it with sandy beaches. Examples of this forest are in Kuala Selangor Nature Park (Selangor), Kuala Sepetang and Kuala Gula (both in Perak), and Tanjung Piai National Park, Johor.

Conservation and Ecology

According to David Wells (1999), at least 80 percent of the lowland forests of Peninsular Malaysia have been lost. Of this, over 95 percent of the plains-level forests have been felled. As noted earlier, this is where the highest bird species (and in general, highest flora and fauna) diversity is. Outside of Taman Negara, very little of the plains-level forest remains, or as Jared Diamond (2005) writes it in his book *Collapse*, the destruction of Peninsular Malaysian lowland forests outside of national parks is virtually complete. To Wells, any bird that solely resides in this habitat would automatically be classified as threatened. It is not surprising then when Wells further states that species which totally depend on forests below the steep-land boundary (below 150m, i.e. plains-level forests) are all *vulnerable* or *endangered* or even *critically endangered*, the highest risk categories under the IUCN threat classification. To put it another way, for these birds, their ability to survive into the future is nearly at the point of no return, or perhaps has already past it. As Wells (1999, 2007) puts it, the statistics are bleak.

With the disappearance of our forests, not only are birds in danger,

but also other creatures. One in particular is the Malayan Tiger, a tiger subspecies found only in Peninsular Malaysia and extreme southern Thailand, classified as *critically endangered* in 2015 by IUCN. According to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) (2016a), there are only about 300 tigers left, having declined by more than 25 percent in one generation (seven years). When I first heard the 300 figure I could not help noticing the contrast: A human population of 30 million in Malaysia compared to 300 for the tiger. Even as recently as the 1950s, Malaysia was estimated to have as many as 3,000 tigers. The Malayan Tiger is a national symbol, yet we are leading it to extinction by destroying its habitat, and killing it in the name of traditional medicine.

Even worse the case of the Sumatran rhinoceros. It is now extinct in the wild in Peninsular Malaysia, following the path of the Javan Rhino which died out long ago despite being quite common in the districts of Perak in the past. Other threatened animal species include the Asian elephant, clouded leopard, sun bear, gaur, and Sunda pangolin. Again, the reason is the destruction of their habitat, the forests, and animal exploitation.

It is no less bleak at the global level. Monastersky (2014) reports that 26 percent of mammals are threatened, 13 percent of birds, and 41 percent of amphibians among others. The main impact is from habitat loss, degradation and change (44 percent), over exploitation of the animals (37 percent), climate change (seven percent), and invasive species (five percent). Scheffers et al. (2011) put it clearly: “the current extinction rate may be 1,000 times higher than that indicated by background extinction [or natural] rates, and projected future extinction rates may be ten times greater still...The world is in the midst of a mass extinction event predominantly caused by human actions such as over-harvesting, habitat loss, and wildlife trade.” Monastersky further says that we could be heading for mass extinction by 2200. This appears to be

the fastest of Earth's mass extinctions since the beginning of human civilisation 10,000 years ago with the start of agriculture.

Mass extinction is where more than 75 percent of species perish. In Earth's history there have been five major mass extinctions caused by natural causes which changed the climate; the fifth mass extinction being that of land-based dinosaurs 65 million years ago. The coming human-induced one is called the Sixth Mass Extinction. Renowned Harvard biologist, E.O. Wilson, already wrote of this mass extinction in his book, *Diversity of Life* back in 1992. Coupled with ever worsening climate change whose impact may increase substantially beyond 2050 the deadline for mass extinction may arrive much earlier than 2200. The Sixth Mass Extinction can then be said to have been caused by habitat destruction, overkill, and climate change.

WWF and its collaborators in the *Living Planet Index 2016* report that between 1970 to 2012, i.e. in just 40 years, the Earth lost nearly 60 percent of its vertebrate animal population abundance. This population is still declining at two percent a year, i.e. by 2020, two-thirds will be lost (WWF et al. 2016b). A world without wildlife is a much sadder, poorer world. This is indeed a very sad state of affairs, but there are those who might say "Too bad for the plants and animals. If we humans are all right why should we be worried, after all we are the most intelligent species; we will survive." Sadly, they are missing the point, eventually we will be part of the mass extinction as well. After all, we are part of the web-of-life. Destroy enough of the web, and the whole web will collapse. Just take the case of the connection between forests and rainfall. Forests can generate their own rainfall. The Amazon, for example, generates half the rainfall in its region. Without forests the land would turn barren, deserts will take over (Wilson 1992, Diamond 2005).

Jared Diamond, professor of geography at University of Califor-

nia, Los Angeles, has studied how and why past societies collapsed, i.e. populations perished or had to move on, and how and why others survived. In the above-mentioned book, *Collapse*, he analyses these societies in the Pacific islands of Henderson, Pitcairn (of the *Mutiny on the Bounty* fame), Easter (of the super statues fame), and Greenland, as well as the Maya civilisation in Central America, and Anasazi of New Mexico. Two main causes were forest destruction compounded by climate change from natural variability. Yong Ding Li pointed out to me that closer to home, it is believed that the Angkor empire collapsed for similar reasons leading to the abandonment of the Angkor Wat temple complex. As mentioned earlier, cut away the forest and the rain disappears as happened to the Maya and Anasazi. Additionally, with forests gone wind and rain easily erode the soils. Loss of soil fertility may not seem like a big problem, but it is actually a critical one. Even in our present world, this is a problem that Diamond says needs to be solved, otherwise our agriculture will not be sustainable.

Diamond also looks at modern societies such as in Montana in the USA, China, and Australia (and the world as a whole). To him, they are facing the same problems as collapsed societies of the past; again, with massive forest destruction but also additional modern problems such as human-induced climate change, and toxic pollution. He considers them ecological time-bombs and believes that there is a high likelihood these societies will fall if the problems are not solved soon.

When predators like tigers are gone from an ecosystem, this leads to negative knock-on effects. Their prey such as deer and wild pig populations explode. For wild pigs this could be a ten-fold increase. They ravage the lower forest leading to further changes to that environment. They feed on seeds of the trees leading to fewer seedlings to generate new growth, in turn causing the forests to suffer. In contrast, birds act as seed dispersers and pollinators. When they are in decline, so too is

the forest. To Sodhi et al. (2010), the role of birds in seed dispersal may not be replaced by others. Moreover, they point out, species restricted to Indomalaya laid few eggs, had narrow habitat breadth, and had large body mass, and thus were especially vulnerable to extinction.

In the USA, in areas where wolves were exterminated, the herbivore population exploded, eating away the greenery to the consternation of nature lovers. The same thing happened in Australia when rabbits were introduced. Without predators, they have bred exponentially and now pose a major ecological problem. As the saying goes, the world is green because carnivores eat herbivores.

Forests provide recreational spaces, and for Diamond, ecosystem services. Apart from their previously mentioned role in rain generation and desertification prevention, they act as filters to absorb carbon monoxide and other pollutants in the atmosphere. Not to mention, they generate oxygen for free. By slowing down the impact of rainfall they reduce soil erosion, hold water in the soil, and thus reduce flooding. The increasing frequency of major floods in China is attributed to the loss of its forests. After the massive 1998 floods, China banned logging in the country. Similarly, the 2014 massive floods in Kelantan have been attributed to the state's rapacious cutting down of its forests. Now in 2017, we cannot ignore the flooding and landslides in Penang. By holding the soil through their roots, trees and plants prevent landslides which increase the severity of floods, such as those that now regularly occur in Cameron Highlands where forest cover loss has risen to critical levels in recent years.

Another crucial role provided by forests is the holding of carbon in the soil and in vegetation. Forest clearing contributes 15 percent of the world's total carbon emissions.

E.O. Wilson (1992) states that if a forest area is increased ten times the number of species doubles. Conversely, as reflected by reality, if

an area is ten times smaller (or reduced by 90 percent) the number of species is halved.

Conserving the forests, and more importantly expanding them by planting trees is of the utmost importance. It is the only sure and safe way to absorb carbon dioxide already in the atmosphere. And for conserving our birds. Conservation of tropical forests is especially important, being of the highest biodiversity. As Diamond says, they constitute only six percent of the Earth's surface yet contain 50-80 percent of land-based plants and animals. In Malaysia, conservation bodies such as the Malaysian Nature Society, WWF-Malaysia, Sahabat Alam Malaysia, TrEES etc are doing important work to conserve wildlife and natural habitats. Their work should be supported by all. Hopefully, forest and habitat destruction can be slowed down or better still, reversed.

Migration

Most Northern Hemisphere birds migrate south away from their breeding grounds to winter in the tropics. A much smaller number from the Southern Hemisphere also migrate to the tropics in their winter months. Unless specifically stated, generally migration refers to Northern Hemisphere migration. Migration away from the northern winter grounds starts from August but the peak period is from September to November (the Autumn passage). Migrants can be passage migrants or visitors. Passage migrants pass through or stop for a short period on the way farther south whereas visitors stay over the winter period. Returning migration to the north is between March to May (the Spring passage). The Autumn and Spring passage months differ slightly for different species within the general bird migration months mentioned above. A small number of birds (often, of non-breeding age) may overwinter here in Peninsular Malaysia, i.e. overstay and thus can be seen

throughout the year. Migration for small songbirds often occurs at night, possibly for safety from raptors or predators; while shorebirds and raptors fly during the daytime.

Some resident birds receive additional population from migrants, e.g. Black-naped Oriole, and the Collared and Ruddy Kingfishers. The resident Collared Kingfisher is mainly coastal; migrants however may crossover or follow the Titiwangsa Main Range and thus be sighted in the highlands. I have sighted this bird at Fraser's Hill (~1,200m) and another birder photographed it at Gunung Ulu Kali, Pahang (1,700m).

As mentioned above, there is also a smaller migration from the southern winter grounds, e.g. Horsfield's Bronze-Cuckoo from Australia. The Osprey is both a northern and southern migrant. Another kind of migration occurs within some of our resident birds. During the non-breeding period the Blue-throated Bee-eater may migrate out to Sumatra. Similarly, the Hooded and Blue-winged Pittas that breed in northwest Peninsular Malaysia, e.g. Kedah, migrate south outside their breeding months.

Other examples of migration to Peninsular Malaysia (Yong Ding Li, pers. comm.) include:

1. Far north Siberia — Pacific Golden Plover
2. Taiga belt of Siberia — Siberian Blue Robin
3. Deciduous belt of North China — Green-backed Flycatcher
4. Korean forests — Korean/Yellow-rumped Flycatcher
5. China coasts — Kentish Plover
6. Tibetan Plateau — Mongolian Plover
7. South China forests — Brown-chested Jungle Flycatcher
8. Mainland forests of South East Asia — Blue-winged Pitta

In general, birds breeding to the west of the 90th meridian east migrate to Africa while those to the east migrate to South and Southeast

Asia and beyond. Migration routes may pass through over 20 countries and over various habitats. Migratory birds are thus at risk if any of their stopping places for refuelling are destroyed, say, for "development". This often happens to wetlands and forests.

Migration season, especially the Northern Hemisphere's, and especially so during the passage periods, is beneficial for birding since there are more species available with migrants augmenting the resident populations.

Breeding

Breeding season varies for different species but generally occurs from late January to July with a peak in April or May. Some birds like the Zebra Dove breed throughout the year as is similar with the Chestnut-naped Forktail, except possibly in November.

For territorial birds, where a pair establish an area where no other pair of the same species is tolerated, the season starts with males, and sometimes females too, calling or singing to establish the territory. For males without a partner, the singing is also a courtship, a means to attract a mate. Courtship often involves the male feeding the female to show that he is a reliable partner. For polygynous birds, such as Great Argus, where a male mates with many females (thus does not play a role in raising the young), within his territory, he will be the only breeding male with several breeding females. The Great Argus calls from a display ground and displays his plumage and courts the females. If a female likes what is on display (indicating his genetic worth) she will mate with him.

For a breeding pair, they will start building a nest, followed by mating, egg-laying, incubation, and hatching. During the fledging stage, parents take care of the young with the juvenile in constant tow, always shrilly begging for food. For brood parasitic cuckoos, they do not build

their own nests. Rather the female lays a single egg in a host's nest when no one is around. This egg hatches first and the hatchling gets rid of the other eggs making it the only one to be taken care of by its adopted parents. Apparently, the parent birds are automatically tuned to feed any young bird in its nest (and beyond) even if the young looks nothing like what it should be.

For birders, the breeding season is an especially fruitful time for birding because the birds are more easily spotted being more audible (during courtship, and after fledging with fledglings begging for food), and more active (searching for nesting material, feeding hatchlings and fledglings). However, towards the end of the breeding season (May to July) most or all of the migrant birds have returned home.

Note too that at the start of the breeding season, most bird species, especially the males, change into their breeding plumage, where the feathers are more brilliantly coloured.

When to go birding

From my discussion above on migration and breeding it is obvious that if you want to see a greater diversity of birds, especially including the migrants, then the migration period is a good time to be out birding (from September to late April or early May; while to catch passage migrants September to October and April to May are preferable). However, the breeding season — broadly, March to June — is the best time to sight birds because they are much more active.

Generally, the best times to go birding are from 7am to 10 am and 4pm to 7pm, again, because birds are most active then. However, I have often found birds to be quite unpredictable. So even the supposedly less active times can yield a very fruitful outing.

Another factor to consider is of course the weather. November is the wettest month all over the country, being the inter-monsoon month

with rains from both the South-Westerly and North-Easterly winds. November to March have traditionally been wet months on the east coast as well, this being the North-East monsoon period. April is a wet month too being the other inter-monsoon period. May to early October are mostly regarded as dry months.

Equipment

For bird watching or birding, binoculars are essential. They are characterised by two values, M x D, where M is the magnification and D is the diameter of the front lens. M is usually 7 to 10. Less than 7, the magnification is not enough but more than 10 the magnification is too high resulting in a shaky image if one's hands are not steady. Also as the magnification goes up it gets harder to spot the birds. D is usually 42 mm. Smaller than that means insufficient light but greater than that the binoculars gets too heavy. My own preference is a 10 x 42 but many choose 8 x 42. A spotting scope, with magnification from 20 to 60 is an advantage to see details. Makers for binoculars and scopes include Omicron, Nikon, Carl Zeiss, Leica, and Swarovski.

For photographers, the lens requires a minimum focal length of 300mm. If it is a prime lens (of aperture F4 minimum), as opposed to zoom, then it is possible to use a teleconverter (image magnifier), usually of magnification 1.4, which takes it effectively to 420mm but at a price of letting in less light (and being slightly heavier). From here the lenses go to 400, 500, 600 and 800mm, with increasing magnification but also increasing weight. If you want to photograph handheld I think a 400mm F4 prime lens is the best option. Beyond this you need a tripod or at least a monopod for stability to handle the weight. Many also use the 150-600mm zoom lens from Tamron or Sigma. Generally, zoom lenses are not as sharp as prime ones but given the flexibility for zooming it is a trade-off worth considering. For the camera, most bird-

ers use either Canon or Nikon. My own preferred system is a 400mm DO lens F4 with a Canon 7D Mark 2. This is one that I can manoeuvre quite comfortably handheld while walking in the forest. Only when I plan to be within a small area do I use a tripod. Otherwise, it is just too heavy to lug around on a long photography trip even if tripods do give sharper images.

Submitting birding records

I highly recommend submitting a record of the day's birding (If I only took my own advice!) — what birds you saw; how many of each species; time, date and place; etc. This has many useful purposes, among them to record what birds are found in a particular location — at times uncovering records of a species new habitat, elevation, behaviour or migration period — or to see the population trends (here the number of birds spotted is helpful rather than just recording it as “present”), and what activities the birds were undertaking (carrying nesting material, feeding juveniles, etc.).

During my own research for this book, I used the Bird I-Witness Malaysia (BIW) reporting website, which I found very useful to see the main (and all) places where a species could be found in the country; or all the species recorded at a particular spot; or whether new records had been produced compared to what was already in the literature with regards to habitat, place, and elevation.

The BIW website is now closed. The Malaysian Nature Society (MNS) Bird Group encourages submission of records to a new website, eBird, run by Cornell University's Department of Ornithology in the USA (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>). Apart from reporting to online websites, you can also submit your sightings to bulletins and journals such as *Suara Enggang* run by MNS or *Birding Asia* by the Oriental Bird Club.

Bird watching or bird photography?

Some might think the two are essentially the same, i.e. both involve watching birds with photography being an extension by taking photos of the birds. Over time, however, the desire for better and sharper photos has resulted, in some instances, with the “watching” component, — which is about observing (say, of behaviour), identifying, listing, and basically being satisfied just to see birds — becoming secondary. Sadly, in my view the photo has become the priority. Birds in the distance not lending themselves to quality photos, are then neglected. Lenses get longer and heavier, photographers become less mobile. Instead of walking in search of the birds, photographers are forced to entice birds to come to them. Birding ethics then come into the picture (see below).

Personally, I would recommend that newcomers to the field start with bird watching for some years and really get to know the birds before venturing to photography, if at all. I started with the watching phase for about 15 years before taking up photography.

Birding ethics

Birding if not done right, can be detrimental to birds. Thus, there are birding ethics to follow. First and foremost, the welfare of birds and the environment must be prioritised. The following is largely from Birdlife Australia, but this is similar to guidelines by other bird conservation bodies:

Avoid stressing birds or exposing them to danger. Keep an appropriate distance. Disturbing a bird's feeding area or nesting site can cause stress and fear that may drive the bird to abandon its nest. Exercise restraint and caution during observation, photography, sound recording or filming. Keep well back from nests and nesting colonies, roosts, display areas and important feeding sites.

Call Playback. The use of call playback can distress some species and may disrupt feeding and/or breeding activity. BirdLife Australia does not support the use of call playback for the purposes of bird observation. However, if artificial bird calls are to be used, this should be for limited periods and played at a volume lower than that of the targeted bird. It should not be used during the bird's breeding season. Bird calls are territorial calls to keep other birds of the same species away. A playback can be viewed as a challenge and drive away the resident bird. In the breeding season, the female could abandon her male in search of an apparently new alpha male. The use of such devices should always be kept to a minimum, particularly in heavily birded areas. (One reason proposed for the disappearance of the Himalayan Cutia from Fraser's Hill is that too many playbacks were used there.)

Flushing. BirdLife Australia believes it is unacceptable to deliberately flush out birds into the open to get a good view of them. Repeatedly flushing birds can place them under undue stress.

Spotlighting. This disturbs birds and animals which may be sleeping or resting, and may interfere with the night sight of nocturnal species. Using a spotlight near a nest may also cause birds to abandon their nests or the young to fall. It is recommended that birders adopt a precautionary approach and if necessary, keep the time that a bird is held under the spotlight to a minimum, i.e. for seconds rather than minutes.

Photography. Disturbance can be caused by the erection of hides and other equipment, by excessive visits to the nest site or by the sounds and flash of the camera. Photographers should not "garden" the area around the nest by removing branches or other objects which may block a clear

view of the nest as this will increase the exposure of the nesting birds to the weather and to predators. There are no circumstances in which modifications to a nest or its approaches, to force the bird into a more photogenic position are acceptable. Photographers should keep a close watch on their subject and look for signs of distress. Lingered too long in a bird's core territory can cause undue pressure and may result in nest abandonment. Photographers should use artificial light sparingly for filming or photography, especially for close-ups.

Rare bird sightings. Sharing discovery of a new nest, a rare bird species or an unknown birding site could result in increased attention and hence stress to the birds. The location of nesting sites of rare species or species of conservation significance should only be divulged to relevant conservation authorities. BirdLife Australia encourages birders to carefully consider the consequences of attracting large numbers of birders to sensitive areas by such sharing.

Habitat disturbance. Avoid leaving litter along a birding trail (take out what you bring in), Keep habitat disturbance to a minimum.

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Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia (PERHILITAN) Hotline. Report illegal bird or animal trapping. The contact number is 1800 8855 151. PERHILITAN's headquarters is 03-9086 6800.

How to use this book

This book is divided into three sections: birds of the lowland, montane, and mangrove forests. In each section, the birds are arranged taxonom-

ically following MNS's *A Checklist of the Birds of Malaysia (2016)*, which is updated from the checklist produced in 2015. This book follows (with some exceptions) the eBird website of Cornell University's Department of Ornithology, and the now-closed record-submission site Bird I-Witness (BIW). BIW followed the British-based Birdlife International.

Because of space constraints, the language is rather compact. For similar reasons, plumage descriptions are generally not given. The photos should suffice as a guide. Where a species may be confused with another, plumage-wise, the distinguishing features will be described. Due to space limitations as well, voice or call is not described in most cases. Also, different books describe bird calls differently; I do not find such descriptions very useful in the field.

A bird's English eBird name is followed by the scientific name, and then the Malay name. (This follows the Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia's (PERHILITAN) latest list, the 2012, "Wildlife Conservation (Amendment of Schedule) Order 2012"). A second Malay name if widely used may also be given. Next is bird size, mainly taken from J&P 2012. As a quick reference, whether a bird is a resident (R) or migrant (M) or both is also indicated.

Description of each species is divided under Other name(s), Distribution, Status, Range, Habitat, Habits, Food, Gender difference, Subspecies, and Breeding (and Survival if available).

Other names. The Cornell eBird website refers to many birds with names that are different from what local birders may be used to, the latter being raised in the tradition of the British-based Birdlife International. Thus, the Birdlife International's name, if different, has been included. Apart from Birdlife International, many birders also use J&P 2012 and the Oriental Bird Images (OBI) database for compar-

son or reference. Again, if the names here are different they have also been provided. Even scientific names may be different. Additionally, the Handbook of the Birds of the World (HBW) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) names may also be given. Generally, Birdlife, HBW and IUCN are in agreement as to the names.

Distribution. Describes broadly where a bird is found in Peninsular Malaysia, whether Peninsular wide or limited to a specific location. If not stated explicitly "Peninsular wide" is assumed. Historical assessments of distribution (pre-BIW records) by Wells (1999, 2007) are also provided. Elevation limits are given as well, and whether a bird is common, rare, etc. (see Glossary for a complete description of these terms).

Additionally, I have included BIW records. This resource was officially launched on 15 March 2008, but it includes records in the literature dating back to 1988. This covers the five main places where a species has been spotted, in descending order. Records that are unusual with respect to the literature are also given, e.g. elevation, place, habitat, breeding, and migration. At times, historical assessment is contradicted by the BIW records. These are to be used with care since they were not peer-reviewed despite some checks being done by reviewers when unusual records were submitted. When a record was unusual I checked who the observers were and whether they were experienced birders or not. If inexperienced, I either did not use the record or stated it with a caution, i.e. use with care. Another point to note with BIW (or any submission) records: The number of times a bird is heard or sighted is not an absolute measure of its abundance. A bird that is quiet and not active may be abundant but may have fewer records compared to a rarer bird which is noisier and more active, and may be spotted every time at a given location. As such, I have where possible, indicated whether a

record is more often heard than seen to reflect this. Nevertheless, BIW (and other submission) records are still useful if used with caution.

The BIW website was closed in 2015 but records were still accessible until 2016. Nevertheless, it was still useful to see the trends, and helpful in that it was a stable website whereas the data in on-going sites like eBird would continuously be changing. Given that the site is now totally inaccessible, some of the species described later in this book were not prepared in time to be assessed against their BIW records.

To supplement BIW, I also used the eBird website but this did not have many features I found useful in BIW, such as the complete list of records for a species in Peninsular Malaysia, a summary of places it was recorded, or a summary of species recorded in a given place.

Status. IUCN status is given here, from Least Concern (LC), Near-threatened (NT) to Threatened (Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered). Also, the population trend (declining, stable or occasionally, increasing) is indicated, obtained from Birdlife or HBW or IUCN itself. See Glossary for explanation of the above terms. Malaysian legal status is also given (from MNS 2016): TP (Totally Protected), Protected, CO (Controlled), NP (Not Protected — this status is not indicated but taken as “Not Protected” if the other categories do not apply).

Range and subspecies. This is an approximate range where a species can be found in the world. It is not meant to be an exhaustive list. Where the subspecies are not too many, the range for the subspecies is given using data from HBW. The scientific name of a species is always given in italics as *Genus species* (in short, *G.species*), and subspecies as *Genus species subspecies* (in short, *G.s. subspecies*, or if space not permitting, just *subspecies*). If there are not too many subspecies, i.e.

space permitting, the subspecies range is indicated here. Otherwise, a separate entry for subspecies is given (see below).

Note the use of the term “Peninsula” in Range (following Wells 1999, 2007). This refers to Peninsular Malaysia and up to 11°N into Peninsular Thailand (about 100km north of Krabi). Here the vegetation is similar and thus most of the birds.

Habitat. Although all the birds in this book are from the forest and forest edge habitats they may also be found in other habitats, such as, plantations, scrub, garden and open country.

Habits. This includes where a bird is usually found in the forest structure: on the ground, lower, upper storey or in canopy; its feeding method, e.g. sallying from a perch, or pecking on the ground or trunk; whether it joins a mixed-species foraging flock, etc.

Food. Main preference and occasional foods.

Gender differences, if any, are given if not obvious from the photos. Described more if the photo of one sex is not available.

Subspecies. Peninsular Malaysian subspecies is given if it is not provided in the Range field. Data is from HBW (also OBI and Wells 1999, 2007). Where scientific names by HBW and eBird are different, HBW subspecies may not be the same as eBird’s (the latter does not usually provide subspecies names). Here subspecies data is specifically stated as HBW’s. A subspecies in one location can look very different to subspecies in other places. There may be more than one subspecies available locally, especially when migrants arrive.

Breeding. Season months are given. May include nesting information, clutch number, and incubation period. Applies only for breeding in Pen Malaysia, i.e., does not apply to migrants.

Survival: How long a species lives, if available. Usually from individuals that have been captured, tagged and recaptured.

Photo information. Some information about the photo — when taken (useful record especially of migrants, juveniles, breeding season), place, distance from bird and where it was (to give some indication whether the bird is shy or otherwise, and location above ground, i.e. preferred location in the forest structure), and possibly challenges in taking the photo or just in observing the bird.

Note on language style: To allow for the largest possible photos, the verbiage, is as brief as possible, and digits are primarily used for numbers rather than spelled out.

Abbreviations, symbols and definitions

~	Approximately, e.g. ~1000m	KSNP	Kuala Selangor Nature Park. A mangrove IBA
>	Greater/More than	LC	Least Concern. IUCN status
<	Less than	M	Migrant, both passage migrant or visitor
BIW	Bird I-Witness. The previous bird sighting record submission website, now closed, replaced by the eBird website	m	Metre (length)
Bkt	Bukit, Malay for hill	MADA	Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Kedah)
C	Central	N	North
CR	Critically Endangered. IUCN status	NP	Not Protected. Peninsular Malaysian legal status
E	East	NT	Near-threatened. IUCN status
EN	Endangered. IUCN status	Pen Malaysia	Peninsular Malaysia
FR	Forest Reserve	PERHILITAN	Jabatan Perlindungan Hidupan Liar dan Taman Negara
FRIM	Forest Research Institute of Malaysia	Pers. comm.	Semenanjung Malaysia. Malay for Department of Wildlife and National Parks Peninsular Malaysia
Gng	Gunung, Malay for mountain	Protected	Personal communication
HBW	Handbook of the Birds of the World (Alive, is the online version)	R	Peninsular Malaysian legal status
IBA	Important Bird Area	RF	Resident
Is.	Island	S	Recreational Forest
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	Sg	South
Kg	Kampung, Malay for village	SSP	Sungai, Malay for river
km	kilometer	TP	Selangor State Park or Taman Warisan Negeri Selangor, TWNS. It comprises Selangor forests adjoining the Titiwangsa Main Range
			Totally Protected. Peninsular Ma-

VU	laysian legal status
W	Vulnerable. IUCN status
WR	West Wildlife Reserve

Passage migrant

Winter visitor

General

Bird wave

Canopy

Dimorphic

Fledged

Hilly country/Slopedland/Steepland

general habitat

Status: Peninsular Malaysia (as opposed to Global)

Migrant on passage to elsewhere, within a short span of time, generally, September-November for (Northern Hemisphere) Autumn passage; April-May for Spring passage

Migrant that stays throughout the Northern Hemisphere migration period, September-May. There are also a few species that are Summer visitors. These are explicitly stated. Also, unless specified, it is assumed as a non-breeding visitor

A mixed foraging party comprising different bird species hunting for prey, mainly insects

Can mean anywhere in the canopy, outside or within it, and can refer to tall or low trees

Where adult male and female look different

Chicks or nestlings that have left the nest

Land upwards from 150m, the

Glossary

Distribution glossary:

The terms Abundant to Vagrant reflect the relative presence of a bird in its habitat(s) from most common to least (from Wells 1999; except Fairly Common, from J&P 2012).

Abundant	Very common, often local
Common	Seen or heard on every birding day
Fairly common	Seen or heard half of birding days
Uncommon	Seen or heard on less than half of birding days
Rare/Scarce/Sparse	Seen or heard infrequently
Vagrant	Seen or heard six or less times since 1950

Endemic Naturally occurring only in a specific area or habitat and especially, country

Feral Non-native bird that has established breeding populations, e.g. by human introductions

Local/Localised/Locally **Distribution:** In/of specific geographical areas, not the

Immature	steep boundary A general term to describe a bird that is not an adult. It can be a juvenile or subadult	Upland	still visible Informal: Indicates anything above 500m. Exact context is given in the text
Juvenile	The young bird shortly after fledging where plumage is very different from the adult and in some species have lots of spots and speckles. In dimorphic species, the juvenile often resembles the female, who is better camouflaged than the male	IUCN Status: Least Concern (LC) Near-threatened (NT) Vulnerable (VU)	Lowest risk Likely to become endangered in the near future High risk of endangerment in the wild
Morph	Two (possibly more) different plumages in a species for the adult	Endangered (EN) Critically Endangered (CR)	High risk of extinction in the wild Extremely high risk of extinction in the wild
Nomadic	Travelling or dispersing far within a country usually to forage, as opposed to sedentary		
Nominate	Referring to subspecies name that is the same as the Species name, e.g. <i>Corydon sumatranus sumatranus</i> , the Dusky Broadbill subspecies in Peninsular Malaysia	For more details on the IUCN status, see: http://www.iucnredlist.org/technical-documents/red-list-training/red-list-guidance-docs	
Regenerated forests	Forests that are left to generate back to more primary-like conditions	Places mentioned in the book	To save on space, many places named in the book are abbreviated. Here, a more complete description is given.
Sedentary	Not traveling far from an area	<u>Places mentioned</u>	<u>Information</u>
Subadult	The phase where an immature bird resembles the adult with mostly adult plumage and colours but with a little of immature feathers	Air Itam Dalam Bagan Belat	In Sungai Dua district, Seberang Perai. Swamp forest Seberang Perai. Beach mud flats

Bedong	Kedah. Lowland scrub forest		lancar, Pahang. Lowland
Belum	See Royal Belum	Fraser's Hill	Mostly in Pahang but Jalan Mager
Bercham	Ipoh, Perak. Mostly open country		is in Selangor. Lower montane,
Berjaya Hills	Berjaya Hills, Pahang. Also known as Bukit Tinggi. Lower montane, ~1000m	FRIM Kepong	~1200-1330m
Bkt Cahaya	National Botanical Garden, Bukit Cahaya, Shah Alam, Selangor. Previously called Bukit Cerakah. Lowland	FRIM Pasoh	Kepong, Kuala Lumpur. Lowland regenerated forest, mature forest plantations and arboretum
Bkt Cerakah	See Bkt Cahaya		In Pasoh Forest Reserve, near Simpang Pertang, N.Sembilan.
Bkt Larut	Bukit Larut (Maxwell Hill), Taip- ing, Perak. Lower montane	Gap, or The Gap	Lowland, plains-level. Now sur- rounded by oil palm plantations
Bkt Palong	in Baling, Kedah. Lowland	Genting Highlands	Selangor, at Fraser's Hill foothills. ~830m elevation
Bkt Panchor	A forest reserve in S.Perai. Low- land		Often refers to the two pumphouse roads, one of which is near Awana Hotel, the other now closed to public. Pahang. Lower montane, ~970m
Bkt Rengit	Bukit Rengit Forest Reserve, Lanchang, Pahang. Part of Krau Wildlife Reserve. Lowland	Gng Arong	Gunung Arong Forest Reserve, Jo- hor. Lowland
Bkt Wang	Bukit Wang Recreational Forest, Kedah. Lowland	Gng Brinchang	Gunung Brinchang, upper Camer- on Highlands, Pahang. Upper Montane, ~1,500-2,030m
Bubu	A forest reserve in Perak		Gunung Bunga Buah, Selangor.
Chuping	Perlis. Formerly sugar cane fields. Now, rubber plantations	Gng Bunga Buah	Lower montane
Dengkil/Paya Indah	Wetlands in Dengkil, Selangor	Gng Jerai	Gunung Jerai, Kedah. Isolated mountain to ~1,200m
Endau-Rompin (Peta)	Taman Negara Endau-Rompin, Kg Peta, Johor. Lowland	Gng Korbu	Gunung Korbu, Perak
Endau-Rompin (Selai)	Taman Negara Endau-Rompin, Selai, Johor. Lowland	Gng Raya	Gunung Raya, Pulau Langkawi
Endau-Rompin (Selancar)	Taman Negeri Endau-Rompin, Se-	Gng Tahan	Gunung Tahan, Pahang. Highest

Gng Telapa Buruk	peak in Pen Malaysia, 2,187m Gunung Telapa Buruk Forest Reserve, Jelebu, N.Sembilan, ~500m to ~1,200m	Kg Sahabat	forest near Kuala Lipis, Pahang. Lowland
Gng Ulu Kali	Gunung Ulu Kali, above Genting Highlands, Pahang-Selangor border. Upper Montane, ~1,700m	Kg Permatang Nibong Kinta Nature Park Kledang-Sayong	North end of Timah-Tasoh reservoir, Perlis. Village, wetlands S.Perai. Ricefields See Taman Alam Kinta Kledang-Sayong Forest Reserve, Kledang/Bintang Range, Perak. Lowland
Gombak	Old Gombak road, Gombak Forest Reserve, Selangor. Part of Selangor State Park. Lowland, to about 500m at Genting Sempah	KSNP	Kuala Selangor Nature Park, Selangor. Mangrove
Gua Kelam	Perlis State Park, Gua Kelam, Kaki Bukit, Perlis. Limestone caves	Kuala Berang Kuala Gula Kuala Juram	Kuala Berang, Terengganu. Lowland, 40km inland Kuala Gula, Perak. Mangrove Taman Negara Kuala Juram (Merapoh entrance), Pahang. Hilly lowland
Hulu Kelang	Selangor. Fringes of residential areas bordering secondary forests	Kuala Koh	Taman Negara Kuala Koh, Kelantan. Lowland
Indochina	Mainland South East Asia, i.e. includes Peninsular Malaysia but not Indonesia, Borneo, Philippines	Kuala Lompat	In Krau Wildlife Reserve, Pahang. Lowland
Janda Baik	Pahang. South of Genting Highlands. Elevation ~550m	Kuala Tahan	Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, Pahang. Lowland
Kamunting Kanching	In Taiping. Open country mostly Recreational forest, near Templar Park, off KL-Rawang Road 1	Kuala Terenggan	Taman Negara Kuala Terenggan, Pahang. Lowland
Kek Lok Tong	Chinese temple in a limestone cave, Ipoh, Perak	Lanchang	Pahang. Lowland
Kemensah	Selangor. Behind the National Zoo. Lowland scrub and secondary forest	Lanjut Lojing	In Kuala Rompin, Pahang Kelantan. Highland, next to Cameron Highlands
Kenong	Kenong Rimba Park. Recreational	Malim Nawar	Perak. Ex-mining pools wetlands

Matang	Matang Boardwalk, Kuala Sepetang, Perak. Mangrove		11°N (North of Krabi). Also known as the Malay Peninsula. Habitats are similar as are most of the birds
Merapoh	Village on Federal Route 8, Kuala Lipis–Gua Musang, entrance to Taman Negara Sg Relau–Kuala Juram, Pahang. Lowland	Pondok Tanjung	A mixed lowland and peat swamp forest reserve in Perak
Muda Resort	Sik, Kedah. Part of MADA (Muda Agricultural Development Authority). Wooded garden surrounded by low-lying hill forests	Pos Slim Putrajaya Wetlands	Forest Reserve on Simpang Pulai–Cameron Highlands road, >500m Within Putrajaya. Artificial wetlands
N.Sembilan Nenasi	Negri Sembilan A lowland peat swamp forest reserve near Pekan, Pahang	Royal Belum S. Perai	Royal Belum State Park, Perak. Hilly forests, mostly lowland Seberang Perai
North Selangor Peat Swamp	A peat swamp forest (PSF) comprising Raja Muda Musa PSF, Sg Karang PSF and Sg Dusun Forest Reserve	Sedili Kecil Sekayu	East coast, Johor. Sandy seashore Terengganu. Lowland recreational forest
Pangsun	Pangsun, Ulu Langat, part of Selangor State Park (Taman Warisan Negri Selangor). Foothills of Gunung Nuang. Lowland	Sg Congkak	Sungai Congkak Recreational Forest, Ulu Langat, part of Selangor State Park (Taman Warisan Negri Selangor). Lowland
Panti	Panti Bird Sanctuary (Bunker Track), Johor. Plains-level IBA	Sg Perdik	Sungai Perdik Recreational Forest, Ulu Langat, part of Selangor State Park. Lowland
Parit Jawa	Parit Jawa, Johor. Mud flats and mangrove	Sg Relau	Taman Negara Sungai Relau (Merapoh entrance), Pahang. Lowland
Paya Indah/Dengkil Pedu	Wetlands in Dengkil, Selangor Pedu Forest Reserve, Kedah. Lowland	Sg Sedim	Sungai Sedim Recreational Forest, Kedah. Hilly lowland
Pekan peat swamp Peninsula, the	Near Pekan, Pahang Peninsular Malaysia–Thailand to	Sg Tekala Sundas, Greater	Sungai Tekala, Ulu Langat, Selangor. Lowland Region comprising Sumatra, Bor-

Sundas, Lesser	neo, Java Region comprising Bali, Lombok, Sumbawa, Flores, Sumba, Timor, Alor archipelago, Barat Daya and Tanimbar Islands	Teluk Kampi	rai north to Kedah-Kuala Muda IBA A Penang National Park. Beach front and coastal forest
Sundaland	Land mass exposed more than 10,000 years ago when the sea level was 120m lower, comprising present day Malaysia and Greater Sundas	Temenggor	Perak. Often mentioned as Belum-Temenggor Forest Reserve. Hilly lowland
Sunda region	Malaysia and Greater Sundas	Templer Park	Selangor. On the Kuala Lumpur-Rawang road, Federal Road 1. Lowland
Taman Alam Kinta	Wetlands or ex-mining ponds near Batu Gajah, Perak	Tenasserim	Peninsular Burma, above 11°N, or the Burmese term, Thanintharyi
Taman Negara Pahang	Denote sightings in different places within the Taman Negara Pahang	Timah-Tasoh	Perlis. Wetlands and reservoir
Taman Rimba Ampang	Forest reserve, part of Selangor State Park, at the end of Jalan Ampang. Now closed - a road is being built through it, part of the East Kelang Valley Expressway (EKVE)	Ulu Muda	A logging-threatened 120,000ha forest reserve in Kedah. A water catchment for Kedah, Seberang Perai, Penang, Perlis. Lowland, hilly country
Tanjung Balau	Near Kota Tinggi, Johor. Lowland	Wang Kelian	Perlis State Park, Wang Kelian. Lowland
Tanjung Tuan	Melaka. Previously, Cape Rachado (near Port Dickson). Seashore and coastal forest. Bird migration point to and from Sumatra		
Tasik Bera	A lake surrounded by peat swamp forests, Pahang		
Telok Air Tawar	Beach front and mud flats in S.Pe-		

Referencing

Description of species (Distribution, Range, Habitat, Habits, etc.) references the following sources, which are not explicitly mentioned in most cases to avoid clutter and save space, in order of importance:

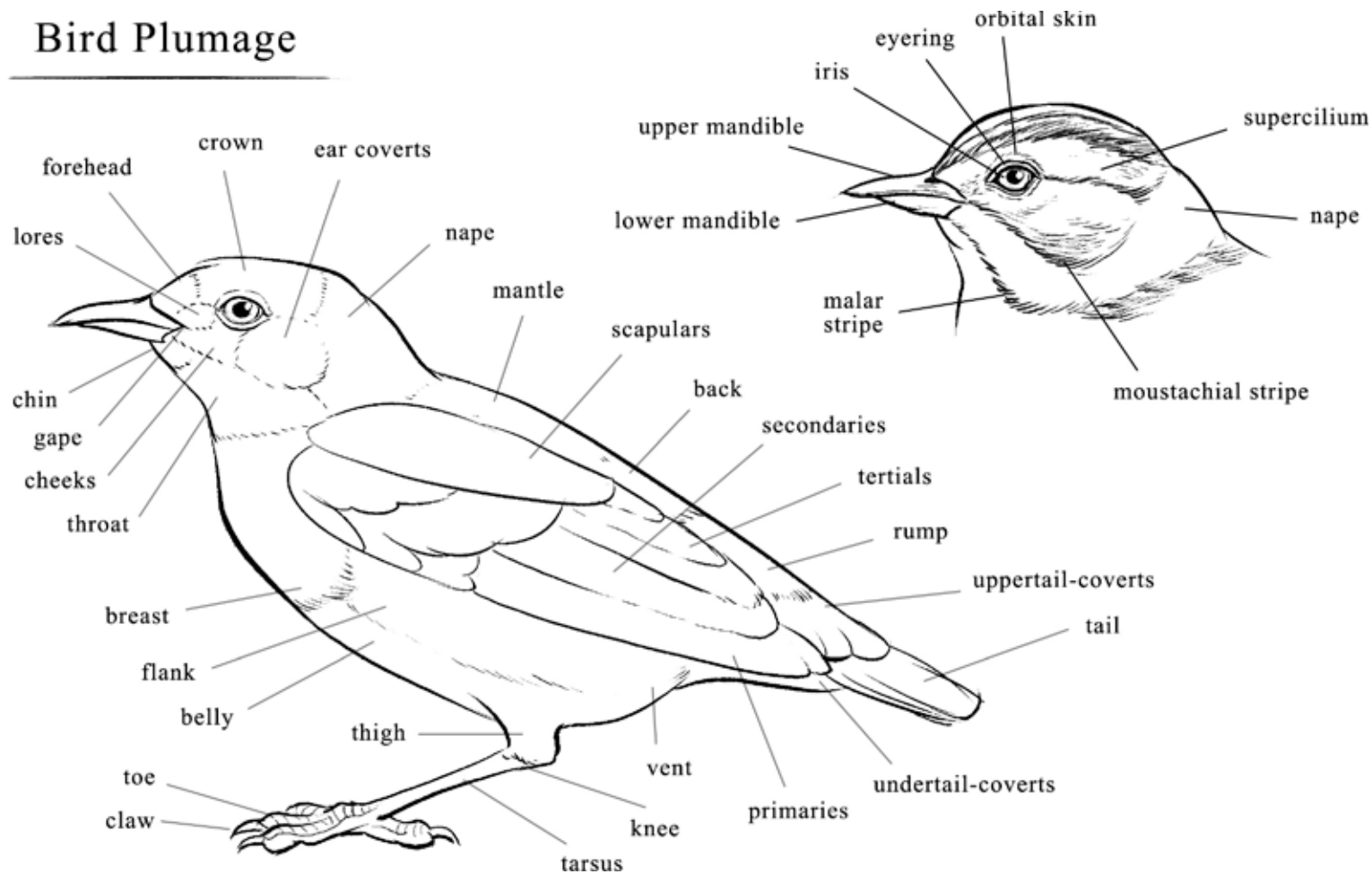
- D.R. Wells, *The Birds of the Thai-Malay Peninsula*, Volume One (1999) and Two (2007);
- A. Jeyarajasingam and A. Pearson's 1999 and 2012 books, *A Field*

Guide to the Birds of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapore (J&P 1999, 2012).

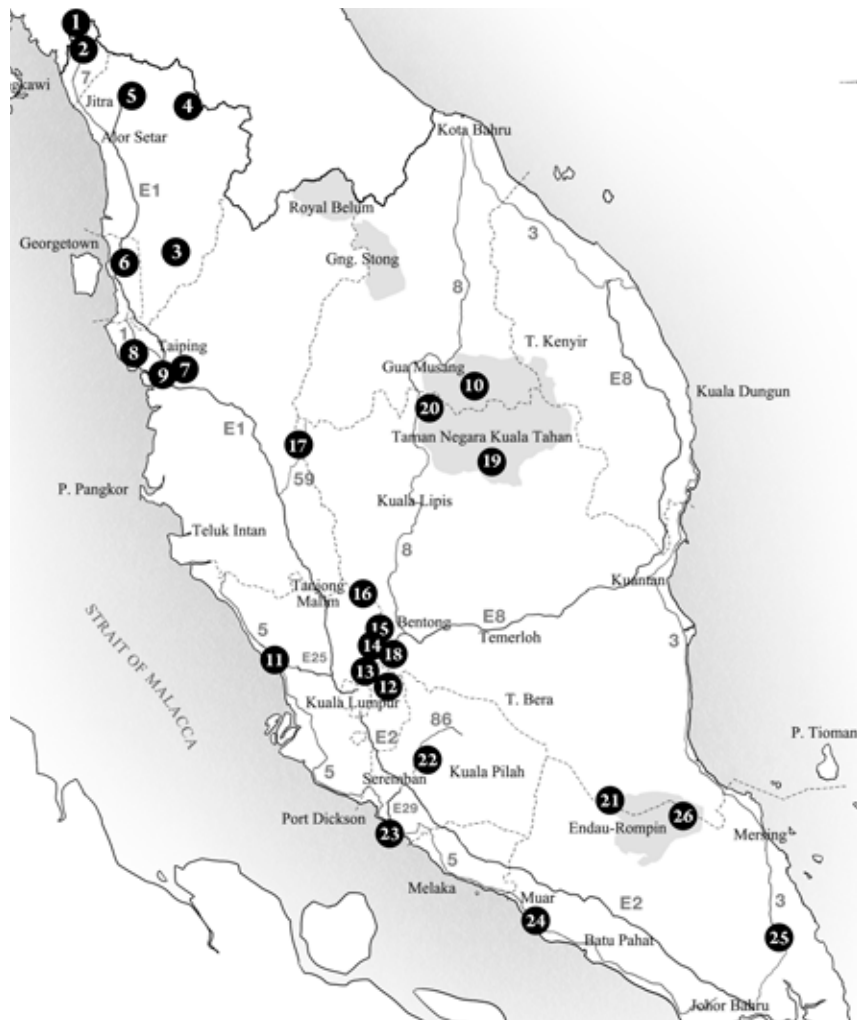
- C. Robson's, *Birds of South-East Asia* (2005).

These are supplemented by the *Handbook of the Birds of the World, Alive* (HBW), (online subscription required), especially for subspecies name, breeding, food, range, etc. Also, the Birdlife International website especially for population trend and range; HBW's Internet Collection of Birds (IBC) website; and for species/subspecies identification to supplement HBW, the Oriental Bird Images (OBI) database, and IUCN's Red List website for the IUCN threat status.

Bird Plumage



Birding Sites in Peninsular Malaysia



Perlis

- 1) Wang Kelian
- 2) Timah-Tasoh

Kedah

- 3) Sungai Sedim
- 4) Pedu (Ulu Muda)
- 5) Bukit Wang

Seberang Perai

- 6) Air Itam Dalam

Perak

- 7) Bukit Larut
- 8) Kuala Gula
- 9) Matang-Kuala Sepetang

Kelantan

- 10) Taman Negara Kuala Koh

Selangor

- 11) Kuala Selangor Nature Park (KSNP)
- 12) Ulu Langat (Sg Congkak, Sg Perdik, Pangsun)
- 13) Old Gombak Road (road 68 along E8)

Pahang

- 14) Genting Highlands/ Gohtong Jaya
- 15) Gunung Ulu Kali
- 16) Fraser's Hill
- 17) Cameron Highlands
- 18) Berjaya Hills
- 19) Taman Negara Kuala Tahan
- 20) Taman Negara Sungai Relau-Kuala Juram
- 21) Endau-Rompin (Selancar)

Negeri Sembilan

- 22) Gunung Telaga Buruk
(off road 86)

Melaka

- 23) Tanjung Tuan

Johor

- 24) Parit Jawa
- 25) Panti IBA
- 26) Endau-Rompin (Peta)

Blue-winged Pitta



Birds of the Lowland Forests



Chestnut-necklaced Partridge

Arborophila charltonii, Siul onak/Sang Seruk rimba.
28cm. R

Distribution: Rare, local resident at low elevations to about 300m. Historically recorded in Perlis, Kedah, Perak, N Pahang. eBird website records a few sightings in Kedah and one in Kuala Terenggan (N Pahang). **Status:** Vulnerable (VU) from forest logging and trapping. Possibly less than 2,500 adults. Totally Protected (TP). **Range:** This species has recently been split, causing some confusion. Even though the common English and scientific names are the same, eBird and OBI have its range as the Peninsula and Sabah whereas Birdlife, HBW and IUCN have it as the Peninsula and Sumatra. HBW names the Sabah population as Sabah Partridge, *A. graydoni*. **Habitat:** Forests including bamboo-dominated secondary growth. **Habits:** Forages in small coveys on the ground. No other information. **Food:** Seeds, berries and termites (from HBW, which may not apply locally).

Sexes alike. Subspecies: *charltonii* in the Peninsula and *graydoni* in Sabah (?). **Breeding:** No information. I have heard this Partridge in Kedah on 30 May and 4 Jun for two consecutive years, and these dates seem to be the dates when it calls. I did not hear it at any other time in the year. This is probably related to the start of its breeding season.



Red Junglefowl

Gallus gallus, Ayam hutan/beroga. Female 43cm, Male 68cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident principally at low elevations but up to 1,500m. However, at Gng Brinchang, Cameron Highlands, occurs up to 2,013m. 368 Bird I-Witness (BIW) records in KSNP, Panti, Bercham, Malim Nawar, Bkt Rengit etc., with 15 montane (Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands etc.). **Status:** Least Concern (LC), population declining from habitat loss and hunting. Protected. **Range:** India, Nepal to S China, Indochina, Sumatra, Java and Bali. Introduced to Sulawesi, Philippines. Not recorded Borneo. **Habitat:** Forest edge, mangrove edge, plantations, scrubs, grassland. **Habits:**

Amar-Singh HSS



Moves in small parties. **Food:** Invertebrates, tubers, seeds, fruits. **Sexes differ.** **Subspecies:** *spadiceus*. 5 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs recorded in Dec-Jun, Aug, Oct.

My photo's male was from the edge of Panti forest, Johor, foraging by himself. He was shy and always trying to get away from me. Note that the white wattle on the face distinguishes this wild junglefowl from its domesticated cousin which lacks it. However, they are of the same species and thus can interbreed. The wild junglefowl is in fact the original ancestor of the domesticated chicken. Wild intergrades may also lack the white wattle as seen in the other photo, showing male and female.



Male

Crested Fireback

Lophura ignita, Ayam pegar. Female 56-59cm, Male 65-73cm. R

Other names: Malay Crested Fireback, *L.rufa* (Birdlife, HBW). Birdlife and HBW call *L.ignita* as Bornean Crested Fireback. **Distribution:** Sparse to common in some locations, at low elevations to Melaka and Johor. Not found in Kedah, Perlis, and Terengganu. Even though said to be present up to 1,200m all 93 observations in BIW were in lower lowland forests. **Status:** Near-threatened (NT) but may be uplisted to Vulnerable (VU). TP. **Range:** S Burma to the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. No recent records in Burma, rare in Thailand, and declining in Pen Malaysia. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests.

Habits: For young subadults, this ground bird moves in flocks of

Female, subadult?



5-6 or less. Adults are solitary, at least part of the year. Male displays to female. There is one report of the male displacing the Great Argus owner of its display ground to display to a female. Note that the Great Argus, unlike the Crested Fireback, does not have spurs on its leg and is not a fighting bird like most big ground birds. **Food:** Ants, termites, other invertebrates, fallen fruits. **Subspecies:** *rufa*. **Breeding:** Female incubate and tend young. Eggs in April; fledglings 15 Oct; subadult 18 April (my record, see photos).



Its NT to VU status is indicated by the fact that, in Pen Malaysia, an overwhelming majority of the 93 BIW records were in Taman Negara Pahang. A few were in Krau and Bukit Rengit (Pahang) and Panti (Johor). Luckily, unlike the Peninsula endemic Malayan Peacock-Pheasant, this bird has been reported in Sabah and Sarawak. But like the Peacock-Pheasant, the Fireback's loss of good lowland forests is contributing to its decline. Pen Malaysia lost 8.2 percent of its forests between 2000 and 2010. Loss of forests and hunting are causing a rapid decline of this species in its range except in Taman Negara Pahang.

