

Bird Watching in Brunei

A GUIDE TO THE BIRDS OF BRUNEI DARUSSALAM



COMPLIMENTARY COPY 

2016 EDITION

The list of birds has been approved by
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2016 EDITION



CRESTLESS FIREBACK . *Lophura pyronata*
PHOTO . SUNGAI INGEI RESEARCH TEAM

BIRDWATCHING IN BRUNEI

Cover Photo . Mohammad Vol
Wrinkled Hornbill . *Aceros corrugatus*

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White-bellied Sea Eagle
Haliaeetus leucogaster
PHOTO, STEPHEN HOGG



BIRDS PLATES IN THIS BROCHURE

1. PHEASANT
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ROULROUL
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44. SPIDERHUNTER
45. MUNIA
46. SPARROW
47. WAGTAIL/ PIPIT

Introduction

Birdwatching is a harmonious recreational activity which involves observing wild birds in their natural habitat which can be enjoyed by everyone. It can be done with the naked eye, through binoculars and telescopes, or by listening to bird sounds. There are a number of reasons to participate in this activity, for some it is the thrill of the chase, or racking up a long list of bird sightings. Others are just content to get to know a few of the common birds and some do it as a profession to help in their conservation. Most birders say that they simply enjoy the opportunity to go outside, learn about nature, and spend time with people who have like interests. Whatever your inclination, it is knowing that you are doing something fun, worthwhile, productive and positive.

Due to their accessibility and ubiquity, birds are a useful tool in environmental education and awareness of conservation issues. Birds easily transmit values in respect for nature and the fragility of ecosystems for creating a sustainable future.

BIRDING IN BRUNEI

Brunei has one of the most pristine rainforests in Borneo and home to around 622 species of birds, of which 49 species are endemic only to Borneo, making Brunei rainforest one of the most species rich habitat in the world. Here thousands of species of plants and insects abound, together with a further array of hornbills, barbets, babblers, sunbirds, spiderhunters, leafbirds, trogons and floor dwellers like pheasants, pittas and wren-babblers.

Other important areas are the coastal and riverine habitats, that include fresh-water swamps and mangrove

forests. These places are crucial for the survival of species such as the threatened Storm's Stork, Lesser Adjutant, Cinnamon-headed Pigeon, Bornean Ground Cuckoo and Straw-headed Bulbul. Other birds such as the Ruddy Kingfisher and the Hook-billed Bulbul depend on the health of the mangrove forest. These include the Brunei River, Seria River Estuary, Belait River, Tasek Merimbun, Luagan Lalak and Temburong River.

Prime wildlife viewing hours for most species are the first few hours of daylight and the last few hours before sunset as the birds are more active and vocal



Magpie Robin
Copsychus saularis
PHOTO. STEPHEN HOGG

making them easier to spot. Although hawk-watching, one of the most exciting wildlife-watching events, is frequently best enjoyed during the middle of the day. The procedure for nocturnal, or night-active animals doesn't get going until after the sun goes down.

On the Brunei hillsides, bordering the Malaysian state of Sarawak, birds are quite common, though the logistics of getting to some of the areas are tough, especially during the monsoon season.

In this brochure, we have selected birds that are commonly sighted and the list of areas that are easily accessible for birders.



CANOPY WALK, Ulu Temburong National Park

PHOTO . David Kirkland



BRUNEI IN BRIEF

Located on the northern shore of Borneo Island, Brunei Darussalam is surrounded by the South China Sea in the north and the Malaysian state of Sarawak on every other side.

AREA SIZE

Geographically, the country consists of 2 parts with a total area of 5,765 sq km. It is divided into 4 districts - Brunei-Muara, Tutong, Belait, which are on the western portion, and Temburong, a less populated area on the eastern side.

CAPITAL

The capital city, Bandar Seri Begawan (BSB) is based in the Brunei-Muara district and it is the only port of entry by air.

CLIMATE

A hot tropical climate with high humidity and rainfall. Rainfall occurs throughout the year but is heaviest between September and December. Temperatures range from 25-32 degrees Celsius and average humidity is 79%.

POPULATION

The country's population of about 400,000 comprises 67% Malays, 15% Chinese, 6% tribes indigenous to Borneo and 12% others.

LANGUAGE

Bahasa Melayu (Malay) is the national language but English is widely spoken.

CURRENCY

The unit of currency is the Brunei Dollar (B\$) and is on a par with the Singapore Dollar that is also accepted as equivalent exchange.

ACCOMMODATION

Brunei has a wide range of accommodation at competitive rates. International standard, mid-range, budget hotels and youth centres are all available.

GETTING TO BRUNEI

Air | Brunei's only airport is 10km from the centre of the capital. The national airline, Royal Brunei Airlines has direct flights between Bandar Seri Begawan and 13 destinations around the world including Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Kota Kinabalu in Sabah. Malaysia Airlines, Singapore Airlines, Air Asia, Cebu Pacific and Maswings also fly into Bandar Seri Begawan.

Land | If you are already in Borneo, you can reach Brunei overland via Miri in Sarawak from the west, passing Kuala Belait town or via Kota Kinabalu in Sabah passing through Limbang and Lawas in Sarawak. Roads are quite good and there are long distance buses that travel all the way from Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Pontianak in Kalimantan, Indonesia.

Sea | There are boats from the Muara ferry terminal, (about 25km northeast of Bandar Seri Begawan) between Brunei and Labuan island, (near Sabah) and Limbang in Sarawak. From Bandar Seri Begawan itself there is also a boat service to Limbang. If you wish to drive to Brunei, you can cut your road time significantly by taking a 2 1/2 hour journey by ferry from Menumbok in Sabah to the Muara ferry terminal.