I found them to be quite common here, by the trails around the Taman Negara Kuala Tahan Park headquarters. It is suspected that

Subadult male



these were released by the Department of Wildlife and National Park (PERHILITAN) from their captive breeding programme or from zoos.

The adult male (previous page) was in a group including the (possibly subadult) female and subadult male (above), taken in May. This was at the Swamp Loop, near Park HQ. Similarly, the photo of the (also, possibly subadult) female (previous page) and subadult male (by the incomplete facial mask; this page), in a group of five, were also at the Swamp Loop, Apr. They were not shy at all, reinforcing the suspicion of released birds.

The female and subadult male were no more than 5m away and I could not get them into frame because they were too near. They are always a joy to behold.



Subadult male

Malayan Peacock-Pheasant

Polyplectron malacense, Merak pongsu. Female 42cm, Male 52cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon resident up to 150m, occasionally to 300m, S to N.Sembilan, and N.Johor (Labis). **Status:** Vulnerable (VU), due to loss of lowland forests and poaching. Population decreasing. TP.

Range: Peninsula endemic, that is, not available elsewhere, but potentially extinct in Peninsular Thailand according to Birdlife International-

Male



al and HBW. **Habitat:** Forests, well grown to mature. **Habits:** During courtship, the male displays his plumage in full splendour. The male displays from a few days to 60 days a year, possibly depending on fruit abundance. Display area is on a cleared ground 2m across. Apart from these display encounters, lifestyle is solitary except for mother and chick (Wells 1999; but note my observation, next page). Perches at night on branches or vines 4-6m up. **Food:** Invertebrates and fallen fruits. **Sexes differ.** **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** Eggs recorded in Mar, Apr, Aug.

Its Vulnerable status is reflected in the limited records (146, mostly heard) in the BIW website. Most of sightings have been in Taman Negara Pahang with a few elsewhere (Krau Wildlife Reserve, Tasik Bera, Sungai Cerul Forest Reserve, all in Pahang; Ulu Muda, Kedah; FRIM



Male running away

Tahan, Pahang, 12 Oct.

I heard a male calling in his loud voice while on a trail. I hid behind a tree stump nearby hoping it would crossover. Soon an immature male crossed 5m away but not the adult male. The immature then recrossed the trail path and rejoined the male. The male saw me and he fled further into the forest and I followed. He stopped 6m away and looked back and I had a few shots of him. What a magnificent bird he was!

As mentioned on the previous page, males lead solitary lives but on this occasion I saw the male with an immature. Perhaps the Malayan Peacock-Pheasant male assumes parental responsibility every now and then?

Pasoh, N.Sembilan once in 1989). Its dependence on plains-level forests, now 95 percent felled, has resulted in its rapid decline. Numbers are estimated to be 1,500-7,000 individuals (HBW 2016).

Photos are of the adult and immature male. Only the adult male has a crest and the iridescent ocelli on the body and tail. Female and immature have non-iridescent ocelli. The immature is a male identified by its underdeveloped crest. All photos taken in Taman Negara Kuala

Male slowly walking away





Male at lek

Great Argus

Argusianus argus, Kuang raya/Burung Kuang. 200cm, of that, male's tail is 140cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident up to 950m S to Johor. 442 BIW (mostly heard) records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Sg Relau, Sg Sedim etc. A few montane records in Bkt Larut, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, and Berjaya Hills. **Status:** Near Threatened (NT) due to habitat loss and poaching. Moderately rapid population decline. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *A.a. argus*, extreme S Burma, SW Thailand S to the Peninsula, Sumatra; *A.a. grayi*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:**

Male, preening

Usually solitary, chicks only raised by female. Adult male holds court on a lek (dancing ground), kept clear of debris, where male displays to females in an elaborate ritual. **Food:** Arthropods (e.g. the giant ant, *Camponotus gigas*), fruits, fresh leaves. **Breeding:** Varies year to year, starting from Jan to Mar, ending Jul to Sep (depending on food availability?).

This male was at his lek (top) in Taman Negara Kuala Tahan during May and June. In my six days of observing him (four days in the second week of May, and two days in the third week of Jun; typically from 8.30 am to 1 pm) he only called using the short call, *kau-wow*, not the long call, although I heard others nearby occasionally using the long-call.



On my third day of observing him he decided to climb a vine to preen and call. This allowed me to see the ocelli on his secondary feathers. Usually when walking around, the ocelli are hidden. The full extent of these beautiful ocelli are revealed when he displays to females. Female lacks the ocelli of the male.

While he did call from the lek, I noticed most calls being made from a mound to the side of it. I presume his calls travelled further from the mound. Sadly for him (and for me), no females appeared even though the breeding season had started by May. Observing the male over this period, I could not help but notice his lonely existence. In the mornings he did not stray very far from his calling ground. The longest time he did not call was a thirty-minute period during which I presume he went in search of food. Perhaps he spent a longer time searching for food in the afternoon.

The two photos of a female (this page) were also from Kuala Tahan, in May. She was from a group of five (three males, two females). I was told they had been released by PERHILITAN and came from a zoo (i.e., not wild). The males may have adapted and gone into the forest, but the females appeared to linger just outside the park HQ.



Female





Francis Yap (both photos)

pelago S to W, N and E Australia; *I.f. woodfordi*, Solomon Is. **Habitat:** Densely forested freshwater streams and pools or other permanent wetlands. Also, reed-beds. **Habits:** Crepuscular (dusk, dawn) feeding except during rains, keeps to dense cover otherwise. Solitary. Extends neck and bill upwards and stays motionless when alarmed like other bitterns. **Food:** Possibly invertebrates and vertebrates. **Sexes nearly alike**, female paler on top.

I came across this bird once in my Kuala Lumpur neighbourhood, tangled in plastic. After removing the plastic, taking care not to be pecked, I left it resting in a tree. It was gone after a few hours.

Black Bittern

Ixobrychus flavicollis, Pucung hitam. 54cm. M

Distribution: Local and uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant at low elevations but crosses or follows the Main Range during migration. Recorded in Kelantan, Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Melaka, Johor. Has been recorded Jun-Jul, i.e. outside migration season. 35 BIW records in Teluk Rimba Muar (7 records) and two each in Bercham, Sg Rambai, Kelang river bank, and Sekinchan ricefields. Others are of one record each in Perlis, S.Perai, and the only upland record in Fraser's Hill (a bird attracted to the lights in an apartment at night). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *I.f. flavicollis*, Pakistan E to SE China, S to Greater Sundas, Philippines, Sulawesi; *I.f. australis*, Moluccas, Timor, Aru Is., New Guinea, Bismarck Archi-





Crested Serpent-Eagle

Spilornis cheela, Helang kuik. 53cm. R

Distribution: Common resident from lowlands up to 1,900m. Most common large eagle. 1,372 BIW records. Utters loud calls perched or in flight same as others in the family. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** India, S China, S Ryukyu Is (Japan), Indochina, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Bali, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, scrub. **Habits:** Usually solitary but at times in pairs soaring and duetting together calling *kwee-kwik*. Still-hunts in mangroves and other habitats from canopy level. **Food:** Snakes, lizards, amphibians, small birds, and other vertebrates. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *malayaensis*. 21 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nesting Feb-May.



Sunning photo at Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, 25m away 15m up, sunning itself in the early morning sun. In-flight photo at KSNP, showing its distinctive pattern in flight. The top photo from Kinta Nature Park, Perak, 20m away 10m up. This raptor is not very concerned about human attention.





Blyth's Hawk-Eagle

Nisaetus alboniger, Lang hantu/Helang-Rajawali gunung. 51-58cm.
R

Distribution: Common resident but local from plains-level forests, and more often from the foothills to 1,980m throughout Pen Malaysia except possibly S.Perai. Nesting only in the hills ranging from 600 to 1,000m in tall emergent trees. 347 BIW records in Panti, Genting Highlands, Gng Telapa Buruk, Pos Slim, Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, etc.



Status: LC, population declining due to deforestation. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, logged and undisturbed. **Habits:** Still-hunts from canopy to mid-storey. Silent when soaring. **Food:** Lizards and bats have been recorded. Possibly other vertebrates too. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Incubation early Nov, chicks late Dec and late Apr.

Two raptor species that are most likely to be confused with the Blyth's are the Mountain (only in Langkawi's Gng Raya) and Wallace's Hawk Eagles. However, both latter raptors have light brown barrings underparts and mantle against the Blyth's dark barrings and mantle. Also, Blyth's white central tail band is recognisable against the multi bands of the other two raptors.

The nestling was from Genting Highlands, 13 Apr, at about 1,100m elevation. It had yet to exercise its wing muscles to be ready for flight. The nest was built some 100m from the main road in a tall but sparse tree. Luckily it was far enough from the nearest spot where photographers could gather for pictures of the nestling and parents. Otherwise the disturbance could have caused the parents to abandon the nest and nestling.

I bumped into this subadult (by the rufous edge of the feathers, and incomplete mesial stripe of the throat) in Panti forest, Johor some 7m up a mid-sized tree, Dec. He (she?) was perched so silently; it was only by chance that I decided to look up and saw this wonderful raptor. I had to backtrack to about 15m to get it into frame.

Nestling



After an initial disapproving look — when it stared at me with its piercing eyes — the bird totally ignored me. I took portraits of him back and front to my heart's content while he concentrated on searching for his next meal.

Note the resting on one foot in the bottom photo on the first page. Raptors (and other birds) tend to do that for some reason.



Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

Wallace's Hawk-Eagle

Nisaetus nanus, Lang selat/hantu kasturi. 46cm. R

Distribution: Rare resident at plains-level. 44 BIW records in the lowlands at Bkt Wang, Tasik Kenyir, Sg Sedim, Nenasi, Kuala Juram, Kuala Tahan, etc. One record each in Panti, FRIM Kepong, Pekan peat swamp, etc. Historically not recorded in large parts of Selangor, Terengganu, Kedah but in BIW, Kedah has the most



records (however, the 7 records in Bkt Wang could be of the same bird or pair). **Status:** VU, population declining rapidly from loss of lowland forests. Near extinction in Thailand. TP. Note: Any species dependent on plains-level forests in the Peninsula and Greater Sundas are likely to be a threatened species because this region has lost much of this type of forest. **Range and Subspecies:** *N.n. nanus*, extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo; *N.n. stresemanni*, Nias Is. (off W Sumatra). **Habitat:** Forests, occasionally the edge. **Habits:** Keeps to forests, not dispersing away like Blyth's Hawk-Eagle. Hunts from perches in the forest or its edge. Alone or pair. **Food:** Vertebrates including birds, squirrels, and lizards. **Sexes alike. Breeding:** Nests in tall forests at the base of the crown of species *Kompassia* or *Shorea*. Season possibly Dec-Mar.



Long Roslee Ngah

man Tun Dr Ismail, Kuala Lumpur. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina to the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Philippines.

Crested Goshawk

Accipiter trivirgatus, Lang sika. 40-46cm. R

Distribution: Generally uncommon resident mainly at low elevations to 250m although recorded above 1,200m in Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands. 194 BIW records in Bercham (Ipoh), Royal Perak Golf Course, Bkt Rengit, Gng Raya (Langkawi), Taman Negara Kuala Juram and Sg Relau, etc. One montane record in Bkt Larut, and two records each in Perlis and S.Perai even though historically not recorded there. A few records in suburbia e.g. breeding in a park in Ta-

Amar-Singh HSS





Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

Sexes nearly alike. Shown here are adults. Juveniles have a spotted belly instead of barred in adults. **Subspecies:** *indicus*. 11 subspecies altogether. **Breeding:** Nesting recorded Dec-Jan, Mar-Apr, Jul. Nests 18-20m up bare-trunked trees.

Habitat: Forests, mature and recovering from logging, forest edge, plantations with tall trees, wooded suburbia, mangroves occasionally. **Habits:** Does not soar above forest as often as other raptors and thus less often seen. Hunts from perches in lower canopy or mid-storey of tall trees, and from dense foliage at forest edge. Usually alone but soars as a pair. **Food:** Prey taken from trees, ground or at times in the air. Prey includes munia, woodpecker, small squirrel and other small mammals.





Juvenile

White-bellied Sea-Eagle

Haliaeetus leucogaster, Lang siput. 60-69cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mostly on the coast but follows the bigger rivers deep inland and residing in forest-backed reservoirs. Recorded 1,500m at Tasik Habu, Cameron Highlands. 850 BIW records at Tanjung Tuan, KSNP, S.Perai, Mersing, Gng Raya, etc. Historically not recorded in Kelantan but 4 BIW records there.

Status: LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Mainly coasts of India, SE Asia, S China, Philippines, Wallacea, New Guinea and Bismarcks, Australia, Tasmania. **Habitat:** Coasts, inland water bodies, ricefields. **Habits:** Alone but more often in pairs. Loners

Long Roslee Ngah

Adult



are non-breeders. Attacks other raptors, e.g. Osprey and Brahminy Kite, to steal their prey. Noisy. **Food:** Fish, sea snakes, crabs. If not taken to a nest, food is eaten on the wing. Food snatched from water, not by plunging in, unlike the Osprey.

Sexes alike. Subspecies: None. **Breeding:** Mostly on islands in tall emergent trees. If not available, small trees projecting from a cliff. Nests are 1.5m across with new materials added often over decades reused by the same pair or by different owners. Pairs mate permanently. Incubation, Oct-Jun.

My photo of a tame juvenile in Perhentian Is., Sep, 5m away. Hand-fed chicken entrails by a local. Probably injured when young.



Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

small family parties up to five, sallying for prey 5m or more up; prey taken on the fly, from surfaces, even ground. Roosts in tree holes, once observed up to six birds entering a hole. Courtship includes allopreening, with bouts often lasting 30 minutes. **Food:** A wide array of arthropods, occasionally little birds e.g. munias, sunbirds. Also a Korean/Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (Chong 2017).

Sexes alike. Subspecies: None (monotypic). **Breeding:** In tree holes 15-20m up, abandoned by woodpeckers or barbets. Also, cavities in limestone cliffs (Amar-Singh HSS's report in OBI). Clutch of 4, usually 2 fledge but not more than 3. Active nests Feb-May, Jul, Dec.

Black-thighed Falconet

Microhierax fringillarius, *Falko rajawali*. 16cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at least to 1,700m (Wells 1999), 2,030m on Gng Brinchang, Cameron Highlands (J&P 2012). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Burma (Tenasserim), SW Thailand S to Sumatra, Java, Bali, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forest edge, forests, secondary growth, large wooded gardens. **Habits:** Sometimes alone but usually in pairs or





Amar-Singh HSS (both photos)

Asian Emerald Dove

Chalcophaps indica, Punai tanah. 25cm. R

Other names: Emerald Dove (J&P 2012, OBI), Grey-capped Emerald Dove (Birdlife). **Distribution:** Common resident mostly at low elevations but up to 1,400m. Nomadic, traveling long distances depending on fruit availability. 770 BIW records mostly lowland in Pantl, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, Bkt Wang, etc. Also, some upland records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Gap, Cameron Highlands. **Status:** LC, population declining



from predation by feral cats and rats. Protected. **Range and Subspecies:** *indica*, Indian subcontinent, S China, Taiwan, Indochina, Philippines, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi, Moluccas, W Papuan Is; *robinsoni*, Sri Lanka; *maxima*, Andaman Is.; *Auga*, Nicobar Is.; *natalis*, Christmas Is.; *minima*, NW New Guinea.

Habitat: Forests including mangroves, secondary growth, overgrown plantations. **Habits:** Ground to mid-storey. Shy, easily disturbed. At times collide with darkened glass windows. Long distance dispersal more often by males occur by night. Mostly solitary. **Food:** Fallen fruit, bamboo seed, termites. Visits mineral seeps. **Sexes nearly alike.** The upper plumage is dark green but in a good light, lighter colours are seen as in the photos. **Breeding:** Eggs in Feb and Apr-Sep. Longest survival of re-trapped ringed birds is 40-45 months.



Francis Yap

Male

Habits: Feeds in the canopy in the forests or in pioneer trees by logging tracks. Joins other pigeons in a fruiting tree. **Food:** Figs and other fruits.

Sexes differ. Shown here is the male. Female has a whitish throat, greyish crown merging into a greenish face. Lacks the orange breast patch. This bird is the smallest pigeon. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Copulation in early Apr, eggs 14 Jun. Clutch of 2. Flimsy nest of live twigs, typical of the genus; male is principal nest-builder.

Little Green-Pigeon

Treron olax, Punai daun. 20cm R

Distribution: Fairly common resident at plains-level. A wanderer that may cross the Main Range at night, e.g. at Fraser's Hill but in fewer numbers than Thick-billed Pigeon and Jambu Fruit-Dove. Not recorded in Perlis. No BIW records for Melaka. 224 BIW records in Pantl (overwhelmingly), Kuala Lompat, Endau-Rompin Peta, Bkt Rengit, Pondok Tanjung, Kuala Tahan, etc. Historically not recorded in mainland Kedah but 1 record in Bkt Hijau RF (2 in Langkawi). **Status:** LC, population stable. Protected. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, W Java. **Habitat:** Inland forests especially edge, disturbed, secondary growth.

Uzair Ab Rahim

Male





Cinnamon-headed Pigeon

Treron fulvicollis, Punai bakau. 26cm. R

Other name: Cinnamon-headed Green-Pigeon (J&P 2012, Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Local and uncommon resident. Rare wanderers along the west coast from Kuala Gula down to Kelang. Also Penang Is. and Melaka. Now mostly in SE coast S from Kuantan including Tioman Is; also into the interior to Tasik Bera. 22 BIW records, all in SE coasts and interior, in Tanjung Balau, Tasik Bera, Panti, Mersing, Lanjut, Kekondong, Nenasi, Sg Sedili Kecil. **Status:** NT globally, and locally one of the most threatened birds because its core habitats are fast being destroyed; also from cage-bird trade. Population decreasing. **TP. Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including swamp, peat swamp and coastal

Francis Yap (both photos, of a male)



forests, mangroves, coastal scrub, wooded gardens. Non-breeders visit higher elevation forests to 1,200m.

Habits: Possibly a long-range wanderer like other forest fruit-eating pigeons although not recorded by night mist-netting at Fraser's Hill. In small groups (although I have seen it solitary and a pair in Kuala Rompin area) in the canopy. **Food:** Fruits including figs. **Sexes differ** as other Green-Pigeons. Shown here is a male. Female has cinnamon areas replaced by dark olive green above and yellowish green on breast. **Subspecies:** *fulvicollis*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests recorded Jan–Feb and May–Jun. A clutch of 2.



Amar-Singh HSS

Male

LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Nepal, NE India E to S China S to Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo, WC Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages the canopy in groups. Nomadic, long travel by night. May cross over the Main Range e.g. at Fraser's Hill. **Food:** Figs. **Sexes differ.** Male, a maroon mantle and cinnamon undertail coverts. Female, green mantle and undertail coverts. **Subspecies:** *curvirostra* (Wells 1999, OBI). HBW regards it as monotypic. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Aug.

My photo was from Pedu (Kedah) forest, Jun, 7m away. Not very concerned being observed, probably too busy feeding.

Thick-billed Pigeon

Treron curvirostra, Punai lengguak. 27cm. R

Other name: Thick-billed Green-pigeon (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident up to 1,000m. 247 BIW records mainly lowland in Pantii, Bkt Wang, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc., 5 upland records at Gap (~830m). 2 eBird records at Bkt Larut. Also 5 records in S.Perai, and 1 in Taman Negara Kuala Koh, Kelantan. Historically not recorded in S.Perai, Kelantan, Terengganu. **Status:**





Francis Yap

Female

Jambu Fruit-Dove

Ptilinopus jambu, Punai jambu. 27cm. R

Other name: *Ramphiculus jambu* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Uncommon to sparse resident, nomadic, travelling over long distances, from low elevations up to 1,300m. (But a male was recorded in Gng Ulu Kali, ~1,700m, on 23 Oct 2015. See photo). Only 50 BIW records in Panti, Taman Negara Sg Relau, FRIM Kepong, Bkt Cahaya, Bkt Rengit etc. Maximum elevation in BIW recorded at about 1,100m. **Status:** NT, population under stress due to habitat loss in its range. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula to Greater Sundas, but status in Java uncertain. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy, also ground rarely but has been reported taking



Long Roslee Ngah

Male

fallen fruits. **Food:** Fruits. **Sexes differ.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Nov–Feb, Jul. Incubation by both parents for at least 10 days.

I have photographed a female at Bkt Lagong, Selangor, Dec. Two were on the ground when they spotted me and flew up, the female perched some 10m away, unconcerned with being photographed. But she flew off when I tried to get nearer. I have also seen a female at the Awana pumphouse road, ~970m, but yet to see the blushing male.



Francis Yap (both photos)

(especially sub-coastal) and trappings. **Status:** LC globally, probably more threatened in Pen Malaysia; population declining. TP. **Range:** India, Sri Lanka, S China (Yunnan), Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi, Philippines. **Habitat:** Mature forests, landward edge of mangroves. **Habits:** Canopy of tall trees in pairs or flocks. **Food:** Figs. No other information. **Sexes alike** as other Imperial-Pigeons. **Subspecies:** *polia*. 12 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Active nests in Sep and Jan-Mar. Nesting at mangrove edge.

I saw this bird many years ago at the NERC, Endau-Rompin (Peta), Johor, high up on a dead tree.

Green Imperial-Pigeon

Ducula aenea, Pergam besar. 43cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon resident, local, at plains-level. To higher elevations on islands. Not recorded in Perlis, Terengganu, Melaka, N.Sembilan. 49 BIW records in Tioman, Langkawi, Endau-Rompin (Peta), Bkt Rengit, Tg Balau, Sg Sedim. The rest are of single records, e.g. Balik Pulau (Penang), Jeli (Kelantan), Penanga (S.Perai, flying over, a flock of 20), Matang mangroves (Perak, a flock of 4). Only 1 (unconfirmed) record in Taman Negara Pahang, in Sg Relau. Historically not recorded also in S.Perai, Kelantan but now with BIW records. Note: 148 records including Sabah, Sarawak. Gone from many former habitats due to forest felling





Pied Imperial-Pigeon

Ducula bicolor, Pergam rawa. 40cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident on islands — Langkawi, Jarak and Sembilan (Perak), Perhentian, Serenggeh, Redang (Terengganu), Tioman (Pahang), Rawa (Johor). May visit isolated mainland coastal forests and mangroves to feed. Not recorded in Perlis, S.Perai, Kelantan. 82 BIW records in Pulau Babi Tengah (Mersing), Tioman, Perhentian, Besar (Melaka), Tanjung Tuan, etc. Also Penang. **Status:** LC, population in decline. TP. **Range:** Andamans, Nicobar Is.; coasts of Indochina, Indonesia, W New Guinea, N Australia. **Habitat:** Forests, mangroves. **Habits:** Canopy to mid-storey, often gregarious. Disperser and seeder of island vegetation. **Food:** Fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Apr-Jul on E coast islands.

Photos from Perhentian Besar. The single bird was feeding by itself 8m up, Feb. Often they are in groups especially when resting but often also feed alone. Shy, ready to fly off especially when approached. Less jittery when feeding, like other pigeons. To me, when they are ready to settle for the night they are much less shy. The pair was taken about 6.20pm, 7m above. They began settling down about 6pm. Ordinarily at this distance they would have flown away. In this case I was able to photograph at leisure.





Amar-Singh HSS

in Gap-Fraser's Hill road, Genting Highlands, Pos Slim. Historically not recorded Perlis, S.Perai, Terengganu. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** N India, Nepal E to S and E China (including Hainan), Indochina, S to S Burma. Winters S to S India, Sri Lanka, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Sulawesi, Philippines.

Habitat: Mangroves, plantations, riverbank thickets, secondary growth, scrub, tall reeds. And wooded gardens during passage. **Habits:** Prefers thick vegetation. Shy especially when approached. Silent in wintering grounds. **Food:** Amar Singh HSS (Birding Malaysia e-Forum) and Chong (2017) have recorded caterpillars as prey. In its range: insects, caterpillars, spiders and small fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. Migration: Passage dates, 21 Sep at Fraser's Hill continuing till 26 Nov. Extreme outgoing date is 16 Apr, another is 15 May in Selangor. One BIW record at Gap road 3 Jun.

Chestnut-winged Cuckoo

Clamator coromandus, Sewah kepak merah berjambul. 46cm. M

Distribution: Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant mostly lowland with daytime records to 400m. Crosses or follows the Main Range N-S during migration, e.g. at Fraser's Hill (~1,200m) mostly at night as in most migration. 112 BIW records mostly lowland in KSNP, S.Perai (Pantai Burung, Air Itam Dalam), Perak (Kuala Gula, Kinta-Malim Nawar-Bidor-Bercham wetlands), etc. 4 upland records

Francis Yap





Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo

Hierococcyx nicolor, (No official Malay name)/Sewah Hodgson.
29cm. M

Other names: Whistling Hawk-Cuckoo (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), *H. fugax nicolor* (J&P 2012). J&P divides this Hawk-Cuckoo into two subspecies, *H.f. nicolor* and *H.f. fugax* (next entry). **Distribution:** An uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor to 1,200m. Not recorded Kelantan, Terengganu. 30 BIW records in Air Itam Dalam, KSNP, Penang Hill, Sg Sedim, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, India, Russia, China, Japan, Indochina, Greater Sundas,

Uzair Ab Rahim



Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, wooded gardens, mangrove edge. **Habits:** Lower to mid storeys. Shy. **Food:** Insects, larvae, small animals, also fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Migration:** Late Aug to May but not recorded Feb.

To distinguish from the Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo (next entry), “penultimate dark tail-band is narrowest” for the Hodgson’s (Robson 2005) as can be seen in the photo from the back. This photo was from Sg Relau’s jeep track, 1 Nov, a subadult by the rufous-tinged feathers (adult, dark slaty grey). When it spotted me, it flew off but followed the track and stopped 20m away. As I approached, it flew off, again following the track and alighting. This time as I approached to within 15m, 6m up, it stayed put and allowed me some photos.



Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo

Hierococcyx fugax, Sewah hantu/Sewah-Rajawali rimba. 29cm. R

Other names: Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo, *H.f. fugax* (J&P 2012), Malay Hawk-Cuckoo (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Uncommon resident up to 300m. 96 BIW records in Panti, Penang, FRIM Kepong, Sg Relau, Templer Park, etc. 6 montane records in Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands (most likely for the Hodgson's Hawk-Cuckoo (previous entry) which is present in montane habitat). Historically not recorded Kelantan, Terengganu but with 1 BIW record each. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas.

Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)



Habitat: Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages mid to lower storeys. Active also in shrubs. Per HBW, calls Feb–Aug, including throughout moonlit nights in Apr. **Food:** Like other Hawk-Cuckoos, fond of caterpillars; fruits. Takes also other invertebrates, gleans from surfaces. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Not much information. Fledgling recorded in late Aug. A brood parasite with hosts White-rumped Shama and Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher.

As I was walking on a path in Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, this Hawk-Cuckoo suddenly landed briefly 7m away 4m up allowing me one poor photograph before it flew off. Another in Panti was friendlier but I did not have a camera then.



Indian Cuckoo

Cuculus micropterus, Sewah India. 33cm. R M

Distribution: Fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Resident up to 800m, migrant at least to 1200m (Fraser's Hill). 331 BIW records, mostly heard, lowland, in Pantl, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, Air Itam Dalam, etc. Also upland. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** Resident, *C.m. concretus*: S Indochina S to Greater Sundas. Migrant visitor, *C.m. micropterus*: Indian subcontinent (including Himalayas), Burma, N Indochina to E, NE China, Korea, Russian Far East; winters S to Andaman, Nicobar Is., Greater Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Resident prefers forests. Mi-



grant in various habitats including plantations, scrubs. **Habits:** Resident forages in canopy of tall trees; migrant preference varies. Resident's territorial calls especially persistent Mar-Jun; migrant calls sporadically. **Food:** A preference for caterpillars, also flying termites. **Sexes slightly differ:** male has a slate grey breast, female has a rufous tinge to it. **Breeding:** Juveniles in Jun-Sep. A brood parasite with host Black-and-yellow Broadbill.

Photos of a female from Fraser's Hill, early Mar, 6m away. It was foraging 1m above ground in dense undergrowth. Elevation, time of year, foraging close to ground and not calling suggest this to be a passage migrant. Not shy, staying put for quite a time.



Aviancatspace Cheng

wooded gardens, overgrown rubber plantations. **Habits:** Often in upper storey but may come down 2-3m from the ground. Usually solitary. Calls territorially especially at its peak intensity Feb-Jun. **Food:** No information except sallies for flying termites. Possibly also other invertebrates.

Sexes alike. Subspecies: *sonneratii*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Fledglings in late May-late Jul. Brood parasite with host Common Iora in more open areas and Green Iora in forests.

My photo from Taman Negara Sg Relau, Pahang, Nov, taken less than 4m away when it was in a low bush, 1.5m up. It was so near that I could not get it into frame but it was totally unconcerned.

Banded Bay Cuckoo

Cacomantis sonneratii, Sewah takuweh. 23cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident up to 900m. 222 BIW records in Panti, FRIM Kepong, Wang Kelian, Bkt Wang, etc. A few upland records to ~970m, e.g. Genting Highlands. Historically not recorded Kelantan but recorded in BIW at Kuala Koh. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge,





Long Roslee Ngah

Adult grey morph

Plaintive Cuckoo

Cacomantis merulinus, Sewah mati anak. 22cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly at plains-level but up to 1,500m in Cameron Highlands. 630 BIW records, lowland, in Panti, Bercham, FRIM Kepong, Pulau Burung, Sg Relau, etc. Also 6 montane records at ~1,000m. Historically not recorded only in S.Perai but quite a few in BIW at Pantai Burung. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. Philippines, Sulawesi. **Habitat:** Forest edge, wooded gardens, scrub, overgrown plantations, mangroves. **Habits:** Very vocal sometimes calling at night. From mid- to upper storeys. May come down to the

Long Roslee Ngah

Female rufous morph



ground. **Food:** Insects especially caterpillars. Also fruit (HBW).

Sexes alike. Adults have two morphs, the grey and rufous with the latter being rare and only in females. Juvenile similar to the rufous morph but paler and buffier. **Subspecies:** *querulous* in N Pen Malaysia and *threnodes*, S. 4 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Calling season is Oct-Jul. Fledglings in early Jun-late Aug. Brood host of Dark-necked Tailorbird and Yellow-bellied Prinia.

I have photographed the Plaintive Cuckoo, at times quite shy but mostly not bothered, like most other cuckoos.



Grey morph

records, ~830m. Historically not recorded in S.Perai, Kelantan, Melaka but 2 BIW records in S.Perai, and 3 Kelantan. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater and Lesser Sundas E to New Guinea, Philippines, N,E Australia. **Habitat:** Forests, mangroves, forest edge, overgrown plantations. **Habits:** From low to upper storeys. Male calling indicates a territorial behaviour. **Food:** Possibly includes small invertebrates. **Sexes alike** with grey and rufous morphs, the latter rare. From Plaintive Cuckoo by all rufous buff underparts to breast and throat. **Subspecies:** *C.v. sepulcralis* (previously, Rusty-breasted Cuckoo). 10 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** No information. Brood parasite with hosts Pied Fantail, Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher, Olive-backed Sunbird.

My photo of an adult grey morph in Pangsun, Selangor, Aug, 5m away 2m up, totally fearless in my presence.

Brush Cuckoo

Cacomantis variolosus, Sewah gila. 24cm. R

Other names: Rusty-breasted Cuckoo, *C.sepulcralis* (J&P 2012). OBI lists both Rusty-breasted and Brush (with photos for Brush from S Luzon and Helmahera, Indonesia). **Distribution:** Fairly common (to uncommon?) resident up to 600m (but note BIW records). 127 BIW records in Panti, Taman Rimba Ampang, Pangsun, Bkt Larut (6 records at ~1,000m), etc. Also at Gap, 2

Francis Yap

Rufous morph





Aviancatspace Cheng (both photos, of a male)

Little Bronze-Cuckoo

Chrysococcyx minutillus, Sewah daun. 16cm. R

Other name: *Chalcites minutillus* (OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Fairly common to uncommon resident at low elevations to 250m although one record in Fraser's Hill, 1,300m. 129 BIW records in KSNP, Bercham, Air Itam Dalam, Panti, Kg Sahabat, etc. None upland. Historically not recorded Kelantan, Terengganu but 3 BIW records for the latter. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Greater and Lesser Sundas, S Philippines, New Guinea, N,NE Australia. **Habitat:** Mangroves, forest edge, scrub, secondary growth, over-



grown plantation, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Often solitary but at times in small groups. Males vocal when they meet. Keeps to the crown of trees, at times coming down lower. Calls from up high. **Food:** Caterpillars, gleaned from foliage.

Sexes differ. Shown here is a male with red orbital skin; female is green. Smallest of the cuckoos. **Subspecies:** *peninsularis*. 11 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** A brood parasite with host Golden-bellied Gerygone. Cuckoo nestling, which hatches first, removes host eggs. Season possibly Mar-Sep. A newly hatched bird on 25 Mar was tended by its foster parents till at least 26 May.



Francis Yap (both photos)

Female

crown of trees or in flight. Feeds in dense foliage. **Food:** Arthropods taken from surfaces, possibly also by aerial sallies.

Breeding: A juvenile fed by foster parents late May to early Jun. Brood parasite with host Plain-throated Sunbird, Van Hasselt's Sunbird and Little Spiderhunter. **Migration:** Autumn passage at Fraser's Hill 7 Aug-31 Dec. Spring passage unknown.

Violet Cuckoo

Chrysococyx xanthorhynchus, Sewah rembah. 17cm. R M

Distribution: Uncommon and local resident, winter visitor and passage migrant at low elevations to 500m but follows or crosses the Main Range, e.g. at Fraser's Hill, in spring and autumn passages. 144 BIW records (many heard only or in flight) in Panti (overwhelmingly), Bkt Wang, Sg Perdik, Taman Rimba Ampang, Sg Sedim, etc. Historically not recorded Kedah, S.Perai but 14 BIW records for Kedah and 1 S.Perai (in flight). Also 2 montane in Bkt Larut (10 Jan, in flight and 15 Mar, both likely on passage). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *C.x. xanthorhynchus*, far NE Indian subcontinent E to Yunnan, Indochina S to Greater Sundas, Palawan; *C.x. amethystinus*, S Philippines from Luzon. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, overgrown plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Resident's territorial calls are from the Male





FTDC

Drongo-Cuckoo

Sewah sawai. 25cm. R M

Drongo-Cuckoo (J&P 2012) is now split into Square-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (STDC), *Surniculus lugubris*, and Fork-tailed Drongo-Cuckoo (FTDC), *S. dicrucoides*, as was done by eBird, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. OBI lists both under Asian Drongo-Cuckoo, *S. lugubris*. For lack of literature on STDC and FTDC, here they are lumped as Drongo-Cuckoo. **Distribution:** STDC: Common resident to 800m. FTDC: Common passage migrant, winter visitor, above 900m only during autumn and spring passages. 611 BIW records for both species. Historically not recorded Melaka but has 4 BIW records (Tanjung Tuan). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** Resident STDC (*S.l. barussarum*): Nepal to NE India, E Bangladesh, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo, SW Philippines. Migrant FTDC (*S.d. dicru-*



STDC

roides): India E through Nepal to Assam, SC and SE China S to N Burma, N Vietnam; winters S to Indochina, Sumatra, Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, secondary growth, scrub. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy. Its strident calls are often heard. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Small invertebrates, sometimes fruit. Sallies for swarming termites. **Sexes alike. Breeding:** STDC, fledglings recorded May-Jul. A brood parasite to many species of babblers being its host. Also Olive-winged Bulbul. Photo of STDC from camp site, Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, 4m away 4m up, Feb. Totally unafraid. FTDC from Timah Tasoh, Perlis, 12 Dec, 6m away 5m up. Again, not afraid.



Chestnut-bellied Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus sumatranus, Cenok kecil. 40cm. R

Other name: *Rhopodytes sumatranus* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident at low elevations to 200m but has been recorded 1,000m on Gng Tahan. 164 BIW records, all lowland, in Panti, KSNP, Kuala Juram, Lakum, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. **Status:** NT due to loss of lowland forests; population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, overgrown plantations. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy, gleaning leaves for prey as other malkohas. **Food:** Insects, and possibly other invertebrates.

Francis Yap



Sexes alike as in most malkoha s except for Raffles's Malkoha, and to a certain extent the Chestnut-breasted Malkoha, a difference in eye colour. **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** Possibly Feb-Aug.

Malkohas are of the family Cuculidae, i.e. the same as the cuckoos that are brood parasitic but the malkohas are not. For relatively big birds, the malkohas produce soft calls and birders have to be on alert and know their calls to be ready to spot these handsome creatures.

My photo was from Panti forest, Johor, Jan, 6m away 5m up. Not shy but was moving rapidly through the foliage to offer better photos.



Green-billed Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus tristis, Cenok kera. 56cm. R

Other name: *Rhopodytes tristis* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Resident S to Selangor (but note BIW records below), seemingly consisting of two separate populations; 1) in the N, to coastal Perak in the W, and Kelantan, Terengganu in the E occurs up to 1,500m, 2) the other in the hills of Selangor and Pahang occurs between 820-1,500m. It is common at lower elevations and rarer in the highlands. 332 BIW records in Air Itam Dalam, Genting Highlands, Gap-Fraser's Hill, Bercham, Bkt Larut, etc. Also 3 new state records each in Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan) and Panti (Johor). Also some records in Selangor and Pahang were in the lowland, not above 820m. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, NE India, S China, Indochina to Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, scrub, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** In low scrubs, and to mid-storey in trees. Gleans

prey from amongst the outer branches. **Food:** Presumably includes invertebrates. **Sexes alike.** It is the biggest malkoha, with a long tail. **Subspecies:** *longicaudatus*. 6 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec-Mar. Photos from Taman Negara Kuala Tahan and Kinta Nature Park, Perak. Not very shy but shyer than other malkohas. I have the feeling that they try to get away when you get nearer than 6m.





Male

Raffles's Malkoha

Rhinortha chlorophaea, Cenok kerak. 33cm. R

Distribution: Common resident, principally lowland but up to 1,000m. The most common malkoha. 943 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Burma (Tenasserim), SW Thailand, the Peninsula, Borneo, Natuna Is., Sumatra, Bangka Is. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Frequents mid-storey usually in pairs. Not shy. **Food:** Invertebrates. **Subspecies:** None (i.e. monotypic). **Breeding:** Nest building in Mar, eggs in Apr,

Female



May. Nest a shallow saucer of twigs lined with green leaves, 3m up.

These male and female were a pair in Taman Negara Kuala Tahan not 5m away 4m up, Sep. They were very cooperative, staying put for some minutes, totally oblivious of being photographed from such a near distance. The Raffles's Malkoha is the smallest member of the malkohas but is as pretty as any other member if not the prettiest. Malkohas in general are not shy and are photographer-friendly.



Danaraj Maniam

typically alone. Other habits like other malkohas. **Food:** Includes insects, spiders. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Jun. Nest a flimsy platform of twigs. Eggs chalky white; 29 x 23 mm.

My photo was from Fraser's Hill, Mar, 6m away 5m up. For a big bird it was too near to fit into frame. Like most malkohas it was not shy and quite oblivious of observers.

It is the second least observed malkoha, the least being the Chestnut-bellied at 164 BIW records. Compare this to the most observed, Raffles's, at 943 records.

Red-billed Malkoha

Zanclostomus javanicus, Cenok api. 45cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident up to 1,200m. 195 BIW records at lowland Gng Telapa Buruk, Panti, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Pasoh, Langkap, etc. Also upland records. Historically not recorded only in S.Perai but with 2 BIW entries. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *pallidus*, S Burma (Tenasserim), S Thailand, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo; *natunensis*, Natuna Is.; *javanicus*, Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents mid-storey,





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Chestnut-breasted Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus curvirostris, Cenok birah. 46cm. R

Other name: *Zanclostomus curvirostris* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Common resident up to 1,000m. 560 BIW records, most lowland, some upland. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** S Burma, SW Thailand, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Bali, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, overgrown rubber plantation near forests, mangroves (only in Langkawi where it is the only malkoha). **Habits:** Mid- to upper storey, solitary or pair. Joins bird waves (mixed foraging parties). **Food:** Invertebrates and small vertebrates. **Sexes differ** only in eye colour.

Male has light blue iris, female golden yellow, and juvenile grey to brown. **Subspecies:** *singularis*. 5 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Clutch of 2-3 eggs with same number of brood fledging. Both parents incubate and tend nestlings. Nest a loose platform of twigs with finer twigs in a shallow cup. Eggs Jan-Mar, Jun, Jul.

I have photographed a female in Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, Pahang, Jun. It flew in and lingered to where I was, 5m away 4m up. It might have been shy if I decided to move nearer. On another occasion, a male from Bukit Rengit, Pahang, Oct, about 6m away. Again, not shy but they tend to always be on the move. The Chestnut-breasted together with the Raffles's are the most common malkohas.



Short-toed Coucal

Centropus rectunguis, But-But jari pendek/Bubut hutan. 37cm. R

Distribution: Rare resident mostly at plains-level but up to 600m. 30 BIW records with only 7 seen records, the rest heard only, in Kuala Koh, Kuala Lompat, Taman Negara Pahang, Pantl, etc. Historically not recorded N from Kedah, N Perak, N Kelantan and possibly Melaka. **Status:** VU, rapid decline in population. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Thailand, Pen Malaysia to 9° 20'N, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests and clearings within them. **Habits:** Skulks in undergrowth. Feeds mostly on the ground. Does not associate with the Greater Coucal at forest edge. **Food:** Possibly like Greater Coucal (next entry), animals and fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Likely Apr-Sep.

Photos of an individual seen 28th and 30th Sep behind Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan. Nearest distance was 15m but quite unconcerned with my presence. The area is a “forest edge” and thus not its usual habitat. But at 15m away I could clearly see that it was not the Greater Coucal because of the discernible size difference (37cm vs 53cm). Also the dark nape does not extend as far on to the back as the Greater (see insert). Bill also less robust. The whitish spots on the dark head possibly indicate that it is an immature.



Also, in adults, the dark parts have a violet wash to them.



Greater Coucal

Centropus sinensis, But-But carik anak/Bubut besar. 53cm.
R

Distribution: Common resident to 700m. 569 BIW records, all lower lowland. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *C.s. sinensis*, Pakistan, N,NE Indian subcontinent, S,SE China; *C.s. parroti*, peninsular India, Sri Lanka; *C.s. intermedius*, Bangladesh, Burma, SC China, Indochina; *C.s. anonymus*, SW Philippines, *C.s. bubutus*, W Philippines, Borneo, Sumatra, Java, Bali; *C.s. kangeangensis*, Kangeang Is. (N of Bali). **Habitat:** Forest edge, disturbed habitats, mangrove fringes. **Habits:** Skulks in the undergrowth, open ground and on river banks. Around villages, often seen on

coconut fronds and tall trees. **Food:** A generalist with varied animal food including small mammals, birds, lizards, insects, as well as fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Eggs found Jan-May. Nest a large globular ball of twigs and leaves, or coarse grass, with lateral entrance.

Photos of an individual on the boardwalk at Kuala Tahan, 6m away, May. Note that the left foot toes are deformed. Too near to get it into frame. It was wary of me but was not in a hurry to get away. This was my general experience of encounters with the bird. I have seen it several times at the Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan.





Francis Yap
(both photos)

Sunda Scops-Owl

Otus lempiji, Hantu reban/Jampuk kubur. 23cm. R

Other names: Collared Scops Owl, *Otus bakkamoena* (J&P 2012, OBI. But different range from the Sunda; includes Indochina, Philippines for Collared). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident mainly at plains-level but recorded at Gap, 830m. Most common small owl in its habitat. 84 BIW records in Kuala Koh, Ulu Muda, KSNP, Teluk Kampi, Wang Kelian, etc. Also upland in Bkt Tinggi (500m, 1 record), Gap (2). No records in Melaka, Terengganu. Historically not recorded S.Perai but has 10 BIW entries. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Con Son Is. (off S Vietnam), the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Common in forest edge, uncommon in closed-canopy forests; also landward edge of man-



groves, orchards, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Nocturnal but may take dust and water baths during the day. Territorial calls all month by both male and female partners. **Food:** Insects, reptiles.

Sexes alike. Subspecies: *lempiji* in N Peninsula, *cnephaeus* S. 6 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jun with latest fledglings 9 Aug. Nests in tree holes. Partners duet during the breeding season. **Survival:** Recorded to live for 65 months.



Choy Wai Mun

Barred Eagle-Owl

Bubo sumatranus, Hantu bubu. 48cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident to 600m, occasionally to 1,400m. 67 BIW records in KSNP, Bkt Tunku (Kuala Lumpur), FRIM Kepong, Bkt Larut, Air Kuning (Taiping), Bkt Gasing (Petaling Jaya), etc. Historically not recorded Kedah, S.Perai, Perlis, Terengganu but 7 BIW records for Kedah, 1 S.Perai, 1 Terengganu (Jabi). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *B.s. sumatranus*, S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra; *B.s. strepitans*, Java, Bali; *B.s. tenuifasciatus*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, overgrown plantations, wooded garden. Less dependent on tall trees than the similar-sized wood-owls.

Uzair Ab Rahim



Habits: Nocturnal and crepuscular (dusk, dawn). Hunts from perches at mid-storey to canopy or branches of dead trees. Territorial calls occur all year round. Relatively unafraid of humans. **Food:** Vertebrates including birds, squirrels (and Long-tailed Macaque. Chong 2017). Possibly also rodents and snakes. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Dependent fledglings accompanied by a parent in Jan, late Feb and Apr-Jun. A nest is recorded in a hole 10m up a dead tree.



Buffy Fish-Owl

Ketupa ketupu, Hantu kuning/Ketuk ketampi. 50cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at plains-level. Most common large owl in open country and rural areas. 94 BIW records in S.Perai (Air Itam Dalam, Bkt Panchor), KSNP, Panti, Kuala Gula, etc. Historically not recorded in S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Assam, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Forest edge, mangroves, plantations, habitats close to water. **Habits:** Mid-storey of tall trees. **Food:** Fish, rats, snakes etc. **Sexes alike;** but the two owls here, from Kinta Nature Park, Perak, photographed about 30m from each

other, show two individuals of different sizes and behaviour. The one on the left was smaller and unafraid. It stayed put for the nearly one hour that I was in the area, photographing it for a while and then moving away to photograph other birds. Upon returning, it was still there. The other bird was more skittish, flying off when approached. The smaller could either be a female or juvenile (more likely) and the bigger possibly a male or adult. **Subspecies:** *ketupu*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** From Jul to Apr (only May, Jun not breeding?).

The presumed female or juvenile was photographed 20m away, Mar, and the presumed male or adult at 25m, the nearest allowed approach; both ~10m up.





Spotted Wood-Owl

Strix seloputo, Hantu carik kafan. 48cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at plains-level to 300m. Not recorded in Perlis, N Perak, Kelantan, Terengganu. 61 BIW records in S.Perai (Air Itam Dalam, Juru, Tasek), Kuala Gula, etc. More records N from Selangor than S or E. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. But it is often shot because of superstition due to its loud haunting calls (the Malay name for many owl species is “ghost bird”). **Range:** Indochina except Laos, to Sumatra, Java, Palawan but not Borneo. **Habitat:** More open forests, forest edge, mangroves, plantations especially coconut and oil palm where they go after rats, and wooded gardens. **Habits:** Calls loudly “hoo” at all times of the night but especially at dusk and dawn, often in duets by a territorial pair. **Food:** Rats, beetles. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *seloputo*.

3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Lays eggs Nov-Jun. Nest in tree cavity, 2–18m up; sometimes on top of bird’s-nest fern. 2 eggs, rarely 3.

Photos of a pair with a juvenile (not shown) from Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, 17 Dec. The pair appeared to be at the same spot during the day, at least for the time they were tending to the juvenile. They were mostly dozing with a wary eye kept open every now and then. Photos taken from some 15m and 25m away. At these distances they seemed quite relaxed.





Brown Boobook

Ninox scutulata, Hantu betamak/Pungguk. 30cm. R M

Other name: Some older publications call this Brown Hawk-Owl. **Distribution:** Fairly common resident, winter visitor and passage migrant. Residents at plains-level, migrants to 1,500m. 95 BIW records (as Brown Hawk-Owl) in Kuala Koh, Endau-Rompin (Peta), Air Itam Dalam (S.Perai), etc. Also upland. Historically not recorded in S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** India, Sri Lanka, S China, Indochina, Sumatra, W Java, Borneo, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge, mangrove fringes, wooded gardens.

Habits: Mid-storey to canopy, feeding at dusk and night obtaining food from surfaces or aerially. In wooded suburbs may feed on insects attracted to street lights. Very vocal. Residents call territorially throughout the year except Jun, Jul; migrants, sporadically. **Food:** Insects, frogs, lizards, crabs, bats and small mammals, birds. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** Resident, *scutulata*; migrant, unknown. 9 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests in tree hollows 5-20m up, 2 eggs. Nestling period 24-28 days. Eggs recorded Mar, chicks May, fledglings Jun.

Photos from Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, Apr, 4m and 5m away, 4m up. Cooperative, not shy.





Large Frogmouth

Batrachostomus auritus, Segan besar. 41cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon or sparse local resident at plains-level. eBird has records in Pahang — Kuala Tahan (10), Sg Relau (7, stated as Merapoh), Krau wildlife reserve (5) — and one each at Pedu, Endau-Rompin (Johor), Ulu Langat. Historically recorded also in N.Sembilan and possibly Melaka. Chong (2017) saw it regularly in FRIM Pasoh, N.Sembilan, in the 90s. Probably is still found there now. **Status:** NT, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo.

Habitat: Closed-canopy forests, mature, regenerating or secondary. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy. Catches prey from branches and from the ground. Very vocal during breeding, otherwise calls less often than other frogmouths. Probably territorial.

Food: Cicadas, grasshoppers and possibly others. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** 2 nests with eggs in Feb. Another on 27 Jun. Nest is a relatively small platform placed in fork of horizontal branch. Clutch, one egg. Incubation at least 32 days; both sexes incubate; nestling is similar to that of other *Batrachostomus* frogmouths, entirely covered with fine white down when recently hatched.



Gould's Frogmouth

Batrachostomus stellatus, Segan bintik mas. 25cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident at least in the south mainly at plains-level but to 500m. 28 BIW records, mostly heard, in Bkt Panchor, Bkt Rengit, Ulu Muda, Taman Negara Pahang etc. Historically no records N from Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka but quite a few in BIW for

Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

Kedah and S.Perai. **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline from loss of forest. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Riau and Lingga Archipelagos, Bangka Is., Borneo, Natuna Is. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests more mature than regenerated but nests have been found in old secondary growth. **Habits:** Rests during the day on a branch, length-wise, mid- to lower storeys. Mainly sedentary. **Food:** Insects, beetles.

Sexes alike. There are two morphs, chestnut morph (dull chestnut) and the scarcer dark morph (dark mahogany). Shown here is the dark morph. Contrasted with Blyth's, the Gould's Frogmouth does not have the extravagant wispy feathering on the head of the other. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Nests in the lower storey, a small nest of 40mm on a small branch, 1-2cm. Fledging period of 20 days. Season is many months of the year. **Survival:** Longest is 31 months.





Blyth's Frogmouth

Batrachostomus affinis, Segan jawa. 25cm. R

Other names: Javan Frogmouth, *B.javensis* (J&P 2012), Horsfield's Frogmouth, *B.javensis* (OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). For HBW, Blyth's Frogmouth is a subspecies of Horsfield's Frogmouth, *B.j. affinis*. eBird also has Javan Frogmouth, *B.javensis*, with a range only in Java. **Distribution:** Common resident but local mainly at plains-level but up to 800m. (But 2 eBird records by Dave Bakewell in Berjaya Hills, ~1,000m.) Probably most common frogmouth. 63 BIW records, all plains-level, in Panti, N Perlis, Bkt Rengit, etc. Historically not recorded Penang, S.Perai, Kelantan, Terengganu



but 1 BIW entry in S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** SE Peninsular Thailand S to Sumatra and Riau Archipelago, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, plantations. **Habits:** Nocturnal. Mostly middle and lower storeys. Very vocal especially during breeding. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is a male. Female notably brighter and plainer, with less white. Contrasted with the Gould's Frogmouth, its head has extra wispy featherings. **Subspecies:** *affinis*. **Breeding:** Nestlings in Feb, Jul.

Photos from Bukit Rengit, Pahang, 4m up, 1 Jul. It was difficult to spot because it was so well camouflaged. Note the nestling which is also well disguised, and the tiny nest.



Francis Yap.

Grey Nightjar

Caprimulgus jotaka, Tukang kelabu, Tukang hutan. 28cm. M

Other name: *C.indicus* (J&P 2012, OBI). eBird, HBW, Birdlife, IUCN call *C.indicus* as Jungle Nightjar, of India. **Distribution:** Fairly common but local passage migrant and winter visitor from low elevations but mainly montane to 1,500m (one eBird record at Gng Ulu Kali, 1,700m). Records of overstaying birds in Fraser's Hill during summer months. Most eBird records in Fraser's Hill by far, Bkt Larut, etc. Historical records in Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Terengganu, Selangor, Pahang, Melaka, Johor. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *hazarae*, from NE Pakistan E to Himalayas to NE India, Bangla-

desh, Yunnan, winters S to Burma to the Peninsula; *jotaka*, SE Siberia, E,C,S China, Japan and Korea, winters from S China to Greater Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, plantations. Passage migrants in more varied habitats.