Java Sparrow
Padda oryzivora

PHOTO . WILLIAM TAN



Brahminy Kite . *Haliastur indus*

PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



GETTING AROUND BRUNEI

Taxis | Available in Bandar Seri Begawan, at the multi-storey car park at Jalan Cator. There are also airport taxis and taxis in most hotels and shopping centres.

Fares are not metered and should be agreed before the journey. There is a 50% surcharge after 11pm for airport taxi services. It is recommended to keep the contact of your preferred taxi driver for the arrangement of future trips.

Water Taxis | The most common transportation in Kampong Ayer is by boat, you can hail one from any of the jetties along the Brunei River and at Wharf in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Fares are negotiable and should be agreed before the journey. Boat services to Temburong operate from Kianggeh Jetty between 7.30am to 4.00pm daily.



Bus | There are five bus routes in Bandar Seri Begawan, operating from 6.30am until 6pm. The Central Line, Eastern Line, Western Line and Northern Line. The city bus system is well maintained and inexpensive. Bus number 42, 44, 46, 48 and 56 route is from Bandar Seri Begawan and will pass through the Damuan area. Bus number 24 will pass through Berakas Forest and for other birdwatching site, there is a bus terminal located at the multi-storey car park on Jalan Cator in the town centre. Services operate from Bandar Seri Begawan

to Seria (91km/57 miles), Tutong (48km/30 miles), Muara (27km/17 miles), and from Seria to Kuala Belait (16km/10 miles).

Car hire | Self-drive or chauffeur-driven cars are available at the airport and major hotels. It is important to specify whether an air-conditioned car is required.

Documentation | An International Driving Permit is required to hire a car. A temporary license to drive in Brunei is available on presentation of a valid driving license from the visitor's country of origin.

(Note: map size is not to scale)

Identifying species



Collared Kingfisher
Todiramphus chloris
PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Birds are active, energetic animals and you need a keen quick eye to spot as many details as possible in a short space of time. There are many obstacles and identifying a bird can be a real challenge. To stand the best chance of knowing what kind of bird you are looking at, you should know what to look for, what matters most and how to spend your precious viewing time.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE BIRD

Every second of viewing time is valuable. When you spot a bird, keep your eye fixed on the bird and study it—absorb details of its markings, movements, song, feeding habits, and size. You may want to take some quick notes or sketch things that catch your eye. But don't focus too much on your jottings, try to maximize the time you have the bird in view, as this is your time to study it before the bird dashes off, out of sight.

LISTEN FOR CALLS AND SONG

One of the best way to identify a bird is to listen to the sound they make. Listening out for a bird's vocalizations is simple but it's also easy to forget to do, you can listen to a bird while you look at it. Listen to the calls and look out for bill movements, to ensure you're associating the correct song with the bird you're trying to identify.

ESTIMATE GENERAL SIZE AND SHAPE

A general picture of the bird, that is its approximate size and shape, will often give you many clues when placing it into the correct family of birds. Begin with an assessment of the bird's overall appearance. What is the approximate size of the bird? It's easiest to estimate size in relation to well know birds. For instance, is the bird you're observing about the size of a sparrow? A robin? A pigeon? A turkey? Think in terms of silhouettes and try to get an inkling for its general body shape. Does it stand upright and walk with ease, or is it unsteady and awkward on land?

MAKE NOTE OF FACIAL MARKINGS AND BILL CHARACTERISTICS

After you have determined its general size and shape, then you should be ready to start looking for other details. Start at the head, look for distinctive strips and patches of colour including crown stripes, eye lines, nape colour, eye arcs or rings. Does it have a black 'hood' on its head? Do its feathers form a crest atop its head? Also note the colour and shape of the bird's bill. How long is the bill in relation to the bird's head? Is it straight or curved, conical or flattened?

LOOK FOR WING BARS AND TAIL SHAPE

Next look for details on the bird's body, wings, and tail. Keep an eye out for wing bars, colour patches, and other markings on the body, when it is stationary or in flight. What colour is its back and its belly? How long is its tail in relation to the bird's body length? How does it hold its tail? Does it have a forked tail or is it square or rounded?

OBSERVE LEG COLOUR AND LENGTH

Does the bird have long legs or short legs and what are the colour? If you can catch a glimpse of its feet, try and determine if its feet are webbed, or if it has talons. Some birds even have toes that arranged differently than others and if you're fortunate enough to have a close-up view, see how many of its toes point forwards or backwards.

STUDY MOVEMENT AND FLIGHT PATTERNS

Observe the way the bird walks, how it holds its tail, or how it jumps from branch to branch. If it flies off, watch for a pattern in its flight, does it swoop up and down in gentle arcs with each wing beat or does it glide gently and steadily.

DETERMINE FEEDING HABITS

If you can, try and determine what the bird is eating or how it feeds. Does it cling to a tree trunk and dig at the bark looking for insects? Does it forage on the ground, tilting its head to watch for insects scurrying amongst blades of grass, or does it move its bill through the water at the edge of a pond.

DESCRIBE HABITAT, AREA, AND CLIMATE

Make note of the habitat in which you have observed the bird, you can do this even after the bird has flown off. Did you spot the bird in a wetland or woodland? Are you in an urban setting or in the jungle? Each species of bird has a typical region that they inhabit and making note of the area you're in when you observe a bird can narrow the possibilities when you try to identify that bird. Also, birds migrate and species composition in a region changes throughout the seasons, so make note of the time of year (or specific date you observed the bird).

Record Your Observations

After viewing the bird, write down your observations for later reference. From markings to behaviour, write down anything you noticed, it can all help when you later sit down with a field guide to confirm the bird's species. Also, note the location, date, time of day of the sighting.



Wrinkled Hornbill
Aceros corrugatus
PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



BIRD CONSERVATION

Bird and wildlife conservation is critical to the richness and diversity of the planet we share with more than 10,000 species of birds. Understanding bird conservation means understanding ecology. Wild birds are an integral part of the ecosystem and serve many important purposes, including:

- └ Insect and rodent population control
- └ Distribution of seeds that leads to forest conservation
- └ Food sources for bird predators

By studying and conserving birds, we can better understand the relationships between all living things on our planet and how the interactions of those relationships can affect humans directly.



Dusky Munia
Lonchura fuscans
PHOTO . WILLIAM TAN

BIODIVERSITY

Birds are one of the most populous life forms on earth, and that biodiversity leads to a richness of life and beauty. The incredible numbers of bird species demonstrates amazing evolutionary adaptations, and by learning how birds are able to adapt can we begin to change our own behaviours to live harmoniously in our world. Bird conservation can also highlight the diversity of different habitats.

APPRECIATION

One of the simplest pleasures we get from bird and wildlife conservation is a genuine appreciation for our natural world. We come into close contact with different birds and can discover their unique personalities and quirks. Even the common birds in our backyard can teach us appreciation of natural diversity. By recognizing birds as unique and individual creatures, we can better understand the need for appropriate conservation efforts.

Awareness and Education

Participating in one type of conservation program inevitably leads to a heightened awareness of other environmental and conservation issues. Birders interested in preserving one species of shore bird, for example, may discover that the reason the bird population is declining is due to contaminated water. That awareness of local pollution can lead to efforts for better water conservation that may in turn impact local beaches or drinking water.

Conscientious birders should be aware of a range of environmental issues, including:

- Pollution
- Habitat destruction
- Pesticide effects
- Endangered species
- Bird hunting regulations
- Predator populations

Each of these issues is interconnected and can impact birds in often unexpected ways. Large numbers of feral cats resulting from transient populations or animal shelter overcrowding, for example, for example, can have an impact on local bird populations because of a greater number of predators. Birders who are aware of these and similar issues can take action to promote responsible bird conservation.



BORNEAN GROUND CUCKOO . *Carpococcyx radiatus*
PHOTO . SUNGAI INGEI RESEARCH TEAM



Getting started

START BY WATCHING BIRDS IN YOUR GARDEN OR PARK.

You'll be able to learn about identification techniques and there shouldn't be too many different species that might confuse you.

LEARN TO IDENTIFY BIRDS BY THEIR CALLS

You can download bird songs online and it's a great idea to put it on an mp3 player that you can take with you when you go into the field.

BINOCULARS

One of the most important pieces of kit that you should always be on hand, carrying them on a neck strap is always wise for quick access.

RESEARCH THE AREA

A map of the area you will be birdwatching in can help you plan a route of your trip and prevent the occurrence of becoming lost. Before you go off on a birding trip read up on what birds you may see with relevance to time of day and year.

JOIN A LOCAL BIRD WATCHING GROUP

Go on an organised birding tour. You'll have the opportunity to visit a great bird watching area under the guidance of an experienced birder. You'll get to know other bird watchers and share your knowledge and meet experienced birders who can help hone your skills.

RECORD YOUR SIGHTINGS

Keep a pen and paper handy for making notes from field observations. Waterproof notebooks are more practical

depending on the location. Keep track of what you have seen, where and when, this way you can begin to map populations.

TAKE PICTURES

Visual records are a great tool for identifying species if eye-to-eye observation proves too difficult. Take snapshots of birds that you want to identify later as well as recording your sightings.

BIRDWATCHING FIELD BAG

A field bag is useful for carrying all your supplies when you go out bird watching. Although, every individual will have different requirements, there is some equipment that it is essential to pack in your field bag.

Identification: You may find it useful to carry proper identification particularly if you are visiting areas near private or restricted land.

Water: Birdwatching may involve periods of prolonged walking so keeping hydrated is essential, as depending on your location, water sources may be few and far between.

Mobile Phone: Birdwatching can take place in remote locations so keeping in contact in case of emergency is essential. Also if you have a smart phone there are a number of birding apps available to enhance your hobby.

First Aid Kit and Emergency Equipment: In the unfortunate event of an accident and generally keeping yourself safe from the elements; sunglasses, sunscreen and lip balm, insect repellent, aspirin, plasters, antiseptic cream, torch and flares can facilitate.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

The interests of the bird come first

It applies not just when you are at a nature reserve, but whenever you are watching birds at home or abroad. Birds respond to people in many ways, depending on the species, location and time of year. Avoid disturbing birds and their habitats at all cost, as it may keep birds from their nests, leaving chicks hungry or enabling predators to take eggs or young.

Be an Ambassador for birdwatching

It will be most effective if people lead by example and sensitively challenge the minority of birdwatchers who behave inappropriately. Think about your field craft and behaviour, not just so that you can enjoy your birdwatching, but so others can too.



CRIMSON SUNBIRD
Aethopyga siparaja
PHOTO . ABDUL HADI

species selected for this book

Due to abundance of food supply in Brunei, many species of migratory birds can be seen almost all year round.

Birds which are listed in this brochure are species that are seen naturally in Brunei as determined by those frequently spotted and in logistically possible to reach areas.

Access to the birding site

Respect the wishes of local residents and landowners, and don't enter private land without permission unless it is open for public access on

foot. Note that rules and codes can differ in each part of a country, so plan ahead and make sure you know where you can go and what you are permitted to do.