Habits: The only local *Caprimulgus* to day-roost up in trees, resting lengthwise on horizontal branches. Comes out at dusk to feed. Hawks for insects from wires and perches or during extended flight. Calls usually at dusk and dawn. Feeds higher than Large-tailed Nightjar. Alone or in pairs. **Food:** Moths, possibly other insects. **Sexes differ** slightly. Rufous barring on primaries more on female than male. Both have a white throat patch. Grey Nightjar is darker and greyer than other nightjars. **Migration:** Autumn passage 7 Oct-early Dec, Spring 4 Apr-3 May.



Francis Yap

against leaf litter, well-camouflaged. Solitary or pair. Territorial. **Voice:** *Chonk chonk* uttered at regular intervals reminding one of a carpenter, hence the Malay name, “carpenter bird”. **Food:** Insects, taken by aerial sallies often from electrical wire perches of street lamps.

Sexes slightly differ, male has white wing patches and broad white corners to tail. Female has buff wing patches and buff corners to tail. **Subspecies:** *bimaculatus*. 6 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jul, Sep-Oct. Eggs laid directly on a shallow depression on the ground.

Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus, Tukang kubur. 30cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at plains-level. 234 BIW records in Bercham, Panti, KSNP, Air Itam Dalam, Kapar, etc.; one positive highland record at Cameron Highlands (Tanah Rata), ~1,500m, and a few records stated as Bkt Larut and Berjaya Hills (but actual sightings could be at lower elevations). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan and Hainan, Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas to Philippines, New Guinea, N, NE Australia. **Habitat:** Forest edge, back mangroves, closed-canopy secondary growth, wooded gardens, overgrown plantations. **Habits:** Nocturnal, often seen hunting insects at dawn and dusk. Day roosts on the ground

Amar-Singh HSS





Whiskered Treeswift

Hemiprocne comata, Layang-layang jambul kecil. 15cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mostly at low elevations but up to 1,110m. Not recorded in Penang and S.Perai. 616 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Taman Rimba Ampang, Bkt Rengit, Sg Sedim, etc. A few upland records to ~1,000m. Historically not recorded in Melaka but 1 BIW record. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, mature and disturbed, forest edge, less often in mature orchards. **Habits:** Hunts from open branches below the canopy, alone but mostly by a territorial pair or with offspring. After a short sortie returns to the same perch. Prey probably taken also from surfaces. Hunts lower than Grey-rumped Treeswift. **Food:** Arthropods.

Sexes slightly differ. Male has a chestnut patch behind ear that female lacks. **Subspecies:** *comata*. 2 subspecies, the other, *major*, in Philippines. **Breeding:** Very small nests (see photo) on the same perching twigs, in the open. Nests constructed of feathers glued together with saliva. Only one egg per clutch, probably glued to the nest. Incubates for 21 days and fledges after a week. Eggs laid Apr-late Aug.

Uzair Ab Rahim



Uzair Ab Rahim
(both photos)

Red-naped Trogon

Harpactes kasumba. Kesumba batang. 32cm. R

Distribution: Resident, fairly common in the south, local and uncommon in the north, at low elevations to 600m with one record of a young male above Gap, Selangor, ~830m. Not recorded in Perlis, S.Perai and Penang. 221 BIW records, more often heard than seen, in lowland Panti, Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, Kuala Lompat, FRIM Pasoh, etc. In Kedah, recorded only in its eastern forests, e.g. Sg Sedim, Pedu. **Status:** NT, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *H.k. kasumba*, the Peninsula N to 8°30'N, Sumatra; *H.k. impavidus*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests including peat swamp (like other trogons, and similarly, intolerant of logging). **Habits:** Hunts alone from open perches



at mid-storey to canopy, grabbing prey from surfaces. Joins bird waves. Generally, not shy, as other trogons. **Food:** Invertebrates.

Sexes differ. Shown here is the male. Female lacks the red-nape. Also, its throat and breast is dark brownish grey as against black of the male; female also lacks the male's white crescent across breast.

Breeding: possibly Feb-Jul. A nest recorded in a part-rotted stump 18cm thick, 1.2m up. Clutch of 2 eggs.



Subadult male

Diard's Trogon

Harpactes diardii, Kesumba bukit. 30cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident up to 900m. 198 BIW records in lowland Panti, Sg Relau, Bkt Rengit, Kuala Lompat, Kuala Koh, etc. Also a few upland records. Historically not recorded Kelantan, Kedah, Penang, S.Perai but 16 BIW records for Kedah (Sg Sedim, Pedu, Ulu Muda, Bkt Wang). **Status:** NT from habitat loss of closed-canopy forest. Population decreasing. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *sumatranus*, the Peninsula, Sumatra; *diardii*, Bangka Is., Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Hunts from open perches mid- to lower storeys catching prey on the fly or from sur-



Male

faces. May perch quietly for some time. **Food:** Insects and possibly but infrequently, fruits. **Sexually dimorphic** as all trogons. Male has pink crescent across breast and nuchal (nape) patch which female lacks. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-May. Nest a cavity 1–3 m up in dead tree or stump.

Subadult male (nearly similar to female) photo from Bkt Rengit, Pahang, Jun, 10m away 4m up. Male was from Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan, May, 7m away 6m up. Not shy like other trogons, but like them, it mostly does not stay put for long. At 198 it has the second lowest BIW record for trogons. Least is Cinnamon-rumped at 61. Others are Orange-breasted (203), Red-headed (217), Red-naped (221), and Scarlet-rumped (457).



Uzair Ab Rahim

Female

forests, including swamp forest but not peat swamp. **Habits:** Mostly solitary, sometimes in pairs, usually at mid-storey but at times lower. Hunts from open perches grabbing prey from surfaces, possibly also aerial sallies. Joins bird waves. Recorded following a flock of babblers hunting below and it following above. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes dimorphic.** Like other trogons. Female lacks the scarlet rump of the male (just slightly pinkish). **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Possibly Feb-Jun. A chick in Mar, eggs in May. A nest could be in a hollow of a rotten stump by a forest stream, a typical trogon site.

Like other trogons not particularly shy. I have spotted this bird below Robinson's Falls in Cameron Highlands, definitely over 1,000m, probably 1,300-1,400m.

Scarlet-rumped Trogon

Harpactes duvaucelii, Kesumba puteri. 25cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mostly at low elevations but to 1,070m. 457 BIW records, at low elevations in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, Sg Sedim, Kuala Lompat, etc. A few possible upland records in Gng Bintang (Kedah), and Gng Telapa Buruk. Historically not recorded Kedah, Penang, S.Perai. **Status:** NT, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy

Uzair Ab Rahim

Male



Blue-eared Kingfisher

Alcedo meninting, Pekaka bintek-bintek. 16cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident at plains-level. Not recorded S.Peraï, Kelantan. Also historically not in Perlis but a few in the 178 BIW records. Records from Panti, FRIM Kepong, Malim Nawar, Kinta Nature Park, FRIM Pasoh, etc. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, NE India, W Ghats, Sri Lanka, S Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, W Philippines, Lombok, Sulawesi, Sula. **Habitat:** Forested streams which can be quite open with some canopy cover but not as open as that of the Common Kingfisher's; mangroves. **Habits:** Hunts from low perches in typical kingfisher style. **Food:** Fish. **Sexes nearly alike.** Females (and juveniles) may have red bills but mature adults especially males have

Long Roslee Ngah

Adult



Long Roslee Ngah

Juvenile

black bills. Juveniles have rufous-orange ear coverts and without the adult's dark glossy blue malar stripe, and possibly a white tip to the bill after it has darkened. **Subspecies:** *verreauxii*. 6 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nesting recorded in May, Jun. Nest dug in earth bank, always in forest, near stream.

I have photographed a female in Hulu Kelang, Selangor, Nov, 6m away 2m up. Its favourite perch was under a dark bamboo thicket. It was very shy until it got used to my presence – I had to wait quietly for an hour or more.





Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher, in breeding plumage

between pure red-back and pure black-back that can be seen in Pen Malaysia (Wells 1999).

For both species: **Status:** LC, population decreasing. Not recorded in Perlis. TP. **Habitat:** Forests, mangroves. **Habits:** Solitary, usually at lower storey, hunting from open perches, which can be far from water bodies. **Food:** Insects, fish and worms. **Sexes alike.**

Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher

Ceyx rufidorsa, R

Oriental Dwarf-Kingfisher

Pekaka rimba/kerdil. 14cm. R M

eBird has split this species into Rufous-backed and Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfishers. I have decided to list the two under the Oriental Dwarf because most references do not split this species. Thus, there is not enough information to write as two separate species with BIW being the exception, so BIW records are given. J&P 2012, Wells 1999, HBW, Birdlife, OBI, IUCN only split the Oriental Dwarf to the sub-species level — Rufous-backed (resident, *Ceyx erithaca rufidorsa*) and Black-backed (migrant, *C.e. erithaca*). Note: There are intergrades

Uzair Ab Rahim Rufous-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher, non breeding plumage?





Uzair Ab Rahim

Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher

(Yunnan, Hainan), C,S Indochina to Isthmus of Kra; migrates S, reaching Sumatra and Borneo.

My photo of a Rufous-backed, of a pair, from Pedu, Kedah, 6 Jun. They were working on a nest with mud on the beak. The nest was constructed on a mud bank like many other kingfishers. They were reluctant to enter the nest while I was photographing them. Sensing their distress and the fear that they might abandon the nest I quickly left them in peace. J&P 2012 describes it as being shy but my pair, apart from the distress, did not fly off.

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident up to 450m. 30 BIW records in Panti, Sg Sedim, Bkt Rengit, etc. **Range:** The Peninsula, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Mindoro to Palawan. **Breeding:** Eggs laid possibly Mar-Jul.

Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher

Ceyx erithaca, M

Distribution: Fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant up to 1,300m. Some overstay, not returning north. 207 BIW records in Panti (overwhelmingly), Bkt Rengit, FRIM Pasoh, Taman Negara Pahang, Sg Sedim, etc. **Range:** SW India, Himalayas E from Bhutan to S China

Francis Yap

Black-backed Dwarf-Kingfisher





Female

Kingfisher (next page), not dependent on water. Often sits quietly on a perch for long periods. **Food:** Small vertebrates and invertebrates. I have seen at Panti, a male “attacking” a termite’s nest on a branch, presumably for prey. **Subspecies:** *pulchella*. 2 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid possibly Jan-May.

This male appeared in front of my chalet in Endau-Rompin State Park, Pahang, Aug, 4m away. No fear was shown; only when I moved to try to portrait his side did he leave. Three days later I found the female in the forest, 5m away 4m up. Again, allowed ample time to photograph. Only when I tried moving to within 4m did she fly off.

Banded Kingfisher

Lacedo pulchella, Pekaka riang rimba. 23cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident, mainly lower lowland but up to 900m. 554 BIW records, mostly heard, in Panti (overwhelmingly), Bkt Wang, Sg Sedim, Bkt Rengit, Bkt Panchor, etc. Also upland records to ~1,050m. Historically not recorded in Kelantan but with 11 BIW records (10 Kuala Koh, 1 Pergau). **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Indochina to Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Mid-storey to forest floor. Often raises crest. Like the Rufous-collared

Male





Female

concretus. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Possibly, May-Aug. Nests in sloping ground on the forest floor.

Photos from Panti forest, Johor. Female in Mar, 5m away 4m up. Male in Oct, 4m away 3m up. They allowed me time to photograph them. This kingfisher is one of the most beautiful among the already beautiful members of the kingfisher family. Coupled with its rarity, it is one of the most sought after sightings by birders.

Rufous-collared Kingfisher

Actenoides concretus, Pekaka rimba besar. 24 cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common to uncommon resident mainly lowland but up to 1,300m. 184 BIW records in Panti (overwhelmingly), Sg Sedim, Wang Kelian, Bkt Rengit, Bkt Wang, etc. Oddly, less than 10 records in Taman Negara Pahang. Also 4 upland records in Gng Jerai and Gap-Fraser's Hill road. Historically not recorded in Kelantan but 1 in BIW at Kuala Koh. **Status:** NT due to forest destruction, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests. **Habits:** Typically alone, occasionally, in pairs. Lower to mid-storeys. Sits quietly for long periods. **Food:** Small vertebrates and invertebrates. Not dependent on fish or water. **Subspecies:**

Male





Juvenile

Honeybees and other arthropods. Possibly too, small fish by diving into water.

Sexes nearly alike. Male brighter and slightly larger. Juvenile lacks tail streamers and throat green instead of blue. **Subspecies:** *viridis* (Wells 1999). HBW considers it monotypic – no subspecies across its range. **Breeding:** Mid Apr-mid Jul. Nest holes dug in flat ground of sandy soil, occasionally in steep slopes, 7cm wide 1m-3m deep.

My photo of a juvenile was from FRIM Kepong, 14 Nov, 7m away 6m up.

Blue-throated Bee-eater

Merops viridis, Berek-Berek tadah hujan. 28cm. R M

Distribution: Fairly common resident, breeding and non-breeding visitor to 670m, occasionally to 1,200m. Migrates to Sumatra during non-breeding season Aug-Oct, returns Mar-Apr. 609 BIW records in Tanjung Tuan, FRIM Kepong, Pantl, etc. Also 14 upland records in Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** SE China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, wooded gardens, scrub. **Habits:** Aerial sallies from open perches in groups. Roosts communally. **Food:**

Uzair Ab Rahim

Adults





Male

Red-bearded Bee-eater

Nyctyornis amictus, Berek-Berek janggut merah/Beberek tunggal.
32cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 1,300m. Not recorded in S.Perai. 620 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, SW Thailand, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, overgrown rubber plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy, may use wirelines, pairs but mostly alone, although I have seen four together in Pant. Catches prey on the fly but may pick directly from surfaces. **Food:** Cicadas, bees, termites, butterflies. **Sexes slightly differ.** Male has

Female



lilac forehead, female red, and juvenile all green body. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Aug. The nest is a hole in an earth bank like other bee-eaters.

Both photos from Gng Telapa Buruk. Female in May, 6m away 4m up, carrying food for its nestlings. Realising this I just took a few quick shots. Birds are wary about bringing food to the nest with observers around. Male, Oct, 5m away 4m up, ready to pounce on a prey.

I have seen a nest built into a bank just 6 inches high, being the side of a busy jeep track in Pant forest with photographers on standby and trucks noisily trundling past.



Amar-Singh HSS

Juvenile-Adult

wires while waiting for prey. **Food:** Flying termites, insects including dragonflies and bees.

Sexes alike. Juvenile lacks the elongated thin central feathers. **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** A very small breeding colony, less than 50 pairs, in Padang Kamunting in W Penang Is. A few records (including eBird) outside winter months in the north could be dispersals from this colony. Burrows on flat land in Feb, early Mar and eggs Mar-May. No other information.

Migration: Earliest arrival varies between 11 Aug and first week Sep, and on passage lasts till last week Oct. Spring passage from late Mar, early Apr-25 May recorded at Kuala Selangor.

Blue-tailed Bee-eater

Merops philippinus, Berek-Berek carik dada/sawah. 30cm. R M

Distribution: Common passage migrant and winter visitor, and sparse breeder, mainly at low elevations in all states but mainly W coast. A few eBird montane records. **Status:** LC, population stable but the use of pesticides in rice fields could affect its prey. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, Indochina (except S of Peninsular Thailand), S China, Philippines S to Sulawesi, Flores, E New Guinea. In winter, also in S India, Sri Lanka, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Beach scrub, rice fields, open woodland, mangroves, forest edge. **Habits:** Gregarious, roosting in large numbers. Aerial sallying for prey. Often perch on

Jason Tan

Adults





Amar-Singh HSS

Eggs laid Feb-Apr. In E coast, from Apr. Usually in colonies. Clutch 4-8 eggs.

The Chestnut-headed Bee-eater can be shy like other bee-eaters except the Red-bearded. In a Perlis orchard, they kept flying off when I approached. The nearest distance that I could managed was 6m, even that by hiding behind a tree trunk and waiting for them to come by.

Chestnut-headed Bee-eater

Merops leschenaulti, Berek-Berek senja. 23cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident S to mid Perak (Chemor) on W coast and Kuala Terengganu on E coast, to 750m. Non-breeders seen in Kuala Lumpur. 164 BIW records N from Perak in Ipoh, Taiping, Langkawi, Kinta, S.Perai, Sg Sedim etc. Also Terengganu with 3 in Kuala Terengganu. **Status:** LC, population increasing. TP. **Range:** India, Sri Lanka, S,W Yunnan, Indochina, S Sumatra, Java, Bali. **Habitat:** Scrub, open country, clearings in forests, secondary growth. **Habits:** Hunts in groups from open perches. Also in canopy of forests. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *leschenaulti*. 3 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:**

Choy Wai Mun





A.a. convexus, female

or more but usually much smaller.

Food: Mainly fruits, also insects, small animals. **Sexes slightly differ.** **Subspecies:** There are two subspecies, *A.a. albirostris* in the north (e.g., Langkawi) and *A.a. convexus* in the south. The two subspecies, and male and female differences can be seen in the shape and coloration of the casques.

Oriental Pied Hornbill

Anthracoceros albirostris, Enggang belulang/kelingking. 70cm. R

Distribution: Common at plains-level up to 150m. However, population under pressure from habitat loss and poaching, especially fledglings. No records in S.Perai. Historically not recorded in Melaka but with 2 BIW records. 360 BIW records in Gng Raya, Ulu Muda, Lake Gardens Taiping, Kuala Koh, Pant, etc. 1 in Genting Highlands, ~970m (unreliable?). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** India, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Forests near rivers, beach scrub, forest edge, plantations, gardens. **Habits:** Can gather in large numbers up to 30

A.a. albirostris, female





A.a. albirostris, male

ters. There were seven of them and they were totally not bothered being photographed from this distance.

Breeding: Eggs laid Jan-Mar. As with other hornbills, nesting is in a tree hole with the female “self-imprisoned” inside. Clutch 1–3 eggs; incubation 25–27 days; emergence varies from point at which chicks fledge to 20 days before; fledging 49–55 days.

However, in the Peninsula it can be seen as the *albirostris-convexus* intergrade (Wells 2007). This is the smallest hornbill in Malaysia.

My photo of *A.a. convexus* was from Kuala Sedili Kecil, Johor, a beach village, Oct. In town, I saw some 15 birds entering a garden, perching on walls and roofs, right beside a busy road. In Kuala Rompin, Pahang, I saw their biggest concentration of possibly 50 of them. In the village on the way to Bukit Rengit, Pahang too, I saw a large flock 30 or more. Both occasions in late afternoon.

Photos of *A.a. albirostris* were from Taman Negara Kuala Koh, Kelantan, Sep, 7m away 6m up right in front of the park headquar-

Danaraj Maniam

A.a. convexus, male





Black Hornbill

Anthracoceros malayanus, Enggang gatal birah. 76cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in the lowlands to 200m (but note BIW records). Not recorded Perlis, Penang, S.Perai. 378 BIW records in Panti, Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Kuala Lompat, FRIM Pasoh, etc. 4 upland records in Fraser's Hill, Berjaya Hills, Janda Baik (~550m). Historically not recorded in Terengganu but has 3 BIW records. **Status:** NT, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp and freshwater swamp, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages canopy, alone, in pairs or groups. Noisy with retching growls. **Food:** Fruits and animals including bats fed to nest-



The “variant” male
lings. **Sexes differ.** Shown here are males, with the “variant” having the broad white supercilium. Female has a black bill and casque. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Egg laying recorded Jan–Feb, Apr, Aug and Nov, Dec; does not always breed annually. In captivity, 2–3 eggs; incubation ~30 days; fledging after ~50 days; each adult attends separate chick after fledging.

Photos both recorded in Sg Relau, Pahang. The variant in Feb, 40m away, and the other, 20m away, Jul, in a fruiting tree where two Rhinoceros Hornbills were also feeding (see next entry). But the Black Hornbill did not stay long.



Male

Rhinoceros Hornbill

Buceros rhinoceros, Enggang badak. 122cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in mature forests up to 1,200m (possibly higher). Not recorded Perlis, Penang, S.Perai. 601 BIW records. **Status:** NT due to dependence on mature forests. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs or more when juveniles are in tow, and many may gather together in fruiting trees. Keeps mainly to canopy of tall trees. Loud honking calls. **Food:** Mainly fruits but also small vertebrates. **Sexes nearly alike:** Male, red iris; female, white. **Subspecies:** *rhinoceros*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nesting recorded Feb, Mar, May, Jun.

Male-Female



Its NT status, like many other hornbills e.g. the Black, Great, Helmeted, Wrinkled, White-crowned, and VU for the Plain-pouched, is due to the loss of forests especially the old tall trees with holes essential for them to nest. During incubation, and for some time after hatching, the female “imprisons” herself in the hole, totally dependent on the male for food.

This pair was in Taman Negara Sungai Relau, in a fruiting tree near park HQ, 29 Jul, 20m away 6m up. Not shy at this distance. The male was preening with the female busy feeding. The male offered fruits to her when she came to him every now and then.



Great Hornbill

Buceros bicornis, Enggang papan. 122cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident, up to 1,400m. From the 212 BIW records, on the W coast, it seems to be more prevalent in hilly country, e.g. Larut and Titiwangsa Main Ranges from Temenggor S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan. Many records in Langkawi. Also Pangkor. Historically not present in Kelantan, Melaka, Johor but 2 BIW records for Kelantan (Kuala Koh, Jeli) and 1 in Bandar Penawar, Johor (S of Pant). Only one record in Gombak valley (in 1997), Selangor, whereas just farther up, on the other side of the valley, there are several records in the Awana area, Genting Highlands. **Status:**



Amar-Singh HSS

NT, population declining moderately rapidly. TP. **Range:** India, SW China, Indochina, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Canopy of tall trees usually in pairs or small groups. **Food:** Fruits, possibly also animals. **Sexes nearly alike. Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Apr.

My photo of an individual, part of a pair, from Awana area, Nov, 25m away 20m up. The tree was heavy with ripe fruits but during the several days I was there, this was the only Great Hornbill visit, or even a visit by other hornbills, whereas in this area there were five other hornbill species.



Long Roslee Ngah

Male

Bushy-crested Hornbill

Anorrhinus galeritus, Enggang belukar. 89cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident up to 1,400m. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. 260 BIW records in Bkt Larut, Bkt Wang, Genting Highlands, Taman Negara Sg Relau and Kuala Juram, Pangsun, etc. It is interesting that historically, as described by Wells (1999), it is not recorded in Kedah but there are quite a number in BIW where the first record was in 2001. Highest recorded numbers are in Fraser's Hill which has a maximum elevation ~1,330m. **Status:** LC, population declining from habitat destruction. **TP. Range:** Extreme S

Choy Wai Mun

Immature female



Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Generally mature forests including peat swamp forests, and forest edge. **Habits:** Gregarious in groups 5-15. **Food:** Fruits (figs, nutmegs, palms), animal prey (cicadas, phasmid, lizards).

Sexes differ. Male black bill, female whitish. **Subspecies:** None, i.e., monotypic. **Breeding:** Feb, May. One nest described is 13m up in a tree trunk, the female sealed-in in typical hornbill nesting. Unlike most other hornbills, apart from male feeding the female enclosed in the nest, other members help too.



John Turner

Male

Wreathed Hornbill

Rhyticeros undulatus, Enggang gunung. 100cm. R

Other name: MNS (2016) lists this under *Aceros undulatus*. For eBird and others, the *Aceros* genera of hornbills has disappeared from our region. Previously the Wrinkled, White-crowned, and Plain-pouched were also of this genus. **Distribution:** Resident, local, from low elevations to over 2,000m. Historically not recorded in Penang, S.Perai. Sparse to common because of nomadic behaviour, traveling far to forage. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Forests, not including extreme lowland swamp forests. **Habits:** The canopy, often with other hornbills in fruiting trees. Very loud voice. Foraging in a flock

John Turner

Female



of 2-5, at times 10-30. In 1992, 800 recorded at Kenering Dam (Perak). **Food:** Fruits but seemingly not figs. Also animal prey recorded in its global range. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Possibly Jan-Mar. One chick raised. Incubation 40 days. Female walled-in in a tree-hole nest like other hornbills. For Wells (1999), the Wreathed is the least understood of the hornbills. **Survival:** No information.

John's photos were from Panti forest, Aug. I was there with him but missed the action. They flew in, 30m up, but quickly flew off again.



Sooty Barbet

Calorhamphus hayii, Takur dahan. 18cm. R

Other name: Brown barbet, *C.fuliginosus*, (J&P 2012, OBI), Malay Brown Barbet (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). eBird's Brown Barbet, *C.fuliginosus* is only in Borneo. **Distribution:** Common resident up to 1,000m. 467 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Wang, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. Also montane records in the hill stations. Historically not recorded S.Perai but has BIW records. **Status:** NT, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy including crown. Gregarious in groups up to 10 unlike other barbets. **Food:**

Danaraj Maniam



Fruits and small animals including insects. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *hayii*. 2 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Nestlings in Mar, May, Sep. A nest recorded in an old ants' nest mound on a tree ~7m high at FRIM Pasoh (Chong 2017).

The Sooty looks very different from the other barbets except for the bill. Also lacks the bristles at the base of the upper mandible of other barbets. The voice is also very different except for the Fire-tufted with its cica-da-like call. Like the Fire-tufted, it is also not shy; the others are more wary.

My photo was from Berjaya Hills, Pahang, ~1,000m, Oct, 6m away 5m up. They were quite regular here.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Blue-eared Barbet

Psilopogon duvaucelii, Takur akar. 17cm. R

Other names: *Megalaima australis duvaucelii* (J&P 2012, OBI). For Birdlife, HBW, IUCN, Blue-eared is *P.cyanotis* that ranges N of the Peninsula, Black-eared is *P.duvaucelii*. I think “Black-eared” is a better description of the ear coverts; blue is a better description for the northern species. **Distribution:** Common resident from low elevations to 1,000m. Historically not recorded Penang, S.Perai but a few recent records for the latter. 800 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Far NE Indian subcontinent, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp forests, forest edge, old tree

Danaraj Maniam



plantations. **Habits:** Mainly canopy, sometimes lower. Gathers with other barbets in fruiting trees, often the most represented barbet; and may chase other barbets, even the bigger ones. **Food:** Fruits, and possibly larvae from rotting branches. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Jan-Jul. Nests in tree holes, 3-12m high but maybe to 25m.

I have heard and seen the Blue-eared at 1,120m on Fraser’s Hill new road, 21 Jan 2008. With birds and their mobility, I am now less surprised to see them in places where they are not usually found. Still, I do wonder if spotting them (not just the Blue-eared) in higher elevations is due to climate change.



Francis Yap

Red-crowned Barbet

Psilopogon rafflesii, Takur mahkota merah. 27cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima rafflesii* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Local, common resident up to 200m. Not recorded in Penang. 259 BIW records in Panti (overwhelmingly), Pondok Tanjung, Pekan peat swamp, Bkt Wang, Wang Kelian, etc. Historically not recorded in S.Perai, Kelantan but 1 BIW record for S.Perai, 2 for Kelantan. **Status:** NT, population declining due to lowland forests loss. TP. **Range:** S Burma, S Thailand, Pen Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Solitary but may feed together in fruiting trees.



Food: Fruits, seeds, flowers, and larvae. **Sexes alike** like most barbets. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Nest excavations Jan-Jul. Nests in tree holes it excavates like other barbets.

My photo shows a Red-crowned excavating a tree trunk about 3m above the ground in Panti forest, likely for grub. It was totally oblivious of being photographed 4m away.

Its repetitive call, like other barbets, is a characteristic sound of the forest. Barbets are quite unique in their plumage. They have green bodies but the neck and head are a profusion of gaudy colours. The exception being the Sooty Barbet which is just sooty brown.



Amar-Singh HSS

Male

Red-throated Barbet

Psilopogon mystacophanos, Takur raya. 22cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima mystacophanos* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident mainly lowland but up to 1,040m S to Endau-Rompin (but note 3 BIW records in Panti which is S of Endau-Rompin). Not recorded in Melaka. 426 BIW records in Bkt Rengit, Bkt Wang, Gng Telapa Buruk, Sg Sedim, Taman Negara Pahang, etc. Also montane at Gap-Fraser's Hill roads including Fraser's Hill (~1,200m), Bkt Larut, Berjaya Hills, and Genting Highlands. **Status:** NT, population declining. TP. **Range:** SW Thailand S to the

Amar-Singh HSS

Female



Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests including peat swamp forests. **Habits:** Mainly canopy but down to mid- and lower storeys, solitary or in pairs. **Food:** Mainly figs like most forest barbets. Also invertebrates including a snail during a courtship feeding.

Subspecies: Nominate *mystacophanos*. 2 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Possibly Jan-Jun. Records of 3 nests, one a nest-hole 6m up in a dead tree, two nest-holes in a still used ant or termite nest, one of which was 3m up.



Danaraj Maniam (both photos)

Yellow-crowned Barbet

Psilopogon henricii, Takur mahkota kuning. 21cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima henricii* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident mainly lowland but up to 1,200m. Not recorded in Penang and S.Perai. 384 BIW records (overwhelmingly heard only) in Panti, Bkt Wang, Taman Negara Pahang, Gng Telapa Buruk, Sg Sedim, etc. Also montane in Bkt Larut, Berjaya Hills, and Gap-Fraser's Hill road. **Status:** NT, population declining from dependence on mature forests. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests including peat swamp forests.



Habits: Solitary unless with juveniles but does gather with other barbets in fruiting trees. Keeps to the canopy. Not much information on the Yellow-crowned possibly because it keeps to the canopy. The Yellow-crowned is my least sighted barbet. **Food:** Mainly figs but also animal prey. **Sexes alike**, young juveniles all green-headed.

Subspecies: Nominate *henricii*, also on Sumatra. 2 subspecies in all, the other on Borneo. **Breeding:** Feb-Aug. Nests in tree holes in the canopy. No other information.



Gold-whiskered Barbet

Psilopogon chrysopogon, Takur jambang emas. 30cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima chrysopogon* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident in hilly country from low elevations to 1,070m with one at 1,500m, Cameron Highlands. Rare in plains-level forests and peat swamps. Most common forest barbet. 953 BIW records (many heard only) in FRIM Kepong, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Bkt Wang, Taman Rimba Ampang, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, etc. Historically south to N Johor but 7 BIW records in Panti (S Johor). **Status:** LC, population trend unknown. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Bor-

Uzair Ab Rahim



neo. **Habitat:** Forests, tall secondary growth. Visits well-wooded areas near towns. **Habits:** Mainly canopy (but I have seen it feeding on a low papaya. See photo). Displaces other smaller barbets (it is the biggest barbet). Solitary although feeds together in fruiting trees. At times calls quite in the open. **Food:** Fruits especially figs; invertebrates, lizards. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** *laetus*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests 6-17m up in rotten dead trees. Clutch of 2. Nest excavations Feb, Aug; nestlings May, Jun, Nov.

My photo from Sg Congkak village, 5m away 4m up, May. It was not bothered with me shooting at such a near distance and for quite a time.



Rufous Piculet

Sasia abnormis, Belatok kecil/Belatik jingga. 9cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mostly lowland but to 1,300m. Not recorded in Penang, S. Perai, Melaka. At montane level it overlaps with the Speckled Piculet but it is mostly recorded at isolated peaks, e.g. Gng Tapis (Pahang) and Rabong (Kelantan) where the Speckled is absent. 169 BIW records, lowland, in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Pangsun, Kuala Tahan, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. A few above 800m. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *S.a. abnormis*, extreme S Burma, SW Thailand S to Greater Sundas; *S.a. magnirostris*, Nias Is. (off NW Sumatra). **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp and bamboo, forest edge.

Habits: Mostly alone but also in small family groups, at lower to mid-storeys less than 5m above ground. **Food:** Small invertebrates. Puts in its long tongue into bamboo to extract prey. **Sexes nearly alike.** Male has a yellow forehead, female rufous. **Breeding:** May-Aug. Nest excavated low down in dead branch, sapling or bamboo. Clutch 2-3 eggs. **Survival:** Maximum recorded is at least 7 years 2 months.

Photo of a male (with the yellow patch on forehead) taken less than 4m away at Jenut Muda Trail, Kuala Tahan, May. It was right on the trail at eye level and was too busy feeding to bother with my presence.



Long Roslee Ngah

Female

in territorial pairs. Hunts often at rotting wood, also at bark surface, and epiphyte root masses. **Food:** Ants, their eggs and larvae.

Sexes slightly differ. Male has side of head red, female brown with white spots. Subspecies (from HBW): *malaccense*. 4 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Nests in rotten wood either in main trunk or branch, 8-20m up. A clutch of 2-3 eggs but a fledgling of only one implies brood-reduction. Hole excavations, Nov-May, start 1-2 months before actual nesting. Can have two broods a year. Both parents incubate. Incubation exchange regularly takes place at dusk, quickly and silently, or no more than a single call from the incoming partner.

Banded Woodpecker

Picus miniaceus, Belatok merah. 25cm. R

Other names: Banded Yellowname (J&P 2012), *Chrysophlegma miniaceum* (Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident at low elevations and less so at higher elevations to 1,200m. Not recorded in Penang. 396 BIW records in lowland Panti, Air Itam Dalam, Bkt Rengit, etc. Also some montane records to 1.200m. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, mangroves, wooded gardens, scrubland, tree plantations. **Habits:** In inland forest favours lower storey and undergrowth, but in other habitats, mid-storey to crown. Typically hunts alone, at other times

Long Roslee Ngah

Male-Female





Female

cana) tree. **Sexes slightly differ.** Male has a red malar stripe lacking in female. **Subspecies:** *observandus*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Possibly Feb-May. Nestlings recorded in late Mar.

Male photo from Sg Congkak, Selangor State Park, Apr, 6m away 5m up. Female photo from Panti forest, Johor, Aug, 5m away 4m up, showing her eating the Common Mahang fruits. (Thanks to Amar-Singh HSS for naming the tree.) She kept going from one branch to another searching for ripe fruits. There was a pair of them although I only recorded the female eating the fruits. A few records also show woodpeckers taking fruits (again, thanks to Amar).

Crimson-winged Woodpecker

Picus puniceus, Belatok mas. 25cm. R

Other name: Crimson-winged Yellownape (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident up to 820m, occasionally to 1,100m. 445 BIW records. Historically not recorded in Penang and S.Peraï but 6 BIW records in S.Peraï. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, SW Thailand S to the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, coastal scrub, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Alone or pairs from upper storey to canopy. Weak drumming. **Food:** No specifics but presumably invertebrates, and as I recorded below, fruits of the Common Mahang (*Macaranga ban-*

Male





Checker-throated Woodpecker

Picus mentalis, Belatok ranting, 28cm. R

Other names: J&P (2012), Birdlife, HBW, IUCN call it Chequer-throated Yellowname but the latter three give a different scientific name, *Chrysophlegma humii*, to which OBI calls it *Chrysophlegma mentale*. **Taxonomy:** *Chrysophlegma humii* Hargitt, 1889, Malacca and Selangor. **Distribution:** Fairly common resident at low elevations but to 1200m. 363 BIW records mainly lowland with 16 montane records, maximum elevation at Fraser's Hill. Historically not recorded Kedah, Penang, S.Perai but several BIW records for Kedah, S.Perai. **Status:**



NT, population declining. TP. **Range:** extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangrove edge. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys. Joins bird wave - or possibly other birds join the woodpecker (Wells 1999). **Food:** Possibly insects and larvae. **Sexes slightly dimorphic.** Shown here is a female indicated by the chestnut malar stripe. Male has malar streaks. **Subspecies:** None (HBW). **Breeding:** Mar-Aug. Nest excavated 5–6 m up in dead stub. Clutch 2-3 eggs.

This female was from Panti forest, Johor, 5m away 4m up. Not very shy but may go behind the tree trunk when observed at length. Many woodpeckers behave in this manner.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Female

Olive-backed Woodpecker

Dinopium rafflesii, Belatok rimba. 28cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon and local resident up to 1,200m. 64 BIW records in Panti, Kuala Juram, Bkt Rengit, Bubu, Berjaya Hills, etc. Historically not recorded in Perlis, Kedah, Penang, S.Perai, Kelantan, Terengganu but 2 BIW records each for Kedah and S.Perai. **Status:** NT, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, SW Thailand, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys although I have seen it in the upper storey. Often in pairs

Male



as most woodpeckers. **Food:** Insects, larvae. **Sexes differ** like all woodpeckers. **Subspecies:** *rafflesii*. 2 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Mar-May. Nest-holes in trees, even live ones. No other information.

This is an uncommon woodpecker and I had been on the lookout for it for years before seeing it in Berjaya Hills, Pahang. Four months later, I had this sighting in Pangsun, Selangor, Nov, 5m away 4m up. Luckily this time the bird was in mid-storey unlike the upper storey in the other sighting. (Looking back at old photos, my first record was actually in Kuala Tahan but was unidentified then).



Female

land S to the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** At ground, mid-storey but usually dense lower storey, in pairs or groups. Joins mixed foraging parties (bird waves). **Food:** Ants, termites and possibly other invertebrates. **Subspecies:** *tukki*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Feb-Jun. Clutch 2 eggs; chicks fed by both parents. **Survival:** Recorded longevity 5 years 3 months.

Photos from Taman Negara Kuala Tahan of a pair building a nest, 15 Feb, 3m up the trunk, 5m away. Not very shy but a bit wary of me. So I did not stay long.

Buff-necked Woodpecker

Meiglyptes tukki, Belatok tuki-tuki. 22cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly at lower elevations but up to 1,250m. 235 BIW records overwhelmingly in the lowlands in Taman Negara Pahang, Panti, Bkt Rengit, Sg Tekala, FRIM Kepong, etc; 7 records in lower montane forest at Genting Highlands and Bkt Larut, both at about 1,000m. Historically not recorded in Perlis, Kelantan but 1 BIW record for Perlis, 3 for Kelantan. **Status:** NT due to dependence on closed-canopy forests. Population moderately declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma, SW Thai-

Male





Male

orange backline though whitish at the top end while female is white throughout. Also male's breast is red to female's greyish-brown. **Subspecies:** *xanthopygius*. 2 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Jan-Sep. Nest-hole ~5 m up in dead tree. Clutch 1-2 eggs; fledglings fed by parents directly, not by regurgitation.

Male photo from Kuala Tahan, 4.5m away 1m up, May. It was not shy staying put for quite some time but he was too near to get into frame. Generally, at this distance they get rather nervous. Female from Bkt Cahaya, Selangor, 10 Apr, 6m away 5m up, with a male and a juvenile (not shown).

Orange-backed Woodpecker

Reinwardtipicus validus, Belatok ranum. 30cm. R

Other name: *Chrysocolaptes validus* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident mostly at plains-level but recorded up to 1,220m. 242 BIW records, mostly lowland in Panti, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, Sg Relau, FRIM Pasoh, etc. Also some montane to maximum elevation at Fraser's Hill. Historically not recorded in Perlis but with 5 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, coastal scrub, overgrown rubber plantations. **Habits:** Alone, pairs or bigger parties, from ground to canopy often on dead rotting trees and fallen ones. **Food:** Possibly larvae, invertebrates, small vertebrates. **Sexually dimorphic.** Male has

Female





Uzair Ab Rahim

Male

tus: LC, population decreasing from habitat loss. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs or small groups up to 10. Hunts the upper trunk, crown branches to foliage. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Mostly insects, also fruits.

Sexes differ. Apart from red crown for male and black for female, the male's bill is 14 percent longer. **Subspecies:** None (HBW). **Breeding:** Nest-hole 9-14m high in deadwood at forest edge. Male excavates, female inspects. Excavation in Dec, Feb, Apr, Jul per Wells (1999), but only Apr-Jul per HBW.

Grey-and-buff Woodpecker

Hemicircus concretus, Belatok punggoh/daun. 13cm. R

Other name: *Hemicircus sordidus* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). For Birdlife, HBW, IUCN, *H.concretus* is Red-crested Woodpecker, only in Java. For OBI, *sordidus* is a subspecies, *H.c. sordidus* in Java. **Dis-tribution:** Fairly common resident mostly at low elevations but up to 1,100m. 192 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Kuala Juram and Sg Relau, Sg Tekala, etc., with 3 montane records in Berjaya Hills, Bkt Larut (~1,000m). Historically not recorded in Penang, S.Perai, Kelantan, Terengganu but 5 BIW records in S.Perai. **Sta-**

Uzair Ab Rahim

Female





Female

Great Slaty Woodpecker

Mulleripicus pulverulentus, Belatok berjalur/ kelabu. 50cm. R

Biggest woodpecker in Pen Malaysia. **Distribution:** Fairly common to uncommon at plains-level to 200m. None in Melaka and large parts of Terengganu. 211 BIW records in Bkt Wang, Sg Relau, Gng Raya, Ulu Muda, FRIM Pasoh, etc. 1 each at Tasik Kenyir and Pos Slim (>500m).

Status: VU, a rapid decline of 30-50 percent over the past 20 years (3 generations), 90 percent loss in 100 years due to primary forest loss. Population still declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *harterti*, N India, Himalayas to N Burma, S Yunnan S to Indochina to S Thailand;

Male



pulverulentus, Pen Malaysia, Greater Sundas, W Philippines. **Habitat:** Dependent on forest with large diameter trees. Formerly, mangrove fringes. **Habits:** Pairs or small noisy family groups 3-6, mid-storey to canopy. **Food:** Invertebrates, fruits sometimes? **Breeding:** Possibly Mar-Aug.

Photos at Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan, May, 6-7m away, in a group of 3 at the mid-storey of tall trees. They were not shy but moved up quickly. On another day, I was as near as 4.5m away, and after an initial wary look, was not bothered, possibly too busy pecking.



Francis Yap (both photos, of a male)

Habits: Breeding pairs, else in groups less than 10 occasionally to 20. Possibly nomadic, travelling far in search of food. **Food:** Seeds, e.g. *Parkia speciosa*, mesocarp of oil palm fruits (but not yet a pest in oil palm plantations). Also, fruits of the Simpoh tree *Dillenia sp.*, taking its sap (Chong 2017). **Sexes differ.** Shown here is the male. Female has a brownish head and bill. **Breeding:** Nest inspection recorded late Nov and Feb, with eggs in May. One nest in a hole 30m up a tree.

Blue-rumped Parrot

Psittinus cyanurus, Bayan puling, 19cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident at plains-level with one record (in flight) at 1,300m. 201 BIW records, quite a number of heard only, in Panti (substantially), Pondok Tanjung, Kuala Lompat, Sg Relau, FRIM Pasoh, etc. 1 montane in Bkt Larut (in flight). Historically not recorded in Penang, S.Perai, Melaka but 1 BIW record each in S.Perai and Melaka (Tanjung Tuan). **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline from trapping and habitat destruction. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *P.c. cyanurus*, extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo; *P.c. Pontius*, Mentawai Is. (off W Sumatra). **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, oil palm plantations.





Danaraj Maniam (both photos, of a male)

in noisy flocks up to 50, often smaller. Nomadic. **Food:** Seeds, oil palm fruits, and flowers. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is the male. Female's red cheeks duller, and bill brown. **Breeding:** Nests communally in tree holes, often in dead trees. Clutch of 2. Incubation 24 days.

My first sight of this bird oddly enough was in an urban setting, the Kota Damansara Community Forest, Selangor, a small swampy forest with tall dead trees adjacent to a housing estate, a flock of ~10. This was where I saw what an author described as their “rocket-fast flight”.

Long-tailed Parakeet

Psittacula longicauda, Bayan nuri. 41cm. R

Other name: Reddish-cheeked Parakeet (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident at plains-level. Historically not recorded in Perlis, Penang, S.Perai, Kelantan but 1 BIW record (via eBird) in S.Perai. **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *tyleri*, Andaman, Coco Is.; *nicobarica*, Nicobar Is.; *longicauda*, Pen Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo; *defontainei*, Natuna Is., Riau archipelago; *modesta*, Enggano Is. **Habitat:** Forests, including peat swamp and swamp forests. The latter with dead emergents may be its core habitat. Also, forest edge, mangroves, oil palm plantations, wooded areas. **Habits:** Keeps to the canopy and crown of tall trees. Often rests on tall dead trees. Roosting and flying





Francis Yap Female

Blue-crowned Hanging-Parrot

Loriculus galgulus, Bayan serindit. 14cm. R

Distribution: Common resident, mainly lowland and often to submontane but occasionally up to over 2,000m (summit of Gng Tahan). 684 BIW records mostly lowland in Panti (overwhelmingly), Gng Telapa Buruk, FRIM Kepong, Bkt Wang, Sg Relau, etc. Several uplands at Gap, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut. Historically not recorded in Melaka but with several BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. Popular cage bird. Protected. **Range:** Extreme S Myanmar (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, W Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, landward edge of mangroves, wooded



Francis Yap Male

gardens, orchards, tall scrub.

Habits: Canopy and crown of tall trees in pairs or groups up to 30. Hangs upside down when sleeping and resting. Flocks call in flight. **Food:** Fruits including figs, mesocarp of oil palm fruit, flowers of coral trees (*Erythrina spp.*) possibly for nectar. Possibly also, durian flowers. **Sexes differ** as shown. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Jan-Aug. Nests in holes in living or dead trees. Eggs, 3-4. In captivity, nestling period ~5 weeks.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Female

Green Broadbill

Calyptomena viridis, Takau selawit/Burung Seluwit, 19cm. R

Other names: Little Green-Broadbill (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Common resident mostly at low elevations up to 760m. 338 BIW records in Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. 2 records at ~1000m. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally, from habitat loss and degradation; moderately rapid population decline. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *caudacuta*, S Burma, SW Thailand, the Peninsula; *viridis*, Sumatra, Borneo; *siberu*, Mentawai Is. **Habitat:** Mostly closed-canopy forests including peat swamp, also forest edge. **Habits:** At all levels below canopy but mainly lower storey. Alone,

Male



pairs or in groups during feeding. **Food:** Mostly fruits especially figs. Also insects. Aerial sallying for flying termites. **Sexually dimorphic.** Female lacks the male's black wing bars, and is slightly bigger. **Breeding:** Egg laying Feb-Aug. Nest building and incubation by female.

My photo of a male, part of pair in a fruiting tree at Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan, Feb, 7m away 5m up. Not shy although I tried to photograph at 4m on a different occasion and they took off pretty fast.



Long Roslee Ngah

Habits: Alone, pairs or family groups, from lower to under canopy. Calls exhibit territorial behaviour. **Food:** A generalist from animals, including crabs, fish, molluscs taken at river banks, to fruits. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Breeding:** Nest building and egg laying Jan-Aug. Nests usually hanging over water, occasionally roads.

My photo from a trail to Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan, 5m away 5m up, Feb. I find this bird to be rather shy especially when approached to 7m. I think in this case I was walking by when it came flying in and so it was less aware of me.

Black-and-red Broadbill

Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchus, Takau rakit/Burung rakit. 25cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident to 300m. 343 BIW records in Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, Taman Negara Pahang, Air Itam Dalam, Kemensah, etc. **Status:** VU locally, LC globally but population has greatly decreased from ongoing destruction of lowland rainforest. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *affinis*, SW Burma; *siamensis*, S Burma, SW and S Thailand (not extreme S), Cambodia, S Laos, S Vietnam; *malaccensis*, the Peninsula; *macrorhynchus*, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, plantations, formerly mangrove fringes. Especially near rivers. Also freshwater swamp forests of Tasik Bera, and Kemaman (Chong 2017).





Banded Broadbill

Eurylaimus javanicus, Takau rimba. 23cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mostly lowland but up to 1,100m. 564 BIW records, mostly heard, in lowland Pantii, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, FRIM Pasoh, etc. 20 montane records maximum elevation at Fraser's Hill. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population trend unknown. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *friedmanni*, SE Burma, Thailand (S to Isthmus of Kra), Indochina; *pallidus*, the Peninsula; *harterti*, Sumatra; *brookei*, Borneo; *javanicus*, Java. **Habitat:** Typically, closed-canopy forests including peat swamp. Also non-typical habitats e.g. overgrown plantations, fragmented forests.

Habits: Canopy to mid-storey, at times lower. Alone, pairs or small family parties. Calls and responses may indicate territorial behaviour. Hunting from high perches, grabbing prey from surfaces. Possibly also by aerial sallying. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects, small vertebrates (e.g. lizards). **Sexes nearly alike.** Female lacks dark breast band. **Breeding:** Bag nest suspended 6-21m up above clearing. Nest building recorded Feb, Mar, egg laying at least Mar-May, Jul. 2-3 eggs.

Photos of a male from Jenut Muda trail, Kuala Tahan, Jun, 6-8m away, 5m up. Not shy, giving me time to have a few photos. Not easy to spot this bird, it tends to be in the canopy, not moving much.





John Turner

Male

Calls show territorial behaviour. **Food:** Invertebrates including flying termites, fruits rarely.

Sexes nearly alike. Male has a complete black breast band, female incomplete. **Subspecies:** None (some might consider the nominate *ochromalus* of the global range except Borneo as a subspecies here). **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan, Mar-Aug. Nests recorded Feb-Jul, at the edge of forest clearings and over streams. Clutch 2-3 eggs. Nests sometimes parasitised by Indian Cuckoo.

Black-and-yellow Broadbill

Eurylaimus ochromalus, Takau hitam kuning/kasturi. 17cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly at low elevations but up to 970m. 750 BIW records, many heard only, in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Bkt Wang, Sg Relau, FRIM Kepong, etc. 3 upland records at Gap-Fraser's Hill road, and possibly also Gng Jerai (elevation not given). **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline from habitat loss in its range. TP. **Range:** S Burma, SW,S Thailand, Pen Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, occasionally overgrown rubber plantations near forests. **Habits:** Canopy to mid-storey, only rarely lower. Sits unobtrusively high up making it hard to spot. Mainly in pairs occasionally in small groups.

Sabri Abdullah

Female





Dusky Broadbill

Corydon sumatranus, Takau rimba hujan. 28cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident to 1,050m. 195 BIW records in Panti (overwhelmingly), Bkt Larut, Bkt

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Rengit, Gng Telapa Buruk, Pangsun, etc. 1 record each in Kelantan, Terengganu. None in Penang, Melaka. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population in decline due to forest destruction. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *C.s. laoensis*, S Myanmar, Thailand (except extreme S) and rest of Indochina; *C.s. sumatranus*, extreme S Thailand S to Sumatra (note: possibly also *laoensis-sumatranus* intergradation in Pen Malaysia); *C.s. brunnescens*, N Natuna Is., Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests. **Habits:** Upper mid-storey to canopy, usually in groups 5-10. **Food:** Invertebrates and possibly small vertebrates. **Sexes alike. Breeding:** Nest building likely Nov-May. Eggs laid Dec-Aug. Clutch of 3-4 eggs, most broods of 3. Nest hangs 4–13 m above open area e.g. river, forest clearing or road.

My photo recorded at Bkt Rengit, Pahang, 12m away 10m up at nest above road, 1 Feb, during my digiscoping days. At this distance it did not appear stressed but I did not linger.



Garnet Pitta

Erythropitta granatina, Pacat kepala merah. 18cm. R

Other name: *Pitta granatina* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Resident, locally common (e.g. Taman Negara Pahang), uncommon in many forests; in lowland forests to 200m. 154 BIW records, mostly heard, mostly Taman Negara Pahang. Others in Krau WR, Bkt Rengit, Tasik Bera, Kenong, Sg Lembing (all in Pahang), and Kuala Koh. 1 record each in Panti, Taman Rimba Ampang, FRIM Pasoh. **Status:** EN locally, NT globally due to habitat loss; population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *coccinea*, Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, E

Uzair Ab Rahim



Sumatra; *granatina*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests. **Habits:** Ground storey, alone or in pairs. Advertises territorial calls. **Food:** Possibly insects, worms, ants. **Sexes alike.** Smallest pitta in Pen Malaysia. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan, Mar, Apr, Jul. Domed nest (diameter 15 cm) placed on ground. 2 eggs

My photo was taken at Sg Relau, Pahang, May, 8m away. When first spotted at 5m away, it was between me and a river and was rather nervous, flapping its wings. It walked off quickly and at 8m away, seemingly calm enough, was willing to pose for a few photos; too bad only from the back.

Giant Pitta

Hydrornis caeruleus, Pacat besar. 29cm. R

Other name: *Pitta caerulea* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Rare, local resident at low elevations to 245m. Not recorded in Melaka, N.Sembilan, Terengganu. Sightings in eBird include Taman Negara Pahang, Panti, Pedu, Bkt Panchor, Lanchang. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally, population in moderately rapid decline due to habitat destruction. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), SW Thailand, the Peninsula, C to N Borneo, Sumatra (probably extinct, per Birdlife but 2 eBird records in 1998, 2000 at one location, extreme S). **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests including swampy forests, and occasionally forest edge.