Make your sightings count

Get involved in national monitoring schemes where your sightings can contribute to local knowledge and help map the population of a particular species. This can aid in the conservation of a particular site and species of bird.

Rare birds

Think about the interests of wildlife and local people, respect legislation before passing on news of a rare bird, especially during the breeding season. Think about whether the site can cope with a large number of visitors and whether sensitive species might be at risk.

BASIC GUIDE OF USING THIS BOOK

CHARACTER
A distinguishing feature or attribute of species by size, colour and other specific physical characteristic.

IDENTIFICATION
Habit and general feature of species.

AREA
Common birdwatching area for sighting of the particular species.

TRANSPORTATION METHOD TO BIRDWATCHING SITE

TRAVEL BY WATER
The area can be reached by boat or possibility of traveling over wet area.

TRAVEL BY WALKING
The area can only be reached by walking or possibility of distance traveling on foot.

TRAVEL BY ROAD
The area can only be reached by road or possibility of vehicle within jungle area.



1. PHEASANT

Crested Fireback

Lophura pyronata



CHARACTER

- 65 - 67cm
- Only found in primary forests
- Uncommon local resident
- Population is declining due to over-hunting and forest destruction.



IDENTIFICATION

- Male has cobalt blue facial skin and dark crest.
- Dark blue upperparts, with yellowish tail feathers.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Argus Pheasant

Argusianus argus



PHOTO . SUNGAI INGEI RESEARCH TEAM



CHARACTER

- Male 120 - 165cm; Female 60cm
- Uncommon local resident
- Only found in pristine primary forests.
- Feeds on insects, fruits and berries.
- Male display to the female in a cleared dancing ground.



IDENTIFICATION

- Huge pheasant where male has elongated tail feathers. Female is smaller and lacks the long tail.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park



2. PARTRIDGE/ QUAILS/ ROULROUL

Roulroul



Notes:



4. HERON/ BITTERN

Grey Heron

Ardea cinerea



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 90 - 98cm
- Some local residents, with some winter visitors from the North.
- Can be seen on in wetlands such as lakes, swamps, rivers.
- Feeds on fish, small reptiles and small mammals.
- A large heron.



IDENTIFICATION

- Overall grey plumage. Head and neck are white with black line running from eye to crest. Yellow bill with yellowish grey legs and feet.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun

Purple Heron

Ardea purpurea



CHARACTER

- 70 - 90cm
- Common resident species in wetland areas such as coasts, estuaries, swamps and lakes.
- Can be seen waiting motionless for fish at water edge



IDENTIFICATION

- Body plumage is a mixture of brown, black and purplish-grey. Iris is pale yellow. Yellow bill, legs and feet. Head is pulled back during flight.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun,
Wasan Rice Fields



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



Cinnamon Bittern

Ixobrychus cinnamomeus



CHARACTER

- 38 - 40cm
- Can be found in swampy areas and paddy fields.
- A very shy bird, and seldom seen in open ground.



IDENTIFICATION

- Adult male has uniformly rich cinnamon upperparts and paler underparts. Adult female is duller with some white streaks on upperparts. Cinnamon wings are prominent during flight.



AREA

Wasan Rice Field, Kuala Balai

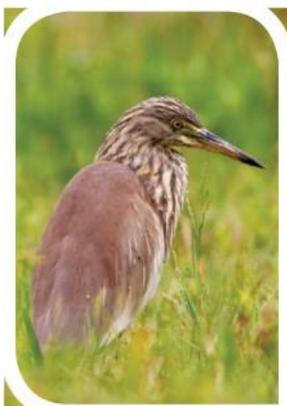


PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Yellow Bittern

Ixobrychus sinensis



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 30 - 40cm
- Uncommon local resident with some being winter visitor.
- Prefers swamps, marshes, paddy fields.
- Feeds on invertebrates.



IDENTIFICATION

- Dark crown and brownish upperparts. During flight, black wing feathers and tail can be seen.



AREA

Wasan fields, Kuala Balai



5. EGRET

Great Egret

Ardea alba



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 80 - 104cm
- Common winter visitor throughout Borneo, some might be resident.
- Commonly found in wetlands, mangroves and mudflats.



IDENTIFICATION

- Largest migratory egret.
- Heavy bills, long kinked neck, yellow bill during non-breeding season.



AREA

Commonly seen in Tutong sewage treatment plant, Sg. Seria, Damuan mudflats, Serasa mudflats; Kg. Ayer (Water village) during low tide

Little Egret

Egretta garzetta



CHARACTER

- 55 - 65cm
- Common winter migrant, and some might have become local resident.
- Normally fishes along the seashore or in swampy areas.
- Occasionally in large flocks when following a tractor.
- Stir up prey in mud or water with feet by walking quickly.



IDENTIFICATION

- A small delicate egret.
- Long thin black bill, black leg and yellow feet



AREA

Commonly seen in Tutong sewage treatment plant, Sg. Seria, Damuan mudflats, Serasa mudflats, water village during low tide.



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



3. DARTER



© 2015 photography Oct2015

Notes:

Oriental Darter

Anhinga melanogaster



CHARACTER

- 85 - 97cm
- Locally common resident, found in swampy marshlands, rivers and lakes.
- Sometimes seen swimming with only its head and neck above water surface.
- Dives for fish and other aquatic reptiles with its sharp bills.
- Sometimes can be seen perched and spreading its wings to dry.



IDENTIFICATION

- Long, thin snake-like neck, and pale streaks in plumage.
- Greyish-yellow webbed feet.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun, Wasan Rice Field, Tutong Sewage Treatment Area



8. HAWKS/ EAGLES/ KITES

Grey-headed Fishing Eagle

Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus



CHARACTER

- 61 - 75cm
- Uncommon local residents.
- Can be found perched on trees along interior rivers, wet marshes and swamps.
- Feeds on freshwater fish.



IDENTIFICATION

- Large greyish brown eagle with white tail and broad black terminal band.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest,
Kuala Balai



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Crested Serpent Eagle

Spilornis cheela



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 45 - 74cm
- Common local resident, often seen perching on electric cable in rural villages.
- Can be seen soar above forests in mid-day.
- Feeds on snakes, small mammals and smaller birds.



IDENTIFICATION

- Black crown with small crest. Dark brown upperparts with and chestnut underparts, intersperse with white feathers giving its characteristic look of scaly plumages. Bright yellow bare facial skin.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun,
Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Forest Reserve



White-bellied Sea Eagle

Haliaeetus leucogaster



CHARACTER

- 70 - 85cm
- Common local resident
- Can be seen soaring along coasts, lakes, estuaries, and swamps.
- Hunts by swooping down and snatching fish and other prey from water surface.



IDENTIFICATION

- A large eagle with white, black and grey plumage, and wedge-shaped tail. In flight, white underwing coverts are prominent against dark flight feathers.



AREA

Kg. Ayer (Water village), Brunei river



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Rufous-bellied Hawk-eagle



Changeable Hawk-eagle



Wallace's Hawk-eagle





Brahminy Kite

Haliastur indus

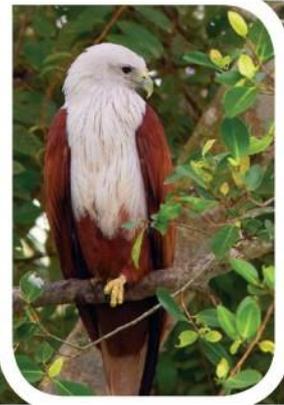


PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 45 - 51cm
- Common local resident.
- Can be seen soaring above swamps, coasts and mangroves.
- Predator feeding on fish, reptiles and small mammals.



IDENTIFICATION

- Bright chestnut brown upperparts with white head.



AREA

Tutong Mangroves,
Kg. Ayer (Water village)

Bat Hawk



Black-shouldered Kite



Black Kite





9. FALCON/ BUZZARD

Black-thighed Falconet



Peregrine Falcon



Oriental Honey Buzzard



Osprey





12. STILTS/ STINTS/ LAPWING/ PLOVER

Black-winged Stilt



Grey-headed Lapwing



Long-toed Stint



Kentish Plover



Little Ringed Plover



Pacific Golden Plover





13. SANDPIPER/ REDSHANK/ GREENSHANK

Common Sandpiper

Actitis hypoleucos



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 19 - 21cm
- Commonest wader in Brunei, normally seen on mudflats and mangroves fringe.



IDENTIFICATION

- Sandy-brown upperparts with white eye-ring and dark eye-stripe. Constantly bobbing its tail.



AREA

Kg Ayer (Water village) at low tide, Seria mudflats

Wood Sandpiper



Common Redshank



Common Greenshank





14. CURLEW/ WHIMBREL/ GODWIT

Whimbrel

Numenius phaeopus



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 40 - 46cm
- Seasonal, common winter visitor to Brunei.
- Can be seen on coastal mudflats and mangrove forests feeding alone or in small groups.
- Feeds on worms and small crustaceans by probing the mud with its long bill.



IDENTIFICATION

- Brownish black crown stripe with long, decurved black bill.



AREA

Brunei Bay mudflats,
Kg. Ayer (Water village) at low tide

Black-tailed Godwit



Eurasian Curlew





16. DOVE/PIGEON

Zebra Dove



Spotted Dove



Emerald Dove



Thick-billed Green Pigeon



Cinnamon-headed Green Pigeon



Little Green Pigeon





Pink-necked Green Pigeon



Jambu Dove



Large Green Pigeon



Green Imperial Pigeon





18. CUCKOO/ DRONGO

Moustached Hawk-cuckoo



Plaintive Cuckoo



Square-tailed
Drongo-cuckoo



Violet Cuckoo



Racquet-tailed Drongo



Bronzed Drongo





19. MALKOHA/ COUCAL

Chestnut-breasted Malkoha

Phaenicophaeus curvirostris



CHARACTER

- 42 - 49cm
- The largest malkoha in Brunei.
- Common local residents.
- Found in both primary and disturbed forests, cultivated areas, mature gardens.
- Feeds on insects, small lizards, frogs.



IDENTIFICATION

- Dark grey head with prominent red patch of skin around eyes.
- Upper mandible of bill is yellowish. Underparts and tail tip is dark chestnut brown.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park, Perdayan Recreational Forest, Kuala Balai, Seria, Jalan Sg. Burung

Black-bellied Malkoha



Chestnut-bellied Malkoha



Raffles's Malkoha





20. OWLS/ FROGMOUTH/ NIGHTJAR

Buffy Fish Owl

Ketupa ketupu



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 38 - 44cm
- Nocturnal
- Common resident in lowland forests.
- Associated with water bodies such as swamps, paddy fields, streams and rivers.
- Usually feeds on fish, frogs and small mammals.
- Roosts in dense foliage trees and palms.



IDENTIFICATION

- Long horizontal ear tufts; white V shaped patch above bill.
- Generally dark rufous brown plumage.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park, Tasek Merimbun, Kuala Balai, Perdayan Forest Reserve

Collared Scops Owl

Otus bakkamoena



CHARACTER

- One of the commonest small owl in Borneo.
- Found in disturbed areas and around cultivated farms.
- Feeds of insects such as cicadas, and also small reptiles.
- Nest in tree cavities.