Habits: Ground and under storeys, alone, in pairs or family groups. More secretive and vocal over a shorter season and harder to detect than other pittas. Roosts off the ground like other pittas in under storey. Calls are territorial, in early morning and late afternoon. Most intense in Apr, Jun. **Food:** Insects, snails, worms, frogs, small snakes. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is the male. Female has brown upperparts but blue tailed like the male. **Subspecies:** *caerulea*. 2 subspecies in all (*hosei* in Borneo). **Breeding:** Season possibly Mar-Nov. A brood of 2 fledged 16 days after hatching. Both parents incubate but only female at night.

I have heard this pitta at the Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan, and possibly seen it at Tahan trail, Kuala Tahan, a bird that flew off the ground settling on a branch 4m away but the head was hidden. When I moved to see better it flew off.



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Female-Male

Malayan Banded-Pitta

Hydrornis irena, Pacat bukit. 23cm. R

Other names: Banded pitta, *Pitta guajana* (J&P 2012), Malay Banded Pitta (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), *Pirena* (OBI). eBird (and Birdlife, HBW, IUCN) has split the Banded Pitta (*P.guajana*) into the Malayan, Bornean (*H.schwaneri*), and Javan (*H.guajanus*) Banded-Pittas. **Distribution:** Fairly common resident at plains-level. Not recorded Penang, S.Perai. 224 BIW records, mostly heard, in Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, Wang Kelian, Kuala Trenggan, FRIM Pasoh, etc. 6 from Panti. None for Melaka, Terengganu. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally, population

Jason Tan

Male



declining from deforestation and hunting. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests, occasionally swampy forests. **Habits:** Forages on the ground, alone or in pairs. Pairs forage together making contact calls. Some warning calls are from 15m up. Shy. **Food:** Invertebrates including snails, worms. **Subspecies:** *irena* (Pen Malaysia, Sumatra), *ripleyi* (S Peninsular Thailand). **Breeding:** Eggs 3 laid Feb-Nov.

I think, of the local pittas, the Banded is the prettiest, seemingly glowing in the forest. I spotted this pitta in Wang Kelian, Perlis State Park at 6m away but in a panic, it scampered away. At 30m away, twice in Kuala Tahan, it was not so bothered.



Blue-winged Pitta

Pitta Moluccensis, Pacat sayap biru. 20cm. R M

Distribution: Uncommon summer visitor breeding in the north e.g. Langkawi, Perlis, Kedah with one nesting record in Kuala Tahan, Pahang. In other parts, locally common passage migrant and winter visitor at low elevations but over 900m during autumn and spring migration. Possibly, some may be found resident throughout the year (see below). Not recorded in Melaka. 186 BIW records in Kuala Tahan, FRIM Kepong, Gng Raya, Bkt Jelutong, Air Itam Dalam, etc. 1



montane in Bkt Larut. **Status:** LC, population declining due to the cage bird trade, and hunting in Thailand. TP. **Range:** S China, Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, wooded areas, mangrove edge. **Habits:** Calls in breeding areas but less frequently elsewhere. Roosts in trees. **Food:** Forages ground storey for worms. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs 3-7 laid May-Jul. Nest an untidy structure of twigs, leaves on ground or up to 4m up. **Survival:** At least 5 years 7 months.

Photos from Hulu Kelang, Selangor, Feb, 5m away. Its left foot seemed injured. This might explain why it was a year-round resident there, not migrating back north.



Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

to New Guinea. **Habitat:** Forests, overgrown plantations, scrub, mangroves. **Habits:** Mainly silent during migration. Winterers are solitary. Forages forest floor but may call from 20m up. Roosts 4m up. **Food:** Ants, shelled molluscs.

Sexes nearly alike. Subspecies: (HBW) *mulleri* (resident N Pen Malaysia, migrant elsewhere. Dark crown), *cucullata* (migrant. Chestnut crown). But Wells (2007) believes breeders, i.e. resident, are likely *cucullata*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests on forest floor. Eggs laid May-early Oct. Migration: 15 Oct-15 Dec (stragglers into Feb, Mar), returning by early Apr, latest May.

I have photographed one at Gng Ulu Kali (1700m), injured.

Hooded Pitta

Pitta sordida, Pacat gembala pelanduk. 19cm. R M

Other name: Western Hooded Pitta (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. Range does not include New Guinea, which is occupied by the Eastern). **Distribution:** Uncommon resident in Perlis, N Kedah, up to 140m; elsewhere non-breeding passage migrant and winter visitor to 250m. Not recorded Melaka. During migration follows or crosses the Main Range, e.g. at Fraser's Hill and Gng Ulu Kali. 44 BIW records in Pedu, Kuala Tahan, Bkt Cahaya, Wang Kelian, Bkt Rengit, etc. 1 montane, Bkt Larut. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. Trapped for cage bird trade. Often bred in captivity. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, far NE Indian subcontinent, S Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas E





Female

Large Woodshrike

Tephrodornis virgatus, Rembah kayu besar/Rembah Rimba besar.
23cm. R

Other name: MNS (2016) lists it as *T.gularis* but eBird, Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN as *T.virgatus*. **Distribution:** Common resident up to 970m. 370 BIW records in FRIM Kepong, Pantl, Gng Telapa Buruk, Taiping foothills, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, etc. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, W Ghats, NE Indian subcontinent, S China (Yunnan to Fijian), Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, wooded gardens, overgrown plantations. **Habits:** Alone, pair, but often in noisy groups. Aerial sallies for insects and

Male



gleans from surfaces. Very occasionally joins bird waves. **Food:** Small invertebrates and occasionally, fruits. **Sexes slightly differ.** Male greyish upperparts to female's browner. Mask and bill darker in male. Both have a white rump patch but may be hidden. **Subspecies:** *fretensis*. 10 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Dependent fledglings recorded Mar, Apr, mid-Jun, early Jul. Eggs 2-5. Nest a shallow cup.

Photo of possibly male by the grey uppers, recorded in Gombak 6m away 5m up, a bird in a group noisily hunting. Photo of possibly female by the brown uppers, solitary, from Bukit Air, Perlis, 4.5m away 3m up. Not shy, it stayed long enough for a few photos even when I approached her.



Female

Rufous-winged Philentoma

Philentoma pyrhoptera, Sambar paya. 18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 750m, occasionally to 1,000m. 344 BIW records in Taman Negara Pahang (88), Pantl (77), Bkt Rengit (23), Sg Tekala (14), Sg Sedim (13), Gng Telapa Buruk (12), etc. Limited records upland. **Status:** NT locally due to dependence on mature forests, LC globally, population declining. NP? **Range and Subspecies:** *P.p. pyrhoptera*, extreme S Burma (S Tenasserim), S Thailand,

Male, common morph



Pen Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo and offshore islands; *P.p. dubia*, Natuna Is. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp and freshwater swamp. **Habits:** Mid- to lower storeys and may descend to feed on the ground. Joins bird waves. Alone or pairs. Territorial. **Food:** Arthropods, taken on the fly or gleaned from surfaces.

Sexually dimorphic. Male has two morphs: “common morph” (dull blue head, mantle, breast; rufous wings and tail), and uncommon “blue morph” (dull blue plumage with whitish vent and undertail). Female same as male common morph but with dull brown mantle.



Male, blue morph

reluctant to go to the nest lest its location be exposed. After taking the shots, I quickly moved along to alleviate their stress.

Photo of the male blue morph was from Jalan Gombak, Selangor State Park, Feb, 6m away, seemingly part of a bird wave, although he did not stay long.

Breeding: According to Wells (2007), eggs laid Feb-Jul. By HBW, Feb-Sep (could be for the whole range). One nest was a small cup held together by spiderwebs, placed in the fork of a thin horizontal branch; contained at least two chicks, apparently attended by both parents. No other information.

Photos of female and male common morph were both taken at the Swamp Loop, Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, May, 5-6m away. Carrying food for nestlings, and making a lot of noise because of my presence,

Female





Female

Sexes slightly differ. Male has a dark crown and upper parts and brighter yellow underparts to female's dull yellow and olive crown and upper parts. Male's colours are brighter still during breeding. **Subspecies:** *horizoptera*. 11 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid late Jan-early Oct. Each parent may take charge of a fledged juvenile. Brood host of the Banded-bay Cuckoo.

Male photo from Paya Indah Wetlands, Feb, 5m away 4m up, and the female at the same area, Sep, 6m away 4m up. Not shy.

Common Iora

Aegithina tiphia, Kunyit pacat/kecil. 15cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly at low elevations to 460m. 850 BIW records, mostly in mangroves and inland swamp forests (Bercham, KSNP, Air Itam Dalam, FRIM Kepong, Timah-Tasoh). **Status:** LC, population trend unknown. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Palawan. **Habitat:** Mangroves and adjacent habitats, swamp forests, forest edge, open country, orchards, gardens. **Habits:** Forages in the canopy (often low to mid-sized trees) alone, in pairs or small parties. **Food:** Small invertebrates taken from surfaces.

Male





John Turner

Female

Green Iora

Aegithina viridissima, Kunyit bakau/hijau. 14cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident up to 820m. Historically not recorded in S.Peraï but recent records in Bkt Panchor. **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline from habitat loss. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *A.v. viridissima*, extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), SW Thailand S to the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo; *A.v. thapsina*, Siantan Is., in Anamba Group (E of the Peninsula). **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, and tall secondary. Also, overgrown tree plantations, and

Jason Tan

Male



mangroves (Langkawi only).

Habits: Keeps to the canopy including tall emergents, in pairs or small groups. Joins canopy bird waves. Defends nesting territory, e.g. a pair mobbed a Drongo-Cuckoo. **Food:** Invertebrates. Takes insects at fig fruits. **Sexes nearly alike:** Male with dark olive green plumage, female with dull olive green above and dull yellowish green below. **Breeding:** Not much information. Season is possibly Apr-Jun. Nest is a neat cup, 8-12m up on a branch fork.

Great Iora

Aegithina lafresnayei, Kunyit bukit. 17cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident in the north, Perlis especially, uncommon elsewhere, up to 900m. 89 BIW records in Gombak, Bkt Rengit, N Perlis, etc., one possible upland record in Gng Jerai but elevation unknown. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally. TP. **Range:** Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, orchards. **Habits:** Mainly canopy to mid-storey usually in pairs or mixed foraging parties. **Food:** Insects taken from leaves and branches. **Sexes nearly alike**, female duller above. **Subspecies:** *lafresnayei*. 3 in its range. **Breeding:** Possibly Apr-Jul. Photo of a male from a N Perlis orchard, Dec, 5m away 3m up. Its very bright yellow belly makes it a pretty bird, the prettiest iora to my mind.



Golden-bellied Gerygone

Gerygone sulphurea, Cekup perepat/Kelicap perepat. 9cm. R

Other name: Flyeater (J&P 1999). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident to 975m. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Indochina except Burma, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forests edge, mangroves including edges, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Frequents tree crowns. Takes prey from surfaces, occasionally by short sallies. Territorial and aggressive especially to warblers that feed on similar preys. Alone, pairs or small family groups. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Small invertebrates. Robs spiderwebs. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *sulphurea*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec, Jan, Mar-Oct. 2-3 eggs. Fledged 2 weeks after first egg hatched. Brood host of Little Bronze-Cuckoo.



Francis Yap



Female

swamp, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages canopy, alone or in pairs. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Arthropods. Possibly also fruits. **Sexes differ.** Male has dark grey upperparts and underparts, with a white vent. Female has dark upperparts. **Subspecies:** *culminata* (*neglecta*, N from Perlis). **Breeding:** Fledglings in May, Jul.

Female photo from Pangsun, Nov, 6m away 5m up. Not shy. For male photo, note its undertail pattern.

Lesser Cuckooshrike

Lalage fimbriata, Sewah kecil. 23cm. R

Other name: *Coracina fimbriata* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Local, fairly common resident up to 975m. 215 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Sg Perdik, Taman Rimba Ampang, etc. Also upland including Gap-Fraser's Hill road including Fraser's Hill (2 records), Genting Highlands, Berjaya Hills, to a possible maximum ~ 1,200m on Fraser's Hill. Historically not recorded Penang, S.Perai, Kelantan but 1 BIW entry in S.Perai (Bkt Panchor) and 2 Kelantan (Kuala Koh). **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population declining. **TP. Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Forests including peat

Uzair Ab Rahim

Male





Juvenile

Frequently perches at the forest edge but sometimes enters the undergrowth nearby, stays away from open spaces (or deep forest) which are the habitat of the aggressive Brown Shrike. **Food:** Arthropods, small animals. **Sexes slightly differ:** Male's face mask extends to forehead, female's only behind eye. **Subspecies:** None. Passage dates: Autumn arrival is from 25 Aug and spring return from 11 Apr.

My photo from Wang Kelian, Perlis State Park, 4m away 2m up, Dec, a juvenile. I have a few records of this shrike but they are all juveniles (for some reason adults are rarer). At times, tame and confiding, other times, skittish.

Tiger Shrike

Lanius tigrinus, Tirjup rimau/harimau. 19cm. M

Distribution: Common passage migrant and winter visitor up to 1,200m. 480 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Larut, KSNP, Panti, FRIM Kepong, Bkt Rengit, Genting Highlands, etc. Also a few records in Fraser's Hill. Some montane records are at non-passage dates, i.e. visitor, not on-passage. **Status:** LC, population declining due to marked decline in Russia and Japan. TP. **Range:** Breeds SE Russia, NE, E China, Korea, Japan; non-breeding in SE China, Indonesia, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forest clearings and edge, **Habits:**

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Male





Juvenile

on sharp spikes to eat later. Noisy, territorial even during wintering and aggressive displacing resident competitors. **Food:** Arthropods, small invertebrates. Also juvenile Common Tailorbird (Chong 2017). Sexes and **Subspecies:** Male *cristatus* and *confusos*, brown above, white supercilium; male *lucionensis*, grey above with indistinct supercilium. Female, duller above with thin blackish bars and dark scalings (same as in juvenile and first winter). Adult differ from Tiger Shrike by not having stripes on the back.

Photo of juvenile, in a residential area, Kuala Lumpur, Nov, 6m away 3m up. The other photo from Air Itam Dalam, Dec, 10m away 3m up. Not shy.

Brown Shrike

Lanius cristatus, Tirjup tanah/padang. 20cm. M

Distribution: Common passage migrant and winter visitor to 1,600m, occasionally, 2,000m. 1216 BIW records mostly lowland but some montane e.g. Fraser's Hill. More records N from Selangor than S. In montane, some dates suggest visitors rather than on-passage. **Status:** LC, population declining due to a decline of 80 percent in Japan. TP. **Range:** Breeds Siberia, temperate Asia; wintering S Asia, Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, N Sulawesi, Philippines. **Habitat:** Non-forests of scrub, reedbeds, plantations, gardens, forest edge. **Habits:** Hunts from perches less than 2m high and not more than 4m up. Grabs prey on the fly or from plant surfaces and ground. Places prey

lucionensis, first winter





Male

Dark-throated Oriole

Oriolus xanthonotus, Dendang senja/Kunyit bercoreng. 20cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 300m but has been recorded up to 1,200m. 468 BIW records, all lowland, in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Wang, etc. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally from being reliant on relatively mature forests which are in decline locally and in its global range. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Canopy to mid-storey. Alone or in pairs. **Food:** A generalist - insects and fruits. **Subspecies:** *xanthonotus*. 4 sub-

Uzair Ab Rahim

Female



species in its range. **Breeding:** Nesting Feb-Jun. Nests a deep open-cup suspended hammock-like high in forest-edge tree. Clutch, 2 eggs.

The Dark-throated Oriole is the smallest of the Orioles.

Male photo from Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, Nov, 6m away 5m up. It was not shy, pretty much not bothered with my presence and being photographed.



Choy Wai Mun

Juvenile

Crow-billed Drongo

Dicrurus annectans, Cecawi sawai. 28cm. M

Distribution: Local, fairly common to uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant. Visitor to 600m, migrant to 1,200m. Not recorded Terengganu. 135 BIW records in KSNP, Air Itam Dalam, Bkt Mertajam Hill, Bkt Wang, Bkt Larut, Panti, etc. **Status:** NT bordering VU locally, LC globally. TP. **Range:** Breeds NE India, N,C Burma, S China, N,C Indochina. Wintering to far NE India, Bangladesh, probably S China, S Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge including mangrove fringes, wooded lands. Visitors prefer closed-canopy forests; passage migrants, more varied. **Habits:** Takes prey from foliage or ground or by aerial sallies usually lower to mid-storeys. Sings, indicating territorial behaviour.

Usually alone. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. Juvenile has white spots on the front and a less upturned tail fork. **Subspecies:** None.

My photo from Bukit Air, Perlis, 6m away 4m up, Oct. The tail fork lacks an upturn probably indicates it is a juvenile. Another bird in Perlis State Park has an upturned tail. Both not overly shy. It took me a long time to see this bird for the first time. Before that I thought I had not recognised it. However, when I finally sighted it, it was immediately recognisable.





Francis Yap

Greater Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus paradiseus, Cecawi anting-anting/Hamba nera. 32cm, rackets 30cm more. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 800m but higher on Main Range. Most common drongo in lowland forests. 1448 BIW records including on Fraser's Hill. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, landward side of mangroves, plantations, wooded gardens, peat swamps. **Habits:** Hawks for insects from mid-storey open perches. Also I have seen as low as 1m from ground. Often follows monkeys and foraging birds to catch the disturbed insects. Mimics other birds. A seemingly new bird call in the forest could in fact be made by this drongo. Aggressive and can mob other birds, even raptors and hornbills, also humans when nesting. **Food:** Insects, frogs, and it seems the occasional fruit. **Sexes alike** as other drongos.



Subspecies: *hypoballus*, N of 4°N, *platurus*, S of 4°N, and intermediates of the two. 13 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Jun.

My photo from Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, 6m away 3m up. It was quite fearless of humans around. I have seen the Greater and Lesser Racket-tailed Drongos side by side about 1m apart at about 1,000m in Fraser's Hill.



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er storey, alone or pairs. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Small arthropods. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Apr, May, Jul, Aug (as most birds in Pen Malaysia).

I saw this bird on two consecutive days in Kuala Tahan, Apr, at the same place, one of two individuals hunting together about 3m apart 2.5m up, on the first day. On both days they called me to attention, not more than 4m away, and patiently let me photograph them. At one point one came to within 3m while pursuing a prey. Too bad it was under heavy shade which seems to be their favoured setting.

Spotted Fantail

Rhipidura perlata, Sambar Gila bukit/Murai Gila berbintik. 18cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common to uncommon resident up to 750m but recorded 1,130m on Bkt Larut, Perak. Above 900m, it is generally replaced by the White-throated Fantail. 91 BIW records in Taman Negara Pahang, Pangsun, Gng Arong (Mersing), Panti, etc. 1 montane, Bkt Larut. Historically not recorded N from Kedah but 1 BIW record in Penang, 3 Kedah (Sg Sedim, Ulu Muda). **Status:** VU locally due to dependence on mature forests; LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Canopy to mid-storey, sometimes low-





Male

Black-naped Monarch

Hypothymis azurea, Sambar uban hitam. 17cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 915m; one was recorded at 1,000m. 444 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Gng Telapa Buruk, Taman Negara Pahang, Pangsun, etc. 1 upland record at Gap-Fraser's Hill Road (>830m). **Status:** LC, population stable. NP. **Range:** India, S China, Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi, Philippines.

Habitat: Forests including peat swamp and freshwater swamp, forest edge, plantations near forests. **Habits:** From lower storey to base of canopy, solitary or in pairs. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes differ.** Male has Female

a half black collar and head tuft which are not present in female. Male has a bright blue back, with female, brown. **Subspecies:** *prophata*. 25 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-Jul. Clutch 2–4 eggs, incubation 14 days; nestling period 10 days; young remain with parents for 40–60 days after fledging.

Photos show a pair that had made their nest right above the boardwalk in Kuala Tahan, just at eye level. This was from 4m away, 13 May. Given that they were sitting on the nest, I took my shots quickly and went off so as to not scare them. But two days later, after a bunch of school children arrived, the nest was sadly abandoned.





Japanese Paradise-Flycatcher

Terpsiphone atrocaudata, Sambar jepun. 20cm, elongate tail up to 23cm or more. M

Distribution: Uncommon passage migrant and winter visitor. Visitors at plains-level, on passage up to 1,200m. Historically not recorded in Kelantan, Terengganu. **Status:** VU bordering EN locally, NT globally. Population declining. NP. For some reason, none of the monarchs – Japanese and Asian Paradise-Flycatchers, and Black-naped Monarch – are locally protected. My guess is that they are part of the cage bird trade. Similarly with Red-whiskered Bulbul. **Range:** Breeding in Japan, Korea, S to Taiwan; winters S to Philippines, the Peninsula, Sumatra? (no eBird records), and Sabah (1 record. Birdlife, HBW, IUCN do not include Borneo in the Range). **Habitat:** Visitors in closed-canopy forests, passage migrants additionally at mangrove edges, scrubs. **Habits:** Upper lower storey to mid-storey. Joins bird waves, sallying from open perches. Often alone with one record of two. Sometimes with Asian Paradise-flycatchers (Blyth's and Amur). **Food:** Arthropods.

Sexes differ: Male with or without elongate tail, glossy dark plumage and tail. Female, short tail, darkish head, dark rufous mantle and tail. Both with white belly. Shown here possibly female. **Subspecies:** *atrocaudata*, and possibly also *ilex* (Ryukyu Paradise-Flycatcher). 3 subspecies in all. Migration: Earliest Autumn passage 23 Sep but mostly after 13 Oct. Spring passage peaks in first two weeks of Apr and no later than 30 Apr.



Male, rufous morph

Asian Paradise-Flycatcher (Blyth's and Amur)

Terpsiphone paradisi, Sambar ekor panjang/Murai Ekor Gading biasa. 21cm, tail of male 23cm or more. R M

New names: MNS (2016) and eBird, have split this bird into two new species: Blyth's Paradise-Flycatcher (*T.affinis*) and Amur Paradise-Flycatcher (*T.incei*). Birdlife, HBW, IUCN

Long Roslee Ngah Male, rufous morph (*affinis*)



call the Blyth's as Oriental Paradise-Flycatcher, and the Amur as Chinese Paradise-Flycatcher. OBI lists Amur (*T.incei*) and Asian Paradise-Flycatchers (*T.paradisi*). There is still very little information about the two new species so I have listed under the old name (Asian Paradise-Flycatcher) here. **Distribution:** Blyth's is resident and migrant; Amur is migrant. Common resident mainly at plains-level but up to 880m, and common passage migrant and winter visitor up to 1,500m. 545 BIW records for both species in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Bkt Wang, Air Itam Dalam, Bkt Larut, etc.

Apart from Bkt Larut, also at other montane places including Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands. **Status:** LC, population stable. NP. **Range:** Blyth's: E Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas. Amur: E



Male, white morph

Russia, China, Korea, Indochina (except Burma), Sumatra. **Habitat:** Resident: Forests including peat swamp, forest edge. Migrant: Habitats of residents plus wooded gardens, mangrove edge. **Habits:** Forages alone or in pairs from lower storey to base of canopy. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Arthropods, taken by aerial sallies.

Sexes differ. Male has two morphs, rufous and white. Also, male can have elongate tail or short tail. Female only has the rufous morph, and only the short tail. The differences between female and male (apart from white morph and elongate tail) are that chin and throat of female are never glossy and no sheen on upper body. Also, inner tail feathers are about 1cm shorter than the short-tailed male's. **Subspecies:** Resi-

Female (*incei*)



dent, *T.a. affinis*; migrant, *T.a. saturator* (*T.incei* is monotypic). **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-Jul.

Photo top, previous page, of a short-tailed male (by glossy throat and uppers) taken in Panti forest, Johor, 14 Oct, 6m away 4.5m up. The white morph from Kuala Tahan, 13 Oct, 7m away. It could be a migrant. The female (*incei*, by the dark breast and migration date) on this page at Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, 15 Oct, 4m away 4m up. I have photographed an elongate-tailed male, part of a pair, at Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, 15 May. I think they had just built a nest but abandoned it because it was too near a well-trodden trail.



Black Magpie

Platysmurus leucopterus, Gagak kambing. 41cm. R

Other name: Malay Black Magpie (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). The other is Bornean, *P. aterrimus*. For eBird, both are subspecies. **Distribution:** Common resident up to 200m. Not recorded Penang, S.Perai. 294 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Kuala Koh, Kemensah, etc. **Status:** VU bordering EN locally, NT globally, population moderately declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *P.l. leucopterus*: Extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra; *P.l. aterrimus*: Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including swamp and peat swamp,

forest edge, mangrove fringes. **Habits:** Forages in pairs or in groups at mid-storey to canopy but I have also seen twice at lower storey, e.g. as in the top photo. Very vocal, the call reminds me of goats bleating – as reflected in the Malay name. **Food:** Invertebrates, fruits, small mammals. **Sexes alike**, juvenile duller. **Breeding:** Dec, Feb-May. Note that the subspecies in Borneo does not have the white wing stripe.

Photo bottom from Panti forest, Johor, 5m away 4m up, Oct, and top, Kuala Tahan, May, 5m away 2m up. They were not bothered by my presence. The one on top was very focused on searching its prey so I had ample time to photograph but it was too near to get it in frame.





Male

Large-billed Crow

Corvus macrorhynchos, Gagak paruh besar. 51cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 2,000m. 783 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. NP (none of the crows are protected, the other two being Slender-billed and House). **Range:** E Iran, Himalayas, India, China, E Russia, Japan S to Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forest edge, beach scrub, open country, mangroves, wooded gardens. In urban areas displaced by House Crow. **Habits:** Gregarious, frequenting canopy of larger trees. **Food:** Scavenger and predator of invertebrates and smaller vertebrates.

Male-Female



Sexes nearly alike, female smaller and less curved upper mandible. **Subspecies:** nominate *macrorhynchos*. 11 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests are a stick-built platform up to 60cm across up in the canopy of tall trees. Clutch up to 5, largest number hatched is 3. Both parents build nest and attend to fledglings. Eggs laid Dec-May.

Photos taken at open ground of park HQ, Taman Negara Sg Relau, Pahang, Nov, 7m away. This pair was not shy.



Uzair Ab Rahim

its naked blue skin patch on sides of neck when calling, a long mellow sound, similar but longer and more mellow than a Garnet Pitta's call.

Food: Insects, possibly other arthropods. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Eggs in Jan/Feb, fledging in Jun.

My photo from Kuala Lompat, Krau Wildlife Reserve, Pahang, on a small trail 10m away under shade. It was shy and quickly disappeared into the undergrowth. Similar experience when I saw a pair in Kuala Tahan. The blue skin patch can just about be seen in the photo.

The Rail-babbler is quite unique. It could possibly be in a family all of its own.

Malaysian Rail-babbler

Eupetes macrocerus, Rimba malaysia/Kekicau-Sintar. 29cm. R

Other name: Rail-babbler (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN).

Distribution: Resident up to 1067m. J&P (2012) put it as uncommon, Wells (2007) as common. With 167 BIW records and my own experience I would say nearer to uncommon, and local. Records (mostly heard) in Pantl (overwhelmingly), Taman Negara Pahang, Kuala Lompat, Berjaya Hills, Endau-Rompin, Bkt Larut, etc. Historically not recorded Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Melaka but 2 BIW records Kelantan, 1 Kedah. None in Penang, S.Perai. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally, population in moderately rapid decline. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *macrocerus*, the Peninsula, Sumatra; *borneensis*, N Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Forages the forest floor. Puffs out blue balloon from





Adult, *H.r. tyleri*

ic Swallow but lower than swifts (except Asian Palm). **Food:** Flying insects. **Sexes nearly alike.** Tail length varies. **Subspecies:** *gutturalis* (white bellied, common), *tyleri* (rufous wash, rare). Some juveniles stay over the year.

Photo of adult, likely a *H.r. tyleri*, from Wang Kelian, Perlis, 5m away, Dec, part of a small group. Not shy, it allowed me shots to my content. Photo of a juvenile, likely the *H.r. gutturalis*, from Padas Linggi PLUS Highway R&R, mid-Jan, 4m away 1m up. Also not shy.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica, Sualo api/Layang-Layang pekan. 15cm. M

Distribution: Very common passage migrant and winter visitor at all elevations from shore to 2,000m. 1,109 BIW records in Bercham, S.Perai, Felda Chuping, Pulau Babi Tengah, Tanjung Tuan, etc. Some upland records including Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Gng Ulu Kali. **Status:** LC, population slightly decreasing. TP. **Range:** Across the world, breeding in temperate N and wintering S including S,SE Asia, N Australia. **Habitat:** All types at all elevations including towns, open country, mangroves, forests (feeding over canopy). **Habits:** Catches prey on the fly, alone or in groups, roosts communally in large groups to the thousands often using service wires. In flight, flies above Pacif-

Juvenile, *H.r. gutturalis*





Juvenile

often with other swallows, usually the Barn. Catches prey on the fly, from service wires if available. Flies lower than Barn Swallow at a more frantic pace. Other habits similar to the Barn. **Food:** Flying insects. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *javanica*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs in Feb-Jul with one record in late Oct. Nests on cliffs and human-made structures, e.g. bridges, culverts. Collects mud to build nest. Nesting recorded up to Gng Brinchang, Cameron Highlands.

Photos from FRIM Kepong, 30 Dec, both about 4m away 3m up. Not shy. Adult has a chestnut-red breast and throat whereas juvenile's is duller.

Pacific Swallow

Hirundo tahitica, Sualo batu/Layang-Layang pasifik. 14cm. R

Distribution: Very common resident from coast to 2,000m. 1,629 BIW records in Bercham, S.Peraï, KSNP, Bkt Larut, Gng Ulu Kali, Genting Highlands etc. **Status:** LC, population increasing. TP. **Range:** E from India, S from Ryukyu Is., Taiwan to Indochina, Philippines to Greater and Lesser Sundas E to New Guinea to Tahiti. **Habitat:** Rocky coasts, over mangroves, scrub, open country, towns, wooded gardens, forest edge. **Habits:** Hunts alone or in pairs or small groups when there are swarms of flying insects, roosts communally

Adult





Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Sitta frontalis, Patuk baldu/Pepatuk dahi hitam. 12cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident up to 1,150m. Not recorded in Melaka. 280 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Panti, Taman Rimba Ampang, Pangsun, Sg Sedim, etc. Also 4 upland records, to a maximum elevation at Fraser's Hill, ~1,200m. Above 800m it is generally replaced by Blue Nuthatch. **Status:** LC, population in decline. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, India, Sri Lanka, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, W Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests including mangroves, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages mid-storey to canopy solitary but more often in pairs or groups. Can climb along main trunks upside down. Joins



bird waves. **Food:** Insects, spiders. **Sexes nearly alike:** male has a black supercilium which female lacks. Juvenile like adult but has black bill. **Subspecies:** *saturation*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding** in Apr. Nest of moss usually below 7m up in hole in dead branch or tree trunk. Eggs possibly 3.

Photos of males. Right, part of a pair, foraging in the mangroves of Kuala Sepetang, Perak, Nov, 6m away 4m up. Top, from Gombak, April, 4.5m away 4m up. Both not shy. Generally, I think it is quite oblivious to human presence, same as its montane cousin, Blue Nuthatch. I love to see both nuthatches. They are pretty and cute in their habit of flitting quickly especially going upside down along tree trunks.



Puff-backed Bulbul

Pycnonotus eutilotus, Merbah coklat berjambul/ekor berbintik. 23cm.
R

Other name: *Euptilopus eutilotus* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** An uncommon resident at plains-level to 210m but also recorded 1,200m at Gng Jerai, Kedah. No records for Penang, S.Perai. 91 BIW records in Bkt Rengit, Panti, Taman Negara Pahang, Krau, Tasik Bera, Bkt Wang, etc. None for Perlis, Melaka. **Status:** Because of dependence on plains-level forests it is VU bordering EN locally. NT globally with population declining moderately rapid. Among bulbuls it is one of the least recorded in BIW, confirming its threatened status. TP.



Range: The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents mid-storey and less frequently, canopy and lower storey, alone or in pairs. **Food:** Mostly fruit, possibly also insects. **Sexes virtually alike**, as well as juvenile. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Fledgling 1 Apr and another 7 May. One nest a small neat cup 60cm up in a spiny palm. Clutch, 2 eggs; fledglings fed by parents for at least 10 weeks.

Photos recorded Feb at a fruiting tree in Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan, 5m away, in a mixed feeding flock. Either it was not shy or it was too busy eating to be bothered being photographed. Generally birds are less shy when focused on feeding.



Black-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus atriceps, Merbah Siam. 18cm. R

Other name: *Brachypodius atriceps* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident to 1,200m. 711 BIW records in lowlands of Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Sg Sedim, Bkt Rengit, Sg Perdik, etc. Some montane at Bkt Larut, Berjaya Hills, Fraser's Hill. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *atriceps*, E Bangladesh, far NE India, Burma, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, W Philippines; *hyperemnus*, W Sumatran islands; *baweanus*, Bawean Is. (N of Java); *hodiernus*, Maratua Is. (off E Borneo). **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge, mangrove fringes.

Francis Yap



Habits: Alone, pairs, or in groups. Frequents canopy, also to mid-storey. Nomadic, a wanderer as reflected by lack of recapture of tagged birds. **Food:** Mostly fruits but also insects. **Sexes nearly alike** with female duller. Juvenile even duller with dark olive head. Photos show a common morph. There is a rare grey morph with pale breast to belly and collar. **Breeding:** Jan, Mar-Aug. Eggs 2 fledge 2. I have seen a nesting bird 2m up 2m from a trail in Kuala Tahan.

My photo from Pangsun, Selangor, Aug, 6m away 5m up. This species is shyer than most other bulbuls. Even though well-listed in BIW I do not have many photos of this bird.



Francis Yap (both photos)

Straw-headed Bulbul

Pycnonotus zeylanicus, Barau-Barau. 29cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon resident generally though fairly common in protected areas, up to 250m. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai. 128 BIW records in FRIM Kepong, Taman Negara Pahang, Endau-Rompin (Peta), Royal Belum, etc. **Status:** The Straw-headed population looks to be in trouble. Latest BIW record is in 2002. Used to be seen in Kuala Lumpur urban setting years ago including Lake Gardens, Bkt Gasing, Bkt Tunku, all before 1999. This is reflected in its VU globally and EN locally status. Population is in rapid decline due to the cage bird trade and habitat loss. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Those with rivers and streams including forests, forest edge, wooded gardens etc.



Habits: In pairs or small groups from canopy to mid-storey to ground. Loud melodious voice, loudest of all bulbuls. **Food:** A generalist. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** Eggs 2 laid Jan-Jun, Aug, exceptionally Oct. Nest a large, shallow, untidy cup 1.5–6m up, usually in branch fork.

I have photographed the Straw-headed at Kuala Tahan, May, 15m away. Shy when approached. I had attempted several times to photograph less than 10m but to no avail.



Black-crested Bulbul

Pycnonotus flaviventris, Merbah jambul hitam. 19cm. R

Other name: *Pmelanicterus* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident mainly on slopeland to 1,200m but reported also at 1,970m (Gng Brinchang), S to Gng Tampin, N.Sembilan, although Wells (2007) reports an isolated population in Gng Pulai, SW Johor. 517 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Larut, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, Genting Highlands, FRIM Kepong, etc. Also one each in Kelantan (Pergau) and Terengganu (Tasik Kenyir). None in Melaka and Johor. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** E from the Himalayas, India



(W Ghats, E, far NE), Sri Lanka, S China, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** Solitary, pair or small parties, from mid-storey to canopy of mid-sized trees. **Food:** A generalist like other bulbuls, taking fruits and insects. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *caecilii*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs 2 laid Jan-Aug. Nest very neat and small.

Photos of an individual from Gombak, Selangor State Park, Jan, 5m away 5m up. Usually I find them to be more skittish than most bulbuls. Possibly this time it was feeding and forgot to be shy, at least for a few moments.



Danaraj Maniam

Scaly-breasted Bulbul

Pycnonotus squamatus, Merbah bersisik/sisik dada. 16cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident from lowland forests but mainly in hilly country to 1,060m S to N.Sembilan. Historically recorded in Panti, Johor, but of the 134 records in BIW from 1987 none recorded S of Gng Telapa Buruk, N, Sembilan. Similarly with the historical Langkawi record. BIW records in Pangsun, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Palong, FRIM Kepong, Sg Tekala, etc. Some montane records in Berjaya Hills, Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill, and Bkt Larut. 1 in Perlis, Kelantan, 2 Terengganu, none Penang, S.Perai, Melaka, Johor. **Status:** NT due to dependence on mature forests. TP. **Range:** The



Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mainly in canopy but may come down to mid-storey, often in small parties. **Food:** Fruits and possibly insects since it occasionally joins bird waves. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *webberi*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** A fledgling recorded in Jul. A clutch of 2? No other information.

My photo from Gombak, Selangor, Oct, 6m away 4m up, feeding on some small fruits popular also with Everett's White-eyes and Grey-bellied bulbuls, at times feeding together. To my mind, this is the prettiest of the bulbuls.



Grey-bellied Bulbul

Pycnonotus cyaniventris, Merbah kelabu. 16cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly lowland to 1,000m. 334 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Panti, Taman Negara Pahang, Sg Sedim, Sg Tekala, etc. 5 upland records. Historically not recorded Perlis, Terengganu, Melaka but a few in BIW for Perlis, Terengganu.

Status: VU locally due to habitat loss and NT globally possibly due to limited global range and loss of forests. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *cyaniventris*, extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra; *paroticalis*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents canopy al-



though both photos here were taken at mid- and lower storeys. May feed with other bulbuls. **Food:** Wells (2007) only record fruits but photo left, from Endau-Rompin (Selai) 14 Aug, shows collecting termites or ants, possibly to feed nestlings. A pair was collecting 2m from ground. They made at least two trips. **Sexes alike.** Smallest bulbul together with Scaly-breasted, and Spectacled. **Breeding:** Eggs recorded late Jan; dependent fledglings late May, late Jul, and at least mid-Aug by my record. Clutch of 2-3.

The other photo from Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, 4m away 3m up. Like most bulbuls, it is not shy.



Stripe-throated Bulbul

Pycnonotus finlaysoni, Merbah luris leher. 19cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in the N from low elevations up to 1,770m at Gng Ulu Kali, Pahang, but less common in the plains S of Selangor and Temerloh (Pahang) with just a few eBird records lately for Melaka, Johor. 695 BIW records in FRIM Kepong, Genting Highlands, Taman Rimba Ampang, Bercham, Bkt Rengit, etc. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S China (Yunnan), E,S Burma, and rest of Indochina. **Habitat:** Degraded forests, forest edge, beach scrub, overgrown plantations. **Habits:** Frequents lower to mid-storey as loners, pairs or a family unit not more than 5. **Food:** Fruits and insects.



Sexes alike. Its yellow facial and throat stripes diagnostic. Also a distinct red short stripe/spot below fore crown. Juveniles duller and initially have no yellow streaks. **Subspecies:** *finlaysoni*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Aug, 2 eggs a clutch. Both parents take care of fledglings.

Photo right from Awana pumphouse track, Genting Highlands, Nov, 6m away 5m up. Photo top from Kuala Gandah, Pahang, Oct. It was totally not bothered being photographed 5m away, feeding. It must be the most common bulbul (N from N.Sembilan) together with Red-eyed, and Yellow-vented.



Olive-winged Bulbul

Pycnonotus plumosus, Merbah belukar. 20cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at plains-level but reported at Gap, Selangor, ~830m (Wells 2007). 601 BIW records, all plains-level except 2 at Gap. Possibly Wells and BIW records are the same ones.

Status: LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Philippines (Palawan).

Habitat: Secondary forests, forest edge, orchards. **Habits:** Alone or pairs.

Food: Assumed a generalist but only observed taking fruits. **Sexes**

alike. Can be confused with the Streak-eared Bulbul which has similar whitish streaked ears but for its olive wings. The Streak-eared is however, mostly recorded in Perlis with a few records in Kedah and fewer still in S.Perai, and only one in Perak (Selama). No BIW records of Olive-winged in Perlis. **Subspecies:** *plumosus*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs 2 laid Jan-Jul. Brood host of the Drongo-Cuckoo. **Survival:** >13 years.

Photo above from Pantl forest, Johor, 4.5m away 3m up (the olive-wing does not show well). The bird stayed put for me to get all the photos that I wanted, too bad only from one angle. Right, at KSNP, 6m away 2m up (more accurate colour).





Cream-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus simplex, Merbah mata putih. 18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at low elevations but recorded above 1,200m on isolated peaks of Gng Jerai, Rabong, Ledang. 595 BIW records in Panti (172), Bkt Rengit (33), Bkt Wang (18), Sg Relau (18), Gng Telapa Buruk (16), etc. Historically not recorded S.Perai but 4 records in BIW (Bkt Panchor FR, Bkt Mertajam FR). **Status:** NT locally, LC globally. Population in decline. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forest edge, forests. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs foraging all storeys of a tree. Joins



other bulbuls at fruiting trees and also joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects and fruits. **Sexes alike.** From other bulbuls by its distinctive white iris (brown in juvenile). The Malay name reflects this. **Subspecies:** *simplex*. 3 subspecies in all (HBW). Wells (2007) does not recognise subspecies. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar, Jun-Sep. Builds cup-shaped nest. Clutch, 2 eggs; no information on incubation and nestling periods.

Photo right from Panti forest, Johor, where it is common, Jul, 4m away; and top, Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, Nov, 5m away 4m up. Not shy, allowing for leisurely shoots.



Danaraj Maniam

Red-eyed Bulbul

Pycnonotus brunneus, Merbah mata merah. 19cm. R

Distribution: Common resident generally up to 450m but to at least 900m in some places and above that on Gng Jerai, Kedah. Probably the most common bulbul in secondary growth forests. 1,002 BIW records with a few records in Bkt Larut at greater than 1,050m, and some in Taman Negara Pahang (but possibly in clearings or by jeep tracks or forest edge), else mostly secondary growth. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally but population in decline. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tennessee), the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest

edge, orchards. **Habits:** Forages in canopy, mid-storey and occasionally, lower storey. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects and fruits. **Sexes alike.** From Spectacled bulbul by its red brick iris, as opposed to outer rim of yellow on red iris of the Spectacled. **Subspecies:** *brunneus*. 2 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar, May-Aug. Clutch, 2 eggs; no information on incubation and fledging periods.

My photo from Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan, 4m away 4m up, Feb, in a fruiting tree together with many other bird species. Not shy or at least was too busy feeding or busy competing against other birds to be bothered with my presence.





Spectacled Bulbul

Pycnonotus erythrophthalmos, Merbah kecil. 16cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 800m (but see BIW records below). 853 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Gng Telapa Buruk, FRIM Kepong, Taman Rimba Ampang, etc; 8 montane in Bkt Larut, Gng Jerai, Berjaya Hills, to about 1,000m. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. Probably require more shade than Cream-vented and Red-eyed Bulbuls. **Habits:** Mid- to lower storeys, alone or pair, or small family groups.



Food: Fruits and insects. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. The eye pattern distinguishes it from other bulbuls; yellow ring on red iris. **Subspecies:** None (i.e. monotypic). **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb, Mar, May. Nest a deep open cup built of twigs, dead leaves, rootlets and vegetable fibres, lined with fine dry grass. Clutch of 2 eggs; older nestlings fed by one or more adults every 15–20 minutes. The younger not fed, allowed to die, leaving only one to fledge.

Photo right from Taman Negara Sg Relau, Pahang, Nov, 5m away 3m up. Not shy, same as most bulbuls. Photo top from Sg Sedim recreational forest, Kedah, Jul, 6m away 3m up, part of a pair.



Hairy-backed Bulbul

Tricholestes criniger, Merbah bulu panjang tengkuk. 17cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly lowland but to 900m. 732 BIW records with 3 upland (Gap, Gng Jerai, and possibly >1,000m at Bkt Larut). Historically not recorded S.Perai but with 3 BIW records (Bkt Panchor). **Status:** NT to VU locally even though LC globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid- to lower storeys, alone or in small parties but typically in pairs.



Food: Fruits and insects. **Sexes alike** as other bulbuls. **Subspecies:** *criniger*. 3 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Feb-Aug. No other information. Even though common, its nest has never been described.

For quite some time in my early days of birding I did not recognise this bird because to me the field guides did not quite manage to draw the ring around the eyes right. It is one of those cases where once you recognise it, it will be recognisable again the next time around. This individual was from Panti forest, Johor, Oct, 4m away 3m up. The Hairy-backed is generally quite friendly and allows close approach.



Grey-cheeked Bulbul

Alophoixus bres, Merbah sampah. 22cm. R

Distribution: Local, common to fairly common resident mainly at low elevations but to 900m. No records in Penang, S.Perai. 334 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Sg Tekala, etc; none upland (assuming Gng Telapa Buruk records are lower lowland). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Lower and middle storeys. Often in forest trails bordered by good forests in mixed foraging parties. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. From Buff-vented by white throat and yellowish breast, side of head grey, and superficial crest. **Subspecies:** *tephrogenys*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Jan-Jul. Photo from Kuala Tahan, 6m away, Nov.

Finsch's Bulbul

Alophoixus finschii, Merbah rempah. 17cm. R

Other name: Sulphur-throated Bulbul (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common to uncommon resident mainly lowland to at least 600m. 197 BIW records in Panti, Sg Relau and Kuala Juram, Sg Sedim, Bkt Wang, Bintang Hijau, etc. Historically not recorded Penang, S.Perai, Perlis but 3 BIW records for S.Perai, 1 Perlis. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally, population in moderate decline. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests mainly but also forest edge with fruit. **Habits:** Mainly canopy, also mid- and lower storeys. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes alike.** Sulphur yellow throat diagnostic. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Mar-Jul. Photo from Sg Relau, Jul, 6m away 2m up by jeep track. More shy than most bulbuls. Flies off on approach.





Yellow-bellied Bulbul

Alophoixus phaeocephalus, Merbah perut kuning. 20cm. R

Distribution: Common resident, mainly at lower elevations (the numbers at plains-level FRIM Pasoh, N.Sembilan double that of the higher elevation Universiti Malaya station in Gombak, ~150m) but up to 760m. Not recorded Perlis. 360 BIW records in Pantii, Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Sg Sedim, Sg Tekala, etc. **Status:** VU locally due to dependence on mature forests, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *A.p. phaeocephalus*, extreme S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Sumatra; *A.p. connectens*, NE Borneo; *A.p.*

Long Roslee Ngah



sulphuratus, C Borneo; *A.p. diardi*, W Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, more mature than regenerated. **Habits:** Lower storey, more often in pairs or small groups up to 5, occasionally alone. Joins bird waves but remaining at lower storey. Territorial. **Food:** Mostly insects but also fruits. Even when visiting fruit bunches it is more likely to go for the insects there than the fruits. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Breeding:** Feb-Jul (Wells 2007), Apr-Aug (HBW). Clutch, 2 eggs. No other information. **Survival:** Longest recorded was 11 years 6 months.

My photo from Pantii forest, Johor, Oct, 8m away 3m up. Like most bulbuls, not shy.

Buff-vented Bulbul

Iole crypta, Merbah riang. 20cm. R

Other name: *I.charlottae* (Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). *I.olivacea* (MNS 2016. eBird as of 2016 uses this name). **Original name (taxonomy):** *Iole olivacea*, Blyth, 1844, Singapore. **Distribution:** Common resident up to 760m. Not recorded Melaka. 689 BIW records in Panti (150), Gng Telapa Buruk (37), Bkt Rengit (33), Bkt Wang (22), Sg Relau (22), etc. 3 possible upland records in Bkt Larut and Gng Jerai but actual elevations not stated. **Status:** NT, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** S Burma, S Thailand S to Sumatra, Borneo.

Habitat: Forests, forest edge, secondary growth that is not far from tall trees. This dependence on good forests which is decreasing explains its NT status. **Habits:** Mainly in canopy and mid-storey but at times lower shrubs. Alone, pairs or small, possibly family groups. **Food:** Arthropods, fruits. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. From Grey-cheeked by distinctive white iris, whitish buff throat, greyish breast and belly. Subspecies (HBW): *crypta*. 2 subspecies in all (*charlottae* in Borneo). **Breeding:** Apr-Jul. Clutch of 2; both pair-members tend to fledglings.

Photo from Gombak, Selangor State Park, Dec, 5m away 3m up, part of a pair. They were relaxed enough in my presence allowing for a few photos.





Ashy Bulbul

Hemixos flavala, Merbah abu/kelabu. 20cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common in hilly areas from lowland to 2,013m. 270 BIW records, mostly at Gng Telapa Buruk (63), Gap-Fraser's Hill road (37), Bkt Larut (27), Panti (24), etc. 1 record on Gng Brinchang. Historically not recorded Penang, S.Perai, Kelantan but 1 BIW record each for S.Perai, Kelantan. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, NE India, S China, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Gregarious, congregating in fruiting trees often in the canopy, alone or usually in small parties. Raises crest and



puffs out white throat especially when calling. May travel long distances. **Food:** Fruits, insects. May aerial sally for insects. Joins bird waves. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *cinereus*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Possibly Feb-Jun. Nests recorded above 800m. Birds below 800m are non-breeders. Clutch usually 3, sometimes 2, rarely 4; incubation 13-14 days; nestlings fed by both sexes.

Photos of an individual taken at Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, 5m away 4m up, Feb. It is at times quite common here. Like most bulbuls, it is not shy.



Streaked Bulbul

Ixos malaccensis, Merbah lorek bukit. 23cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident up to 1,100m. Not recorded in Kelantan. 245 BIW records mostly lowland at Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Pangsun, Sg Sedim, etc. 4 montane records. None from Kelantan, Terengganu, Melaka. **Status:** NT bordering VU locally, NT globally, population in moderate decline. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Riau and Lingga Archipelagos, Sumatra, Bangka, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, less frequently forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents mid-storey to canopy, alone or in pairs. **Food:** Fruits, insects which may be had by aerial sallying. **Sexes alike** like most bulbuls.

Francis Yap



Subspecies: None. **Breeding:** Apr, May but possibly also Jun, Jul. 2 eggs. Both parents take care of fledglings.

My photo from Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan, 6m away 4m up, Feb, at a fruiting tree together with a group of mixed flock birds. As far as I noticed over a few days at this tree, this was the only time the Streaked Bulbul showed up. Not shy or probably just too busy feeding to notice my presence. I have not many records of sighting this bird, perhaps confirming that it is among the more uncommon of bulbuls. Also being rather nondescript did not help.



Female

Dark-necked Tailorbird

Orthotomus atrogularis. Perenjak belukar. 11cm. R

Distribution: Common resident to 1,500m. 955 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Wang, Taman Rimba Ampang, Bkt Gasing, etc. Also quite a number of montane records, maximum elevation at Genting Highlands. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** NE India, Indochina S to Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, scrubs, gardens. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs. Skulks in undergrowth like other tailorbirds from ground to canopy but only the crown in mangroves, so not in conflict with the Ashy Tailorbird. **Food:**

Male



Insects. **Sexually dimorphic.** Male has a dark neck which the female lacks. **Subspecies:** *atrogularis*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs 2-5 laid Feb-Aug. Nest constructed within a cone of one or two larger leaves stitched with strands of kapok or spiderweb, generally within 1m off the ground.

Photos from Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan. Female, Nov, within the under storey, and male, Jun, quite in the open. Both about 4m away, nearly eye-level. It is pretty common here and is the most common tailorbird. It is generally skittish, like all tailorbirds, from its foraging habit of scampering quickly in the under-storey.



Rufescent Prinia

Prinia rufescens, Perenjak sampah/belukar. 12cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident from low elevations to 1,500m on Cameron Highlands, also Gng Tahan (which is rather odd since it usually spreads by means of roads and tracks); to the montane level at Fraser's Hill (~1,200m), and to submontane on Bkt Larut. Recorded S to central Johor (2°N). Historically not in Melaka but a few BIW (via eBird) records. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forest edge especially in areas of long grasses with broadleaf weeds, including planta-

tions. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs; pairs duetting, call loudly presumably as territorial calls. Foraging from lower to lower mid-storeys, flitting fast in the undergrowth but pausing occasionally. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike**, with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *extrema*. 6 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Brood host of an unknown parasitic cuckoo. Nests less than 1m up, stitched together in the manner of tailorbirds. Full clutch of 3. Eggs laid Dec-Sep.

Photo right from Pangsun, 5m away 3m up on a banana leaf, singing. In breeding plumage (grey head; non-breeding, brown). Not shy giving enough time to photograph. Photo left from Awana pumphouse road, Genting Highlands, 14 Oct. juvenile in tow.





Danaraj Maniam

Habits: Usually in groups up to 60. **Food:** Insects, flowers, nectar, fruits. **Sexes alike.** The Oriental can easily be confused with the Everett's (next entry). The latter has a darker forehead and upperparts, and a paler belly (with some yellow on it). The Oriental has a slightly yellow lores to forehead, a good distinguishing feature. **Subspecies:** *auriventer*. 11 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jun. Nests in mangroves and inland trees.

My photo from KSNP, in an acacia tree fronting the main lake, Feb, in a group of 6, taken about 5m away 4m up. At this distance they were too busy foraging to be bothered with me.

Oriental White-eye

Zosterops palpebrosus, Mata Putih timur, Kelicap kunyit. 11 cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident on the W coast but up to 80km inland, S to Johor and up the E coast to Tanjung Agas, Pahang. 91 BIW records overwhelmingly in KSNP (34) and other mangroves (Matang, Pulau Burung, Kuala Gula), and scattered inland records, e.g. in Kemensah (4), Kamunting (2) and as far in as Sg Congkak (1). **Status:** LC, population declining. Protected. **Range:** E Afghanistan E to Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas. **Habitat:** Mangroves, coastal woodland strands, coastal and inland scrubs, forest edge, overgrown plantations, wooded suburban gardens.





Everett's White-eye

Zosterops everetti, Mata Putih belukar. 11cm. R

Distribution: Common resident from lowland forests but mainly in hilly country up to 2,000m. Not recorded Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. 359 BIW records at Gng Telapa Buruk, Panti, Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands etc. **Status:** LC, population trend unknown. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Borneo, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Moves in flocks in the upper storey in the forest but lower at the forest edge. **Food:** Fruits, insects, nectar. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *tahanensis*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs 2 laid in Feb, Mar, May-Aug.



Could be easily confused with Oriental White-eye, (previous entry). Two features are useful: 1) Oriental has a yellow forehead with a yellow green on the head as opposed to Everett's same darker green colour of the forehead and crown, and 2) Everett's has more yellow on the belly. Also Oriental is mainly confined to mangroves and coastal strip although there are some BIW reports at far inland Pangsun and Sg Congkak. To further confuse, mangroves are not stated as a habitat for Everett's but 8 BIW records are from (possibly) mangroves, at KSNP and Kuala Sepetang.

Photos from Gombak, Selangor State Park, Oct, 5m away 5m up, feeding, returning often to the same tree over time.



Pin-striped Tit-Babbler

Mixornis gularis, Rimba/Kekicau berjalur. 14cm. R

Other names: Striped Tit-babbler (J&P 2012). *Macronous gularis* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident up to 1,000m but recorded 1,200m at Gng Jerai, Kedah. 1,335 BIW records, mainly lowland but also montane to about 1,000m. Historically not recorded in Perlis, S. Perai but recorded in BIW. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** India, S Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangrove edge, orchards, plantations, scrub. **Habits:** Goes around in small noisy parties, 5-6. In the forests usually keeps to canopy



but at forest edge, lower to mid-storeys. May join bird waves. **Food:** Small invertebrates, gleaned from surfaces. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *chersonesophilus*, N Pen Malaysia; *gularis*, S. **Breeding:** Eggs 2-3 laid Dec-Jul. Male and female build nest.

Photos from Gombak, Selangor State Park, 31 Dec, of what seemed to be a mating courtship behaviour where one bird looked like it was poking the genitalia of the other bird (above), followed by it flapping its wings (right) as if in acceptance for mating. Mating, however, did not happen possibly because I was just 4m below, with them quite in the open (unlike their usual skulking behaviour). Generally not shy.



John Turner

dergrowth occasionally to mid-storey in pairs and possibly small groups of juveniles. Calls loudly. **Food:** Insects taken from foliage. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *ptilosus*. 2 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Feb-Jun, eggs a clutch of 2. Two nests described, one on ground the other 1m above ground.

My photo from Pangsun, Selangor, Oct, 5m away 2m up. Because of its skulking habits in the undergrowth, it is difficult to see and photograph this bird. It is a beautiful bird with warm chestnut parts, often not captured in drawings and photos.

Fluffy-backed Tit-Babbler

Macronus ptilosus, Rimba pong pong. 17cm. R

Other name: Most spell it *Macronus* (OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), but J&P (2012), *Macronous*. **Distribution:** Fairly common lowland resident up to 300m. Not recorded in Perlis, S.Perai. 322 BIW records (many heard only) in Panti (overwhelmingly), Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, Sg Sedim, etc. Sparse records in Selangor, none in Melaka. **Status:** VU bordering EN locally from forest destruction, NT globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including swamp, peat swamp, bamboo; dense forest edge especially fern tangles. **Habits:** Lower storey un-





Chestnut-winged Babbler

Cyanoderma erythropterum, Rimba merbah sampah.
14cm. R

Other name: *Stachyris erythroptera* (J&P 2012, OBI).

Distribution: Common resident at mainly lower lowland but up to 800m. 562 BIW records, lowland, in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Sg Sedim, etc. **Status:** LC,



population declining. TP. **Range:** S Burma (Tenasserim), the Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Foraging lower storey in small parties. **Food:** Insects and other small invertebrates. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *erythroptera*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nesting activities reported in many different months unlike many birds which peak in Apr, May and declining by Jun, Jul. Maybe that is why it is one of the most common babblers. Clutch of 2-3. Brood host of the parasitic Drongo-Cuckoo.

Photo above from Panti, Johor, 30 Dec, 4m away 2m up, a bird carrying nesting material. Photo right from Kuala Tahan, Sep, 5m away 3m up. It shows allopreening, the one being groomed seems to be in total ecstasy with puffed-up neck feathers – or just for easy access to the skin?



Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler

Pomotorhinus montanus, Rimba hulu/Kekicau Pauh Sabit kecil.
22cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident up to 1,370m. 184 BIW records in Bkt Larut, Gng Telapa Buruk, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, Panti, Bkt Rengit, etc. No records for Perlis, Penang, S.Perai, Melaka, Kelantan. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population stable. **TP. Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents mid- to upper storeys, and occasionally lower storey, alone, in pairs or in small groups. Occasionally joins bird waves. **Food:** Inver-

tebrates and small vertebrates obtained by probing bark crevices, rotten wood, and roots of epiphytes. Also, a pair feeding on small berries on an epiphytic plant in Gombak, Selangor State Park (Chong 2017).

Sexes alike. Subspecies: *occidentalis*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests in the lower storey, even on the ground; nesting period uncertain, there seems to be no pattern to it (Wells 2007). HBW puts it as Apr-Jun and Nov, Dec.

Photo from the Swamp Loop, Taman Negara Kuala Tahan, Sep. The bird appeared suddenly 5m above me and disappeared just as quickly but I managed two photos. It is a very pretty bird that many drawings and photos do not do justice to.



Black-throated Babbler

Stachyris nigricollis, Rimba bertam. 15cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon, local resident at low elevations and rarer uphill to 520m. Not recorded in Perlis. 130 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Kuala Lompat, Ulu Muda etc. None in Perlis, Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. **Status:** EN locally, NT globally, population in moderately rapid decline due to habitat destruction, degradation. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge. **Habits:** Foraging lower storeys in pairs or in small groups. Joins bird waves usually of other



babblers. **Food:** Invertebrates. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs recorded Jun. Nest on or close to ground among dense undergrowth. Clutch of 2 eggs. Brood parasitism by Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo, *Hierococcyx fugax*.

Photo right from Kuala Tahan, Feb, less than 4m away. A pair was foraging near the ground at the edge of an undergrowth for nearly 5 minutes, totally oblivious of my presence, at times less than 3m away, but never ventured out. Photo left also from Kuala Tahan, May, 4m away 2m up. I heard a pair in the bush and whistled in imitation. They quickly and loudly responded, circling me once and perching twice but quickly lost interest, and equally quickly disappeared.



Chestnut-rumped Babbler

Stachyris maculata. Rimba reimbang besar. 18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly at plains-level but up to 520m. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. No BIW records also in Perlis. 319 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, Kuala Lompat, FRIM Pasoh, etc. **Status:** VU locally because of its dependence on primary forests, NT globally; population in moderately rapid decline, same as the rate of forest clearing. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages mostly at mid-storey but occasionally to lower storey, alone, in pairs or small



groups. Loud voice. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes alike** as other babblers with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *maculata*. 3 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-May, Jul, Sep.

Photos from Endau-Rompin Selancar, of individuals from a group of 3 that responded to my imitation whistling of their calls. They came to within 4m, calling back loudly for some 2-3 minutes. Seeing their distress, I stopped whistling.

Most drawn pictures do not show the white patch on the throat. This was visible when they responded to me. I believe the white patch shows when they are responding to perceived opponents' territorial calls. I have seen similar patches on the Chestnut-winged and Fluffy-backed Tit-Babblers. The frayed tail feathers possibly indicate moulting.



Adult

Moustached Babbler

Malacopteron magnirostre, Rimba/Kekicau bermisai. 18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly at low elevations but up to 900m. 303 BIW records, all lower lowland, in Panti, Sg Sedim, Taman Negara Pahang, Gng Telapa Buruk, Kuala Lompat, etc. Historically not recorded in S.Perai but 1 BIW record (Bkt Panchor). None in Melaka. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *magnirostre*, extreme S Burma, W,S Thailand, Pen Malaysia, Singapore, Sumatra; *cinereocapilla*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Understorey to lower mid-storey, often in pairs. Joins Juvenile

bird waves. **Food:** Small invertebrates, gleaned from foliage. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Breeding:** Nesting, as indicated by the presence of the brood patch, Feb-Apr, and Jun-mid Sep. Nest an open cup, 1m off the ground in sapling; 2 eggs.

Both photos from Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan. Right, a juvenile, was not shy at all, willingly be photographed at length not more than 4m away, quite in the open, mid-storey, Aug. Bird top, Feb, 5m away under thick undergrowth. Note: Juveniles lack the dark malar streak (the moustache), and thus could be mistaken for the Sooty-capped (next entry). Except its cap is not as dark as the latter's.





Sooty-capped Babbler

Malacopteron affine, Rimba tinjau belukar. 17cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly at plains-level but up to 450m. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai. Also, no BIW records in Selangor, Perlis, Melaka. 290 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang and Kuala Koh, Kuala Lompat, etc. **Status:** Locally VU bordering on EN, NT globally, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *affine*, the Peninsula, Sumatra; *phoeniceum*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, more regenerating than mature. **Habits:** Mid-storey,

usually in small parties. **Food:** Small invertebrates, gleaned from foliage. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. A brood host of the Drongo-Cuckoo, like the Chestnut-winged Babbler. **Breeding:** Eggs in Apr, May, and feeding a cuckoo fledgling in Jun. 2 eggs.

Photo from Panti forest, Johor, Aug, 4m away 3.5m up. Not shy. I used to see it regularly in Bkt Rengit, Pahang, but less now due to the forest being more exploited.

In general, the easiest way to identify the Sooty-capped is to associate the bird with its unique human-like whistling. Otherwise it is quite confusing since many illustrations do not quite capture the supercilium and face pattern well.



Scaly-crowned Babbler

Malacopteron cinereum, Rimba tua kecil. 17cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly lower lowland but up to 790m. Not recorded in Perlis, Penang, S.Perai. 213 BIW records in lower lowland Panti, Bkt Rengit, Kuala Lompat, Taman Negara Pahang, etc. **Status:** VU locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, more mature than regenerated. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys, usually in small parties. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Gleans invertebrates from foliage. **Sexes alike** as other babblers with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *cinereum*. 4 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:**



Eggs laid Apr-Sep. Nest built by both sexes over 10 or more days; a neat, fairly flimsy cup, placed from near ground to up to 1.2m up in bush or in fork of sapling. Clutch of 2 eggs; incubation period at least 9 days.

Photos of an individual, Aug, 6m away 4m up, at Panti forest's Bunker Trail. Not shy at this distance. The Scaly-crowned can be confused with the Rufous-crowned (next entry) but the Scaly has indistinct blackish streaks across the rufous crown, and pinkish legs unlike grey legs of the Rufous-crowned. The latter also has grey streaks on the breast.



Adult

in small groups; may join other babblers. **Food:** Small invertebrates gleaned from foliage. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *magnum*. 2 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid possibly Apr-Jul. Nest a cup, placed up to 1m above ground in thick bush or small sapling. Clutch of 2 eggs.

My photo from Panti, Johor, some 6m away, a distance where it was quite comfortable with me, or else, it was just too busy tackling its prey to be bothered. In the other photo, by the looks of the tail feathers, the bird seems to be moulting. Possibly juvenile (no breast streaks). The Rufous-crowned Babbler can easily be confused with the Scaly-crowned. See the previous entry for the differences between the two.

Rufous-crowned Babbler

Malacopteron magnum, Rimba tua besar. 18cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mostly at low elevations, rapidly declining in the hills to 300m, none beyond 520m. Not recorded Penang, S.Perai. Also, no BIW records for Melaka. 242 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Sg Tekala, Kuala Lompat, etc. **Status:** VU bordering EN locally, NT globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Usually primary forests including peat swamp. **Habits:** Foraging lower to mid-storeys

Uzair Ab Rahim

Juvenile





Puff-throated Babbler

Pellorneum ruficeps, Rimba bintik-bintik. 17cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident mainly at low elevations in N Pen Malaysia to S Perak, N Terengganu. 216 BIW records in Bkt Wang, Ulu Muda, Taiping foothills, Bedong, Bkt Palong, Timah-Tasoh, etc. Also in S.Perai, Langkawi, Kinta Nature Park, Terengganu. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S China to Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, scrubs, mangrove edge. **Habits:** Forages ground storey in pairs, or groups, walking slowly on the ground or swifter longer hops. Often puffs out throat. **Food:** Not known but presumably small invertebrates. **Sexes**



alike. Subspecies: *acrum*. 28 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Mar, May-Jul. 2-3 eggs. Nestling period 12-13 days.

This bird suddenly appeared in front of me while I was walking on a small orchard trail, fairly overgrown, in Bukit Air, Perlis about 4m away, Mar. It seemed as surprised as I was. Probably it was not aware of me when it decided to land. But I was informed by another birder, Tou Jing Yi, that the Puff-throated is one of the bolder babblers. This bird is a specialty of the north. I have seen them quite regularly in Perlis orchards but not in the forest proper.



Black-capped Babbler

Pellorneum capistratum, Rimba kopiah hitam/Kekicau ubun hitam.
18cm. R

Other name: *P.nigrocapitatum* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. For these bodies, *P.capistratum* is Rufous-browed Babbler, in Java). **Distribution:** Common resident mainly at plains-level but up to 700m. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai. 387 BIW records, mostly heard, in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Negara Pahang, Kuala Lompat, FRIM Pasoh, etc. **Status:** VU locally due to dependence on plains-level forests, LC globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Hab-**



itat: Forests, more mature than regenerated. **Habits:** Forages ground leaf litter. Alone or pairs. Bobs head while walking. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. Subspecies (HBW): *nigrocapitatum*. 3subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Feb-Apr, Jun-Sep, Nov.

Photo above from Kuala Tahan, 3.5m away, Feb. It and a partner were not shy being photographed at such a near distance but because they were flitting under the undergrowth, it was hard to get clear shots. Photo right was from Panti, Johor, Aug, 4m away. This one did not stay long. Panti seemed like a good forest to spot this bird but sadly, the forest is hollowing out from the inside. It is so accessible and unprotected that folks just come in and remove whatever they want.



Short-tailed Babbler

Pellorneum malaccense, Rimba ekor pendek. 15cm.
R

Other names: *Malacocincla malaccense* (J&P 2012), *Trichastoma malaccense* (Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). HBW changed the name recently from *M. Malaccensis*. **Distribution:** Common resident mainly at low elevations but found up to 800m on Gng Benom. 198 BIW records, all lower lowland, in Panti (overwhelmingly), Bkt Rengit, Sg Sedim, Sg Relau, Sg Tekala, etc. Historically not recorded in S.Perai, Melaka but 1 in S.Perai (Bkt Juru).

Status: VU locally, NT globally, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests including peat swamp with a preference for mature forests rather than regenerated, occasionally forest edge. **Habits:** Hunts ground to lower storey, alone or in family groups. Loud songs imply territoriality. **Food:** Small invertebrates.

Sexes alike with female smaller. Subspecies (from HBW): *malaccense*. 2 subspecies in its range. Whether *malaccense* of HBW and *malaccense* of eBird are of the same subspecies is not quite clear. Probably are. **Breeding:** Eggs in May and Jul, young fledglings in Jan, Apr and Aug. Nests at 40cm above ground or on the ground. 2 eggs per clutch. **Survival:** Longest recorded from re-trap records is about 8 yrs.



Adult

following a Checker-throated Woodpecker. **Food:** Small invertebrates gleaned from surfaces. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs 2, laid possibly Mar-Jul. Nest a small untidy open cup, placed 0.2–0.75m above ground.

Photo above of an adult from Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan, Feb, 6m away 1m up in thick undergrowth. Photo right also at Kuala Tahan, May, 5m away 1.5m up. By the lighter colour, it is possibly a juvenile

Ferruginous Babbler

Pellorneum bicolor, Rimba sampah/Kekicau perang. 18cm. R

Other name: *Trichastoma bicolor* (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident, local, at plains-level, recorded to 270m in Selangor and exceptionally 660m in N.Sembilan. Not recorded in Penang, S.Pera. No BIW records also for Melaka. 163 BIW records in Panti, Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Kuala Lompat, etc., all at plains-level with the highest place being Kuala Juram. **Status:** EN locally due to dependence on plains-level mature forests, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys in small groups up to 6. Joins bird waves with other babbler; recorded

Juvenile





Abbott's Babbler

Turdinus abbotti, Rimba/Kekicau riang. 17cm. R

Other name: *Malacocinla abbotti* (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident at plains-level but recorded at 300m on Gng Jerai and 800m on Gng Raya (Langkawi). 517 BIW records all lowland except 2 at Bkt Larut, ~1,100m. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Nepal E to far NE India, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **TP. Habitat:** Forest edge (except on Langkawi, forests), mangrove edge (mangroves in Langkawi), scrub, plantations. **Habits:** Alone or pairs at lower storey with thick undergrowth, at times to mid-storey. Sings often, suggesting territoriality. **Food:** Mostly small invertebrates, possibly fruits. **Sexes alike**, female shorter tail. Sub-



species (HBW): *abbotti*, NW Pen Malaysia, *obscurior*, rest of country. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs 3, laid Jan-Jun, Aug, incubation 15 days; nestling 11 days; post-fledging dependence 7-9 weeks; second brood begun before previous one finally disperses, male then cares for previous brood and female cares nestlings alone.

The Abbott's could be confused with the Horsfield's but its flanks and undertail coverts are bright rufescent against the Horsfield's greyish buff. Also, different habitats: Horsfield's strictly forest usually near streams.

Photo above from Air Itam Dalam, Dec, and right, Kuala Tahan, Feb, both ~4m away ~2m up. Not shy.



Large Wren-Babbler

Turdinus macrodactylus, Rimba besar hujan/Kekicau-Rimba dada putih. 19cm. R

Other name: *Napothera macrodactyla* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Original name (taxonomy),** *Malacopteron macrodactylum*, Strickland, 1844, Malacca. **Distribution:** Uncommon and local resident mainly at plains-level to 200m. Wells (2007) distrusts a record at 700m. Not recorded in Melaka. Also no BIW records for Perlis. 102 BIW records in Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Pantl, Kuala Lompat, etc. This supports the below 200m upper limit. **Status:** EN locally, NT globally due to dependence on mature plains-level forests. Population



declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *macrodactylus*. The Peninsula; *beauforti*, Sumatra; *lepidopleurus*, Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Skulks and feeds on the ground, alone or in pairs. **Food:** No information, presumably includes invertebrates. **Sexes nearly alike**, orbital skin colours: male, dull blue; female, slaty grey. **Breeding:** Egg laying season difficult to ascertain for lack of pattern: Sep, Dec, Apr-Jul. Nest a large cup placed 0.4-1m above ground. 2 eggs.

Top photo from Swamp Loop, Kuala Tahan, Feb. I heard scratching noises on the ground. On inspection it was this male less than 4m away but in dense foliage. Not shy but did not linger. Bottom photo, another male, from Sg Relau, 7m away 1m up. He popped up on a tree stump and started singing away for 4-5min without regard of being observed.



Female

Asian Fairy-bluebird

Irena puella, Dendang gajah/Murai gajah. 25cm. R

Distribution: Up to 900m but recorded 1,900m on the Main Range. 895 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, Taman Rimba Ampang, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, etc. Highest at Tanah Rata, Cameron Highlands, ~1,450m. **Status:** Forest felling especially affecting fig trees and wildlife trade result in NT bordering VU status locally; LC globally but population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *puella*, SW,S,NE India, S Yunnan, Indochina to N Peninsula; *andamanica*, Andaman, Nicobar Is.; *malayensis*, S Peninsula; *crinigera*,

Male



Sumatra, Borneo; *turcosa*, Java; *tweeddalei*, W Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp, forest edge. **Habits:** Mainly canopy, less also to mid-storey. Often feeding together in mixed-bird flocks. **Food:** Fruits especially figs, and insects. (Also globally, nectar). **Breeding:** Eggs late Feb-May. Nests in the understorey (and just under canopy – Chong 2017). Nest sites are reused the following season but sometimes within the same season.

Photos taken at a fruiting tree at the Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan, Feb, between 5-6m away. There were quite a number feeding at the same time. Either they were not bothered with my presence or they were too busy feeding to be wary. Fewer females than males.



Grey-headed Canary-Flycatcher

Culicicapa ceylonensis, Sambar pacat. 13cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 1,700m in Cameron Highlands. 589 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Larut, Pangsun, Sg Sedim, Sg Tekala, Genting Highlands, etc. Historically not recorded Penang, S.Perai but 6 BIW records in S.Perai. None in Melaka. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent to the Himalayas, SE Tibet, W to C China S to Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests, mature and secondary, forest edge. **Habits:** Aerial sallies from a perch returning to the same perch



Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

typical of many flycatchers. From lower mid- to upper mid-storeys under shade. Solitary at times but typically in pairs frequenting regular hunting spots. Loud calls to defend territory. Joins bird waves. Not shy, tame and confiding. **Food:** Insects.

Sexes alike, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *antioxantha*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid late Feb-May. Fledglings of 3. Nests reused over breeding seasons, or within a season; a second or replacement clutch can be had.



Asian Brown Flycatcher

Muscicapa dauurica, Sambar coklat asia. 13cm. M

Other name: *M.latirostris* (MNS 2016). J&P (2012), Birdlife, HBW, IUCN split *M.dauurica* into two subspecies: *M.d. dauurica* (eBird's Asian Brown) and *M.d. williamsoni* (eBird's Brown-streaked, next entry). **Distribution:** A common passage migrant and winter visitor up to 2,030m. 803 records in BIW. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Breeds in E Russia, N China, Korea, Japan and wintering S to Indochina, Greater Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy of small trees, sallying for insects in typical flycatcher style.



Also snatches from bark and leaves. Solitary. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike.** It may be quite hard to distinguish between the “brown” flycatchers; the Asian Brown, the Dark-sided, Brown-streaked, Brown-chested Jungle-, and Grey-chested Jungle-Flycatchers. One factor is useful, the beak colour. Only the Asian Brown, Brown-streaked and Brown-chested Jungle-Flycatchers have a lower yellow bill, with the first two having a black tip and the latter fully yellow. The Grey-chested Jungle- and Dark-sided Flycatchers have black bills. **Subspecies:** *dauurica* and possibly too, *siamensis*.

Photo above, from KSNP, Oct, and right, Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, Feb. Not shy, taken from 6m away.



Brown-streaked Flycatcher

Muscicapa williamsonii, Sambar belantara. 13cm. R, M

Other name: J&P (2012), Birdlife, HBW, IUCN consider this bird as a subspecies of the Asian Brown Flycatcher (previous entry). **Distribution:** An uncommon resident breeding in Perlis, Kedah S to Gombak (Selangor), at low elevations, as well as a visitor also at low elevations S to Johor. 37 BIW records in Gombak, Baling, Air Itam Dalam, Bkt Wang, N Perlis, etc. Also 1 in Panti. **Status:** LC, population possibly stable. TP. **Range:** Burma, S Vietnam, S Thailand S to Sumatra. **Habitat:** Similar to Asian Brown. **Habits:** Like Asian Brown, but



the Brown-streaked may come down to feed on the ground. Also hunts from low perches (Chong 2017; and my own experience, see below). May not be solitary unlike the Asian Brown. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike.** The Brown-streaked has broad brown streaks on its breast and flanks as well as a rufescent tinge on uppertail compared to Asian Brown which is greyer above with grey-brown upper breast. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Apr-Jun.

Photo above from Gombak, Selangor State Park, Nov, 5m away 2m up. It was hunting at this level for quite some time. Photo bottom at Tasik Meranti, Perlis, Dec, 7m away. Not shy.



Adult

Ferruginous Flycatcher

Muscicapa ferruginea, Sambar sampah/perang. 13cm. M

Distribution: Uncommon winter visitor and passage migrant, late Nov-Apr, to 1,500m. 71 BIW records in Bkt Larut, Wang Kelian, Sg Tekala, Pangsun, Fraser's Hill, etc. 1 is at Gng Ulu Kali, ~1,700m. Historically not recorded S.Perai, Terengganu, but 2 BIW records in the former. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** Breeds C,E Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, C,S China, Taiwan, N Vietnam; non-breeding to S Indochina S to Greater Sundas, N,W Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests especially at

Juvenile



clearings, streams, gullies. Also forest edge, mangrove fringes. **Habits:** Sallies for insects lower to mid-storeys from perches typical of flycatchers, often coming back to the same perch. Can repeat for hours, day after day. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** None.

Photo of adult from Ulu Langat, Selangor State Park, 16 Apr, 4m away 4m above a stream. Totally not bothered being photographed. It was sallying as described above for some 15mins that I was there. Photo of juvenile at Perlis State Park Wang Kelian, Dec, also 4m away 1m up. Again, not shy, and was at the same perch till I left after having my fill of shots.

Hill Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis banyumas, Sambar bukit. 15cm. R

Note that a subspecies, *C.b. magnirostris*, as listed by J&P (2012), a migrant here, has been given a species status on its own by eBird, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN, OBI, the Large Blue-Flycatcher, *C.magnirostris*. **Distribution:** Fairly common resident from 450 to 1,450m on Larut Range, and Titiwangsa Main Range S to mid-Selangor and Pahang. (But 3 eBird records in Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan). Historical records in Perlis, Kedah, Perak, Selangor, Pahang. 84 BIW records. **Status:** LC bordering NT locally, NT globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** SC China S to Indochina S to Java (not in Sumatra), Borneo.

Habitat: Forests, well-vegetated forest edge. **Habits:** Shady understorey, alone or in pairs. Pairs sing to advertise or defend territory. Sallies for insects from low perches. Also, sits unobtrusively on perch for long periods. **Food:** Insects.

Sexes differ. Shown here is the male. Female brownish with rufous rump, underparts as male, but chin and throat paler than breast. **Subspecies:** *coerulifrons*. 7 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Juveniles in Apr, May, late Aug. Nest an untidy cup of moss and fine plant fibres, placed low down in epiphyte, hollow tree stump, against trunk, occasionally on ground on bank or among tree roots. Clutch of 2-3 eggs; no information on incubation and nestling periods.



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Malaysian Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis turcosus, Sambar biru malaysia. 13cm. R

Other name: Malay Blue-Flycatcher (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Local, uncommon resident at plains-level to 60m in Perak, Pahang to Johor (a record at 800m is suspect). 27 BIW records, all in Pahang (all possibly within the 60m elevation limit) in Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Nenasi, Kuala Lompat. 57 records in total including Sabah, Sarawak. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally due to dependence on closed-canopy plains-level forests in a limited global range. Population decreasing. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *rupatensis*, the



Peninsula, Sumatra, W Borneo; *turcosus*, E Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests especially near streams. And freshwater swamp forest, Tasik Bera (Chong 2017). **Habits:** Sallies for insects from lower storey, perches solitarily or in pairs. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is a female. Male has a dark throat. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Apr-Jun. Nest built by female, a small open cup 3m from ground. Clutch of 2 eggs; incubation by female.

Photos from Tereseq Trail, Kuala Tahan, Pahang, Oct. This place has no streams as far as I can tell which the literature emphasises is this bird's habitat. She was photographed less than 4m away, at eye level, and cooperative enough to give front and back views. It was sitting so quietly that I nearly missed her.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Female

including swamp forests and bamboo, forest edge, overgrown tree plantations, secondary growth, scrubs, mangroves (Langkawi only, where the Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher is absent).

Habits: Aerial sallies from perches in dense lower storey, alone or pairs. Occasionally joins bird waves. **Food:** Caterpillars and possibly small invertebrates. **Sexes differ slightly**, female duller blue above, and paler lores to dark blue lores of male. **Subspecies:** *sumatrensis*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Full clutch of 3 eggs. Nesting Apr-Jul. Brood host of Brush Cuckoo, *Cacomantis variolosus*. **Survival:** Longest recorded is 26 months.

Tickell's Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis tickelliae, Sambar kelicap ranting/Sambar Biru hutan. 15cm.
R

Distribution: Fairly common resident S to Selangor, sparse then on to N Johor, up to 900m. 179 BIW records in the lowlands in Penang (Bkt Gambir, Batu Ferringhi, Teluk Bahang), Kuala Koh, Perlis (Bkt Jernih), Kuala Tahan, etc. Also 3 montane in lower Fraser's Hill and Genting Highlands, 970m. Sparse records in Endau-Rompin and none further S. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** India (by-passing Bangladesh), Indochina, the Peninsula, NE Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests

Uzair Ab Rahim

Male



Rufous-chested Flycatcher

Ficedula dumetoria, Sambar dada oren. 12cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon local resident up to 820m. Not recorded Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. Also no BIW records for Terengganu. 68 BIW records, all in the lower lowlands, Panti, Taman Negara Pahang, Tmn Rimba Ampang, Bkt Rengit, Sg Tekala, etc. Historically not recorded in Perlis but with 1 BIW record.

Status: VU locally, NT globally, population in moderately rapid decline due to forest destruction. TP.

Range: The Peninsula, Greater and Lesser Sundas (Lombok, Sumbawa, Satonda, Flores, Tanimbar).

Habitat: Forests, usually near streams. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs occasionally, in vegetated lower storey, less than 2m up. **Food:** Small invertebrates.

Sexes differ. Shown here is a male. Female has dull brown upper parts, dull rufous breast. **Subspecies:** *muelleri*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Apr-Sep. One nest described, suspended 1m above ground from dead palm fronds. Clutch of 2; nestlings tended by both adults; no information on incubation and nestling periods. **Survival:** Oldest ringed individual, 3 years.

I have seen a male in Kuala Tahan in the forest bordering Mutiara Resort, Jan, 4m away 1m up. He sat very quietly but was not far from the walking trail so I did not miss him. Not shy but he did not linger.



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Korean Flycatcher

Ficedula zanthopygia, Sambar tongkeng kuning. 13cm. M

Other name: Yellow-rumped Flycatcher (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor mostly at lowlands to 400m but occasionally montane. 194 BIW records mostly lowland but 3 from Bkt Larut (>1,000m), 1 Pos Slim (>500m), 1 Gng Ulu Kali (1,700m, my record). J&P (2012) states, above 900m only during passage migration but 2 records at Bkt Larut by experienced birders are outside that, 9 Jan and 15 Oct. Wells (2007) states, autumn passage is 8 Aug-24 Sep (and spring passage, 13 Mar-9 May). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** E Transbaikalia, E

Uzair Ab Rahim



Mongolia E to SE Russia, S to C,E China, Korea, W Japan; non-breeding to the Peninsula, Sumatra, Java, bypassing most of Indochina. **Habitat:** Mangroves, forests, forest edge, wooded gardens, plantations. **Habits:** Frequents tree crowns in forests but to lower storeys in more open spaces. Usually alone. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes different.** Male shown here. Female has olive brown upperparts, no supercilium, but the same yellow rump as male. **No subspecies.**

My photo of a male at Gng Ulu Kali, 4.5m away, 13 Apr. The bird is in breeding plumage as can be seen by the orange chin and generally brighter colours. It could be among the last few days before the bird is off on its journey back north.



Uzair Ab Rahim (both photos)

Green-backed Flycatcher

Ficedula elisae, Sambar bunga. 13cm. M

Other name: Narcissus Flycatcher, *F.narcissina elisae* by J&P (2012) and OBI who do not separate the Narcissus into Narcissus (*F.narcissus*) and Green-backed (*F.elisae*) as was done by eBird, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN, BIW. **Distribution:** Uncommon winter visitor generally, at low elevations. Recorded only once in Fraser's Hill. Not recorded in Kelantan, Terengganu, Melaka. 57 BIW records — Green-backed Flycatcher (45) and Narcissus (12), which are stated as “elisae” or suspected so (*F.narcissus* does not occur here) — in FRIM Kepong, Bkt Wang, Bkt Cahaya,

Sg Tekala, Air Itam Dalam, etc., all in the lowlands. Those stated as Bkt Larut are at the foothills. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** breeds E China (NE Hebei, Shanxi); non-breeding to the Peninsula.

Habitat: Closed-canopy forests including swampy ones, forest edge, wooded areas. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys. Hunts from perches 1 - 8m up under shade often returning to the same perch. Joins bird waves occasionally. Solitary but 2-3 may loosely feed together. **Food:** Insects, also fruits. **Sexes differ,** shown here is the male, female lacks white wing patch and yellow supercilium. **Subspecies:** None. **Migration:** Arriving early Sep departing mid-Apr.



Rufous-tailed Shama

Copsychus pyrropygus, Murai Rimba ekor kuning. 22cm.
R

Other name: *Trichixos pyrropygus* (J&P 2012, Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). **Original name (taxonomy),** *Trichixos pyrropyga* Lesson, 1839, Sumatra. **Distribution:** Uncommon resident mainly at plains-level but recorded up to 1,200m on Fraser's Hill. Historically not recorded in Perlis, Kedah, Melaka but 1 eBird record each for Perlis, Kedah. **Status:** VU locally, NT globally, population moderately declining from forest loss. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo.

Habitat: Closed-canopy forests including peat swamp (where White-rumped Shama, next entry, is not available). Prefers primary over well-regenerated forests. Keeps away from forest edge. Its preference for closed-canopy, plains-level forests explains its local VU status. **Habits:** Mainly ground and lower storeys. Calls possibly territorial. Voice loud, mournful. Also, a warning *tchurr*. Flicks tail. Very shy. **Food:** Invertebrates.

Sexes differ. Shown here is a male. Female grey-brown above; throat, breast and flanks rufous-orange; belly to undertail white; tail as male. Juvenile like female but initially streaked rufous-buff above. **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** Juveniles in Feb, Apr. No other information. **Survival:** Longest re-trap individual in FRIM Pasoh, 94 months. Re-trap near first capture site, i.e. not mobile, sedentary.





Male

White-rumped Shama

Copsychus malabaricus, Murai batu. 28cm, of which 6cm is tail length of male. Female, shorter. R

Other name: *Kittacincla malabarica* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident up to lower montane. 1,080 BIW records mostly at low elevations in Panti, Taman Negara Pahang, Bkt Rengit, Gng Telapa Buruk, FRIM Kepong, etc. Also, some records in the highlands to about 1,050m at Bkt Larut, Berjaya Hills, Gap-Fraser's Hill road. **Status:** LC, population in decline due to habitat destruction and the bird trade. Protected (not TP, because of the cage bird trade?).

Female



Range: India, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, overgrown plantations.

Habits: Generally at lower storey but may also come to the ground; and to mid-storey. Sings loudly and melodiously, more so than its cousin, the Oriental Magpie Robin. Because of this, it is often a caged bird. Luckily it is still relatively common. Mimics other birds. **Food:** Insects, worms, larvae. Subspecies (from HBW): *tricolor*. 14 subspecies in all.

Breeding: Eggs laid Mar-Aug. Possibly brood host of the parasitic Malaysian Hawk-Cuckoo, *Hierococcyx fugax*.



Female

could be this Shama's maximum elevation.

The photo of an immature was taken at Kenong Rimba Park, Pahang, 1.5 hours away by an off-road track from Kuala Lipis, Sep. The pinkish spots on the breast can just about be seen, a remnant of its fledgling, parent-dependent stage. It was generally skittish especially when approached but every now and then allowed close enough shots, here 5m away. This is generally true of the adults too. Most of the time they are pretty skittish but at others, without any regard for birders or photographers.

Top photo, previous page, is a male from Kuala Tahan, Pahang, Jan, duetting with another male possibly for territorial rights, totally oblivious to being photographed just 5m below. The female, by its dull orange breast and shorter tail, previous page, in Jun, and on this page, Feb, both at Kuala Tahan, both at about 6m away. Too bad they were in heavy shade.

I have seen this Shama at 1,060m in Bkt Larut, Perak, behaving as if it had a nest nearby since it was always there at this particular spot each time I neared the place. I have also seen it at the Japanese Garden, Berjaya Hills, which is at about 1,000m. Possibly 1,000-1,050m

Immature





Long Roslee Ngah

Subspecies: *dichrorhynchus*

Blue Whistling-Thrush

Myiophonus caeruleus, Murai Batu siul/Tiong belacan. 33cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident from lowland to 1,550m on Cameron Highlands. Not recorded S of Batu Caves, Selangor (but note BIW record). 92 BIW records in Ipoh hills, N Perlis hills, Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Tioman, etc. 1 record Johor (Parit Bakar), none in Penang, S.Perai, N.Sembilan, Terengganu. **Status:** NT bordering VU locally, LC globally, population trend unknown.

Subspecies: *crassirostris*



TP. **Range:** SC Asia, Himalayas, NE India, China, Indochina, Sumatra, Java. **Habitat:** Limestone hills, forests, forest edge, mangroves (Langkawi only). **Habits:** Splays tail. Forages on the ground, mostly alone and possibly in groups — up to 8 in Batu Caves 50 years ago. **Food:** Molluscs, fruits. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** N from Perlis, Langkawi, *crassirostris*; in the S, *dichrorhynchus*. **Breeding:** Jan-Jun, Sep, Oct. Nests around limestone hill caves.

Can be mistaken for the Malayan Whistling-Thrush. See Malayan Whistling-Thrush entry for details. My photo of a *crassirostris* from Gua Kelam, Perlis, Dec, 7m away. It was wary especially when approached but not overly shy. I have photographed another bird at 4m away. The other photo is of a *dichrorhynchus* from an Ipoh limestone hill.



Female

Chestnut-naped Forktail

Enicurus ruficapillus, Murai cegar. 20cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in hilly country to 900m. 253 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Sg Sedim, Kuala Juram, Bkt Larut (~1,000m), Taman Rimba Ampang, etc. Historically not recorded Perlis, Penang, S.Perai, Melaka but 3 BIW records in Perlis. **Status:** NT bordering on VU locally, NT globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma, the Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Rocky streams in forests. **Habits:** Alone but more often in pairs foraging in fast-flowing streams. Often seen on shaded forest roads. **Food:** A variety of invertebrates, small fish, frog eggs. **Sexes slightly differ.**

Male-Female



Male has chestnut nape to upper back, female the entire back chestnut.

Subspecies: None. **Breeding:** Eggs 2, in all months except Nov.

Photos from Hulu Langat, Selangor State Park, Aug. For a long time I have been frustrated in my attempts to photograph this bird for it is very skittish and does not allow a close approach (like all forktails). But following Amar-Singh HSS's approach, I decided to wait by the river for the pair above and let them approach me rather than the reverse. After a while, they grew accustomed to my presence and approached to within 9m. The right photo shows courtship feeding by male to female.



M.s.madoci male

Blue Rock-Thrush

Monticola solitarius, Murai batu tarung/Murai tarum. 23cm. R M

Distribution and Subspecies: 3 subspecies here: *M.s. madoci*, local common resident S to N.Sembilan mostly at low elevations but reported in Genting and Cameron Highlands, and Gng Jerai. Two migrant subspecies, uncommon, *M.s. pandoo* and *M.s. philippensis* mainly at low elevations. *M.s. philippensis* is the rarer with male having reddish underparts. *M.s. pandoo* male similar to *M.s. madoci* male but with more whitish scalings. The drawings in J&P (2012), Wells (2007) and Robson (2005) show a brownish female which is unlike the *madoci*'s female shown here. 73 BIW records in Ipoh and N Perlis hills, etc. 3

M.s.madoci female



upland records. None in S.Perai, Melaka, N. Sembilan, Johor. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Breeding in S Europe, N Africa, Asia to the Peninsula, Sumatra. Migrants to the Peninsula, Borneo, Sulawesi, Moluccas. **Habitat:** Limestone hills, concrete buildings, dams, old rock quarry, and coasts (migrants). **Habits:** Alone, pair, family group. Comes down to ground. **Food:** Invertebrates. **Breeding:** Nesting Jan-Jun, possibly also Nov, Dec.

Photos from an Ipoh limestone hill, Dec (female), and Jan (male), 4m away 1-2m up, both probably in breeding plumage. Non-breeding plumage is paler. Not shy possibly from constant human presence there.



Francis Yap

Male

Orange-headed Thrush

Geokichla citrina, Murai belanda. 22cm. M

Other name: *Zoothera citrina* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Fairly common winter visitor and presumed passage migrant S to Selangor and uncommon beyond, up to 1550m. No records Penang, S.Perai, Terengganu, N.Sembilan, Johor. 62 BIW records in Bkt Larut, Wang Kelian, FRIM Kepong, Fraser's Hill, Berjaya Hills etc. No records E of Main Range, and southern most is 2 records on Tanjung Tuan, Melaka. **Status:** NT bordering VU locally, LC globally, population declining from forest destruction and the cage bird trade. TP. **Range:** Indian sub-

Francis Yap

Female



continent E from N Pakistan, S China (Yunnan to Guangdong), Indochina discontinuously, N Borneo, Java, Bali. Northern population migrate S. Note that Javan and Bali populations are residents, not migrants. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge.

Habits: Forages the ground and lower storeys, alone, in pairs or small groups. **Food:** Fruits (joins other fruit-eating birds) and animal food including worms. **Subspecies:** *gibsonhilli* and *innotata*. 11 subspecies in all. **Migration:** At floodlights on Fraser's Hill and Cameron Highlands, 25 Nov – 23 Dec returning home latest 16 Mar. But also a later period of about 15 Apr - where are they on passage from? (Wells 2007)



Danaraj Maniam

Adults

Asian Glossy Starling

Aplonis panayensis, (Not officially listed)/Perling mata merah. 20cm.
R

Distribution: Common and widespread resident at low elevations but recorded at summit of Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan, ~1,200m) possibly on local dispersal. **Status:** LC. Population trend unknown, but possibly expanding from its affinity with human settlements. NP. **Range:** Far NE Indian subcontinent, W Burma S to the Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Bali, Philippines, N Sulawesi. **Habitat:** Mangroves (possibly one of its original habitats), open country, forest edge, plan-

Juveniles



tations, gardens including in cities (population expanding in Kuala Lumpur). **Habits:** Gregarious, travelling, feeding and loafing in large numbers in trees and wire lines. Feeds on the ground. Long distance dispersal possibly also at night that involves crossing the Main Range, e.g. at Fraser's Hill. Can mimic other birds (Chong, 2017). **Food:** Mainly fruits but also insects, snails. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *strigata* (*heterochlora* on Tioman). 14 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Tree holes, palm fronds, crevices in cliffs, in buildings. Eggs 3, laid Jan-Aug.

My photo of juveniles from Kuala Tahan village, May, 5m up, feeding on palm fruits. Not very shy. Note, adults have a dark glossy green sheen that appears black in poor light.

Common Hill Myna

Gracula religiosa, Tiong Mas. 30cm. R

Other name: Hill Myna (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident at low elevations on the mainland but up to 900m on Tioman Is. 677 BIW records (many heard only) in Panti (substantially), Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, FRIM Kepong, Gng Raya, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining from cage bird trade, and habitat destruction. Protected. **Range:** Indian subcontinent to S China, Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Palawan.

Habitat: Forests, mature and tall secondary, including swamp and peat swamp forests; also locally, mangroves, and occasionally plantations. **Habits:** Mimics other birds and humans, and thus a popular cage bird. In pairs or small groups. Loud calls usually from canopy. Often perches on bare dead tree branches. **Food:** Omnivorous. Fruits; flying termites taken on the fly; lizards.

Sexes alike, female smaller. **Subspecies:** Nominate *religiosa*. 7 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs 2-3, laid Feb-Jul, Oct. Nests in holes made by woodpeckers, barbets, parakeets, etc. Also on hollow top of a dead coconut palm; incubation by both sexes, females perform greater share of the work, period 13-17 days; chicks fed by both parents, nestling period 25-28 days; adults begin new brood soon after young leave nest, young presumably take a short time to reach independence.



Francis Yap



Female or Juvenile

Greater Green Leafbird

Chloropsis sonnerati, Daun besar. 21cm. R

Distribution: Common resident up to 1,100m. 379 BIW records in lowland Pantl, Gng Telapa Buruk, Taman Negara Pahang, FRIM Kepong, Taman Rimba Ampang etc. Also, a number of montane records, maximum elevation at Fraser's Hill. None in Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. **Status:** NT locally, VU globally, population declining at a rapid rate due to cage bird trappings. It was still LC till recently. Listed VU in 2016. **TP. Range:** S Burma, SW Thailand, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, previously mangroves. **Habits:**

Male



Forages canopy but may chase prey to the ground, alone or in pairs. May join bird waves. Males can be aggressive in defending a fruit tree. **Food:** Mostly insects, also fruits and possibly nectar. **Subspecies:** *zosterops*. 2 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nesting is at least from Apr-Jul. Nest an open cup cradled between outer twigs of lateral branch, once 6m up. No other information.

The male was from Gng Telapa Buruk, Sep, 4m away 4m up. The female (or possibly, an independent juvenile, by the yellow moustachial stripe) was from Pantl, Aug, 5m away at eye level. Generally, not shy. See next entry for differences from Lesser Green Leafbird.



Female

Lesser Green Leafbird

Chloropsis cyanopogon, Daun kecil. 18cm.

Distribution: Common resident mostly lowland but up to 1,100m. 367 BIW records from lowland Pantl, FRIM Kepong, Taman Rimba Ampang, Gng Telapa Buruk, Kuala Juram, etc., some up to 1,000m, 1 from Fraser's Hill. **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline. **Range and Subspecies:** *septentrionalis*, extreme S Burma, SW Thailand, N Peninsula; *cyanopogon*, Pen Malaysia, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Foraging alone, in pairs or joins mixed-bird flocks at fruiting trees. **Food:** Arthropods, fruits and possi-

Male



bly nectar. **Breeding:** Mar-Aug. Nest built in outer part of lateral branch high above ground, once 12m up. No other information.

Male photo from Mutiara Resort, Kuala Tahan, Feb, 6m away 5m up, in a fruiting tree in a mixed-bird flock. Female from Pantl, Johor, Oct, 4.5m away. Both not bothered being photographed. Note: The Lesser Green Leafbird can be confused with the Greater (previous entry). To distinguish, one way is to look at the male's mask. For the Greater, the mask "goes around" behind the eye whereas for the Lesser it forms sharp lines intersecting 90° just behind the eye. Lesser female's eye ring is less distinctive against Greater female, and with green throat against yellow.



Danaraj Maniam

Male

Blue-winged Leafbird

Chloropsis cochinchinensis, Daun sayap biru. 19cm. R

Other name: *C. moluccensis* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. Their range does not include Java). **Distribution:** Common resident in lowland forests but extends to lower montane forests up to 1,250m. Beyond this it is replaced by the Orange-bellied Leafbird although the latter is found down to 820m. Also in peat swamp forests. Most common lowland leafbird. 943 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, FRIM Kepong, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** S Yunnan, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo, Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Gregarious going around in small par-

Francis Yap

Female



ties, canopy to small shrubs. **Food:** Insects, fruits, nectar. **Sexes differ** as shown. The female is possibly in moult as shown by the whitish feathers. **Subspecies:** (from HBW) *moluccensis*. 7 subspecies in all (possibly 8 or more including those in Java). **Breeding:** It is a successful species, often seen. Yet, for such a common species, its nest has never been recorded. Dependent juveniles have been observed mid-May, Jun, late Jul.

I have photographed this leafbird from 5m away. Generally not shy, same as other leafbirds.



Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker

Prionochilus maculatus. Sepah Puteri raja. 10cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mostly at low elevations but to 1,500m. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai. 516 BIW records in Panti, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, etc. 3 montane records. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *P.m. septentrionalis*, extreme S Burma (S Tenasserim), Peninsular Thailand; *P.m. oblitus*, the Peninsula; *P.m. maculatus*, Sumatra, Borneo; *P.m. natunensis*, N Natuna Is. **Habitat:** Core habitat is closed-canopy forests including peat swamp, and forest edge. **Habits:** Usually alone, occa-



sionally in pairs, in lower to mid-storeys. Reported joining bird waves but no prey identified. **Food:** Fruits, possibly also insects. HBW lists fruits, nectar, pollen for the whole range. **Sexes nearly alike.** Female's crown flash duller, more yellow to male's bright orange. **Breeding:** Possibly Mar-Sep. One nest suspended from a twig 2.5m up. Clutch, fledge of 2.

Photos from Panti, Johor. Top photo Jul, 4m away 2m up, the other May, 6m away. Not shy but quick movements make it quite a challenge to photograph.



Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker

Prionochilus percussus, Sepah Puteri kayangan/pelanggi. 10cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly at plains-level to 400m, rarely to 1,000m but up to 1,200m on Gng Jerai, Kedah (but see BIW records). 404 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Rimba Ampang, Bkt Wang, Kemensah, etc. 7 montane records possibly to 1,200m on Fraser's Hill and higher on Cameron Highlands (near MNS Boh Tea Centre, ~1,400m). Historically not recorded S.Perai but with 3 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forest edge, wooded gardens, and previously



mangroves. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys, in pairs but typically, alone. **Food:** Fruits especially the *Melastoma*. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is a male. Female is dull brown above and dull yellow below. **Subspecies:** *ignicapilla*. 3 subspecies in total. **Breeding:** Possibly Mar-Oct. Nesting with suspended nest ~8m up in lowland forest at Gombak, Selangor State Park (Chong 2017).

Photos of a male from Panti forest, Johor, 4m away 2m up, photographed when it was busy looking for fruits among some low shrubs. The Crimson-breasted flits about constantly, the best chance of photographing it is when it is feeding on a fruit.



Choy Wai Mun (both photos, of a male)

Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Generally mature forests, forest edge. Peat swamp forests could be its core habitat. **Habits:** The canopy down to upper mid-storey but occasionally down lower when feeding at the forest edge. **Food:** Berries, insects, and possibly nectar. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is the male. Female lacks the scarlet breast. **Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Breeding:** Juveniles recorded in Jan, May and Aug-Oct. Nest placed in low bush. No other information.

I have only seen this bird once, in Panti, Johor, 4m up, in the days when I was not into photography yet.

Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker

Prionochilus thoracicus, Sepah Puteri. 10cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon resident mainly at plains-level, and hilly country only in the south (even up to 1,250m in Fraser's Hill). Not recorded in Perlis, Penang, S.Perai, Melaka. Of the 44 BIW records none are in the highlands. The records are in Panti (19), Taman Negara Sg Relau and Kuala Juram (9), Pekan peat swamp forest (4), Gng Arong (3), Tasik Bera (2). Also 2 records in Kedah (Sg Sedim, Bedong). **Status:** VU bordering EN locally due to dependence on mature forests, NT globally, population in moderately rapid decline. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula,





Immature male

arthropods. **Sexes differ.** Shown here are adult and immature males. Female has a dull orange rump, dull olive-green upperparts. **Subspecies:** *trigonostigma*. 17 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Sep. Nest the size and shape of a goose egg, or pocket-shaped suspended 1.5-13m up from slender twig. 2-3 eggs.

Adult male photo from Pangsun, Selangor State Park, Nov, less than 4m away 1m up. It was too busy feeding to be shy. If not feeding, it is always on the move. The immature male was from FRIM Kepong, 14 Dec, also less than 4m away 3m up. Not bothered being photographed.

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker

Dicaeum trigonostigma, Sepah Puteri bukit. 9cm. R

Distribution: Common resident principally at low elevations but up to 1,200m; One record >2,100m on Gng Tahan, Mar 2016 (Chong 2017). 722 BIW records in Pantl, Taman Rimba Ampang, FRIM Kepong, Genting Highlands, etc. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Far NE Indian subcontinent, Bangladesh, W Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forest edge, occasionally forests including peat swamp, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs. **Food:** Mainly fruits especially *Melastoma* and *Mutingia* fruits, also seeds, possibly nectar,

Adult male





Francis Yap

Male

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Dicaeum cruentatum, Sepah Puteri merah. 9cm. R

Distribution: Common resident to 250m although to 870m on Langkawi. 477 BIW records in Bercham, Bkt Gasing, Timah-Tasoh, KSNP, Pulau Babi Tengah (off Mersing), etc. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E from Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China (Yunnan to Fujian), Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests (N from Perlis and Langkawi), mangroves, forest edge, clearings in forests, scrubs and secondary growth, tree plantations, wood-ed gardens. **Habits:** Solitary, pair or family groups. Territories centre

Long Roslee Ngah

Female



around mistletoe plants, a main food source. **Food:** Mistletoe, for which it is a pollinator and seed-disperser, *melastoma* from forest edge and *muntingia* in wooded gardens. Possibly also, nectar.