IDENTIFICATION

- Small, brownish owl.



AREA

Tasek Lama, Kuala Balai, Perdayan Forest Reserve



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



Brown Wood Owl



Sundan Frogmouth



Large-tailed Nightjar

Caprimulgus macrurus



CHARACTER

- 25 - 29cm
- Common local resident.
- Can be seen in open grasslands, cultivated areas, parks.
- Normally seen rest on the ground or perch on a low branch.



IDENTIFICATION

- Dark brown plumage with pale buffy spots.



AREA

Tutong, Berakas Forest Reserve



PHOTO . Joseph Charles



21. SWIFT/ SWALLOW/ NEEDLETAIL

Grey-rumped Treeswift



Whiskered Treeswift



Barn Swallow



Pacific Swallow



Brown Needletail



White-breasted Wood Swallow





23. KINGFISHER

Collared Kingfisher

Todiramphus chloris



CHARACTER

- 23 - 25cm
- Local resident; one of the most common kingfishers seen in urban coastal areas of Brunei.
- Can be seen in mangroves, swamps, coastal beaches, gardens, ponds etc.
- Feeds on insects and small reptiles such as frogs and lizards.



IDENTIFICATION

- Greenish-turquoise upperparts with bright white underparts and collar.



AREA

Serasa, Kuala Balai



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Stork-billed Kingfisher

Pelargopsis capensis



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 35cm
- The largest kingfisher in Borneo.
- Common local resident.
- Seen in swampy areas mangroves, paddy fields and along interior rivers.
- Can be seen perched on branches or wire poles waiting for preys such as crabs, fish and small mammals.



IDENTIFICATION

- A stocky kingfisher with buffy orange head, massive red bill and turquoise upperparts.



AREA

Tutong river, Belait river



Blue-eared Kingfisher

Alcedo meninting



CHARACTER

- 17cm
- Forest kingfisher, occur in both good and disturbed forests along mangroves, streams and swamps.
- Feeds on small fish only.



IDENTIFICATION

- Distinctive blue band on back with bright metallic blue upperparts. White throat and patch on side of neck. Underpart is rufous orange.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun, Tutong river



PHOTO . ABDUL HADI

Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher



Common Kingfisher



Bornean Banded Kingfisher





25. DOLLARBIRD/ BROADBILL

Dollarbird

Eurystomus orientalis



CHARACTER

- 25 - 28cm
- Common local resident
- Can be found on disturbed forests and cultivated areas.
- Normally seen flying in the air with the characteristics large white patch on both side of wings.



IDENTIFICATION

- Large-sized bird with black head and overall bluish-green appearance with red bill.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun, Jalan Sg.
Burung



PHOTO . ABDUL HADI

Black-and-red Broadbill

Cymbirhynchus macrorhynchos



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 20 - 24cm
- Uncommon local resident
- Can be found in both primary and disturbed forests.
- More readily seen near interior rivers where the nest hangs suspended over water.
- Feeds on fruits, insects and other invertebrates.



IDENTIFICATION

- Attractive broadbill with black head and back, red underparts. Upper mandible of bill is bright cobalt blue and lower mandible is yellow.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest,
Kuala Balai



Black-and-yellow Broadbill

Eurylaimus ochromalus



CHARACTER

- 13 - 15cm
- Uncommon local resident.
- Found mostly in primary forests and mature secondary forests.
- Usually can be spotted at high canopy level.
- Feeds on insects.



IDENTIFICATION

- Black head and upperparts with white collar ring and bright yellow streaks on wings and back, pink underparts.
- Bills are bright turquoise blue.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park, Peradayan Recreational Forest, Kuala Balai



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Dusky Broadbill



Banded Broadbill



Green Broadbill





26. HORNBILL

Wrinkled Hornbill

Aceros corrugatus



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 65 - 70cm
- Uncommon local resident.
- Only found in primary forests
- Feeds on fruits and small mammals.



IDENTIFICATION

- Male has small red casque; two-third of tail is white and blue skin around eye.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest

Rhinoceros Hornbill

Buceros rhinoceros



CHARACTER

- 80 - 90cm
- Uncommon local residents.
- Only found in pristine primary forests.
- Feeds mainly on figs and other fruits; also on small insects and lizards.



IDENTIFICATION

- Large hornbill with red casque; white tail with black central band.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest,
Kuala Balai



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



Oriental Pied Hornbill

Anthracoceros albirostris



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 55 - 60cm
- Common local resident.
- Found in disturbed forests, cultivated areas, mature gardens.
- Feeds on fruits and insects.



IDENTIFICATION

- Black overall with white belly, vent and under-tail.



AREA

Seria, Kuala Balai

Bushy-crested Hornbill



Wreathed Hornbill



Asian Black Hornbill (male/female)





Helmeted Hornbill



Notes:



27. BARBET

Black-eared Barbet



Bornean Brown
Barbet



Red-throated Barbet



Notes:

Red-Crowned Barbet





28. WOODPECKER/ PICULET

Common Flameback
Woodpecker



Brown-capped
Woodpecker



Orange-backed
Woodpecker



Olive-backed
Woodpecker



Buff-rumped
Woodpecker



Crimson-winged
Woodpecker





29. PITTA/ NUTHATCH

Fairy Pitta



Hooded Pitta



Velvet-fronted Nuthatch

Sitta frontalis



CHARACTER

- 12 - 12.5cm
- Common local resident.
- Normally found in primary forests and mature secondary forests.
- An agile bird that can climb vertically up and down tree trunk searching for insects and ants on bark.



IDENTIFICATION

- Black forehead with blue upperparts. Bill, legs and feet are red.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest,
Kuala Balai, Jalan Sg. Burung



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



30. IORA/ LEAFBIRD

Common Iora

Aegithina tiphia



CHARACTER

- 12 - 14 cm
- Common resident species in Brunei.
- Found in disturbed secondary forests, cultivated areas and gardens.
- Territorial and usually occurred in pairs.
- Feeding on small invertebrates found on leaves.



IDENTIFICATION

- Yellowish plumage on body, with darker yellow upper parts; long white feathers on the rump prominent during flight.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun; Kuala Balai;
Peradayan Forest Reserve,
Berakas Forest Reserve



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Green Iora



Lesser Leafbird



Greater Leafbird





31. MINIVET

Grey-chinned Minivet
(male)



Grey-chinned Minivet
(female)



Scarlet Minivet (male)



Fiery Minivet
(female)



Scarlet Minivet (juvenile)





32. SHRIKE

Black-winged Flycatcher
Shrike



Large Woodshrike



Long-tailed Shrike



Tiger Shrike



Sundan Cuckoo-shrike



Lesser Cuckoo-shrike





33. ORIOLE/ BLUEBIRD/ BLACK MAGPIE/ CROW

Dark-throated Oriole



Large-billed Crow



Asian Fairy Bluebird



Slender-billed Crow



Bornean Black Magpie





34. TAILORBIRD/ PRINIA/ TRILLER

Ashy Tailorbird

Orthotomus ruficeps



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 11 - 12 cm
- Seasonal, also known as Red-headed Tailorbird.
- Common local resident in cultivated areas, gardens, disturbed forests.
- Can be seen moving actively from branch to branch foraging for small insects.



IDENTIFICATION

- Overall ashy grey plumage with rufous head, face and chin.



AREA

Damuan Park, Kuala Balai

Rufous-tailed Tailorbird



Yellow-bellied Prinia



Pied Triller





35. BULBUL/ STARLING

Yellow-vented Bulbul

Pycnonotus goiavier



CHARACTER

- 20cm
- Commonest bulbul in garden and cultivated areas.
- A bold, successful opportunist, feeding on grass lawns.
- Feeds on small fruits and insects.
- Sometimes nests in garden shrubs



IDENTIFICATION

- Broad whitish supercillium with dark crown; yellow vent.



AREA

Commonly seen in Tasek Lama, Kuala Balai, Berakas Forest Reserve, Damuan Park, Residential Areas

Black-And-White Bulbul



Grey-bellied Bulbul



Buff-vented Bulbul





Cream-vented Bulbul (juvenile)



Streaked Bulbul



Hairy-backed Bulbul



Olive-winged Bulbul



Red-eyed Bulbul



Spectacled Bulbul





32. GRASSBIRD/ WABBLER/ BABBLER

Striated Grassbird



Oriental Reed Wabbler



Black-capped Babbler



Chestnut-rumped Babbler



Chestnut-winged Babbler



Rufous-fronted Babbler





38. MYNA

Common Myna

Acridotheres tristis



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 25 - 26cm
- Invasive species in Brunei.
- Some small populations seen in Brunei.
- Found in cultivated areas and along roadsides.
- Commonly seen foraging for invertebrates on ground.
- Highly adapted to human population areas.



IDENTIFICATION

- Chocolate body with black head and yellow facial skin; white wing patch prominent during flight.



AREA

Commonly seen in National Stadium Berakas, Sungai Akar

Javan Myna



Hill Myna





39. THRUSH/ STONECHAT/ MAGPIE ROBIN

Blue-rock Thrush



Eye-Browed Thrush



Siberian Stonechat



Magpie Robin

Copsychus saularis



CHARACTER

- 20 - 23cm
- Common local residents found in cultivated areas, garden, villages etc
- Can be seen hopping on ground foraging for invertebrates
- A favourite songbird facing the problem of over-exploitation



IDENTIFICATION

- Glossy black upperparts and greyish black underparts with broad white wing-stripe.



AREA

Tasek Lama, Residential Areas



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



40. FLYCATCHER/ MONARCH

Asian Paradise Flycatcher



Blue-and-white
Flycatcher



Dark-sided Flycatcher



Rufous-breasted
Flycatcher (female)





Mangrove Blue Flycatcher



Little Pied Flycatcher



Black-naped Monarch



Verditer Flycatcher



Mugimaki Flycatcher
(female)



Narcissus Flycatcher





41. FANTAIL/ PHILENTOMA

Pied Fantail

Rhipidura javanica



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG



CHARACTER

- 17 - 20cm
- Very active small bird, can be seen constantly fanning out tail, and moving in lower mid-storey feeding on insects.
- Normally found in disturbed forests, cultivated areas, mangrove forests, gardens.



IDENTIFICATION

- Black head and upperparts with white supercilium, throat and lower underparts. Tails are dark-grey with broad white tips.



AREA

Berakas Forest Reserve, Tasek Merimbun,
Jalan Sg. Burung

Spotted Fantail



Maroon-breasted Philentoma (female)



Notes:



42. FLOWERPECKER

Yellow-vented Flowerpecker

Dicaeum chrysorrheum



CHARACTER

- 9 - 10cm
- Common local resident, prefers mature secondary forests and forest edges.
- Can be seen actively foraging for fruits and small insects among foliage.



IDENTIFICATION

- Olive-green upperparts with distinctive thin streaks on underparts, yellow rump.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park,
Peradayan Recreational Forest,
Kuala Balai, Jalan Sg. Burung



PHOTO . STEPHEN HOGG

Orange-bellied Flowerpecker



Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker



Scarlet-breasted Flowerpecker





Yellow-rumped Flowerpecker



Spectacled Flowerpecker



Notes:





43. SUNBIRDS

Brown-Throated Sunbird

Anthreptes malaccensis



CHARACTER

- 12 - 13cm
- Common local residents.
- Prefers cultivated areas, gardens, forest edges.
- Feeds on nectar and insects.