Sexes differ as shown. Female has the scarlet patch only on the rump. **Subspecies:** *ignitum*. 7 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid late Dec/Jan-early Sep. Clutch of 2. Nest is suspended at the end of a twig among foliage 2-15m (usually 6-9m) above ground. Incubation by both sexes, period 10-11 days; both also feed nestlings and tend to fledglings.



Ruby-cheeked Sunbird

Chalcopteryx singalensis, Kelicap belukar. 11cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mostly at low elevations but to 900m. 464 BIW records in Panti, KSNP, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Rengit, FRIM Kepong, etc. 1 montane, Bkt Larut. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E from Nepal, far NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, mangroves, overgrown rubber plantations, and wooded gardens occasionally. **Habits:** Crown of mangroves, mid-storey to canopy in other habitats. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects and nectar, possibly more insects than nectar (indicated by the straighter beak compared to the more curved beaks of the other sunbirds). Also fruits



(Amar-Singh 2017). **Sexes differ.** Shown here is the male. Female has pale rufous throat and olive back. **Subspecies:** *interposita*, N from N Perak; *singalensis* to the S. **Breeding:** Eggs 2, laid Mar-Aug, possibly even from Jan. Male feeds female in courtship. Nest shaggy, pear-shaped, suspended from end of drooping twigs 2-8m above ground.

Photos from Panti forest, Johor, Oct, 4m away 2m up. From its behaviour it seemed like it was foraging for insects. Not shy but did not linger either.



Francis Yap

Female

corded in Kelantan but 1 record Pasir Mas. None in S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Bangladesh, Indochina S to N,S Sumatra, W Java, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, tree plantations, wooded gardens, coastal scrub, coconut groves. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs or groups up to 30-40. Usually canopy, also to mid-storey. **Food:** Nectar, invertebrates. **Subspecies:** *brasiliانا*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Apr, Jun.

I photographed a pair at Perhentian Besar, Terengganu, May, 5m away 4m up. They were bathing and drinking dripping water from a water tank during a dry month. Quite common here.

Van Hasselt's Sunbird

Leptocoma brasiliانا, Kelicap nibung. 10cm. R

Other names: Purple-throated Sunbird (J&P 2012, OBI). Maroon-bellied Sunbird (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). *L.sperata* (J&P 2012, OBI). For eBird, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN, *L.sperata*, which they call Purple-throated Sunbird, exists only in the Philippines. For J&P and OBI, *brasiliانا* is a subspecies of *L.sperata*.

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly at plains-level, on hill slopes only in the hills of Kledang (Perak), Endau-Rompin, and to 1,217m on Gng Jerai. 125 BIW records in Panti, Tanjung Tuan, Gng Telapa Buruk, Redang, Gng Arong, etc. 1 montane record at Bkt Larut, ~1,100m. Historically not re-

Francis Yap

Male





Temminck's Sunbird

Aethopyga temminckii, Kelicap merah. 11cm. R

Other names: Scarlet Sunbird (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Uncommon resident mostly lowland but on peaks where the montane Black-throated Sunbird is not present it can go up to 1,200m, e.g. Gng Jerai, Kedah, where it is fairly common. Not recorded in Perlis, S.Perai, Melaka, Terengganu. 90 BIW records, mostly lowland at Gng Telapa Buruk (>450m), Panti, Kuala Koh, Bkt Palong, Sg Perdik, etc.; 3 uplands at Gng Ulu Kali trail, Bkt Larut, Gap. **Status:** VU locally, LC globally, population dropping from declining closed-canopy forests. **TP. Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo.

Habitat: Forests. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs from lower storey to below canopy. **Food:** Nectar, insects. Occasionally joins bird waves. **Sexually dimorphic.** Shown here is a male. Female dull with scarlet tinge on wings and tail. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Fledglings recorded May, Aug. Laying recorded Feb but is a doubtful record to Wells (2007). Clutch of 3 eggs.

Photo of a male that suddenly appeared 4m away 4m up, Gng Telapa Buruk, Oct. It also as quickly disappeared before I could take more measured photos. It is indeed a stunning bird.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Crimson Sunbird

Aethopyga siparaja, Kelicap sepah raja. 11cm. R

Distribution: Resident, local, uncommon to fairly common mostly at low elevations (but note BIW and eBird records). 86 BIW records in Gng Raya (Langkawi), Pekan peat swamp forest, Tanjung Tuan, Batu Ferrin-ghi, Kek Lok Tong, etc; 1 upland at Gap, Selangor, ~830m. 4 uplands in eBird: 1 Bkt Larut, 1 Gap, 2 Fraser's Hill. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, Nicobar Is., S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Sulawesi, C Philippines. **Habitat:** Coastal, sub-coastal vegetation, mangroves, peaking in peat swamp for-

Long Roslee Ngah



ests, also swamp forests, e.g. Tasik Bera; forest edge. **Habits:** Mostly alone, occasionally pairs, from lower to mid-storeys. **Food:** Nectar, arthropods, fruit (mistletoe. Amar-Singh 2017). **Sexually dimorphic** as other sunbirds. Shown here are males. Female, olive green upperparts, yellowish underparts, and incomplete dull yellowish eye-ring. **Subspecies:** *siparaja*. 15 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Mar, Jun, early Jul. Nest 0.15-2m up. Clutch of 1-3 eggs.

Like most sunbirds it is not particularly shy. I have photographed one less than 4m away but it was in a low dense bush, so it was hard to get clean photos of the whole body.



Purple-naped Spiderhunter

Arachnotera hypogrammicum, Kelicap rimba. 15cm.
R

Other name: Purple-naped Sunbird, *Hypogramma hypogrammicum* (J&P 2012, OBI). Seems strange to me to now regard this as a spiderhunter after many years of calling it a sunbird. **Distribution:** Common resident from low elevations to 1,200m. 535 BIW records, mostly lowlands in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Taman Rimba Ampang, Gng Telapa Buruk, Sg Relau, etc; 10 uplands, mostly Gap-Fraser's Hill road. **Status:** VU locally from rapid loss of lowland forests, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Yunnan, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Lower storey mostly but also to mid-storey. Joins bird waves. **Food:** More insects than nectar. Also fruits.

Sexes slightly dimorphic, male has a glossy blue (rather than purple) on the nape and upper side of tail unlike female. Female slightly smaller. **Subspecies:** *nuchale*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar, May-Jul. Nest pear-shaped or an untidy pendent ball, fixed to underside of plantain leaf or palm frond 6m above ground (typical of sunbird nests. Spiderhunter nests are more compact).

Photo shows a male from Panti forest, Johor, Aug. Not shy. Photo from 4.5m away 3m up. He flew in to where I was.



Little Spiderhunter

Arachnothera longirostra, Kelicap Jantung. 16cm. R

Distribution: Common resident mainly at low elevations but up to 1,680m. 584 BIW records mostly lowland in Gng Telapa Buruk, Panti, Sg Sedim, Sg Relau, FRIM Kepong, etc. Also some upland records in Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, Berjaya Hills, Gap. Historically not recorded S.Perai but with 6 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** India, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp and secondary, forest edge, plantations, wooded gardens. Core habitat is regrowth vegeta-

Uzair Ab Rahim



tion. **Habits:** Forages lower storey, alone. Raids spiderwebs. Noisy. **Food:** Nectar, insects, spiders. **Sexes nearly alike.** **Subspecies:** *cini-reicollis*. 10 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec-May (once in Oct). Highest nest recorded at 1,220m. Nest a compact cup 10cm deep, attached to underside of banana leaf or nest created by sewing-up of ginger and plantain leaves. Brood host of the parasitic Violet Cuckoo. **Survival:** Longest recorded, nearly 10 years.

My photo from Berjaya Hills, May, 4m away 3m up. Not shy but I was quite hidden with the bird being in thick vegetation. It was probably nesting nearby. It stayed for quite some time, singing away.



Spectacled Spiderhunter

Arachnothera flavigaster, Kelicap Jantung besar. 22cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident to 300m, occasionally to 1,100m. 272 BIW records mostly in the lower lowlands in Pantii, FRIM Kepong, Taman Rimba Ampang, Sg Relau, Pangsun, etc. Also 10 montane at ~1,000m. (Easily confused with the Yellow-eared Spiderhunter which occurs up to 2,010m. The latter has an incomplete eye-ring. It has 170 BIW records.) Historically not recorded in Kelantan, Penang, S.Perai but 1 BIW record in S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habi-**

Uzair Ab Rahim



tat: Forests, forest edge, plantations, orchards, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Canopy to low shrubs. Fond of banana and ginger flowers. Generally, feeds in full sun. Alone, in pairs and possibly in groups. Aggressive. **Food:** Nectar, insects. Also, developed fruits of a torch ginger, *Zingiber* sp. (Chong 2017). **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs 2, laid Mar, Jun, Sep, Nov. Nest circular or with spout, sewn to underside of coconut or other palm frond by silk or placed between large rubber tree leaves sewn together, 5-13m up.

My photo recorded in Pantii forest, Johor, Oct, 10m away 7m up. It was often at this flower every day I visited when I was there in Oct.



Grey-breasted Spiderhunter

Arachnothera modesta, Kelicap Jantung bukit. 18cm. R

Other name: *A. affinis* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident up to 1,120m. 321 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Rengit, Sg Relau, FRIM Kepong, etc. 5 montane records. **Status:** NT approaching VU locally but LC globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma, SW Thailand S to the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Lower storey to canopy. Moves alone like other spiderhunters. Utters loud calls perched or in flight. **Food:** Mainly nectar, also insects, spiders. **Sexes alike** with

female smaller. **Subspecies:** *modesta*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nesting late Apr, juveniles May-Aug. Nest a shallow cup placed against trunk of palm or, more usually, on underside of large leaf (e.g. banana) and attached by cobweb slings, 1.5-2.5m above ground; one nest was supported by two leaves stapled together with twigs. 2 eggs.

The name “spiderhunter” is rather a misnomer since its main food is nectar as can be concluded from the long, curved beak. Folklore has it that the Englishman who named this bird first saw it going after a spider. This individual was from Kuala Tahan village, Pahang, just outside my boarding place, less than 4m away, totally without regard of being photographed.





Amar-Singh HSS

Female

Pin-tailed Parrotfinch

Erythura prasina, Ciak ekor jarum. 15cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon resident, local, depending on food availability, mainly in hilly country from low elevations to 1,500m S to Selangor and central Pahang. Not recorded in Penang, S.Perai, Melaka, Johor. Also, historically not recorded Perlis, Kedah but 1 BIW record in Perlis and several in Kedah. 40 BIW records in Sg Sedim, Gap, Kg Temakah (Perak), Bkt Larut, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, etc. **Status:** LC, population stable. NP. **Range and Subspecies:** *E.p. prasina*, In-

Amar-Singh HSS

Male

dochina discontinuously (but includes Thailand, extreme S Burma, Pen Malaysia), Sumatra, Java; *E.p. coeliac*, S Palawan, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests with bamboo, occasionally scrub.

Habits: Acrobatically stretches itself even upside down when feeding on bamboo seeds. Solitary, pairs or in groups from less than 10 up to 400 (in Cameron Highlands). Possibly partially migratory and nomadic in search of seasonal food. **Food:** Seeds including bamboo, ripe and unripe. Bamboo seeds are seasonal, Jun-Dec peaking Aug-Sep. Possibly rice too. **Breeding:** Season Feb-Sep. Nest a ball-like structure with side entrance, placed from near ground to 20m above. Clutch of 4-6 eggs; incubation period 12-14 days; nestling period 21 days.



Common Green Magpie



Birds of the Montane Forests

Grey-breasted Partridge

Arborophila orientalis, (No official Malay name)/
Sang Serok gunung. 25cm. R

Other names: Malaysian Partridge (J&P 2012), Malay Partridge (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), Campbell's Hill Partridge (OBI); *A. campbelli* (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). In the eBird website, *A. campbelli*, endemic to Pen Malaysia, is a subspecies of *A. orientalis*, i.e. *A.o. campbelli*. Birdlife, HBW, IUCN have *A. orientalis*, the White-faced Partridge, but only in Java. eBird spells "Grey" as "Gray."

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident on Larut Range, and Main Range from Gng Korbu (Perak) S to Ulu Langat, 1,000-1,600m. **Status:** LC, population stable. 67 BIW records (more heard than seen) in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, and 1 each at Gap (~830m) and Genting Highlands (~970m). **TP. Range:** Mountains of Pen Malaysia, Sumatra, E Java.

Habitat: Dense undergrowth forests, occasionally forest edge. **Habits:** In pairs or small family groups foraging the forest floor. Neighbours counter each other. Calls in Oct, Nov, Jan, Mar, Apr, Jun-Aug. **Food:** Termites and other invertebrates, and fruits. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** *campbelli*. 4 subspecies in total. **Breeding:** Two nests recorded, one on the ground and the other a short tunnel in a pile of leaves. Eggs recorded in Mar.



Uzair Ab Rahim



Ferruginous Partridge

Caloperdix oculeus, Sang serok rimba. 26cm. R

Distribution: Rare, local resident, but fairly common around Gap-Fraser's Hill. Found in the lowlands N from Kedah; only on slopeland S of Kedah; and 600?-1,200m at Selangor-Pahang border to Ulu Langat, and possibly farther. A few eBird records, some transferred from BIW, from Fraser's Hill, Berjaya Hills. **Status:** NT, population decreasing. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *oculeus*, SE Burma, SW Thailand S to the Peninsula; *ocellatus*, Sumatra; *borneensis*, NC, NE Borneo.

Habitat: Forests, including bamboo-dominated secondary forests. **Habits:** Forages the ground, alone or in pairs. Has a loud thrilling call like other partridges (except Crested). **Food:** No information locally but generally, seeds, grasses, berries, fallen figs, insects. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Juvenile 16 Sep. 8-10 white eggs reported in Sarawak. Incubation 18-20 days (in captivity).

The loud ringing calls of this partridge are a delight, just like the three partridges I have also heard, the Chestnut-necklaced, Grey-breasted and Long-billed. (I have seen and heard the Crested Partridge but it calls quietly). In fact, the Ferruginous was calling just 50m apart from the Chestnut-necklaced in Kedah.

Uzair Ab Rahim



Male

Mountain Peacock-Pheasant

Polyplectron inopinatum, Kuang cermin/Merak Pongsu gunung. 46-66cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident from 820 to 1,600m and once at 1,800m. Only 20 records in BIW in Berjaya Hills, Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands. **Status:** Globally VU due to limited range; population in slow decline. **TP. Range:** Possibly endemic to Pen Malaysian mountains, on Larut Range, Titiwangsa Main Range, Cameron to Genting Highlands and Ulu Langat, as well as Gng Benom and Tahan. But there were recent reports in extreme S Thailand. **Habitat:** For-

Juvenile-Female



ests. **Habits:** Forages the ground storey. **Food:** No information. Based on what photographers have been feeding one family (see below) it will eat animal and carbohydrate foods.

Sexually dimorphic. Males have spurs on tarsus like other big ground birds (except the Great and Crested Arguses). Female like other female ground birds has no spurs. Female's ocelli not iridescent unlike male's, although the male's may not appear iridescent in poor light. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Nests in Jan, half-grown young in Jun (and Apr by my record below). Clutch of 2 buffy-white eggs, incubation 19-21 days, by female alone. Assumed monogamous pairing.



Female-Juvenile

It is a shy and elusive bird. Photos taken 8 Apr, of a family unit. The female seems to have some kind of a small crest but all pictures and drawings of the female that I have seen do not show this. This could thus be an aberration.

A group of photographers had been feeding this family for at least a year. These magnificent wild creatures, usually shy, had thus become tame like domesticated chickens which was a sad thing to see even for all the photos afforded. Also, there was a danger that with constant available (junk) food, the parents were not teaching the chicks how to forage, and worst, poachers hearing of these birds and capturing them.

Birdlife estimates that there are 2,500-10,000 mature individuals in the wild with population slowly declining. What worries conservationists is the fragmentation of its habitat especially from farming. One of the most frightening proposals some time ago was to build a road linking the three hill stations, Cameron Highlands to Fraser's Hill to Genting Highlands. If this happened, the forest habitat would become fragmented and open to more land use conversion, especially farming. Luckily due to protests from environmentalists, that proposal was shelved. But it could come back.

Male





Little Cuckoo-Dove

Macropygia ruficeps, Tekukur api. 30cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 800-1,800m in Larut and Main Ranges to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, but may disperse during the day down the hills to a sparse presence at plains-level. Breeding only above about 1,000m. 394 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, etc. Also lowlands including Sg Relau, Bintang Hijau FR. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Yunnan, N Vietnam, N Laos, S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater and Lesser Sundas to Timor Leste. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Alone, pairs or in small flocks, keeping to upper storey and tree crowns. **Food:** Seeds, small fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *malayana*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests in Jan, Feb, May-Aug, Oct. Nest typical

pigeon structure constructed partly or entirely of a pad of moss or grass; placed in tree or shrub, 1-7m up; once in a tree-fern. 1-2 eggs.

Photo right from Berjaya Hills, and top, Fraser's Hill, both in Apr. Though generally shy, especially those in Gng Telapa Buruk, those in Berjaya Hills were less so, and to a lesser extent, Fraser's Hill. For example, the right bird was less than 6m away and I have photographed them even nearer too. It is possible that those in Gng Telapa Buruk were especially shy because locals hunted them, but not in Berjaya and Fraser's Hills.





Yellow-vented Pigeon

Treron seimundi, Punai gunung. 32cm. R

Other name: Yellow-vented Green-Pigeon (J&P 2012, Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Uncommon resident in the Titiwangsa Main Range from E-W Highway to Genting Highlands at 800-1,500m, and possibly the Larut Range too. Fairly common at Gap. Also, sparsely on the W-coast (in Apr, Jun, Aug) at Sg Sala (Kedah) mangroves, coastal forest in Dinding (Perak), and a nearby island. **Status:** LC, population declining. Protected. 39 BIW records overwhelmingly at Gap, Gap-Fraser's Hill old and new roads, and on Fraser's Hill. Also 3

records at Genting Highlands, 1 each in Janda Baik (~500m, just S of Genting Highlands), and Pos Slim (>500m). 1 record in Kledang-Sayang FR (lowland) near Ipoh, Dec (Amar-Singh 2017. See photo).

Range: Uplands of N,C Laos, C,S Vietnam, SE,W Thailand, the Peninsula. **Habitat:** Forests including mangroves, occasionally forest edge. **Habits:** Nomadic, dispersing by night. Feeds in the canopy in groups up to 20 birds, often with Thick-billed pigeon. **Food:** Fig specialist. **Sexes slightly different.** Male has a maroon shoulder patch that female lacks. **Subspecies:** *seimundi*. 2 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** A possible juvenile recorded at Perak coast in Jun. No other information.



Wedge-tailed Pigeon

Treron sphenurus, Punai bukit. 32cm. R

Other name: Wedge-tailed Green-pigeon (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Rare resident above 1,200m, from Cameron Highlands to Fraser's Hill to Genting Highlands in the Main Range. Also Bkt Larut, Gng Tahan. 17 BIW records at Fraser's Hill (12), Cameron Highlands (2), Bkt Larut (2), Taman Negara Sg Relau (1, in flight). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *sphenurus*, Kashmir E to NE India, SC China S to S Burma, N,W Thailand, Laos, N Vietnam; *robinsoni*, the Peninsula; *etorques*, Sumatra; *korthalsi*, Java, Lombok. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Feeding



in the canopy but have been found resting in the undergrowth. Usually in pairs but also in groups. Joins others in fruiting trees. **Food:** Fruits. **Sexes slightly differ.** Shown here is a female. Male has a maroon shoulder patch. **Breeding:** One record of incubation in early Jun, plus my own here, late Jun. Nest a frail platform of twigs, usually >6m up. 1-2 eggs, incubation 18-19 days?; fledging 12 days.

Photos of a female reportedly part of a pair nesting, 26 Jun, in Fraser's Hill, 6m away 5m up. I assumed the male was incubating. This female was so quiet and perfectly camouflaged that I nearly missed her but for its flicking tail. After ~1hr 15mins, I saw another bird rather hidden which I assumed was the male.



Mountain Imperial-Pigeon

Ducula badia, Pergam gunung. 47cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in Larut and Main Ranges, and Gng Benom and Tahan, but not further E except one record in Kuantan. Also, widely dispersed to the W into the lowlands and mangroves, from S.Perai to Melaka-Johor border. Breeding only in montane forests up to ~1,500m. 338 BIW records at the hill stations but a number in the lowlands, e.g. Kuala Lompat (6), KSNP (6). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, far NE India, Yunnan, Hainan, Indochina, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, mangroves. **Habits:** Frequents up-

Danaraj Maniam



per storey to canopy but I have seen it down at mid-storey and even to a low bush (my photo. Nesting?). Communal roosts in peat swamp forests and mangroves. Also seen at a salt lick in Temenggor FR (Chong 2017). **Food:** Fruits, mainly figs. **Sexes alike** as other Imperial Pigeons, Green and Pied. **Subspecies:** *badia*. 3 in its range. **Breeding:** Late Dec-Apr, Jun, Jul, Sep. Nest a slight platform of twigs (20-25cm across), placed 3-8m up. Lays 1 egg, exceptionally 2.

Especially common Jul in Fraser's Hill; other times can be quite scarce. My photo from Fraser's Hill, Jul, 6m away 1.5m up. I have photographed as near as 4m and the bird was still quite relaxed.



Immature

Dark Hawk-Cuckoo

Hierococcyx bocki. Sewah-Tekukur besar. 33cm. R

Old name: Large Hawk-Cuckoo (*H.sparveriodes*). It has now been split (except by OBI) into the migrant Large Hawk-Cuckoo (*H.sparveriodes*) and resident Dark Hawk-Cuckoo (*H.bocki*). **Distribution:** Common at 1,100-1,800m in Larut and Main Ranges, also Gng Tahan and Benom. 97 BIW records (not separated from Large Hawk-Cuckoo) in Fraser's Hill, Air Itam Dalam, Cameron Highlands, Bkt Larut, Chuping, etc. Historically not recorded Perlis, Kedah, Penang, S.Pearai, Kelantan, Terengganu, Johor but with BIW records (except Ke-

Adult



lantan) that are possibly of Large Hawk-Cuckoo. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, NE India, SE Tibet, S China. Indochina, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** From mid-storey to interior canopy. May use utility wires. Very vocal during mating season, with loud calls. **Food:** Arthropods. Also fruits? **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Fledglings in mid-Jun. A brood parasite with host Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush. No other information.

Photos from Fraser's Hill. Adult in Sep, 6m away 3m up, and immature (by lack of rufous on upper breast and rufous-tinge on wings) 14 Feb less than 5m away. Both not shy. I was first photographing the immature at 10m when it flew nearer to 5m, eye level.



Sunda Cuckoo

Cuculus lepidus, Sewah dada putih. 26cm. R

Other name: For J&P (2012) and OBI this bird is a subspecies, *C. saturatus lepidus*, the Oriental Cuckoo. The Sunda is listed in Birdlife, eBird, HBW, IUCN. The Oriental includes passage migrant and winter visitor mainly at low elevations. **Distribution:** Uncommon resident at 970-1,700m with rare records in the lowlands. 1 BIW record for the Sunda and 26 for the Oriental. Out of the 26, 4 are in the lowlands, so most likely the other 22 records are of the Sunda. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Pen Malaysia, Greater and Lesser Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests,

forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents mid-storey to canopy. Calls persistently during mating season Jan-Jul. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes:** Grey-morph female is like male, but tinged ochre on upper breast and black barrings narrower; rufous-morph female is barred chestnut and blackish brown on upperparts, with rump and uppertail coverts more rufous with broader black barring, **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs recorded Feb, Mar, May, Jun. Fledged 19 days. Brood-parasitic, with hosts Chestnut-crowned, Yellow-breasted and Mountain Leaf-Warblers.

Photos of a male taken at Fraser's Hill late Jan, closest at 6m away 5m up. Like other cuckoos in my experience (except Chestnut-winged), it was not bothered being photographed, allowing ample time for photos.



Collared Owlet

Glaucidium brodiei, Hantu kecil/kerdil. 16cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident on Larut Range and Titiwangsa Main Range S to N.Sembilan at 700-1,800m (but one eBird record at plains-level Kuala Tahan by Craig Robson). Also on Gng Benom, Tahan (Pahang), Rabong (Kelantan), and Lawit (Terengganu). Most eBird records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Gng Telapa Buruk, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Gng Bunga Buah. Historical records in Kelantan, Terengganu, Perak, Selangor, Pahang. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *G.b. brodiei*, NE Afghanistan, N Pakistan E to Himalayas to SE Tibet, N Indochina, S,C,E China (including Hainan) S to the Peninsula; *G.b. pardalotum*, Taiwan; *G.b. sylvaticum*, Sumatra; *G.b. borneense*, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge.

Habits: Calls, presumably territorial, during the day from mid-storey. More often heard than seen. **Food:** Invertebrates and small vertebrates, including a tailorbird observed eaten. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Season Apr, May. Nests in holes made by small woodpeckers, barbets, and others, acquired at times by displacing the inhabitants. Clutch usually 4 eggs (3-6); incubation ~25 days; eggs hatch asynchronously; both adults feed nestlings. **Survival:** One record is 73 months.



Long Roslee Ngah



Choy Wai Mun

Brown Wood-Owl

Strix leptogrammica, Hantu punggor. 55cm. R

Distribution: Local resident, fairly common, generally in low population densities, up to 1,700m. Historically not recorded in Perlis, Kedah, Penang, S.Perai, Terengganu but a few eBird records each in Kedah, S.Perai. Only 1 in Panti, quite a few in Kuala Tahan. Most records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands. Most common big owl in hill stations. **Status:** LC, population declining. **TP. Range:** Indian subcontinent, China S of Zhejiang-Yunnan line including Taiwan, Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests, for-

Danaraj Maniam



est edge.

Habits: Hunts from a perch with a view of the ground either in the forest or often at the edge including roadsides. Calls at night or just before dusk, a rich tremulous, *huhuhuhooo*, repeated about 10s apart. Also a screeching call. Territorial pair or parents with fledgling. **Food:** No local information but in its range, small mammals, birds, reptiles. **Sexes alike** as with other owls. **Subspecies:** *maingayi*. 14 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nest in cavity of tree, sometimes with a few feathers added; 2 eggs, occasionally 1; incubation at one site, 30 days; chicks have white down. Only a single fledgling. Juveniles in late Mar, early Apr.



Danaraj Maniam

Female

hills from Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey on open perch waiting to grab prey like other trogons. **Food:** Possibly includes invertebrates. **Subspecies:** *chaseni*. 10 in its range. **Breeding:** Juveniles in adult's company on 6 Mar, 29 May. Nest an unlined hollow on side of rotten tree trunk or old woodpecker hole, 0.7-5m up. Young fed and brooded by both sexes, but brooded exclusively by female at night.

The Red-headed is generally not shy, like most trogons. A male, possibly subadult by its slightly brownish breast and head, came within 4m to where I was, 14 Jul, totally oblivious to being photographed.

Red-headed Trogon

Herpactes erythrocephalus, Kesumba gunung. 34cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 700-1,680m on Larut Range and Tiwangsa Main Range S to N.Sembilan. Also on Gng Benom (Pahang). 217 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Gap, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, etc. Only 1 record in Berjaya Hills possibly due to presence of Orange-breasted Trogon, 1 record N.Sembilan (Gng Telapa Buruk). **Status:** LC, population declining. **TP. Range:** Himalayan foot-

Danaraj Maniam

Male





Orange-breasted Trogon

Harpactes oreskios, Kesumba harimau. 30cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident. In Perlis and N Kedah at plains-level. Southward found in hilly country up to 1,200m, rarely below 350m, S to Endau-Rompin at 350m. Fairly common at lower end of the hill stations. 207 BIW records at Bkt Larut, Gap-Fraser's Hill road, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Wang, etc. 1 record each at Kuala Tahan, Bkt Rengit, Pangsun, Gng Ledang (southern-most record), etc. Historically not recorded in Penang, S.Perai but 1 record in S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** SW Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Alone or pairs, mid-storey to lower canopy. Hunts from open perches. **Food:** Undescribed, possibly invertebrates. **Sexu-**



ally dimorphic. Male shown here. Female has a paler orange-yellow breast. **Subspecies:** *uniformis*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Jan-May. Eggs recorded Jan, Apr and a fledgling Feb. Nest in hollow stump <2m up. Eggs 2-3. Incubation 17-18 days; nestling 12-14 days. Nest success, just 8 percent in a study in Thailand.

Photos from Berjaya Hills, Pahang, Oct, 5-7m away, 4-6m up. Not shy. I think it just did not care what birders did, was only interested in getting food. I find that this is the attitude of the other trogons too except the Cinnamon-rumped who is more skittish.



Fire-tufted Barbet

Psilopogon pyrolophus, Takur api. 28cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident at 900-2,012m in Larut Range and Main Range S to Selangor. Also on Gng Benom (Pahang). Especially common in Fraser's Hill. 342 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands-Gng Ulu Kali, Bkt Larut.

Status: LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Pen Malaysia, Sumatra.

Habitat: Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy. Solitary but may join others in a fruiting tree. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Fruits, arthropods. **Sexes alike** as all barbets except the Red-throated. Its call, like the Sooty, does not have the characteristic barbet call. It reminds



me of a cicada call. Another uncharacteristic behaviour is calling from an open perch. Most barbets call from a well-hidden patch. The other exceptions are again Sooty as well as Lineated, and occasionally, Copper-smith. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Jan-Sep. Parents excavate nest in dead tree or branch >4m above ground. Eggs, 2? Both parents feed young at first; nestling period ~42 days. Fledglings fed 5-8 days and then feed independently.

Photos taken in Fraser's Hill, Oct, at Jelai Resort during the days when its lights attracted moths at night, and birds to them in the morning. Not shy.



Golden-throated Barbet

Psilopogon franklinii, Takur leher emas/gunung. 22cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima franklinii* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Above 1,300m in Larut Range and Main Range S to Selangor, and various peaks, Gng Benom, Rabong, Tahan. And in upper Fraser's Hill (but I have photographed one on Jalan Mager, ~1,230m), common above Brinchang, Cameron Highlands. Most common barbet in upper montane. 104 BIW records in Gng Ulu Kali, Cameron Highlands, Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill. 1 in Genting Highlands, ~970m. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E from Nepal to far NE Indian subconti-



nent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina uplands. **Habitat:** Ericaceous forest. **Habits:** Frequents mid- to upper storey, usually solitary. **Food:** Fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *ramsayi*. 2 in its range. **Breeding:** Feb-May. Nest excavated 2-6m up in rotten dead tree. Eggs 2-5, both parents incubate and feed young.

Photo top of an adult, Nov, in Gng Ulu Kali, 4.5m away 4m up. Photo right taken at the same place mid-Apr shows either a juvenile or female. It was accompanied by a parent or male. If it was a juvenile, it was not particularly demanding to be fed (although I saw it being fed). Possibly it was not so dependent on parent for food. If it was a female, the feeding could be a courtship ritual. Not concerned being photographed some 5m away.



Black-browed Barbet

Psilopogon oorti, Takur bukit. 20cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima oorti* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident 750-1,300m in the Larut Range and Main Range (E-W Highway to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan), Gng Benom, Tahan, and Lawit of E-Coast Range. In disturbed Main Range forests, may be found down to 250m (but note BIW records). 407 BIW records in Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Gng Telapa Buruk, Berjaya Hills, Gap, etc.; also, 3 in Cameron Highlands, 2 Gng Ulu Kali (~1,700m),



1 in Universiti Malaya Gombak Centre (150m). **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Pen Malaysia, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents canopy, alone or joins others in a fruiting tree, but may make way for the bigger Fire-tufted Barbet. **Food:** Fruits and possibly animal food too. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Mar-Jun. Counter-singing occurs in breeding period. Nest excavated 2-10m up in tree; no other details. **Survival:** A captive lived 5 yrs 9 mths.

Photo top from Fraser's Hill at a fruiting tree, Mar. The red patch below the throat is possibly an injury. The other photo from Awana Genting camping grounds, 4m away 2.5m up. It seemed to be building a nest-hole in the dead tree (or probing for prey), totally ignoring me photographing from such a near distance.



Juvenile male-Female

Lesser Yellownape

Picus chlorolophus, Belatok Kecil tengkok kuning. 27cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident in the Larut Range and Main Range from Cameron Highlands to Genting Highlands, also in outlier Gng Benom, at 1,200-1,820m (but note 6 BIW records at Genting Highlands's pumphouse roads, at ~970m). 96 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (mostly), Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands. None on Bkt Larut. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas, Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina S to Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** From mid-storey to canopy. Usually alone, or in



small family groups. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Invertebrates. **Sexes differ slightly.** Female lacks the male's red malar stripe as shown here on the juvenile male. He looks very much like an adult male. **Subspecies:** *rodgeri*. 9 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nest recorded Feb. Nest excavated in partly dead trunk or branch, mostly below 5m. Usually 2-5 eggs; parents feed chicks by regurgitation; incubation and fledging periods unknown. Fledgling, Jun (my record. See photos).

Photos of a female and juvenile male at Jalan Mager, Fraser's Hill, 21 Jun, 6-7m away. The juvenile was making a lot of begging calls. I don't remember seeing the male parent.



Greater Yellowname

Picus flavinucha, Belatok Besar tengkok kuning. 34cm. R

Other name: *Chrysoplegma flavinucha* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN).

Distribution: Common resident in the Larut Range and Main Range from Cameron Highlands to Genting Highlands, also in outlier Gng Benom, at 900-1,890m. 120 BIW records at Fraser's Hill overwhelmingly, and 4 each Cameron Highlands and Genting Highlands, 1 at Gap (830m), and oddly, 1 at Sg Sedim (Kedah) in the lowlands (unreliable?). **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** The Himalayas E



to uplands of far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China to Indochina S to Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs or small family groups, from canopy to mid-storey occasionally to tree base. Noisy. **Food:** Probably invertebrates. **Sexes differ slightly**, male has a yellow malar area and throat but rufous in female. **Subspecies:** *wrayi*. 8 subspecies in total. **Breeding:** Feb-Apr. I have photographed one nesting in Mar, Fraser's Hill. Nests in dead trees ~5m up. Clutch 2-4 eggs; both parents share nesting duties; incubation and fledging periods not documented.

Photos of males from Fraser's Hill, Mar. Above, 5m away 5m up, Telecom Loop; left 6m away 5m up, Jalan Jeriau. They appear unconcerned about birders. I have also photographed less than 4m away.



Long-tailed Broadbill

Psarisomus dalhousiae, Takau injap. 28cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident at 820-1,500m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat, Selangor. Also in E-Coast Range and Gng Tahan. At 250m in Royal Belum State Park, Perak, but nests only in montane forests. 122 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Gap, Pos Slim, Temengor, etc. 1 record in lowland Sg Sedim (Kedah). **Status:** LC, population declining due to forest cutting and the cage bird trade. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests. **Habits:** Mid-storey to interior



canopy. Aerial sallies or gleans prey from surfaces, alone or in small groups. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes almost alike.** **Subspecies:** *psittacinus*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs in Feb-May, possibly also Jul. Nest, a typical broadbill's nest, hanging at the end of a thin branch. Also, at the end of rattan palm's spiny frond (Chong 2017).

Photos from Fraser's Hill; right, Oct, some 10m away 6m up, and top, mid-Jan, 6m away 5m up, with the bird carrying nesting material. Because of that, it waited for me to pass before going to the nest. I could have had several good shots but its position was not ideal. Otherwise, somewhat shy.



Female

Silver-breasted Broadbill

Serilophus lunatus, Takau tanda hujan. 18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident from 1,200m down to 250m in Gombak, Selangor, and 230m in Royal Belum, Perak. 133 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Berjaya Hills, Gap-Fraser's Hill, etc. 1 in Universiti Malaya Gombak Centre (150m). **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population declining due to forest cutting, fragmentation and the cage bird trade. TP. **Range:** Nepal E to far NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina S to Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to interior canopy, in pairs or in small parties, sometimes in bird waves. **Food:** Arthropods.



Sexes nearly alike, female has a silvery necklace across breast but not the male. **Subspecies:** *rothschildi*. 10 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs 2-3 in Mar-Jun. Nest hangs from end of thin branch 3-5m over road, path or small stream. Both sexes, sometimes with helpers, incubate eggs and feed chicks.

Photos from Berjaya Hills, Pahang. Right photo in Feb, 5m away 4m up and the other, 13 May of a female with a leaf presumably as nesting material, 6m away 4m up. J&P (2012) describe the Silver-breasted as shy. Those in Berjaya Hills were pretty tame in my experience, while those in Gng Telapa Buruk were more skittish.

Rusty-naped Pitta

Hydrornis oatesi, Pacat tepus/gunung. 25cm. R

Other name: *Pitta oatesi* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Original name (taxonomy):** *Hydrornis Oatesi*, Hume, 1873, Toungoo district, Upper Pegu, Burma. **Distribution:** Uncommon, local resident at 1,000-1,200m in the Larut Range, and Titiwangsa Main Range in Cameron Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands (Pahang) S to Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan, recorded 1992). eBird records in Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Cameron and Genting Highlands.

Status: LC, population trend unknown. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *oatesi*, N,E,SE Burma E to NE Laos and S to W,NE Thailand; *castaneiceps*, S Yunnan, NW Vietnam, C Laos; *bolovenensis*, S Laos, S Annam; *deborah*, Pen Malaysia. **Habitat:** Thick cover of forests on slopes and gullies especially near small streams. **Habits:** Alone or family parties, at ground and understoreys. Loud territorial calls from males. Peak calling Feb-early Jun (occasional calls into Aug) although earliest nest is in Jan. Very shy.

Food: Not described but possibly insects and worms, taken from the ground and leaf litter. **Sexes nearly similar** for subspecies other than *deborah* which is not described for female. **Breeding:** Clutch of 2-5 eggs (but brood of 2?), nesting for 20 days. Eggs laid Feb-Mar.



Aviancatspace Cheng



Long Roslee Ngah

Male

Bar-winged Flycatcher-shrike

Hemipus picatus, Rembah bukit/sayap putih. 15cm. R

Distribution: Common resident N from Perak, lowland to 900m; S of Perak to N.Sembilan up to 1,650m; and lowland in Johor where it is uncommon. 379 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Genting Highlands, Pantl, Fraser's Hill, Taman Rimba Ampang, etc. Highest elevation on Gng Brinchang road, Cameron Highlands (actual elevation not given but peaks at ~2,030m). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina S to Sumatra, NE Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, mature and disturbed; in the N and Terengganu also in secondary forest, plantation and low shrubs; in the

Male



S retreats to inland forest; also forest edge. **Habits:** Forages the canopy alone, in pairs or small parties. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes nearly alike.** Male has glossy black upperparts and wings; female, sooty, non-glossy brown. **Subspecies:** *intermedius*. 4 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Nest building, Feb and Apr. Nests small and shallow attached to branch by cobwebs. Eggs 2-3.

My photo taken in Cameron Highlands, Apr, 7m away 7m up, in a small bird wave. Not shy. I guessed it was too busy foraging to care about my presence. In my experience, birds in bird waves are unbothered by human presence unless too near.

Fiery Minivet

Pericrocotus igneus, Mas tulin/Matahari api. 15cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident mainly below 600m but up to 1,220m, in all states except Terengganu, Melaka (but 1 BIW record in Air Keroh, 2012). 133 BIW records in Panti, Bkt Wang, FRIM Kepong, Gng Telapa Buruk, Sg Sedim, etc with 5 montane. **Status:** NT locally and globally due to its dependence on closed-canopy forests; moderately declining in all its range. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Palawan. **Habitat:** Forests including peat swamp. Also well wooded gardens near forest. In Kuantan, 2 records in coastal casuarina trees. **Habits:** Canopy. Regularly joins bird waves. **Food:** Arthropods. **Subspecies:** *igneus*. 2 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Apr, May (start of rains), and dependent fledglings recorded also Jun, Jul.

Sexes differ as all minivets. Shown here is the female. Male is mostly red in place of yellow in female as in most minivets, specifically Fiery, Grey-chinned, Scarlet. Among the three named minivets, the males are quite difficult to distinguish from each other, especially the Fiery and Grey-chinned; it is easier to differentiate using females: Fiery female has an orange-red rump as opposed to yellow on the other two; Grey-chinned female has a grey chin as its name suggest, as well as grey cheeks.

Photo taken in Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, Feb, 5m away 4m up. Not shy but constantly on the move.



Female



Male

ih, Kanching, Kuala Juram. Among the three red-yellow minivets the Grey-chinned is the second most recorded; the Fiery the least at 131 reflecting its NT status; and the Scarlet, at 475 also NT. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Himalayas E from C Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China, N Indochina, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents canopy usually in pairs. Joins bird waves. Searches tree-fern fronds. **Food:** Invertebrates gleaned from foliage and by aerial sallying. **Subspecies:** *montanus*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Male and female build nest but only female moulds it into shape. Incubation Feb, Apr, both take care of nestlings, helped by 2 subadults.

Photos of male and female, foraging together, from Fraser's Hill, Sep, 4 and 6m away. I have seen single gender foraging parties. These could comprise those not yet in pairs, possibly subadults.

Grey-chinned Minivet

Pericrocotus solaris, Mas dagu kelabu/Matahari gunung.
18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident from 975m (possibly from lowlands, see BIW records below) to 2,075m mainly in Larut Range and Main Range S to Ulu Langat, Selangor. Also Gng Benom and Tahan. 365 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. Also at Gap, at 830m, and 4 lowland records in Bkt Wang, Semeny-

Female



Scarlet Minivet

Pericrocotus speciosus, Mas belukar/Matahari besar. 18cm. R

Other name: *P. flammeus* (J&P 2012, Birdlife, OBI, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident up to 1,000m. 475 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Panti, Taman Rimba Ampang, Gap-Fraser's Hill Road, etc. 7 at Fraser's Hill with 2 at Jelai, ~1,250m. Not recorded Penang, S.Perai. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E from Kashmir, India, Sri Lanka, Andamans, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Philippines, Lombok. **Habitat:** Forests with tall trees, forest edge.

Habits: Alone or in small parties, often in bird waves in the canopy; fond of tree-fern fronds. Gleans from foliage or sallies for flying insects. **Food:** Arthropods. **Sexes differ.** Shown here is the male. It has two distinct wing red patches compared to the Fiery and Grey-chinned males with a single patch. **Subspecies:** *flammifer* (N and E Pen Malaysia), *xanthogaster* (W and S). 19 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid March-June or early July. One case of cooperative nest building by 10 birds.

Photos from Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, of a male in a bird wave, Sep. Even though most common of the three minivets it is NT because of its dependence on declining mature forests.



Male



Large Cuckooshrike

Coracina macei, Sewah besar. 30cm. R

Other names: Javan Cuckooshrike (J&P 2012, OBI); *C.javensis* (J&P 2012, OBI, HBW, Birdlife, IUCN. They include Java in the range unlike eBird. Also they list *C.macei* as Indian Cuckooshrike that ranges only in the Indian subcontinent). **Taxonomy:** *Ceblephyrus javensis*, Horsfield, 1821, Java. **Distribution:** Resident, 1,000-2,050m in the Main Range S to Ulu Langat. Common at the hill stations — Cameron Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Gng Ulu Kali; rarer in Bkt Larut. Also on Gng Benom, Tahan (Pahang) and on E-Coast Range. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent E from Pakistan, S China including Taiwan, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** Keeps to canopy of tall trees, in pairs or small groups up to 5. Loud piercing call, *schweep*, possibly a territorial call. **Food:** Fruits and arthropods. May feed on the ground.

Sexes nearly alike. Shown here is a male. Female has a light grey-white barrings from breast to belly. Subspecies (from HBW): *larutensis*. 7 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-early Jul. Fledglings of 2. Nests a broad shallow cup, high up, far from trunk.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Female

Cameron Highlands, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. Also 2 at Gap (~830m, but actual observation elevation not given). **Status:** LC, population declining. **TP. Range:** Himalayas E from N Pakistan to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** From mid-storey to canopy, alone or pairs, often joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects, gleaned from surfaces, and fruits. Subspecies: *cameranoi*. **Breeding:** Nest building Feb, May; fledglings May, early Jun. Eggs 2-5 in its range.

My photo of a male from Gng Ulu Kali, Apr, 6m away 3m up. Not shy. Allowed enough time for photos.

Blyth's Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius aeralatus, Rimba Cekup belalang. 17cm. R

Other names: White-browed Shrike-babbler (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). *P. flaviscapris* (J&P 2012). **Original name (taxonomy):** *Pteruthius aeralatus*, Blyth, 1855, Tenasserim, Burma. **Distribution:** Common resident 900-2,000m in Larut Range and Main Range from E-W Highway (N Perak) to Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan). Also on Gng Benom, Tahan (Pahang), and Rabong (Kelantan). 196 BIW records in Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali,

Male





Long Roslee Ngah

Juvenile Female

Range: Himalayan foothills E from Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, Yunnan to uplands of Indochina. **Habitat:** Closed-canopy forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy, joins bird waves alone, in pairs or small groups. **Food:** Caterpillars, possibly other insects, and spiders.

Sexes differ. Male has a rufous throat and white wingbars; female whitish with a slight rufous tinge at the edge of throat, and pale buff wingbars. **Subspecies:** *tahanensis*. 2 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Feb-Jun. Nest a small cradle suspended hammock-like 2-5m above ground in bush or small tree. Clutch of 2-6 eggs. Incubation by both sexes. No other information.

Black-eared Shrike-Babbler

Pteruthius melanotis, Rimba Cekup telinga hitam. 11 cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident in the Main Range S to Genting Highlands. Also in outliers Gng Benom, Tahan (Pahang), and Gelamat, Lawit of the E-Coast Range. Less common in the Main Range compared to the above-mentioned peaks. 1,000-1,740m in the Main Range, to above 1,800m in Benom. Oddly not in the Larut Range. 177 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali-Genting Highlands. 3 records mentioning the Gap which is at 830m (but actual observations could be higher up). **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP.

Long Roslee Ngah

Subadult Male





Female

Black-and-crimson Oriole

Oriolus cruentus, Dendang mas. 23cm. R

Other name: *O. consanguineus* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. The range does not include *O. cruentus*'s Java). **Distribution:** Common resident, 900-1500m (but twice reported at about 600m), in the Main Range from Ulu Langat Selangor/Pahang border to SW Kelantan. Also in Gng Benom (Pahang). 183 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (overwhelmingly), Cameron Highlands, Lojing, Genting Highlands, Gap (2 records, 830m), and Pos Slim (1 record, >500m, actual elevation not given). **Status:** LC, population trend unknown. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *malayanus*,

Danaraj Maniam

Male



Pen Malaysia; *consanguineus*, Sumatra; *cruentus*, Java; *vulneratus*, N,C Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents canopy, also mid-storey, alone or pairs. Joins bird waves. Generally silent. Gleans prey from foliage, also fly-catches. **Food:** Fruits, invertebrates. **Breeding:** Possibly Mar-Aug. Eggs, 2?

My photo of a female was from Fraser's Hill, 6m away 4m up, Mar. It was in a bird wave and like most birds in one, it was too busy foraging to be bothered with my presence. For some reason, I have more records of female than male. Although they do go in pairs, I think more often they go solo, and perhaps I simply encountered more females.



Lesser Racket-tailed Drongo

Dicrurus remifer, Cecawi hamba kera. 27cm, with another 50cm of shafts and rackets. R

Distribution: Common resident 760-2,000m in Bkt Larut, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat. Also in Pahang's Gng Tahan, Benom (down to 445m), Lawit (Terengganu), Rabong (Kelantan). Very common at Fraser's Hill. 370 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (overwhelmingly), Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, etc. Also 6 lowland records in Kuala Juram, Temengor, Sekayu. **Status:** LC, population trend unknown. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina S to Sumatra, Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:**



Mid-storey to canopy, at times lower storey, alone or pairs; perches on open branches sallying for prey. Often in bird waves. Mimics other birds just like Greater Racket-tailed. **Food:** Includes insects. **Sexes alike** as other drongos. **Subspecies:** *peracensis*. 4 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs 3-4, laid Mar-May. Nest a small shallow cup usually <7m up.

Photos from Fraser's Hill of two individuals, Mar. Most birds that I have seen were without the rackets – they are juveniles or those which have somehow lost their rackets. I have seen Lesser and Greater Racket-tailed perched side by side peacefully ~1m apart at about 1,000m, Jalan Jeriau, Fraser's Hill.



White-throated Fantail

Rhipidura albicollis, Sambar Gila gunung/Murai Gila gunung. 19cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 900 to >2,070m in Larut Range and its southern end, Gng Bub; and Main Range from Thailand's Hala Bala wild-life sanctuary, S to Ulu Langat; also in Gng Benom, Tahan, Tapis, Lawit. And at 700m, Genting Bidai, Selangor. 396 BIW records, a few at Gap, ~830m. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Himalayas E from Pakistan, India, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge.

Habits: Lower to mid-storey, alone or usually in pairs, often joins bird waves. Wells (2007) believes that a pair of this bird marshalls and holds the wave together. Not shy. **Food:** Arthropods. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *atrata*. 9 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-May. Nest a small neat cup placed 1-3m up. Usually 3 eggs; incubation 12-13 days; fledging 13-15 days. Survival of ringed birds, 4 years 6 months.

Photo from Fraser's Hill, Sep, 4m away 2m up. It was in an early morning bird wave chasing prey that were attracted to the then Jelai Resort's night lights. With the closure of the resort — and its lights — there no longer are insects in the mornings, and hence no more easy bird waves.



Common Green Magpie

Cissa chinensis, Gagak gunung/hijau. 38cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident 900m to >1,700m (Gng Ulu Kali) but recorded down to 600m, in the Larut Range and Main Range S to Ulu Langat; also Gng Tahan and Tulang Rabong. 134 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (overwhelmingly), Cameron Highlands, Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, etc. 3 records at Gng Brinchang, maximum ~2,030m (exact elevation not given). **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** E Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, for-



est edge. **Habits:** Forages mid- to lower storeys, also on the ground. Very vocal with various loud harsh calls. **Food:** Arthropods, small vertebrates. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. Juvenile has green crown instead of the adults' yellow-green. **Subspecies:** *robinsoni*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Possibly Feb-Jul. Nest a deep cup, well concealed. Clutch of 3-7 eggs.

Photos from Fraser's Hill, an adult, both Oct, 4-6m away 1-2m up. This magpie is a much-sought after sighting for it is indeed a beautiful bird with its gaudy colours. Ironically, it is of the same family as the crow, Corvidae. They are not bothered at all with their ardent admirers.



Fledgling

Sultan Tit

Melanochlora sultanea, Serai sultan/raja. 20cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident from low elevations but mainly in hilly country up to 1,580m. Rarer in the south. 293 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, etc. Also lowland in Taman Rimba Ampang, Sg Perdik, etc. No recent records S of Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, the last was Panti, Johor, 2001. None in Penang, S.Perai, Melaka, Terengganu. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E of Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy in small parties, often joining bird

Adult male



waves. Gleans insects from surfaces or by aerial sallies. **Food:** Insects. Also berries, where it may come down to low bushes. **Sexes slightly differ.** Female has the equivalent black parts of the male tinged olive. **Subspecies:** *flavocristata*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** No records locally, possibly Mar-Jul. Globally, few nests described; placed up to 15m up in hole or cavity in tree. 5-7 eggs.

Photos from Fraser's Hill, right (male) in Sep, 10m away. Left, a dependent juvenile or fledgling, 26 Jun, 5m away 4m up, showing the juvenile habit of flapping its wings in begging for food. They were not bothered being photographed.



Blue Nuthatch

Sitta azurea, Patuk gunung/Pepatuk biru gunung. 12cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 800-1,960m in the Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat, Selangor (but 1 BIW record Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan). Also in Gng Tahan, Benom (Pahang), Rabong (Kelantan). 163 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, Gap, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *expectata*, the Peninsula, Sumatra; *nigriventer*, W Java; *azurea*, E Java. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mid-storey to canopy in pairs or small parties up to 6, often in bird



waves. Forages in typical nuthatch fashion, can go down main trunks and the underside of lateral branches head-first. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Breeding:** Collects nest material 1 Feb, recent fledglings late Jun, early Jul. Nest placed in small hole in tree. 3-4 eggs.

Photos of two individuals in two different mixed-species flocks in Fraser's Jalan Girdle, right, Mar, 7m away 6m up; top, Jan, 6m away 5m up. At these distances they were too absorbed in foraging to be bothered with me. I enjoy watching and photographing this bird for their foraging behavior, just like the lowland cousin, Velvet-fronted Nuthatch.



Ochraceous Bulbul

Alophoixus ochraceus, Merbah beringin/berjanggut. 23cm. R

Distribution and Subspecies: Fairly common resident, subspecies *A.o. cabanisi*, in Langkawi, Perlis, N Kedah at lowlands and slopes. Common resident, subspecies *A.o. sacculatus*, S Pen Malaysia in Larut Range and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan (but note BIW record below), and E-Coast Range, at 700-1,670m. Also in outliers Gng Benom, Tahan, Rabong, Lawit, Tapis. 357 BIW records at Gap and lower Fraser's Hill, Gng Telapa Buruk, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Wang Kelian, lower Cameron Highlands, Langkawi, etc. 2 records in Gng Ledang, Johor. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP.

Jason Tan



Range: S Vietnam, S Cambodia, SE,W Thailand, S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Lower to mid-storeys, in pairs or small groups, often gathering in fruiting trees and shrubs. Aggressive, displacing smaller birds. Puffs out throat when calling. **Food:** Fruits, insects. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Feb-Jun. Nest a deep cup; few nests described, placed sometimes by and over forest path, once 2.5 m up, another lower down. 2-3 eggs.

My photo from Jeriau Road, Fraser's Hill, Jun, 6m away. Lighting condition gives the upper body a golden shine but it is actually brown. More skittish than most bulbuls especially when approached.



Mountain Bulbul

Ixos mccllellandii, Merbah lorek gunung/Bebarau bukit. 24cm. R

Other name: *Hypsipetes mccllellandii* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Common resident 970 to >2,100m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Selangor-Pahang border (but note BIW records below). Also in Gng Tahan and Benom. Very common in hill stations. 345 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Gng Ulu Kali, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, etc.; 1 at Gap, 830m, 1 in Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** The Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, China, upland Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, wooded



gardens. **Habits:** Often forages in pairs or in small parties and may join bird waves, from canopy to mid-storey, and among ferns by the roadside. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes alike** as most bulbuls. **Subspecies:** *peracensis*. 9 subspecies. **Breeding:** Mar-Sep. Nest building Mar, Apr, nestlings in late Mar, and fledglings in May, Oct. A hammock-like nest. Both sexes tend nestlings and fledglings.

Photos from Fraser's Hill, Mar and Oct. They were not shy. The photos were taken 5m and 6m away. I have photographed less than 4m away at other times.



Long Roslee Ngah

es the ground with dense undergrowth, alone or in pairs. Moves in rapid hops on the ground. By its loud calls, assumed to be territorial. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *harterti*. 7 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jun. Nest placed in moss, orchids, ferns or creepers 0.5-2m up. 2 eggs. Recorded in Sumatra performing broken-wing distraction display near nest.

Not shy. During my birding days (without a camera) I have observed this bird from as near as 2m away on a steep bank in Gng Brinchang, Cameron Highlands.

Pygmy Cupwing

Pnoepyga pusilla, Rimba lompat/Rimba Hujan kerdil. 9cm. R

Other name: Pygmy Wren-babbler (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident above 970m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat (Selangor/Pahang border). Also in outliers Gng Benom and Tahan. 203 BIW records (more heard than seen) in Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, Genting Highlands, etc. 1 record at Tea Garden Cottage, Bkt Larut (~920m). **Status:** LC, population declining. **Range:** Himalayas, Nepal E to far NE Indian subcontinent, C China S to uplands in Indochina, Sumatra, Java, Lesser Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, often in damp shaded stream gullies. **Habits:** Forag-

Uzair Ab Rahim





Mountain Tailorbird

Phyllergates cucullatus, Perenjak gunung. 12cm.
R

Other name: *Orthotomus cucullatus* (OBI, and till recently, HBW). All other tailorbirds are under the genus *Orthotomus*. **Distribution:** Common resident above 1,000m in Larut Range, and Titiwangsa Main Range S to Genting Highlands (but note BIW record below). Also in Gng Benom, Tahan, Rabong, and in E-Coast Range's Gng Lawit and Tapis.

265 BIW records, many heard only, in Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Bkt Larut, Gap Road, and 1 record each in Gng Bunga Buah (Selangor), Bintang (Kedah), and Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan). Thus, its southern end is likely Gng Telapa Buruk. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Himalayas E from Bhutan to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China, uplands of Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Sulawesi, Flores, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge.

Habits: Alone, in pairs or family groups. Gleans prey from foliage, mainly in the undergrowth. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *malayanus*. 14 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Its nest is conventional (unlike other tailorbirds), build in, among others, rattan and bamboo. Eggs 3-4 laid Feb-May.

Long Roslee Ngah

Yellow-browed Warbler

Phylloscopus inornatus, Cekup rimba. 11cm. M

Other name: Old name is Inornate Warbler (J&P 1999). **Distribution:** Fairly common winter visitor and occasional passage migrant S to Selangor and uncommon farther on. More common at low elevations N from Kedah but more montane further S in the Larut and Main Ranges up to 2,100m. Historically not recorded in S.Perai, N.Sembilan but 1 BIW (via eBird) record for S.Perai (1990). Other northern lowland records in Kedah (Bkt Wang 1, Bkt Palong 1), Perlis (6), Perak (Grik 1). Also 1 in Kuala Tahan.

Status: LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Breeds N Russia, E Siberia S to NE Altai, NW Mongolia, Baikal Mts and NE China; non-breeding NE Indian subcontinent E to Indochina and Taiwan. **Habitat:** Mangrove fringes, forest edge, forests, tree plantations, scrubs, secondary growth, wooded gardens.

Habits: Forages the canopy of small trees and joins bird waves in montane areas. Usually alone but may associate with others, including other warblers, in bird waves. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** None (monotypic). **Migration:** Autumn arrivals 15 Sep-8 Nov. Spring out-migration latest 7 Apr.



Long Roslee Ngah



Mountain Warbler

Phylloscopus trivirgatus, Cekup Daun gunung. 11cm. R

Other name: Mountain Leaf-warbler (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident 1,300-2,160m (but note BIW records, 1 at Awana, ~970m; 2 at Gap Road, <1,200m) in the Larut Range and Titiwangsa Main Range S to Genting Highlands. Also Gng Benom and Tahan (Pahang). 143 BIW records at Gng Ulu Kali, Cameron Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut (1 only). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, hill tracts of Greater Sundas, Bali, Lesser Sundas (Lombok, Sumbawa), Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests,



forest edge. **Habits:** Alone, pairs or small groups, often in bird waves, mostly in the canopy, calling often. **Food:** Insects. Takes moths at radar stations on Gng Ulu Kali and Gng Brinchang in the morning. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *parvirostris*. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Apr, and Jul. Nest is a dome-shaped ball, which is placed on ground or in hole in bank. Eggs 2-3; no other information. Brood host to Dark Hawk-Cuckoo or Sunda Cuckoo.

Photos of an individual from Gng Ulu Kali, Nov, 4m away 3m up. Not shy. I find them quite common here as well as on the road to Gng Brinchang (Cameron Highlands), quite often in bird waves.



Chestnut-crowned Warbler

Seisercus castaniceps, Cekup mahkota coklat/Cekup mata putih.
10cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Genting Highlands at 820-1,380m. Also in Gng Benom, Rabong and possibly Tahan. Above the limit, it is replaced by Yellow-breasted Warbler (next entry). 123 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (overwhelmingly), Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, Cameron



Highlands, Ulu Bertam FR. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China to upland Indochina, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages mid-storey to canopy, alone or pairs; often joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects, spiders. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *butleri*. 9 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jun. Nest built by both sexes, a compactly woven oval ball of green moss, well concealed on the ground. 3-5 eggs; incubation by both sexes; no other information. Brood host to Sunda Cuckoo.

Photos of an individual at the Lady Guillemard Road, Fraser's Hill, Mar. I was looking at other birds when I saw this warbler just 4m away on a clear branch, lower canopy. Without a photo yet of this bird, I was very excited. However, after these two shots, the warbler did not linger.



Long Roslee Ngah

Yellow-breasted Warbler

Seicercus montis, Cekup dada kuning. 10cm. R

Other name: *Phylloscopus montis* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN).

Original name (taxonomy): *Cryptolopha montis* Sharpe, 1887, Mount Kinabalu. **Distribution:** Core habitat in upper montane 1,450-2,030m (Main Range), 2,070m (Gng Benom),

Uzair Ab Rahim



and just below Gng Tahan summit area at ~2,100m in Mar 2016 (Chong 2017); less common down to 1,250m (Wells 2007), 1,160m (J&P 2012) where it possibly competes with Chestnut-crowned Warbler (previous entry). Historically recorded in Kelantan, Perak, Pahang, Selangor. J&P (2012) does not list Larut Range in its distribution but BIW (via eBird) has at least 1 record from Bkt Larut in 2013. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo, Lesser Sunda islands, Palawan.

Habitat: Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Forages alone or in small parties up to 5, mid- to lower storeys, even down to fallen logs. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Invertebrates, often obtained by hovering and gleaning from foliage. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *davisoni*. 6 subspecies in all (HBW). **Breeding:** Nests amongst roots overhanging eroded banks. Clutches and broods of 2. Eggs laid Feb-Apr, Jun. Brood host of Sunda Cuckoo.



Golden Babbler

Cyanoderma chrysaeum, Rimba mas. 13cm. R

Other name: *Stachyris chrysaea* (J&P 2012), *Stachyridopsis chrysaea* (OBI). **Original name (taxonomy):** *St[achyris]. chrysaea*, Blyth, 1844, Nepal. **Distribution:** Common resident 880 - >2,000m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan). Also in outliers Gng Benom, Tahan, Rabong, and E-Coast Range and its outliers Gng Lawit, Tapis. 370 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (mostly), Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. Also a few at Gap, ~830m, 1 at Royal Belum (elevation not given). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E from Ne-



Long Roslee Ngah (both photos)

pal to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, Yunnan, Indochina uplands, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Flitting fast in small groups often in thick vegetation from lower mid- to upper storeys. Joins bird waves. Soft and mellow calls. **Food:** Small invertebrates gleaned from surfaces. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *chrysops*. 6 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-May, Jul. Full clutch of 3. Nest a dome or ball placed on ground or suspended to max 0.6m up.

Not an easy bird to photograph, flitting fast, not stopping for any length of time when perched. I still do not have decent photos of this bird even though it is pretty common at Fraser's Hill.



Long Roslee Ngah

Grey-throated Babbler

Stachyris nigriceps, Rimba leher kelabu. 14cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 200-2,000m S to N Johor (Ledang, Endau-Rompin). Not recorded in Melaka. Also at beach level in Penang. 368 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, etc. 1 record at Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai at plains-level. TP. **Status:** LC, population in decline. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E of Nepal, far NE India, S China (S Yunnan, Guangxi), Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge.



Habits: Foraging in pairs or in small groups at lower storey undergrowth but may join bird waves to mid-storey. **Food:** Mostly small invertebrates but also some fruits. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *davisoni* in the Peninsula and *tionis* on Tioman Is. 13 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jul. Nest built mostly by female, placed on ground or up to 1.2m above ground. 2-5 eggs. Brood host of Drongo-Cuckoo (Chong 2017).

My photo of an individual, part of a pair at Awana pumphouse track, Genting Highlands, Dec, 6m away 1.5m up. They were flitting quickly in the undergrowth.

Buff-breasted Babbler

Pellorneum tickelli, Rimba ranting/bukit. 15cm. R

Other name: *Trichastoma tickelli* (Birdlife, HBW, OBI, IUCN). **Original name (taxonomy):** *Pellornium Tickelli*, Blyth, 1859, Tenasserim. **Distribution:** Common, local resident in the Titiwangsa Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan) to an upper limit of 1,380m. Also in the E-Coast Range and its outlier Gng Lawit. Lower limit put as 900m (Wells 2007), 700m (J&P 2012) and 610m (HBW). Historically recorded in Perak, Selangor, Pahang, Terengganu, N.Sembilan. New records (BIW via eBird, 2010-14) in Sungai Labua (Kedah) suggest the lower limit is possibly less than 600m, at least in the north.

Status: LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina. Wells (2007) regard records in Sumatra as unsafe. Birdlife, HBW, IUCN do not include Sumatra. And no records in eBird and OBI. **Habitat:** Dense forests and forest edge. **Habits:** Ground and understoreys. Territorial pairs with only one singing at any one time from thick cover. **Food:** Small invertebrates taken from the ground. **Sexes alike** as other babblers, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *tickelli*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** A nest with 3 eggs, 24 Feb in the Thai peninsula. No other information. **Survival:** One re-trap after 36 months in Fraser's Hill.

The Buff-breasted is rather nondescript. I first identified it in Fraser's Hill mostly because I had identified most of the common birds there. So, by elimination, that was the only option left.



Danaraj Maniam



Adult

in Bkt Larut, Gng Ulu Kali, Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, etc. Also lowland hills, 8 in N Perlis, 2 in N Kedah. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Far NE India, S China, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Skulks in undergrowth on the ground often in gullies, solitary or in pairs. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes alike** with female smaller. **Subspecies:** *leucosticta*. 7 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec-Jun. Nest placed on the ground or till 0.6m up. Eggs 2; incubation by both sexes.

Photos from Gng Ulu Kali, Pahang, the adult Dec, and immature 13 Jul, both about 4m away. Not shy in my encounters here, Fraser's Hill or N Perlis.

Streaked Wren-Babbler

Turdinus brevicaudatus, Rimba tunggal/Rimba Hujan gunung.
13cm. R

Other name: *Napothera brevicaudata* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident at various elevations depending on location. Below 50m in N Perlis (with evidence of breeding) and N Kedah; further S, above 750m on Gng Jerai (Kedah), Larut Range, E-Coast Range, Main Range S to Gng Tampin (N.Sembilan). Also in Gng Tahan, Benom, Tapis (Pahang), and Rabong (Kelantan). In Tioman, again in lowlands. No records in Melaka, Johor. 213 BIW records

Immature





Rufous-winged Fulvetta

Schoeniparus castaneiceps, Rimba Murai batu/Fulveta sayap merah.
11cm. R

Other names: *Alcippe castaneiceps* (J&P 2012, OBI), *Pseudominla castaneiceps* (HBW's name till recently). **Original name (taxonomy),** *Minla castaneiceps*, 1837, Nepal. **Distribution:** Local, fairly common resident 1,070 - >2,000m, more common in upper montane forests, in Larut Range and Main Range S to Ulu Langat, Selangor. Also Gng Tahan, Benom, Rabong. 48 BIW records mostly in Cameron Highlands and Gng Ulu Kali with 2 in Fraser's Hill. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E of Nepal to far NE



Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Moves in small parties in the undergrowth calling constantly usually in damp gullies, and can climb tree trunks vertically. Joins bird waves. Enters open grounds. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** *soror*. **Breeding:** Nest building Jan, Apr; eggs in Jul, and fledglings in Mar. Nest, a dome placed among moss or creepers 1-3m up. 3-4 eggs.

Photos from Gng Ulu Kali. On the ground, in Apr, 5m away, and the other, Apr, 4.5m away 2m up. Not shy but moves fast, skittishly, like other mixed-foraging birds, and most of the time in the undergrowth.



Mountain Fulvetta

Alcippe peracensis, Rimba Murai gunung. 16cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 800 - >2,000m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan. Also Gng Benom, Tahan (Pahang), and Rabong (Kelantan), and E-Coast Range's Gng Lawit (Terengganu) and Tapis (Pahang). Below 900m it meets the Brown Fulvetta. 473 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Gng Telapa Buruk, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, etc. with 1 each in Berjaya Hills and Gng Bintang (Sg Sedim). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *annamensis*, SC,S Laos, E Cambodia, Vietnam; *peracensis*, the Peninsula. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Moves in lower to



mid-storeys in noisy parties often in bird waves, chattering always.

Food: Insects, small berries. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Nest building Jan-May. Nest a small cup placed 1-2m up. 2 eggs. No other information.

Photos from Fraser's Hill on two different days, Mar. They moved very fast in foraging parties but occasionally paused or stopped to process food. Both photos taken from less than 4m away. At times they came to within 2m.



Himalayan Cutia

Cutia nipalensis, Rimba kutia. 19cm. R

Other name: Cutia (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Uncommon to rare resident >1,200m from Cameron Highlands S to Ulu Langat (Selangor) in the Titiwangsa Main Range. Also Gng Benom (Pahang) where it is more common (Wells 2007; J&P 2012 also includes Larut Range). 27 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, upper Genting Highlands. (Photo here from Gng Ulu Kali.) **Status:** LC, population stable globally; declining locally? TP.

Range: Himalayan foothills E from Uttar Pradesh, far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, Sichuan and Yunnan, uplands Indochina to Pen Malaysia (skipping peninsulas of Thailand and Burma). **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Usually in pairs, and small groups up to 7. Forages the canopy, occasionally down to small shrubs at forest edge. Moves up and down head first on tree trunks in nuthatch-fashion over short distances. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects, caterpillars, occasionally fruits.

Sexes differ slightly. Female has dark spots on olive-brown mantle that the male lacks. Shown here is a male. **Subspecies:** *cervinocrissa*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nest building in Mar, Jun, possibly also Apr, May. Nest an open cup placed 3-20m up.



Black Laughingthrush

Garrulax lugubris, Rimba hitam. 27cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident in Larut Range and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, 800 to 1,370m (Wells 2007), 1,500m (J&P 2012). Photographed at ~1,700m on Gng Tahan in 2016 (Chong 2017). Also in Gng Benom (Pahang). Most common below 1,200m. 111 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (mostly), Gap, Genting Highlands, Berjaya Hills, Bkt Larut, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. None in Cameron Highlands but 1 Pos Slim below it. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Suma-

tra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Moves in small noisy groups usually in thick cover to mid-storey. Very loud territorial calls. **Food:** Insects including caterpillars, spiders and possibly, seeds. **Sexes alike.** A grey-black plumage, bluish-white bare skin eye patch, and a heavy bright orange bill distinctive. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Oct-Apr. One nest was a bulky cup, 2.5m up in fork of slender sapling. 2 eggs.

Photos of an individual foraging in a small noisy group in Awana pumphouse road, Genting Highlands, Dec, 4m away 1m up, in thick undergrowth. I do not think that they were shy but were always on the move. I have twice seen similar groups of 5-6 birds in Fraser's Hill 4m away, quite in the open, but they moved too fast to get decent photos.





Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush

Ianthocincla mitrata, Rimba genting/mata putih. 23cm. R

Other name: Spectacled Laughingthrush (J&P 2012, Wells 2007), *Garrulax mitratus* (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), “Spectacled” seems more descriptive. **Distribution:** Common resident 900 - >2,000m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat, Selangor. Also Gng Tahan, Benom. Abundant in hill stations. 511 BIW records in Fraser’s Hill, Genting Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, etc. Also at Gap, 830m (actual observations could be higher). **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** From ground to mid-storey, at times higher, in small noisy

parties but may reach 30-40 birds. Often enters gardens. **Food:** Insects, fruits, young leaves, possibly nectar. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *major* (for *G.mitratus*). **Breeding:** Eggs Mar-May, Jul. One nest a shallow but solid cup ~5m up. Clutch of 2. No other information. Brood parasitism by Dark Hawk-Cuckoo.

Photos from Fraser’s Hill, Oct, and Gng Ulu Kali, Mar, both about 4.5m away. It is a delight to watch them going around in groups hunting among the foliage in their melodious chatter but with also various harsh calls, totally without care of birders present.





Malayan Laughingthrush

Trochalopteron peninsulae, Rimba mahkota merah. 27cm. R

Other names: Chestnut-crowned Laughingthrush (J&P 2012. HBW has this same named bird but its range is only the Himalayas), Malay Laughingthrush (Birdlife, HBW, OBI, IUCN), *Garrulax erythrocephalus* (J&P 2012, but its range is wider).

Distribution: Local, common resident 1,050->2,000m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat (Selangor). Also Gng Tahan, Benom (Pahang). 199 BIW records in Gng Ulu Kali, Cameron Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** The Peninsula. **Habitat:** Forests,

forest edge. **Habits:** Skulks in the undergrowth but does come out to the edge. Usually in pairs, also small parties. Usually on the ground and lower storeys but in upper montane forests may climb branches with bryophytes at mid-storey. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Nest building Feb, Mar, and possibly Sep, Dec, Jan. Nest a sturdy deep cup placed up to 1.5m up. Clutch of 1-2 eggs. No other information.

Photos from Gng Ulu Kali, Pahang, less than 6m away, Jul. Generally, it is warier than the Chestnut-capped but still can be regarded as not shy. One fledgling hopped past my foot once.





Long-tailed Sibia

Heterophasia picaoides, Sibia ekor panjang. 30cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in Larut Range, and Main Range from Cameron Highlands to Ulu Langat, Selangor (but 1 BIW record in Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, in flight), also in outliers Gng Benom and Tahan, from over 2,000m to uncommon below 1,200m, though 1 record in Benom at 700m. Many BIW records at Genting Highlands pumphouse roads, 970m. 433 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, Bkt Larut, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas to uplands of far NE Indian subcontinent, Yunnan, Indochina, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests,

Danaraj Maniam



forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** From canopy to ground in flocks. **Food:** Invertebrates, fruits, nectar, and possibly flower buds. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *wrayi*. 4 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-Jul. Nestlings tended by both parents and up to two helpers. Nest, a very deep cup or bag, placed 6-9m up.

My photo from Fraser's Hill; 6m away, Mar. It shows the brood patch feathers indicating it is nesting. Not shy, with no regard for human presence. In different lighting conditions, upperparts may look dark grey or brown.



Male

Silver-eared Mesia

Leiothrix argenteauris, Rimba telinga perak. 18cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 900->2,000m in Larut Range, and Main Range from N Perak (E-W Highway) to Ulu Langat, Selangor. Also E-Coast Range, and Gng Tahan. 321 BIW records overwhelmingly in Fraser's Hill, also Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, Genting Highlands. 3 at Gap, ~830m. Only 1 in Bkt Larut. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Moves in small parties calling often from canopy of mid-sized trees, to low shrubs and to the ground. Enters hill station gardens. Joins

Female



bird waves. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes nearly alike.** Male has brighter red upper (not seen in photo) and undertail coverts; female's a duller tawny orange. Juvenile like female but duller. **Subspecies:** *tahanensis*, endemic here. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nest building is likely in all months Jan-Oct. Nest built over 4 days, a deep cup on the ground to 2m up. 2-3 eggs. Incubation, by both parents (only female at night) 13-14 days; nestling period 12 days, post-fledging dependence 22 days.

Photos from Fraser's Hill, Jun, 5m away. Not shy. Usually quite oblivious of birders' presence. A pretty bird and a delight of the hill stations.



Blue-winged Minla

Actinodura cyanouoptera, Rimba Murai gunung/Rimba siva. 16cm.
R

Other names: *Siva cyanouoptera* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). *Minla cyanouoptera* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Original name (taxonomy):** *Siva cyanouoptera*. Hodgson, 1837, Nepal. **Distribution:** Common resident at 1,050-1,680m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat, Selangor. Also in the E-Coast Range. 238 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands (~970m), etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himala-

yas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, S,SE Tibet, S China, Indochina uplands. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents canopy to mid-storey usually in small groups. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects, fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *sordidior*. **Breeding:** HBW, Mar-Aug; Wells (2007) finds no pattern. Nests, built with helpers, a small cup, within 2m up occasionally 8m. 2-5 eggs; incubation 14 days; nestling 16 days.

Photo from Fraser's Hill, Aug, 5m away. Not shy. Quite often the blue on the wing is not very clear, and one could misidentify the bird. In my case it could possibly be in breeding plumage or the light just happened to strike it at the right angle.



Chestnut-tailed Minla

Actinodura strigula, Rimba Murai keladi. 17cm. R

Other names: Bar-throated Minla (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), *Minla strigula* (J&P 2012, OBI), *Chrysominla strigula* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Original name (taxonomy):** [*Mesia*] *Siva strigula*, Hodgson, 1837, Nepal. **Distribution:** Common resident 1,585->2,100m in N Larut Range and Main Range from Gng Korbu to Genting Highlands. Also Gng Benom, Tahan. Especially common in Gng Brinchang and Gng Ulu Kali. 91 BIW records in Gng Ulu Kali and Cameron Highlands (Tanah Rata, Gng Brinchang). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP.



Range: Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, S,SE Tibet, S China, Indochina uplands. **Habitat:** Ericaceous forests, secondary growth and edges. **Habits:** Moves in small groups often joins bird waves in low bushes to mid-storey of trees. Also open ground. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike.** Subspecies (HBW): *malayana*. 6 in all. **Breeding:** Fledglings in Mar, Jul. Nest a neat cup, 1.5-3m up. 2-4 eggs.

Photos from Gng Brinchang road (1,700m?) of two individuals in a bird wave at mid-storey. Moving fast, they paused just long enough for the shots and then disappeared. “Bar-throated Minla” seems a more apt description.



Rufous-browed Flycatcher

Anthipes solitaris, Sambar rengkong putih. 13cm. R

Other name: *Ficedula solitaris* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Common resident at 900-1,520m in Larut Range and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk (N.Sembilan). And Gng Benom, Tahan, Ra-bong; also E-Coast Range in Gng Lawit, Tapis. 189 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (mostly), Bukit Larut, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Berjaya Hills (1 record). **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** SE Laos, S Vietnam, W Thailand, S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs, keeps to lower storey in the shade. Comes to the ground to pick



prey or sallies from a perch. Territorial. **Food:** No information; likely to include small invertebrates. But see photo. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *malayana*. 3 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nest building Jan-May. Nest placed <2m off the ground. 2-3 eggs; fledglings cared by both parents.

Photos from Fraser's Hill. With prey, 3 April, for nestling, 4.5m away 1m up. The other, Jul, 4m away 1m up. Usual comfort distance ~5m. Any nearer and it flies off, though at times tame, and confiding to nearer distances. Likely that it is shy when nesting, and tries to distract attention away from the nest.



Male

Verditer Flycatcher

Eumyias thalassinus, Sambar ranting, 17cm. R

Distribution: Common resident on hill slopes from lowland to 1,300m minimum. Common at Gap (830m), and Genting Highlands (970m). 358 BIW records in Gng Telapa Buruk, Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Taman Rimba Ampang, Pangsun, etc. **Status:** LC to NT locally, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *E.t. thalassinus*, breeds Himalayas from N Pakistan E to NE India, C,S China, Indochina; non-breeding S to C,S India, Bangladesh, C Burma, C Thailand, SE China; *E.t. thalassoides*, S Burma, the Peninsula, Sumatra, Borneo. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Mostly

Female



at canopy but sometimes to lower storeys. Visits streams. Aerial sallies from perches often returning to the same place. Alone or in pairs. Sustained singing indicates territorial behaviour. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes nearly alike**, male has dark lores, female's duller. Generally, female is duller. **Breeding:** possibly May, Jun. Nest a large open cup placed in hole or crevice in tree trunk, wall, in epiphytic fern or on ground. 3-4 eggs.

Photos from Fraser's Hill, Sep, possibly of a pair, 4-5m away 3-4m up. Above, the male and the other, possibly female (though the lores seems too dark for a female). Not bothered with photographers.



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Female

Little Pied Flycatcher

Ficedula westermanni, Sambar gunung/hitam putih. 12cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at 1,000-2,030m in Larut Range S to Gng Bubu; Main Range S to Ulu Langat (Selangor), and E-Coast Range N to Gng Lawit. Also Gng Benom, Tahan, Rabong. 237 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut. 1 each at Gap (unreliable?), ~830m, and Gng Ulu Kali. **Status:** LC, population declining. **TP. Range:** Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China to upland Indochina, Greater and

Male



Lesser Sundas, Bali, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, and forest edge usually by streams. **Habits:** Frequents canopy in the forest, and mid-storey at forest edge. May feed on the ground. Joins bird waves. **Food:** Insects gleaned from surfaces or by aerial sallies. **Subspecies:** nominate *westermanni*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Apr-Jul. Nest, a cup placed up to 10m from ground or on ground. 2 eggs.

Male photo from Fraser's Hill, Jun, 4m away 3m up at Jalan Mager. Not shy but never stayed put for any length of time. I have several photos of the male but none of the female. Just bad luck or females are shyer. Also, because it is nondescript it is easy to overlook.



First winter Male

ing months. Sallies from a perch to catch insects like most flycatchers, from foliage, and from ground. **Food:** Insects, and sometimes, fruits.

Sexes differ. The female is like the first winter male except that throat and breast are duller although this can be difficult to distinguish in the field. **Subspecies:** None. Still, there are slight differences between birds in different parts of its range, e.g. the length of the male's supercilium, and some differences in the wing bars. See additionally, for e.g. images in the Oriental Bird Images (OBI) Database.

Mugimaki Flycatcher

Ficedula mugimaki, Sambar mugimaki. 13cm. M

Distribution: Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor up to 2,030m. 216 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Gng Ulu Kali, Gng Telapa Buruk, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Berjaya Hills, Gap, Air Itam Dalam, Ulu Muda, Bkt Rengit, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Breeding E Russia, N China, wintering Indochina (except Burma), Greater Sundas, Sulawesi, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forest edge, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Solitary in non-breed-

Male





Male

The adult male, front view, this page, was from Gng Ulu Kali, upper Genting Highlands, Pahang, Dec, 4m away 2m up. He was not particularly shy and allowed a reasonably close approach, as most flycatchers do. The other male, back view, was from Jalan Mager (Fraser's Hill), Jan, 5m away 1m up. He, however, was moving along too rapidly for me to take more photos at leisure. The immature, first winter male was from Gng Ulu Kali, Feb, 5m away 4m up. Again, not shy but did not stay put for more photos.

I believe, unlike many flycatchers, the Mugmaki does not aerial sally and returns to the same perch. Although at times it does linger at a spot, in general this flycatcher is always on the move and has to be photographed quickly.

Uzair Ab Rahim

Female





Juvenile

Snowy-browed Flycatcher

Ficedula hyperythra, Sambar kudung. 12cm. R

Distribution: Local, fairly common resident from 1,400-2,040m in the Titiwangsa Main Range from Gng Korbu (Perak) to Genting Highlands. Also in outliers Gng Benom and Tahan (Pahang). 54 BIW records, recorded only from two places, Cameron Highlands (mostly Gng Brinchang, above 1,600m) and Gng Ulu Kali (upper Genting Highlands, ~1,700m). **Status:** LC, population declining. **TP. Range:** The Himalayas to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Taiwan, uplands of Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Philippines, Sulawesi. **Habitat:** Ericaceous forests. **Habits:** Solitary or in pairs

Subadult



at lower storey and comes down to the ground to feed. Also hops on the ground. Rarely sallies for insects unlike other flycatchers. May sit motionless on its perch for a long time. **Food:** Insects but no specific information. **Sexually dimorphic** as shown. **Subspecies:** *sumatrana* in the Peninsula, and in Sumatra and Borneo. 21 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** A recent fledgling attended by a parent recorded 29 Jul on Gng Berembun, Cameron Highlands. Also juveniles in Jun and Jul. Nest built by both sexes, an untidy cup or oval with side entrance, placed on ground, more usually low down but up to 12m. Clutch 2-4 eggs; both sexes incubate eggs and feed chicks.



Female

All photos taken at Gng Ulu Kali. Male and female on the same day in Oct, juvenile 24 Jun, and subadult 24 Jul. They were not shy and tended not to move in quick dashes which provided good opportunities to photograph them with ample time at close range. All photos from less than 4m away and less than 3m up. The only problem was they often kept to the interior of the forest which of course tends to be dark.

Birding at the radar station Ulu Kali was especially good in the mornings to catch the birds feeding on insects attracted to the lights left on from the previous night. Many migrants stop here to store-up on food. The station, however, is now closed to the public.

Male





Immature Male

Habits: Lower to mid-storeys on open perches, aerial sallying for insects, and caught from surfaces. May come down to feed on the ground. Alone or in pairs. Joins bird waves. Common at hill stations where it can be seen quite often by quiet shaded roadsides. Sings softly from fixed positions within a certain area indicating territorial behaviour. **Food:** Insects including moths, and a female seen eating a worm sized snake. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Jul. Nests recorded built in the spaces between stones in a stone-lined road bank. In the forests, it is built in moss covered banks, and on top of a hollow broken-off tree or tree-fern.

Large Niltava

Niltava grandis, Sambar besar/raja. 22cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at 1,200-2,050m in Larut Range and Main Range S to Ulu Langat (Selangor). Also in Gng Benom and Tahan (Pahang). 276 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, Bkt Larut, and at Gap (3 records, 830m) and Genting Highlands (1 record, 970m). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *N.g. grandis*, Himalayas E to far NE India, S China, C Burma, N,W Thailand; *N.g. griseiventris*, S China (SE Yunnan), NE,C Laos, NW Vietnam; *N.g. decorata*, SC Vietnam; *N.g. decipiens*, the Peninsula, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Forests and forest edge usually located within or near gullies and streams.

Immature Female





Female

This bird, often described as “tame and confiding”, allows a close approach. Only when approached nearer than 4m will it fly off, but even then, to somewhere nearby. In Fraser’s Hill, most of my encounters were along Jalan Mager and Hemmant Trail. The favourite track of birders, Jalan Girdle (Telecom Loop), was not as fruitful.

All photos from Gng Ulu Kali, farther up from Genting Highlands resort, 4-5m away. The adult female in Jul, adult male, Apr, immature female, 13 Apr, and immature male, 24 Jul. The immature female was very aggressive, chasing off other birds near her when feeding for insects at the radar station.

Male





Juvenile

Lesser Shortwing

Brachypteryx leucophris, Murai kakap/Murai Kerdil gunung. 13cm.
R

Distribution: Common resident in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Ulu Langat (Selangor), at 975-2,000m, and in outliers Gng Ra-bong, Tahan, Benom. Also Gng Lawit in the E-Coast Range. 147 BIW records, mostly heard, in Gng Ulu Kali, Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Berjaya Hills. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** E Himalayas to far NE Indian sub-continent to S China, Indochina, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Lesser Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, sometimes forest edge. **Habits:** Skulks from the un-

Subadult Male



dergrowth to the ground, alone or in pairs. Loud melodious song, possibly territorial. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes differ.** Male is very similar to the subadult male (right photo) — once the remnant brown feathers moult into the full adult male dark grey colour, and with the white supercilium clearer. Female like juvenile but with a white supercilium. **Subspecies:** *wrayi*. 5 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-Jun. Note: dates of photos for juvenile and subadult are far from Mar-Jun, suggesting that Aug or early Sep could be added to the breeding period.

Photos both taken at Gng Ulu Kali, 4m away, juvenile 14 Oct, sub-adult male, 5 Nov. Generally shy.

Siberian Blue Robin

Larvivora cyane, Murai Siberia. 15cm. M

Other name: *Luscinia cyane* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor from lowlands to >1,700m. Not recorded S.Perai, Melaka. J&P (2012) says over 900m only during passage. BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Gng Ulu Kali and Berjaya Hills (early Mar, Dec, Jan) suggest that visitors also take to high elevations. Autumn passage is 16 Sep-20 Nov, and Spring, 12 Apr-10 May. 62 BIW records in Bkt Rengit, Berjaya Hills, Panti, Wang Kelian, Sg Tekala, etc. **Status:** NT locally, LC globally, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *cyane*, breeding SC Siberia, N Mongolia; non-breeding to Indochina; *bochaiensis*, E Siberia, NE China, N Korea, Japan; non-breeding to the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests including freshwater swamp, overgrown plantations, and on passage, scrub, reed-beds. **Habits:** Undergrowth to ground. Feeds mostly on the ground. Flicks tail. **Food:** Small invertebrates and possibly fruits. **Sexes differ,** female is olive-brown above, light mottled brown breast, whitish belly, and bluish-brown upper tail.

Photo from Gng Ulu Kali (1700m), 21 Nov, 4m away with the bird in the undergrowth. Rather shy. The date is just outside the Autumn passage period, and this bird was seen regularly, i.e. a visitor, not on passage.



Male

Malayan Whistling-Thrush

Myophonus robinsoni, Murai Tiong batu. 25cm. R

Other name: Malaysian/Malay Whistling-Thrush (J&P 2012/HBW, Birdlife, IUCN). **Distribution:** Endemic to Pen Malaysia, from Cameron Highlands S to Gng Nuang (Selangor), 760-1,700m. 29 BIW records at Fraser's Hill (27), Gap (2). **Status:** In 2010 listed as LC but now NT; population declining. TP. **Range:** Pen Malaysia. **Habitat:** Forests especially with streams, gullies. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs in lower storey or ground. While foraging on the ground, often cocks its head at 45 degrees, and fans tail. **Food:** Invertebrates. **Sexes alike,** female smaller. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs 1-2, in Mar, Sep. Nest a large, solid cup 2-6m up.

The Malayan can easily be confused with the Blue Whistling-Thrush. Some old records in Cameron Highlands are suspect; they could be that of the Blue (Wells 2007). I have seen a Blue at the Robinson's waterfall, ~1,400m. One distinguishing feature is the orbital eye-ring of the Malayan. It is a yellowish narrow ring but none for Blue. Also, the Blue does not cock its head although it also fully fans its tail. And, the size difference, 33cm versus 25cm for the Malayan.



Uzair Ab Rahim



Slaty-backed Forktail

Enicurus schistaceus, Murai Cegar berjalur/Cegar tengkuk kelabu.
25cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 800-1,740m, possibly down to 600m (but note BIW records below), in Bkt Larut, and Main Range from S Perak to Genting Highlands to Gng Bunga Buah, Selangor. Also in Gng Tahan. 197 BIW records in Fraser's Hill (mostly), Cameron Highlands, Genting Highlands, Bkt Larut, Gng Ulu Kali, etc. 1 each in Kuala Joram (190m) and Pergau Dam (770m). **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** C,E Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent to SC,E



China, hill tracts of Indochina. **Habitat:** Forested rocky streams. Also on roads near streams. **Habits:** Forages along streams from rock to rock and banks, usually in pairs. Possibly territorial. Flicks tail. **Food:** Invertebrates. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Possibly Feb-Jul. Nest a cup or semi-dome, attached e.g. to rock or boulder with mud. Eggs 2-5.

Photos both from Fraser's Hill. Top, Mar, 6m away. In general, all fork-tails are shy, especially when approached, but in this case I was hidden waiting for it to approach to a spot that I knew was on its patrol. Once it spotted me, it did not linger. The bird and its partner were quite often seen at the upper gate of Gap road. Photo right from Jeriau, 8m away.



Female

White-tailed Robin

Myiomela leucura , Murai ekor putih. 18cm. R

Other name: White-tailed Blue Robin (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). *Cinclidium leucurum* (MNS 2016). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident in Larut Range, Main Range from Cameron Highlands to Fraser's Hill, at 1,200-1,700m. Also in E-Coast Range's Gng Lawit (down to 760m) and Gelemat. 109 BIW records in Cameron Highlands (mostly), Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill. 1 in Berjaya Hills, ~1,000m. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *leucurum*, C,E Himalayas, NE India, E to C China, Burma, Pen Malaysia, C Indochi-

Male



na, Hainan Is.; *cambodiana*, SE Thailand, Cambodia; *montium*, Taiwan. **Habitat:** Forests, often near streams. I have seen it in open vegetable plots next to a forest in Cameron Highlands. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs, usually in undergrowth but to mid-storey. Forages mostly on the ground. Often fans tail. **Food:** Earthworms, caterpillars, flying insects. **Breeding:** Eggs 2-5, Mar-Jul. Nest placed in shrub close to ground.

Female photo at Hemmant Trail, Fraser's Hill, 4m away 1.5m up, Mar. The male from Cameron Highlands, 4m away 4m up, Apr. At first when I tried to approach to within 7m it flew off just ahead. I waited and about half an hour later it relented, allowing the close approach.



Aviancatspace Cheng (both photos)

White-throated Rock-Thrush

Monticola gularis, Murai Batu rengkong putih. 19cm. M

Distribution: Rare winter visitor from low elevations to 1,200m. Historical records in Bkt Larut, Fraser's Hill, Kenyir dam, possibly Melaka (and Singapore). 14 BIW records, with 9 in Bkt Larut, 2 Berjaya Hills, and 1 each in Kenyir dam, Sg Sedim, and Bintang Hijau. **Status:** VU locally from dependence on forests, LC globally, population stable. TP. **Range:** Breeding SE Russia (E from Lake Baikal) S to NE China and N Korea; non-breeding to SE China and Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, wooded areas. **Habits:** Solitary. Generally stays put once it



arrives in an area, i.e. sedentary. Forages ground to mid-storeys. **Food:** Invertebrates and fruits.

Sexually dimorphic. Shown here is the male. Female has a narrow white throat and scales of brown on upper and under parts. **Subspecies:** None. **Migration:** Oct-Apr with 21 Oct being an extreme late arrival date and returning home 7 Apr (recorded at Hala-Bala Wildlife Sanctuary, Yala, S Thailand).



Male

Siberian Thrush

Geokichla sibirica, Murai Siberia kelabu. 24cm. M

Other name: *Zoothera sibirica* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor at low elevations but mostly montane to 1,800m. 100 BIW records in Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Genting Highlands, etc. Also a few lowlands including Batu Ferringhi, FRIM Kepong. Historically not recorded Perlis, Kelantan, Terengganu but 1 BIW record for Perlis. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *sibirica*, C,E Siberia S to N Mongolia, N Manchuria, Russian Far East; non-breeding to Indochina S to Sumatra, Java; *davisoni*, Sakhalin, S Kuril Is.; non-breeding to SE China S to S Sundaic region. **Habitat:** Forests, forest

Female

edge. Visitors in montane areas but on passage, everywhere, in varied habitat. **Habits:** Skulks in the undergrowth but does go out into the open. Alone or in groups especially at fruiting trees. **Food:** Invertebrates, berries. **Migration:** Departs from breeding areas early Sep to mid-Oct. In Pen Malaysia, mid-Oct to late Apr (autumn passage extends to early Dec).

Photos from Gng Ulu Kali on the same day, seemed not to be a pair, Mar, 4m away. Not shy but always on the move. This is the *davisoni* subspecies by the lack of a white belly. Note that in poor light, the male looks slaty grey not the glistening blue in the photo.





Orange-bellied Leafbird

Chloropsis hardwickii, Daun perut oren/bukit. 20cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in Bkt Larut and Main Range from Cameron Highlands S to Ulu Langat, Selangor, 820-1,900m. Also in Gng Benom. 267 BIW records in Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Cameron Highlands, Gap, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Frequents canopy, alone or in pairs. Joins bird waves. Mimics other birds, e.g. Streaked Spiderhunter (I have been fooled a few times). **Food:** Insects, nectar, fruits. **Subspecies:** *malayana*. 4 subspecies in total. **Breeding:** Nest building 4 Mar. In captivity, incubation period 13 days, fledging

Male



period 12 days. No other information.

Female

Photos from Fraser's Hill, both in Mar in bottlebrush trees, 4m away 4m up. They are fond of the nectar from its flowers.

As mentioned above, its range in the Main Range is only from Cameron Highlands to the S but nothing to the N. This is odd given that it is common in the hill stations. Wells (2007) remarks: "Highly unlikely not to occur more widely". Possibly its existence is tied to human settlements. Thus, since there are no settlements N of Cameron Highlands, it is not found north of it. Its presence in Gng Benom goes against this view, but perhaps there are settlements there?

Fire-breasted Flowerpecker

Dicaeum ignipectus, Sepah Puteri sulong/gunung.

9cm. R

Old name: Buff-bellied Flowerpecker (J&P 1999).

Distribution: Fairly common resident in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, 820->1,750m. Recorded at 550m in upper Gombak forest reserve, Selangor State Park, and many times in Kuala Lompat, Pahang, in the lowland. 201 BIW records, within the range given above but 1 from lowland Bidor. Several stated as Gng Brinchang, max ~2,030m, but could be recorded lower. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Himalayas E from Kashmir to far NE Indian subcontinent, SE Tibet, S China, Indochina S to Sumatra, Philippines. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge. **Habits:** Usually in the canopy but comes down to fruiting shrubs including *melastoma*. Alone or in pairs. Territorial behaviour. **Food:** Fruits, possibly also nectar. **Sexes differ.** Female has yellowish buff underparts, olive upperparts. **Subspecies:** *dolichorhynchum*. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nestlings in mid-Aug. Nest an oval purse, entrance hole on side near top, suspended 3-9m above ground. Eggs 2-3.

Photo of a male recorded along Jalan Girdle (Telecom Loop), Fraser's Hill, Nov, 5m away 4m up, in the canopy of a small tree against the sun. It stayed a few moments before disappearing.



Male



Male

subcontinent, S,SE Tibet, Yunnan, upland Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** Alone or in pairs, lower storey to canopy. Sometimes hovers at a flower but cannot sustain like hummingbirds. **Food:** Nectar, insects. **Subspecies:** *wrayi*. 10 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Jun. Clutch of 1-3 eggs. Nests suspended under tree fern fronds 4m up.

Photos from Fraser's Hill, both in Jan, the male 4m away at *Lantana casara* flowers, and the female at about the same distance. Not shy.

Black-throated Sunbird

Aethopyga saturata, Kelicap gunung. 11cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in Larut Range, and Titiwangsa Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, above 820m. Also in outliers Gng Benom, Tahan, Rabong, and in E-Coast Range's Gng Lawit, Tapis. Note 2 BIW records (by seasoned birders) at plains-level in Langkawi and Damai Laut, Perak. Also 1 Perak coastal record in eBird by AJ Sebastian in 2016, and 1 BIW record at Gng Ledang, Johor, i.e. S of Gng Telapa Buruk. 392 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, Bkt Larut, Gng Telapa Buruk, etc. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Himalayas to far NE Indian

Female





Streaked Spiderhunter

Arachnothera magna, Kelicap Jantung gunung. 19cm. R

Distribution: Common resident 800-1,890m in Larut Range, and Main Range S to Gng Telapa Buruk, N.Sembilan, and in outliers Gng Benom, Tahan (Pahang); also in E-Coast Range. 483 BIW records in Fraser's Hill, Bkt Larut, Genting Highlands, Cameron Highlands, Gng Ulu Kali, etc. Also in Perak lowlands, 2 at Bkt Larut foothills (85m), 1 in Kledang. **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** Nepal to far NE Indian subcontinent, S China, Indochina. **Habitat:** Forests, forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** Forages the canopy in no-gap forests; in more open spaces, canopy to lower storey. Noisy. Alone or in pairs.



Joins bird waves. **Food:** Nectar, insects. Fond of wild banana nectar. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *pagodarum*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nest building Feb-Apr, also Sep. A nest attached to the undersurface of a banana leaf, 2m up. 2-3 eggs.

Photo with prey at Genting Highlands's Awana pumphouse road, 5m away 4m up, Nov. The other from Fraser's Hill, 4m away 4m up, Sep. They were oblivious of me. Even though they flitted about, they occasionally stayed put long enough for a few photos.

Collared Kingfisher



Birds of the Mangrove Forests

Lesser Adjutant

Leptoptilos javanicus, Botak kecil/Upih botak.
114cm. R

Distribution: Common to scarce resident in limited areas. 279 BIW records in Johor (Parit Jawa, Sg Balang), Selangor (KSNP, Kapar), Perak (Kuala Gula, Ulu Dedap), S.Perai (Pulau Burung), etc. Also Panti and Pekan peat swamp. And per Chong (2017), Paka (Terengganu), near a freshwater swamp forest. **Status:** VU, population rapidly declining due to felling of colony trees, wetland destruction, agricultural pesticides, egg and chick collecting. TP. **Range:** Nepal, India, Sri Lanka to S China (now probably extinct), Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Mangroves on the W coast (Perak, Selangor, Johor), ricefields (Ulu Dedap, Sg Balang), peat swamp forests (Pahang), river mudflats.

Habits: Alone, in pairs or loose groups. May nest in small colonies. Walks in mudflats and ricefields looking for prey. **Food:** Fish, molluscs, crustacea, mudskippers. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs laid possibly Feb-May. Nests 35m up. Large stick nest, 1.5m wide, 1.2m deep, typically in mangroves. Normally 3 eggs (2-4). **Survival:** Oldest captive bird over 30 years old.

Photo from Parit Jawa, 40m away, Oct. At the mudflat beach near the town where this bird is still quite common.





Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea, Pucung seriap. 102cm. R M?

Distribution: Common resident and possibly winter visitor, mostly on the W coast. 553 BIW records from KSNP, Kapar, Kinta-Malim Nawar-Bidor wetlands, Parit Jawa, Pulau Burung, etc. Smaller numbers in E coast (Tioman, Maran, Sedili Kecil). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *cinerea*, most of Palearctic, thinly through Africa, India, Sri Lanka; *jouyi*, China (except NW), Russian Far East, Japan S to N Burma, Indochina, Greater Sundas, W Lesser Sundas; additional winterers in Indochina including Philippines; *firasa*, Madagascar; *monicae*, Mauritania. **Habitat:** Coastal mangroves and mudflats (resident), inland swamps, ricefields (either migrant or resident extending range or both). **Habits:** Hunts alone

Danaraj Maniam



in shallow waters. Rests and roosts in flocks. **Food:** Aquatic creatures. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Resident nests W coast in mangroves, incubation recorded Jan, Jul. Those breeding in Kinta Nature Park (Dec, Jan, Jun, Jul in BIW) and nearby areas, are migrants that overstay or more likely, residents that moved inland. Also Selangor, in Taman Tasik Shah Alam, and Ulu Yam. Breeds in Putrajaya Wetlands throughout the year (Chong 2017).

My photo from KSNP, Sep, 20m away. Generally shy if less than 20m away. I think it is less shy when resting relative to feeding. I have photographed at 15m, resting.

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea, Pucung serandau. 97cm. R M

Distribution: Fairly common resident and winter visitor at low elevations. 842 BIW records in S.Pera (ricefields, Pulau Burung), Selangor (KSNP, Kapar, Sekincau), Perak (ex-mining pools, Ulu Dedap ricefields, Kuala Gula mangroves), Johor (Sg Balang ricefields), Perlis (Chuping), etc. Historically none in Melaka, Terengganu but some BIW records for both. **Status:** LC, population decreasing partly from nest raiding. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *purpurea*, W Palearctic, E to Kazakhstan, Iran, sub-Saharan Africa; *madagascariensis*, Madagascar; *manilensis*, S,SE Asia, S,E China to Far East Russia, and S to Greater Sundas, Philippines, Sulawesi, Buru, Lesser Sundas; *bournei*, Cape Verde Is. **Habitat:** Inland fresh water habitats, at most brackish; mangroves. Unlike Grey Heron, does not use intertidal zone. **Habits:** Hunts alone, rests and roosts communally sometimes with other herons. Usually waits silently for fish to come. **Food:** Aquatic prey. Also small birds. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Nests in mangroves, reeds, fern-marsh, possibly all year round. In Putrajaya Wetlands, all year round (Chong 2017).

Photo from Gua Tempurung, Perak, 20m away 10m up. Not shy at least if farther than 20m. I think less skittish than the Grey.





Little Egret

Egretta garzetta, Bangau kecil. 61cm. R M

Distribution: Uncommon resident, common passage migrant and winter visitor in the lowlands. 1,315 BIW records in S.Perai, Selangor (Kapar, KSNP), Perak (Bercham, Malim Nawar), etc. Historically not recorded in Perlis, Penang but with a number of BIW records. **Status:** LC, population increasing. **TP. Range:** Palearctic from Britain, Africa E to Japan, Middle East, India, Indochina, Barbados, Greater Sundas E to New Guinea, Australia. **Habitat:** Mangroves, mudflats, inland water. **Habits:** Forages alone, roosts communally. **Food:** Aquatic and

land prey. **Sexes alike. Breeding:** Some records in Malim Nawar (Nov 2001) and Rawang (Mar 2005). **Subspecies:** *garzetta* (yellow feet, migrant), *nigripes* (black feet, rare resident).

Bird in stream was from Hulu Kelang (Selangor), 14 Nov, 7m away, in breeding plumage as shown by the long nuchal plumes (also plumes on breast and back). Non-breeding from Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, 12 Nov, 10m away, lacks these plumes. Shy. I was able to photograph from 7m by hiding behind a tree and waiting for it to come near.. One way for me to distinguish this egret from the others is to remember the “formula”, black bill, black legs, yellow feet (migrant), and black feet for the rare resident.



Chinese Pond-Heron

Ardeola bacchus, Pucung cina. 46cm. M

Distribution: Common winter visitor mostly at low elevations. 272 BIW records in S.Perai, Bercham, Universiti Malaysia Terengganu, Kamunting, Selangor (Kapar, KSNP), etc. 1 at 1,400m in Cameron Highlands. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Breeds from Russian Far East, NE, E China, SW Japan to NE India, N Burma. Winters in Indochina, Borneo, Sumatra. **Habitat:** Flooded ricefields, sludge and oxidation ponds, swamps, mudflats, mangroves and other water areas. A few BIW records of forest habitats (but could be near water). **Habits:** Forages alone or in groups but spaced out. Rests and roosts communally. Tends to feed at pond margins.

Food: Small vertebrates, insects. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None. Has distinct breeding and winter plumage. Shown here is a bird in breeding plumage, ready to go back north. When this bird assumes its non-breeding plumage, it is quite difficult to distinguish it from the Indian and Javan Pond-Herons in non-breeding plumage. Those arriving mid-Oct still show remnant breeding plumage and reassume this in Feb before heading back.

Photo taken in Perlis, 13 Apr, 10m away, at Bkt Jernih, from my car (used as a partial hide). In general, pretty shy.





Striated Heron

Butorides striata, Pucung keladi. 46cm. R M

Other names: Little Heron (J&P 2012, OBI), Green-backed Heron (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident, winter visitor and may be passage migrant, at low elevations. 907 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. NP. **Range:** Tropics and sub-tropics around the world except Canada, Saharan Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, Europe. Northerners migrate S to the Peninsula and Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** River banks with mangroves, ponds, inland swamps, rice fields, mudflats, etc. **Habits:** Hunts usually alone by water's edge or in shallow water. Waits also on wires or jetties. Raises crest when alarmed. **Food:** Aquatic prey, possibly including mud-



skippers. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** Residents and most migrants are *javanicus*, other migrants are *amurensis*. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Sep, with one record in Nov, but most in May. Cases of apparent siblicide and cannibalism have been reported among chicks.

Photos of an individual from Hulu Kelang, Selangor, at a large drain with plenty of fish, Nov, 7m away. Generally not shy but this one was quite nervous. I had to let it get used to my presence by staying put in one spot.

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Nycticorax nycticorax, Pucung kuak. 61cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident but local. On the W coast, from Perlis to Selangor, and Melaka, Johor. Inland wetlands of Batu Gajah, Malim Nawar, Kampar (Perak); swamp forest of Bandar Tasik Putri and Dengkil wetlands (Selangor), and Sg Tembeling (Pahang). Also, a free-flying flock in the National Zoo. Rarer on the E-Coast. All Pen Malaysian population spreads from Perak's Kerian coast (Wells 1999). **Status:** LC, population decreasing globally but possibly increasing locally. TP.

Range and Subspecies: *nycticorax*, C,S Europe, N Africa, C, S, E Asia S to Java, Sulawesi, Timor, Philippines; sub-Saharan Africa, Madagascar. Some N breeders winter S; *hoactli*, S Canada, USA, C,S America to N Chile, NC Argentina, Hawaii.; *obscurus*, N Chile, NC Argentina S to Tierra del Fuego; *falklandicus*, Malvinas/Falkland Is. **Habitat:** Mangroves, swamps, ricefields, aquaculture ponds, mudflats.

Habits: Breeding and roosting in mangroves but feeds in other areas, including ricefields, mudflats. Feeds mainly at night, also in the day. Call is a loud *kuak*. **Food:** Fish, possibly others too. **Sexes alike.** Juvenile has whitish buff spots above, whitish buff streaks below. **Breeding:** Season could be all year round. All year round at Putrajaya Wetlands (Chong 2017). Eggs 3, at times up to 6.



Danaraj Maniam

Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus, Lang merah. 43-51cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in coastal areas to quite a few kilometres inland mainly on the W coast. 1,115 BIW records in S.Perai (ricefields, Pulau Burung, Air Itam Dalam), Selangor (KSNP, Kapar, Sekincau), Perak (Ulu Dedap ricefields, Kuala Gula), etc. Some sightings in wooded Kuala Lumpur areas, and coastal Terengganu. **Status:** LC, population declining from habitat loss, persecution, and pesticides. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *indus*, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka through Indochina to

Amar-Singh HSS



S China; *intermedius*, the Peninsula, Philippines, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi; *girrenera*, Moluccas, New Guinea, N,E Australia; *flavirostris*, Solomon Is. **Habitat:** Mangroves, sub-coastal ricefields and other water habitats. Often seen in fishing villages. **Habits:** Flies in pairs or small flocks. Roosts in flocks but apart in tall trees. **Food:** May go for discarded fish and offal but also live prey. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Nests in various habitats including mangroves, swamps, dry land. Nests reused year on year. Chicks Jan-Aug. 1-2 eggs; incubation 26-35 days; fledging after 40-45 days.

My photo from Air Itam Dalam freshwater swamp, S.Perai, 40m away 20m up, Dec. Generally shy especially when perching. Even at 30-40m away in KSNP they tended to fly off when approached.





Slaty-breasted Rail

Gallirallus striatus, Sinter. 30cm. R M?

Other name: *Lewina striata* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident and possible occasional winter visitor at low elevations. No records for Terengganu. 74 BIW records in Kg Permatang Nibong, Sg Rambai, Ulu Dedap, Bercham, Kamunting, etc. Historically not recorded in Perlis but with 6 records. Being Perlis born and bred I know this rail exists here and have seen it too. None in Kelantan, Pahang.

Status: LC, population increasing. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Philippines, N

Francis Yap (both photos)

Juvenile and Adult



Sulawesi. **Habitat:** Edge of mangroves, ricefields, reed-beds, edge of overgrown canals and ditches, quiet gardens. **Habits:** Keeps to the undergrowth appearing only briefly in the open. Shy. Typically solitary unless with chicks. **Food:** No information locally but globally includes invertebrates and seeds.

Sexes alike. Photos show parent with chick. Subspecies (from HBW): *gularis* (resident) and *albiventer* (visitor) and possible intergradations between the two. 8 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid possibly in all months except Apr, Aug. Nests on the ground or slightly raised using grass for padding. Eggs 5-9, incubation 19-22 days.



Danaraj Maniam

Female (below), Male (top)

Pink-necked Pigeon

Treron vernans, Punai gading. 25cm. R

Other name: Pink-necked Green-pigeon (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident at low elevations including islands. Not recorded in Kelantan. 811 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population stable. Protected. **Range:** Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Sulawesi, Halmahera, Lombok, Sumbawa, Philippines. **Habitat:** Open country, forest edge, mangroves, wooded gardens. Most common pigeon in settled, cultivated wooded areas. **Habits:** Usually in flocks which can be quite large. Likes to roost in swamps including man-



groves. Like other green pigeons, hardly comes to the ground. **Food:** Fruits such as figs and palms. Also feeds on oil palm fruits' outer flesh on the ground (Chong 2017). **Subspecies:** *vernans* on mainland, *adinus* on Tioman. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Nov-Aug. Male gathers twigs and passes to female to build. Avoids building in closed-canopy forests; edge of mangroves is used as well as trees in its usual habitats.

My photo from Kg Sahabat, Perlis, Dec, 30m away. This bird is very finicky, easily spooked, especially when resting. Best bet to photograph is when they are feeding.



Uzair Ab Rahim

Female

China, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Philippines, New Guinea. **Habitat:** Tidal creeks, aquaculture ponds near mangroves, open inland waterways, open marshland; also rivers in forests with open canopy. **Habits:** Hunts by plunge diving from perches 1-2m up. Success rate about half of attempts. Swipes prey. **Food:** Fish, shrimps, crabs, small mudskippers. **Sexes nearly alike**, male blackish bill; female, base or most lower mandible reddish. Shown here are females. **Subspecies:** *bengalensis*. 7 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests in steep earth bank. In Perak and Selangor, eggs in Jan, Feb. Eggs 2. **Migration:** Arrivals in Selangor 23-26 Aug, leaving latest early May.

Common Kingfisher

Alcedo atthis, Pekaka cit-cit kecil/Raja Udang biasa. 17cm. R? M

Distribution: A sparse breeder, presumed resident on the W coast plains from Perak to N.Sembilan/Melaka border; also fairly common winter visitor and passage migrant in the plains. 294 BIW records at low elevations in Selangor (KSNP, Kapar), S.Perai (Pulau Burung, Permatang Nibong), Perak (Kuala Gula, Kinta), etc. but 2 records in Fraser's Hill possibly on migration. Historically not recorded Kelantan but with 4 BIW records. **Status:** LC, population trend unknown. Protected. **Range:** Europe, N Africa, Middle East, Central Asia, S Russia, India,

Francis Yap

Female





Brown-winged Kingfisher

Pelargopsis amauroptera, (No official Malay name)/Pekaka dendang. 36cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident in Langkawi and Dayang Bunting on the coast. 20 BIW records, all in Langkawi (Kuala Temoyong (5), Kubang Badak (3), and the rest in single records – Barn Thai, Burau Bay Resort, Kg Kilim, Kg Kiasap, and Datai). **Status:** NT, population in moderately rapid decline due to mangrove destruction, its principal habitat. TP.

Range: Bay of Bengal coasts from N Orissa to the Peninsula. **Habitat:** Mangroves. **Habits:** Hunts from stilt roots overlooking creeks. Solitary. More secretive than the similar looking Stork-billed Kingfisher (next entry). Does not use the open freshwater habitat of the Stork-billed that is bigger at 37cm. **Food:** No information on local birds but over its range, fish and crabs.

Sexes alike. Subspecies: None (monotypic). **Breeding:** No information locally. In India uses nest-holes dug into mud banks like other kingfishers. Wells (1999) suspects the nests could be in the mangrove trees themselves either in the tree trunks or in termite nests, given its total dependence on that habitat.



John Turner

Adult

from perches 2-4m up. Also crabs, frogs, reptiles from the ground. **Sexes alike.** Here on the wire is an adult, and the other possibly an immature. Largest kingfisher in Pen Malaysia with a corresponding loud call. **Subspecies:** *malaccensis*. 15 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Mar, Apr. One nest in a termite nest on the ground, another also in a termite nest but up in a tree.

I have seen a Stork-billed chasing off a White-throated Kingfisher hunting from a water pipe hanging across a canal in open habitat in Perlis. The White-throated kept flying off just out of reach but in the end gave up the fight.

Stork-billed Kingfisher

Pelargopsis capensis, (No official Malay name)/Pekaka buaya. 37cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident at plains-level. 482 BIW records in S.Perai (Pulau Burung, Air Itam Dalam), KSNP, Lake Gardens Taiping, Ulu Muda, Timah-Tasoh, etc. 1 record in Langkawi (Tanjung Rhu) where it is replaced by the Brown-winged (previous entry) in mangroves. **Status:** LC, population declining from habitat destruction. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, S,W Philippines. **Habitat:** Mangroves, tidal creeks and inlets, open rivers but with tree branches over water, into deep inland. **Habits:** Mostly solitary, exceptionally in pairs. **Food:** Mostly fish taken by plunging into water

Francis Yap

Immature





Ruddy Kingfisher

Halcyon coromanda, Pekaka belacan. 25cm. R M

Distribution: Uncommon resident, passage migrant and winter visitor. No records in Perlis, Melaka, Terengganu, Kelantan. 34 BIW records, 23 in Air Itam Dalam (S.Perai), 3 in KSNP, and 1 record each in varied habitats, possibly on migration, such as in Selangor (Bkt Gasing, Puchong, Bandar Sri Permaisuri), and Kedah (Langkawi, Ulu Muda). **Status:** LC, population declining from mangrove loss and collection for taxidermy. TP. **Range:** Nepal to NE Indian subcontinent, S Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Sulawesi; far NE China, N,S Korea, Japan, Philippines. **Habitat:** Resident:



mangroves and adjacent land, and swampy forests; migrant: plus inland forests to 450m but crosses or follows Main Range on passage, e.g. at Fraser's Hill, 25 Sep-6 Dec and 5-24 Apr. **Habits:** Hunts from mid- to lower storeys. Quiet. **Food:** Crabs, crustacea. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Juveniles in May-Jul. **Subspecies:** migrant, *coromanda*; resident, *minor*. 10 subspecies in all.

Photos from Air Itam Dalam, both about 5m away. Top, 11 Apr, flew in to where I was. Right, 21 Apr, a pair building a nest (?) in a rotten tree stump. They were oblivious to birders. I think the nest was later abandoned, possibly from too much attention subsequently



White-throated Kingfisher

Halcyon smyrnensis, Pekaka belukar. 28cm. R

Other names: White-breasted Kingfisher by Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. Their White-throated is *H.gularis*, only in Philippines. eBird calls *H.gularis* as Brown-breasted Kingfisher. **Distribution:** Very common resident at low elevations with about 10 montane records (1 in J&P 2012, rest in eBird) at Genting Highlands, Fraser's Hill, Cameron Highlands. **Status:** LC, population increasing. TP. **Range:** Turkey, Egypt, Iraq, Afghanistan, Indian subcontinent, S,E China, Indochina, Sumatra, Java. **Habitat:** Ricefields, open streams and rivers,



mangroves (N Kedah only) and landward edge, forest edge, plantations especially oil palm (peak density here), scrub, gardens including suburban. **Habits:** Hunts from open perches, diving into water for fish. Also, prey taken from ground. **Food:** Invertebrates including amphibians, small vertebrates, e.g. fish, reptiles, young birds. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** *perpulchra*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec-Aug with one active nest in Oct. Full clutch of 4-5 eggs. Nests in burrows in steep earth banks. **Survival:** Longest re-trap is 66 months. Sedentary (re-traps are mostly within 4km of tagging places).

Photos from an Air Itam Dalam (S.Perai, right) ricefield and Paya Indah Wetlands (Selangor, top).



Black-capped Kingfisher

Halcyon pileata, Pekaka kopiah hitam. 30cm. M

Distribution: Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor, mainly at plains-level, especially on the coast, but up to 1,200m. 348 records in BIW dating to 1988, none were montane. Records in S.Perai, KSNP, Kuala Gula, Johor (Parit Jawa, Sg Balang), etc. Also inland, e.g. FRIM Kepong, Royal Belum. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, China, Korea, W Burma, Some wintering to Sri Lanka, Indochina, Borneo, Sumatra, N Sulawesi, S Philippines. **Habitat:** Creeks in mangroves (most records), beach woodland, riv-

John Turner



ers with open canopy, ricefield margins, ponds. Also, Putrajaya wetlands (Chong 2017). **Habits:** Hunts from perches usually 1-2m up and diving into water or pick from ground. Aggressive, displaces White-throated and Collared Kingfishers. Shy. **Food:** Aquatic animals, and others. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** None.

My photo from KSNP, 6 Nov. It was 2m up on a bare branch next to a creek. It was very shy, flying off the moment it saw me 15-20m away. I had to use a hide, 6m away. After a few photos, it realised something was inside the hide. It then flew off and never returned. I tried again the next day at a different spot for the hide. It still did not come back.



Collared Kingfisher

Todiramphus chloris, Pekaka sungai/bakau. 24cm. R M

Distribution: Common resident, and uncommon possible breeding winter visitor. Resident, along coast and islands; visitor, inland, e.g. 40km inland at Kuala Berang. 639 BIW records at coasts of Selangor (KSNP, Kapar, Jeram), S.Perai (Pulau Burung, Teluk Air Tawar, Air Itam Dalam), Perak (Matang, Kuala Gula), Johor (Parit Jawa, Mersing), etc. Inland records include 6 each in Panti and Ipoh. **Status:** LC, population declining due to mangrove destruction. TP. **Range:** Coasts of the Red Sea, Oman, E to Indian



coasts to Indochina S to N,E Australian coasts, W Pacific to Fiji, Samoa.

Habitat: Mangroves and adjacent habitats (resident). Also, 2 residents in Putrajaya Wetlands (Chong 2017); wooded gardens, submontane forests (migrant). **Habits:** Hunts alone, spaced out, from a perch. Noisy. Some migrants stay-over as the BIW inland records show. Migrants follow or cross the Main Range, e.g. at Fraser's Hill (I have seen one here). **Food:** Crabs, crustacea, insects, amphibians. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *humii*. 50 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec-Jul, exceptionally to Oct.

Photo top from Sedili Kecil, Johor, 7m away, and right, in Matang boardwalk, Perak, 6m away. Usually shy when approached to within 8m but at times you can get lucky. This bird just tolerated me.



Long Roslee Ngah (both photos)

ing in foliage, keeps turning head to camouflage source of call. May congregate when resting. Feeds mostly in the canopy but also lower. **Food:** Fruits, mostly figs. Also animal food including sallying for flying termites. **Sexes alike** as with most barbets. **Subspecies:** indicus. 9 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Nests in sloping dead branches or main trunks. Excavations late Dec-mid Jun. May have a second brood. Clutch of 2-4, usually 3; incubation by both parents 12-14 days, with eggs hatching over two days.

Coppersmith Barbet

Psilopogon haemacephalus, Takur tembaga. 15cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima haemacephalus* (J&P 2012). **Distribution:** Common resident at low elevations. Spreading south with increasing forest clearings. 305 BIW records in Bercham, KSNP, Air Itam Dalam, Lake Gardens Taiping, Kg Matang, etc. Fewer records S of Selangor – none in N.Sembilan, 2 in Johor. Historically not recorded Kelantan but 1 BIW record, Pasir Mas. **Habitat:** Mangrove fringes, over-logged forests, overgrown plantations, wooded gardens to town limits. **Status:** LC, population increasing from increasing human cultivation. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S Yunnan, Indochina, Sumatra, Java, Bali, Philippines. Not in Borneo. **Habits:** Unlike many barbets may call in the open. When call-





Lineated Barbet

Psilopogon lineatus, Takur kukup. 29cm. R

Other name: *Megalaima lineata* (J&P 2012, OBI). **Distribution:** Local, common resident, expanding south along both coasts to Tanjung Tuan (Melaka) and Pekan (Pahang) mostly at low elevations but to 660m in Bkt Larut. For Wells (1999), only available N from Kedah on the W coast. 387 BIW records mostly N from Selangor i.e. S.Perai, N Perlis, Bercham, Kinta-Malim Nawar wetlands, Kedah, KSNP, etc. A few records each in Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang (oddly, 1 in Kuala Tahan in 1998), N.Sembilan, Melaka. 1 in Panti. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range and Subspecies:** *hodgsoni*, NW India, Nepal E to W Yunnan, S to E India, Bangladesh E to Indochina; *lineatus*, Java, Bali. **Habitat:** Coastal scrub

and strand woodland, plantations, wooded parks, swampy forests, mangrove edge. **Habits:** Forages alone in canopy. Unlike most barbets, often calls from open perches. **Food:** Fruits, large invertebrates, possibly flower petals, nectar. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Sep-May. Nests in tree holes which it builds or takes over from others, e.g. Banded Yellowname.

Photo right from Muda Resort, Kedah, 7m away 6m up, Aug, and top, at Kinta Nature Park, in a more wooded area, 6m away 4m up. Not very shy but did not stay for better photos.





Sunda Woodpecker

Dendrocopos moluccensis, Belatok Belacan kecil. 14cm. R

Other name: Sunda Pygmy Woodpecker (OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN), *Picoides moluccensis* (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Fairly common resident mainly W coast, Penang to Johor excluding Melaka (but note BIW records below); sometimes inland. 114 BIW records mostly in KSNP (34), mainly mangroves, a few inland N Perlis in secondary growth, etc. 1 record each N.Sembilan, Melaka. A few in Johor W coast, 1 in E coast (Tanjung Sedili). **Status:** LC, globally population increasing from opening up of forested areas. **Range and Subspecies:** *moluccensis*, W,S Pen Malaysia, Greater Sundas; *grandis*,

Lesser Sundas E to Alor. **Habitat:** Mangroves to landward edge where it is replaced by Grey-capped Woodpecker that looks quite similar but the latter more contrasted between white and dark parts (2 out of 62 BIW records for Grey-capped in KSNP). Also, secondary growth inland. And in Putrajaya wetlands (Chong 2017). **Habits:** Forages canopy to lower storeys, gleans from surfaces, alone or in pairs. Weak drumming. **Food:** Small arthropods, larvae, and (for nestlings only?) small fruits. **Sexes alike.** **Breeding:** Nests in rotten wood. Eggs 2-3 laid Feb-Aug.

Photos, 12 Apr, from Matang walkway, Kuala Sepetang, Perak, 5m away from the walkway where there was quite a constant traffic of people.





Female

Streak-breasted Woodpecker

Picus viridanus, Belatok rotan/jati. 30cm. R

Distribution: Uncommon and local resident in NW Pen Malaysia at plains-level. 44 BIW records, the bulk in Air Itam Dalam (S.Perai) with 38, plus 3 more in the state; 1 in Sintok (Kedah), and strangely, one each in Teluk Intan (Perak), and Bkt Cahaya (Selangor) (Unreliable? Can easily be mistaken for the Laced Woodpecker whose habitats and habits are similar. See next entry). **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Bangladesh, SW,SE Burma, SW Thailand S to NW Pen Malaysia. **Habitat:** Mangroves, coastal scrub, inland swamp forests, overgrown teak

Male



and rubber plantations, semi-dry forests. **Habits:** Forages from ground to canopy. **Food:** Probably ants and other insects. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding** (from HBW over the global range): Feb-Apr. Clutch of 4 eggs. No other information.

Photos from Air Itam Dalam. Male in Apr, 6m away 5m up, and female at nest, 12 Aug (seemingly outside its breeding season), 4m away 3m up. Not shy. Unlike the more solid olive green breast of Laced Woodpecker, this bird — as its name suggests — has streaks on it. Many suggest the two species are in fact conspecific, i.e. of the same species.



Laced Woodpecker

Picus vittatus, Belatok hijau/bakau. 30cm. R

Distribution: Local, common resident along the coast, occasionally to 30km inland, from S.Perai (but see BIW records below) to Johor, up the E coast to Rompin, Pahang. Also Langkawi. 128 BIW records mostly coastal in Selangor (45 KSNP, 10 Kapar), Perak (11 Matang, 1 Kuala Gula), S.Perai, Johor; 1 record E-coast Sedili, Johor. Some inland records, e.g. 4 Kinta, 2 N Perlis, the firsts N of S.Perai. **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** S Yunnan, most of Indochina, Sumatra, Java, Bali. **Habitat:** Mangroves, coastal woodlands, inland



swamp forests, orchards, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Forages ground to canopy, alone, in pairs or family groups. Carries out ‘anting’ (getting rid of parasites from feathers) by rubbing tree sap on body (Chong 2017). **Food:** Typical animal diet, some fruit. **Sexes slightly differ**, female with black crown to male’s red. **Breeding:** Eggs 3-4 laid Feb-Jun, one record Oct. Nests in dead trees but some live ones. **Subspecies:** *vittatus* (Wells 1999); monotypic (HBW).

Photos of two males from KSNP both in Feb from 5m and 4m away. On right, 15 Feb, the male of a pair that I saw at the same place three hours apart, lingering not feeding, making me suspect that they were nesting. The male then in fact moved towards its nest-hole. Not shy.



Male-Female

Common Flameback

Dinopium javanense, Belatok pinang muda. 30cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at plains-level, the most common woodpecker in wooded suburbs. 356 BIW records in S.Perai (Air Itam Dalam, Pulau Burung), Selangor (KSNP, Bkt Cahaya), FRIM Kepong, etc., and 1 record Kelantan (Banggol). **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** SW India, Bangladesh, S Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, W Philippines. **Habitat:** Mangroves, coastal scrub, plantations, wooded gardens. **Habits:** Alone, family groups but most often, in pairs. Forages tree trunks and branches. Noisy. **Food:** Ants, larvae,



flying termites. **Subspecies:** *javanense*. 6 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Feb-Jul, also Sep, Oct. Nests in dead and living trees including coconut and mango. Displays include crest-raising, and in courtship, male feeding female. Clutch of 2-3 eggs; no information on incubation and fledging. **Survival:** Maximum recorded 10 years 6 months.

Both photos from FRIM Kepong, Nov, 6m away 5m up. Not shy. Often difficult to distinguish from Greater Flameback (next entry). Note, they are of different genera, i.e., they are not even close genetically). Best is to look at the hind-neck pattern. Greater has a white stretch running vertically along the middle of the neck whereas Common has it black.



Female

Greater Flameback

Chrysocolaptes guttacristatus, Belatok pinang tua. 33cm. R

Other name: *C. lucidus* (J&P 2012, OBI). eBird and others have split *C. lucidus* into *C. guttacristatus* and *C. lucidus*, calling the latter, Buff-spotted Flameback, found only in Philippines. Old name is Greater Goldenback (J&P 1999). **Distribution:** Ucommon resident along W coast from S.Perai to Johor excluding N.Sembilan, Melaka. Also Langkawi. 75 BIW records in S.Perai (Pulau Burung, Air Itam Dalam, etc.), Selangor (KSNP, Jeram, Kapar), Perak (Kuala Sepetang, Kuala Gula), Langkawi, Johor. **Status:** LC, population declining. TP. **Range:** Hima-
Male



layas to NE Indian subcontinent and W,E Ghats, S Yunnan, Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali. **Habitat:** Mangroves and fringes. In Langkawi, also inland. **Habits:** Forages in pairs mid- to upper storeys of live and dead trees. I have photographed one probing dead logs on the ground. **Food:** Possibly arthropods, larvae. **Subspecies:** *indomalayicus*. 5 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Dec-Jul(?). 2 eggs. Incubation 14-15 days, fledging 24-26 days.

Photos of a pair from Matang boardwalk, Kuala Sepetang, Jun, 5m away. They were not bothered by my presence, staying around for quite some time. It was here that I saw the male on the fallen logs. See features to distinguish it from Common Flameback, previous entry.

Mangrove Pitta

Pitta megarhyncha, Pacat bakau. 20cm. R

Distribution: Local, uncommon resident due to its dependence on mangroves which only exist in patches now. Historical records in Merbok estuary (Kedah), none in Perak, and a few sites S of Kelang estuary on W coast. On E coast in Sedili, Mersing, and no records above Kuantan accepted by Wells (2007). But note BIW records for Terengganu and Perak (also published in *Suara Enggang*). 63 BIW records in Air Itam Dalam (27), KSNP (6), Kapar (5), Sg Chuah (N.Sembilan, 4), Juru and Pulau Burung (4), Sg Kertih (Terengganu, 2), Pekan (2), etc.

Status: VU bordering EN locally, NT globally. Population in moderately rapid decline. TP. **Range:** Bangladesh S patchily along the coast to Burma, S to E Sumatra. **Habitat:** Mangroves including those with nipah palms. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs or small family groups. Usually calls from perches to 6m up. Advertisement calls Jan-Jul. **Food:** Crabs which its heavy bill is very suited for, and other crustaceans. **Sexes nearly alike.** **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Nests on the ground. Eggs laid Apr-Jul.

I once saw this Pitta on the main bund at KSNP, Selangor. Before I could photograph, it went into the mangroves and a few minutes later started calling.



Uzair Ab Rahim



Danaraj Maniam

Adult

TP. Range: Indian subcontinent, SE Russia, China, Korea, Indochina, Sumatra, Java, Lesser Sundas, Sulawesi, Philippines. **Habitat:** Resident - mangrove fringes, human-settled habitats; migrant - mangroves, secondary growth, forests. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs, or small parties, in the canopy. Calls often. **Food:** A generalist. **Sexes nearly alike.** **Subspecies:** resident, *maculatus*; migrant, *diffusus*. 20 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Dec-Jun, once Oct. Open cup-nest built solely by female. 2-4 eggs; incubation 14 days.

My photo of an immature from a group of three, the other two presumably the parents, in the lower canopy at FRIM Kepong, 14 Nov, 7m away 5m up. They were quite wary. I had to stay put to avoid them flying off.

Black-naped Oriole

Oriolus chinensis, Dendang selayang/Kunyit besar. 27cm. R M

Distribution: Common resident, passage migrant and winter visitor to 900m but mostly at low elevations. Above 900m only on passage (but note BIW records). 1,289 BIW records with 6 above 950m; 4 at pumphouse roads, Genting Highlands (3 non-passage dates 21 May, Jul, Aug suggest they are visitors rather than on passage. Wells (2007) says only migrants go up to 900m, with residents at low elevations); 2 records Cameron Highlands, Apr, Oct, suggest on passage. **Status:** LC, population trend unknown.

Immature





Malaysian Pied-Fantail

Rhipidura javanica, Sambar murai gila. 18cm. R

Other name: Pied Fantail (J&P 2012, OBI). Sunda Pied Fantail (Birdlife, HBW, IUCN). **Distribution:** Common resident mainly at low elevations to 450m, but 800m on Penang Hill. 662 BIW records, all in the lowlands but 2 (by seasoned observers) in Fraser's Hill, ~1,200m. 1 eBird record (also by a seasoned birder) from Genting Highlands-Gng Ulu Kali, 970-1,700m (actual elevation not given). **Status:** LC, population stable. TP.

Range and Subspecies: *longicauda*, S Indochina, Sumatra, Borneo; *javanica*, Java, Bali, Lombok; *nigritorquis*, Philippines. **Habitat:** Mangroves to adjacent habitats, wooded gardens, plantations. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs or small family groups foraging mid- to lower storeys, and to the ground, moving erratically and fanning tail thus getting its Malay name, "crazy robin". **Food:** Small arthropods, ants. Prey by aerial sallying or gleaning from surfaces. **Sexes alike**, female smaller. **Breeding:** Nest may be used repeatedly, e.g., a pair used it 4 times Jan-Jul but another pair built 3 different nests in a season, all broods a success. Eggs Jan, Mar-Sep. Brood host of Brush Cuckoo.

Photo from Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, Dec, 4m away 2m up. Tame and confiding like other fantails, White-throated and Spotted.



Cinereous Tit

Parus cinereus, Serai bakau. 13cm. R

Other name: Great Tit, *P.major* (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN) but range is wider than *P.cinereus*. **Distribution:** Fairly common resident but local on W coast's S.Perai, Perak, Selangor. 89 BIW records in KSNP (overwhelmingly), Perak (Kuala Gula, Matang), S.Perai (Pulau Burung, Juru), Penang. Southern-most is 1 record at Tanah Merah, N.Sembilan. **Status:** VU locally due to mangrove destruction. LC globally, population increasing from expanding range. TP. **Range:** Indian subcontinent, S China (Hainan), Indochina, Greater



Sundas (Borneo? Only 1 eBird record 1983, in Sabah), Lesser Sundas to Flores. **Habitat:** Mangroves. **Habits:** Frequents mid-storey to canopy, sometimes lower, in pairs or small family units. **Food:** Insects. **Sexes alike.** Subspecies (from HBW): *ambiguus*. **Breeding:** Nest-holes in dead stumps or trees. Eggs laid Feb-May. Incubation only by female, fed in nest by male.

Photos of a pair taken at Matang boardwalk, Kuala Sepetang, Perak, Dec. One was from 5m away, probably too near for comfort for the bird which was calling out in warning, I thought. The other was some 6m away. They came down to feed on the walkway itself. Otherwise not very shy.



Red-whiskered Bulbul

Pycnonotus jocosus, (not officially listed)/Merbah telinga merah. 20cm. R

Distribution: Local, uncommon resident at plains-level S to Perlis, N Kedah, Kelantan-Terengganu border. Feral populations from released cage birds occur around towns, cities (especially, Kelang valley), and temples. Historically not recorded in Pahang, N.Sembilan, Johor (but 1 eBird record in Muar). 40 BIW records. eBird records in Air Itam Dalam, Telok Air Tawar-Kuala Muda coast, Bercham, N Perlis, FRIM Kepong, etc. **Status:** LC, population declining. Popular cage bird especially in northern states. Protected (seems that this legal status allows for cage birds). **Range:** India, S,SE China, Indochina, N Pen Malaysia.

Habitat: Reed-beds, secondary forest clearings, woodland, gardens, landward edge of mangroves. **Habits:** Alone, in pairs, or flocks up to 30. Calls from prominent perches presumably advertising territory. Released birds may associate with Yellow-vented Bulbuls. Comes down to feed on the ground. **Food:** Fruits, insects, seeds. Nestlings fed on soft-bodied insects and possibly fruits later.

Sexes alike, female smaller. **Subspecies:** *pattani*. 9 subspecies in all. **Breeding** (from HBW for the whole range, may not be local information): Nests on a branch fork of small trees, 1.5-4.5m high. Clutch of 2-3, fledge up to 3. Eggs laid Feb-Jul. Incubation of 12-14 days, fledged (in captivity) 14 days, fledglings tended for 34 days and juveniles stay for another 13 days.



Adult

Yellow-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus goiavier, Merbah kapur. 20cm. R

Distribution: Very common resident mostly at low elevations but basically wherever there are human settlements, or at least roads, up to 2,030m in Cameron Highlands. Decreasing in Kuala Lumpur suburbs, possibly due to insecticide spraying which kills its prey. 1,896 BIW records mostly at low elevations but also at all hill stations. **Status:** LC, population increasing from deforestation and increasing human-created habitats. NP. **Range:** S Indochina, Greater Sundas, Bali, Philippines, and Sulawesi (introduced). **Habitat:** Landward edge of mangroves,

Danaraj Maniam

Adult-Fledgling



coastal habitats, cultivated habitats, gardens.

Habits: Visits gardens and may use potted plants for nesting, or light fixtures in ceilings. Alone, more often in pairs or small parties in a fruiting tree. **Food:** Fruits, seeds, flowers, nectar, invertebrates. **Sexes alike.** **Subspecies:** *analis*. 6 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Nests found in all months, multi-brooded in the year.

My photo taken at FRIM Kepong, 5m away, Dec. Not shy, allowing close approach for photography



Female

Ashy Tailorbird

Orthotomus ruficeps, Perenjak bukit/kelabu. 12cm. R

Distribution: Common resident in the lowlands especially in mangroves. 422 BIW records mainly in mangroves but also inland wetlands (Air Itam Dalam, Kinta, Bidor, etc.) and other habitats, e.g. in Bertam (Ipoh), Panti forest, Kemensah scrub. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S Burma, the Peninsula, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Mangroves, scrub, inland swamps, forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** Forages mainly in lower storeys but also all the way from ground to

Male



canopy, either alone, in pairs or family groups. **Food:** Insects gleaned from surfaces or snatched on the fly. May steal from cobwebs. **Sexually dimorphic**, male has a dark breast to the female's pale. **Subspecies:** *cineraceus*. 8 subspecies in its range. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jul, Sep, Oct. Brood host to the parasitic Plaintive Cuckoo. Nests made from 1-3 leaves stitched together with silk, hence the name, tailorbird.

Photo of female taken in Taman Melawati, Selangor, 5m away 4m up. The male was at KSNP, Selangor, photographed while it was grooming itself, staying for several minutes, without care that I was photographing just 4m away. Usually, this bird flits about restlessly.



Male

Mangrove Blue-Flycatcher

Cyornis rufigastra, Sambar Biru bakau. 15cm. R

Distribution: Locally common on the W coast. Resident from Kedah coast down to Johor; on the E coast found in Sedili, Mersing, Kuala Rompin, and confluence of Sg Keluang and Sg Besar (N Terengganu). 127 BIW records in Air Itam Dalam (S.Perai, 81), KSNP (26), Matang (15), Benut (2), Sedili (1), Penang (1). **Status:** LC, population stable. **TP. Range:** The Peninsula, Greater Sundas, Sulawesi, Philippines. **Habitat:** Mangroves and adjacent habitats including nipah palms and tall *Acrostichum* ferns. **Habits:** Forages alone or in pairs from below canopy down to lower storeys, often less than 1m above ground. Like other fly-

Female



catchers, aerial sallies for insects. Both male and female sing (sweet and low pitched) presumably when defending territory. **Food:** Insects. **Subspecies:** *rufigastra*. 12 subspecies in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Mar-Jun. Nest building by female, both parents take care of fledglings.

Photos from Air Itam Dalam, 4m away, female in Feb, and male, May. Both not bothered by photographers' presence. Generally tame, confiding at times. I have seen quite a few here. Sadly, the place has gotten smaller when a bund was built cutting it into two. Possibly because surrounding habitat has been destroyed, the birds congregate here (as with Pantli forest?).



Female

Plain-throated Sunbird

Anthreptes malacensis, Kelicap mayang kelapa. 14cm. R

Other name: Brown-throated Sunbird (J&P 2012, OBI, Birdlife, HBW, IUCN. Range slightly less than Plain-throated). **Distribution:** Common resident in the non-forest lowlands but note 2 BIW records each at ~1,000m in Genting Highlands and Berjaya Hills. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. 570 BIW records in mangroves (KSNP), inland wetlands (Air Itam Dalam, Malim Nawar, Kinta), scrub or wooded gardens (Bercham, Timah Tasoh), forest edge, etc. **Range:** S Indochina, Greater and Lesser Sundas, Bali, Sulawesi, Philippines. **Habitat:** Mangrove fringes,

Male



coastal woodlands and scrub, plantations especially coconut, inland swamps/wetlands, forest edge, gardens. **Habits:** Forages alone but more often in pairs. **Food:** Insects, nectar, fruits, seeds. Less curvy, relatively shorter bill relative to Olive-backed's (next entry) shows that it is less reliant on nectar than the latter. **Subspecies** (HBW): *malacensis*. 16 in all. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Aug. Possibly at least double-brooded. 2-3 eggs. Brood host of Violet Cuckoo.

Photos from my garden, Kuala Lumpur, 4m away at Sleeping Hibiscus, *Malvaviscus arboreus*. They love the nectar and visit usually in pairs. Not shy but a bit wary when photographed.



Female

Olive-backed Sunbird

Cinnyris jugularis, Kelicap bukit/pantai. 11cm. R

Distribution: Common resident at low elevations in non-forest habitats mainly confined to the coast but also inland in smaller numbers. In Penang, up to 830m. 507 BIW records in much like the habitats or locations of the Plain-throated (previous entry) except less in forest edges and not in any highlands. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** S China S to Indochina to Wallacea, N Australia, New Guinea to the Solomons. **Habitat:** Like that of the Plain-throated except not in Male



forest edges, and uncommon in orchards and coconut plantations. **Habits:** Forages alone, more often in pairs from lower to mid-storeys. Enters gardens. **Food:** Spiders, caterpillars, nectar. Raids cobwebs. **Subspecies:** *flamaxillaris*, N of Penang and Kuantan; *ornatus*, S. **Breeding:** Eggs 1-3, laid Dec-Jul. In cities may nest in potted plants. Nest built entirely by female, a pendulous oval purse 30-60cm long, normally 0.5-1.5m up, incubation by female, 11-16 days.

Photos from my Kuala Lumpur garden, feeding on the same flowers as that by the Plain-throated, both at about 4m away. Male in Oct and female, Jul. The male was either making a mating display to the female or was wary of me being too near. Generally, not shy.



Francis Yap

Male

Copper-throated Sunbird

Leptocoma calcostetha, Kelicap bakau. 14cm. R

Distribution: Fairly common resident, strictly coastal. 40 BIW records in Perak (Kuala Sepetang, Kuala Gula), Penang (Sg Burung, Botanic Gardens, Batu Ferringhi), S.Perai (Air Itam Dalam), Selangor (KSNP, Tg Karang in 1988, Jeram), and 2 records in Kedah (Sg Merbok, Langkawi, 1998). Also, 2 records inland – Serendah (Selangor, confirmed) and Kuala Tahan (unconfirmed). A few E Coast records in Endau (2), Kijal (1), Pantai Cahaya Bulan (1, 1998). **Status:** LC, population sta-

ble. TP. **Range:** Extreme S Burma (Tenasserim) and coasts of Indochina, Sumatra, Palawan, Borneo, Java. **Habitat:** Mangroves and adjacent orchards and coconut mixes. **Habits:** Canopy and mid-storeys (but I have seen it 1m off the ground in Matang boardwalk, Kuala Sepetang). Alone, in pairs or with fledglings. **Food:** Nectar, invertebrates.

Sexes differ as all sunbirds. Shown here is a male. Female has a greyish head, white throat, yellowish breast and belly. **Subspecies:** None. **Breeding:** Eggs laid Jan-Jul. Cooperative nest-building observed, and some nests may be “decoys”. Nest a pear-shaped bag, suspended 0.7-3.5m above ground. Clutch of 2 eggs. No other information. **Survival:** 73 months from re-trap records.



Danaraj Maniam (both photos)

Males in breeding plumage

Eastern Yellow Wagtail

Motacilla tschutschensis, Pipit kuning. 18cm. M

Other names: Yellow Wagtail, *M. flava* (J&P 2012, OBI). For OBI, Eastern Yellow is a subspecies of the Yellow, *M.f. tschutschensis*. **Distribution:** Fairly common passage migrant and winter visitor but in decline, mainly at low elevations (visitor) but to 1,200m on passage (Fraser's Hill). **Status:** LC, population decreasing. TP. **Range:** Breeds NE Siberia and extreme NW North America; winters mainly in Indochina S to Australia, including Greater and Lesser Sundas, Philippines. **Habitat:** Open land bare or vegetated, edge of freshwater swamps, reed-beds, mangroves. **Habits:** Feeds in small groups 2-3 or into the hundreds, and roosts communally in wetlands up

to 3,000 individuals (probably rare now). **Food:** Insects.

Sexes alike in non-breeding plumage. Male has a breeding plumage in summer months as shown in the photos of two individuals (just arrived or about to return). The supercilium may be absent or minimal or white or yellow. Non-breeding plumage has pale underparts. **Subspecies:** 6 subspecies in all including *tschutschensis* (Eastern), *taivana* (Green-headed), *macronyx* (Manchurian). **Migration:** Autumn passage 29 Aug-22 Oct, and Spring return from early Apr-20 May.





Grey Wagtail

Motacilla cinerea, Pipit batu/Kedidi-Air kelabu.
19cm. M

Distribution: Common winter visitor and passage migrant to 2,000m. Most common wagtail. Visitors prefer hilly areas, migrants (on passage) at lower elevations. 472 BIW records in Bercham, Gng Ulu Kali, Taman Rimba Ampang, Fraser's Hill, Gng Raya etc. Historically not recorded S.Perai but 5 in BIW. **Status:** LC, stable population. TP. **Range:** Breeding in Europe, NW Africa, temperate Asia, to N China. Winters in S China, Indian subcontinent to Indochina to Papua New Guinea. **Habitat:** Hilly road edges, forested streams and rivers, freshwater swamps,

spillways, vegetable farms. **Habits:** Usually alone. Wags tail. Shy. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes differ** during the breeding season – breeding male has a black throat and all yellow underparts. Else male and female as shown here. **Subspecies:** *robusta*. 6 subspecies in all.

Photo top at a small fast flowing forest stream, off Jalan Gombak, where this bird was bathing, from 6m away, 7 Mar. In this case it did not seem to be shy, possibly because I was already in place when it approached, not the other way around. Otherwise, takes off when approach. Right photo from Fraser's Hill, 7m away, Jan. Again, I was already in place when it flew in. When I took this photo it flew off.



White Wagtail

Motacilla alba, Pipit pelandok/Kedidi hitam-putih. 19cm. M

Distribution: Rare winter visitor at low elevations but once at 1,500m. 30 BIW records mainly at Chuping (Perlis), Pantai Leka, Sg Balang (both, Johor). Others at KSNP, Pantai Burung, Bagan Belat. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Habitat:** Open grassland, bare coastal and river bunds, ricefields, mangroves. **Range:** Breeding in Europe, temperate Asia, wintering to Africa, Middle East, South Asia, Indochina, Borneo, Philippines. **Habits:** Alone or small groups feeding. **Food:** Possibly small invertebrates. **Sexes and Subspecies:** *leucopsis*: breeding male (black throat, breast, mantle); non-breeding male (black breast, mantle); female like non-breeding male but grey mantle. *ocularis*: black breast, grey mantle, black eyeline.

Forest Wagtail

Dendronanthus indicus, Pipit rimba/Kedidi hutan. 18cm. M

Distribution: Fairly common winter visitor mostly at low elevations but to 1,100m. 179 BIW records at KSNP, N Perlis, S.Perai (Air Itam Dalam, Telok Air Tawar), FRIM Kepong, etc. A few montane. Historically not recorded Kelantan, Terengganu but 1 BIW record Tasik Kenyir. **Status:** LC, population stable. TP. **Range:** Breeds Russian Far East, S to SE China, S Japan, NE India. Winters in S Asia, Indochina, Greater Sundas. **Habitat:** Forests, forest and mangrove edges, plantations, scrub. **Habits:** Forages alone or groups but spaced out. Roosts communally in large numbers. **Food:** Small invertebrates. **Sexes alike. Subspecies:** None. Photo from Air Itam Dalam, S.Perai, 5m away 2m up, Feb. Not shy.



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Index

- Adjutant,
Lesser, 312
- Argus,
Great, 43
- Babbler,
Abbott's, 194
Black-eared Shrike-, 262
Blyth's Shrike-, 261
Black-capped, 191
Black-throated, 184
Buff-breasted, 279
Chestnut-rumped, 185
Chestnut-winged, 182
Fluffy-backed Tit, 181
Chestnut-backed Scimitar-, 183
Ferruginous, 193
Golden, 277
Grey-throated, 278
Large Wren-, 195
Moustached, 186
Pin-striped Tit-, 180
Puff-throated, 190
Rufous-crowned, 189
Scaly-crowned, 188
Short-tailed, 192
Sooty-capped, 187
Streaked Wren-, 280
- Barbet,
Black-browed, 250
Blue-eared, 109
Coppersmith, 329
Fire-tufted, 248
Golden-throated, 249
Gold-whiskered, 113
Lineated, 330
- Red-crowned, 110
Red-throated, 111
Sooty, 108
Yellow-crowned, 112
- Bee-eater,
Blue-tailed, 99
Blue-throated, 97
Chestnut-headed, 100
Red-bearded, 98
- Bittern,
Black, 45
- Boobook,
Brown, 82
- Broadbill,
Banded, 128
Black-and-red, 127
Black-and-yellow, 129
Dusky, 130
Green, 126
Long-tailed, 253
Silver-breasted, 254
- Bulbul,
Ashy, 174
Black-crested, 162
Black-headed, 160
Buff-vented, 173
Cream-vented, 167
Finsch's, 171
Grey-bellied, 164
Grey-cheeked, 171
Hairy-backed, 170
Mountain, 270
Ochraceous, 269
Olive-winged, 166
Red-eyed, 168
Red-whiskered, 340
Puff-backed, 159
- Scaly-breasted, 163
Spectacled, 169
Straw-headed, 161
Streaked, 175
Stripe-throated, 165
Yellow-bellied, 172
Yellow-vented, 341
- Coucal,
Greater, 77
Short-toed, 76
- Crow,
Large-billed, 154
- Cuckoo,
Banded Bay, 65
Brush, 67
Chestnut-winged, 61
Dark Hawk-, 242
Drongo-, 70
Fork-tailed Drongo-, 70
Hodgson's Hawk-, 62
Indian, 64
Little Bronze-, 68
Malaysian Hawk-, 63
Plaintive, 66
Square-tailed Drongo-, 70
Sunda, 243
Violet, 69
- Cuckooshrike,
Large, 260
Lesser, 142
- Cupwing,
Pygmy, 271
- Cutia,
Himalayan, 283
- Dove,
Asian Emerald, 54
Jambu Fruit-, 58
- Little Cuckoo-, 238
- Drongo,
Crow-billed, 146
Greater Racket-tailed, 147
Lesser Racket-tailed, 264
- Eagle,
Blyth's Hawk-, 47
Crested Serpent-, 46
Wallace's Hawk-, 49
White-bellied Sea-, 52
- Egret,
Little, 315
Fairy-bluebird,
Asian, 196
- Falconet,
Black-thighed, 53
- Fantail,
Malaysian Pied-, 338
Spotted, 148
White-throated, 265
- Fireback,
Crested, 39
- Flameback,
Common, 334
Greater, 335
- Flowerpecker,
Crimson-breasted, 220
Fire-breasted, 308
Orange-bellied, 222
Scarlet-backed, 223
Scarlet-breasted, 221
Yellow-breasted, 219
- Flycatcher,
Asian Brown, 198
Brown-Streaked, 199
Ferruginous, 200
Green-backed, 206
- Hill Blue-, 201
Korean, 205
Little Pied, 293
Malaysian Blue-, 202
Mangrove Blue-, 343
Mugimaki, 294
Rufous-browed, 291
Rufous-chested, 204
Snowy-browed, 296
Tickell's Blue-, 203
Verditer, 292
- Flycatcher-shrike,
Bar-winged, 256
- Frogmouth,
Blyth's, 85
Gould's, 84
Large, 83
- Fulvetta,
Mountain, 282
Rufous-winged, 281
- Gerygone,
Golden-bellied, 141
- Goshawk,
Crested, 50
- Heron,
Black-crowned Night-, 318
Chinese Pond-, 316
Grey, 313
Purple, 314
Striated, 317
- Hornbill,
Black, 103
Bushy-crested, 106
Great, 105
Oriental Pied-, 101
Rhinoceros, 104
Wreathed, 107

Iora,
 Common, 139
 Great, 141
 Green, 140
 Junglefowl,
 Red, 38
 Kingfisher,
 Banded, 95
 Black-backed Dwarf-, 93
 Black-capped, 327
 Blue-eared, 92
 Brown-winged, 323
 Common, 322
 Collared, 328
 Oriental Dwarf, 93
 (Rufous-Backed, Black-backed)
 Ruddy, 325
 Rufous-backed Dwarf-, 93
 Rufous-collared, 96
 Stork-billed, 324
 White-throated, 326
 Kite,
 Brahminy, 319
 Laughingthrush,
 Black, 284
 Chestnut-capped, 285
 Malayan, 286
 Leafbird,
 Blue-winged, 218
 Greater Green, 216
 Lesser Green, 217
 Orange-bellied, 307
 Magpie,
 Black, 153
 Common Green-, 266
 Malkoha,
 Chestnut-bellied, 71
 Chestnut-breasted, 75
 Green-billed, 72
 Raffles's, 73
 Red-billed, 74
 Mesia,
 Silver-eared, 288
 Minivet,
 Fiery, 257
 Grey-chinned, 258
 Scarlet, 259
 Minla,
 Blue-winged, 289
 Chestnut-tailed, 290
 Monarch,
 Black-naped, 149
 Myna,
 Common Hill, 215
 Nightjar,
 Grey, 86
 Large-tailed, 87
 Niltava,
 Large, 298
 Nuthatch,
 Blue, 268
 Velvet-fronted, 158
 Oriole,
 Black-and-crimson, 263
 Black-naped, 337
 Dark-throated, 145
 Owl,
 Barred Eagle-, 79
 Brown Wood-, 245
 Buffy Fish-, 80
 Spotted Wood-, 81
 Sunda Scops-, 78
 Owlet,
 Collared, 244
 Paradise-Flycatcher,
 Asian (Blyth's, Amur), 151
 Japanese, 150
 Parakeet,
 Long-tailed, 124
 Parrot,
 Blue-rumped, 123
 Blue-crowned Hanging-, 125
 Parrotfinch,
 Pin-tailed, 232
 Partridge,
 Chestnut-necklaced, 37
 Ferruginous, 235
 Grey-breasted, 234
 Pheasant,
 Malayan Peacock-, 41
 Mountain Peacock-, 236
 Philentoma,
 Rufous-winged, 137
 Piculet,
 Rufous, 114
 Pigeon,
 Cinnamon-headed, 56
 Green Imperial-, 59
 Little Green-, 55
 Mountain Imperial-, 241
 Pied Imperial-, 60
 Pink-necked, 321
 Thick-billed, 57
 Wedge-tailed, 240
 Yellow-vented, 239
 Pitta,
 Blue-winged, 134
 Garnet, 131
 Giant, 132
 Hooded, 135
 Malayan Banded-, 133
 Mangrove, 336
 Rusty-naped, 255
 Prinia,
 Rufescent, 177
 Rail,
 Slaty-breasted, 320
 Rail-babbler,
 Malaysian, 155
 Robin,
 Siberian Blue, 301
 White-tailed, 304
 Shortwing,
 Lesser, 300
 Shrike,
 Brown, 144
 Tiger, 143
 Sibia,
 Long-tailed, 287
 Spiderhunter,
 Grey-breasted, 231
 Little, 229
 Purple-naped, 228
 Spectacled, 230
 Streaked, 310
 Starling,
 Asian Glossy, 214
 Sunbird,
 Black-throated, 309
 Copper-throated, 346
 Crimson, 227
 Olive-backed, 345
 Plain-throated, 344
 Ruby-cheeked, 224
 Temminck's, 226
 Van Hasselt's, 235
 Swallow,
 Barn, 156
 Pacific, 157
 Tailorbird,
 Ashy, 342
 Dark-necked, 176
 Mountain, 272
 Thrush,
 Blue Rock-, 212
 Blue Whistling-, 210
 Malayan Whistling-, 302
 Orange-headed, 213
 Siberian, 306
 White-throated Rock-, 305
 Tit,
 Cinereous, 339
 Sultan, 267
 Treeswift,
 Whiskered, 88
 Trogon,
 Diard's, 90
 Orange-breasted, 247
 Red-headed, 246
 Red-naped, 89
 Scarlet-rumped, 91
 Wagtail,
 Eastern Yellow, 347
 Forest, 349
 Grey, 348
 White, 349
 Warbler,
 Chestnut-crowned, 275
 Mountain, 274
 Yellow-breasted, 276
 Yellow-browed, 273
 White-eye,
 Everett's, 179

Oriental, 178
Woodpecker,
 Banded, 115
 Buff-necked, 119
 Checker-throated, 117
 Crimson-winged, 116
 Great Slaty, 122
 Grey-and-buff, 121
 Laced, 333
 Olive-backed, 118
 Orange-backed, 120
 Streaked-breasted, 332
 Sunda, 331
Woodshrike,
 Large, 136
Yellownape,
 Greater, 252
 Lesser, 251