IDENTIFICATION

- Adult male has metallic blue upperparts with coppery brown throat. Female has overall olive-yellowish body.



AREA

Kuala Balai, Tasek Merimbun, Tasek Lama, Jalan Sg. Burung

Crimson Sunbird

Aethopyga siparaja



CHARACTER

- 9 - 10 cm
- Local resident, commonly seen in disturbed habitats and gardens.
- Feeds on nectars and small invertebrates.



IDENTIFICATION

- An attractive bright red sunbird.
- Adult male has bright red head to back, and black tail. Adult female is yellowish-green.



AREA

Tasek Lama, Damuan Park, Residential Areas



PHOTO . ABDUL HADI



Olive-backed Sunbird

Nectarinia jugularis



CHARACTER

- 10cm
- Local resident, commonly seen in disturbed habitats and gardens.
- Feeds on nectars and small invertebrates.



IDENTIFICATION

- Long bill; Adult male has distinctive metallic blue forehead, throat and breast. Rest of body yellowish-green. Female is olive green without the metallic hue.



AREA

Tasek Lama, Damuan Park,
Residential Areas,
Jalan Sg. Burung

Plain Sunbird



Purple-naped Sunbird



Purple-throated Sunbird





44. SPIDERHUNTER

Little Spiderhunter

Arachnothera longirostra



CHARACTER

- 15 - 17cm
- Common local residents in forests, cultivated areas and mature gardens.
- Can be seen moving quickly through dense undergrowth of wild banana and ginger feeding on nectar and insects.



IDENTIFICATION

- Dark olive-green upperparts with scaly looking forehead. Very long bill with whitish-grey throat.



AREA

Ulu Temburong National Park, Peradayan National Park, Tasek Merimbun



PHOTO . ABDUL HADI

Spectacled Spiderhunter



Yellow-eared Spiderhunter





45. MUNIA/ SPARROW

Dusky Munia

Lonchura fuscans



PHOTO . WILLIAM TAN



CHARACTER

- 10cm
- Only found in Borneo.
- Common local resident.
- Found in all cultivated areas, paddy fields, gardens, forest edges.



IDENTIFICATION

- Small with blackish-brown plumage. Lower mandible of bill is greyish blue.



AREA

Tasek Merimbun, Tasek Lama

Java Sparrow

Padda oryzivora



PHOTO . WILLIAM TAN



CHARACTER

- 16 - 17cm
- Introduced species to Brunei due to pet trade.
- Can be found in open grassland, gardens and paddy field. Often seen in groups.
- Feeds on seeds and grains.



IDENTIFICATION

- Black head with extension white patch covering from cheek to ear. Grey upperpart, with pink belly and flanks.



AREA

Wasan



Scaly-breasted Munia



Chestnut Munia



Eurasian Tree-sparrow



Notes:



PHILIPPINE BIRD
PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM

Wildlife Photography DO'S and DON'TS

LEARN ALARM CALLS

Learn to recognize wildlife alarm signals and never forget that these animals are NOT tame no matter how docile or cuddly they appear.



USE CALLS WITH RESTRAINT

At all times, use recordings with utmost restraint. Using recordings may attract predators. Calls may be harmful to birds during times of reproduction and prevents them from foraging for food.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE



View wildlife from a safe distance for both you and them. Respect their spatial needs. If the animal interrupts its behavior (resting, feeding, etc), then you are too close and must distance yourself.



DON'T SEPARATE PARENTS AND OFFSPRING



Never come between a parent and its offspring.



BE PATIENT

Never force an action. Be patient! The most beautiful photographs result from natural action.



DON'T HARASS



Never crowd, pursue, prevent escape, make deliberate noises to distract, startle or harass wildlife. This is stressful and wastes valuable energy in needless flight.

DON'T ENCROACH ON NESTS AND DENS



Never encroach on nests or dens as certain species will abandon their young.



LEAVE BREEDING ANIMALS ALONE



Never interfere with animals engaged in breeding, nesting, or caring for their young.



LEAVE NO TRACE

Do not damage or remove any plant, life form, or natural object. Do pack out trash.



EDUCATE YOURSELF

Aquaint yourself with and respect the behaviours and eco-systems of the wildlife you may encounter. By doing so, you will enrich your experience tremendously.



ANIMAL'S WELFARE FIRST

Remember that the welfare of the subject and habitat are irrefutably more important than the photograph.



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NATURE SOCIETY IN BRUNEI

Local Nature Societies are run by voluntary members to promote environmental activities, they are actively involved in promoting awareness by sharing their knowledge and experiences. These societies also have experienced birdwatchers.

Brunei Nature Society

www.bruneinaturesociety.org

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brunei_nature_society@hotmail.com

Panaga Natural History Society

www.bsp.com.bn/

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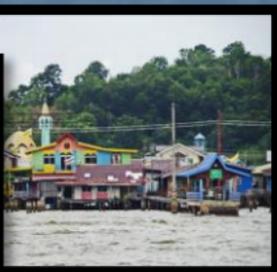
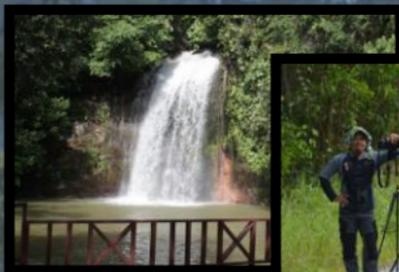
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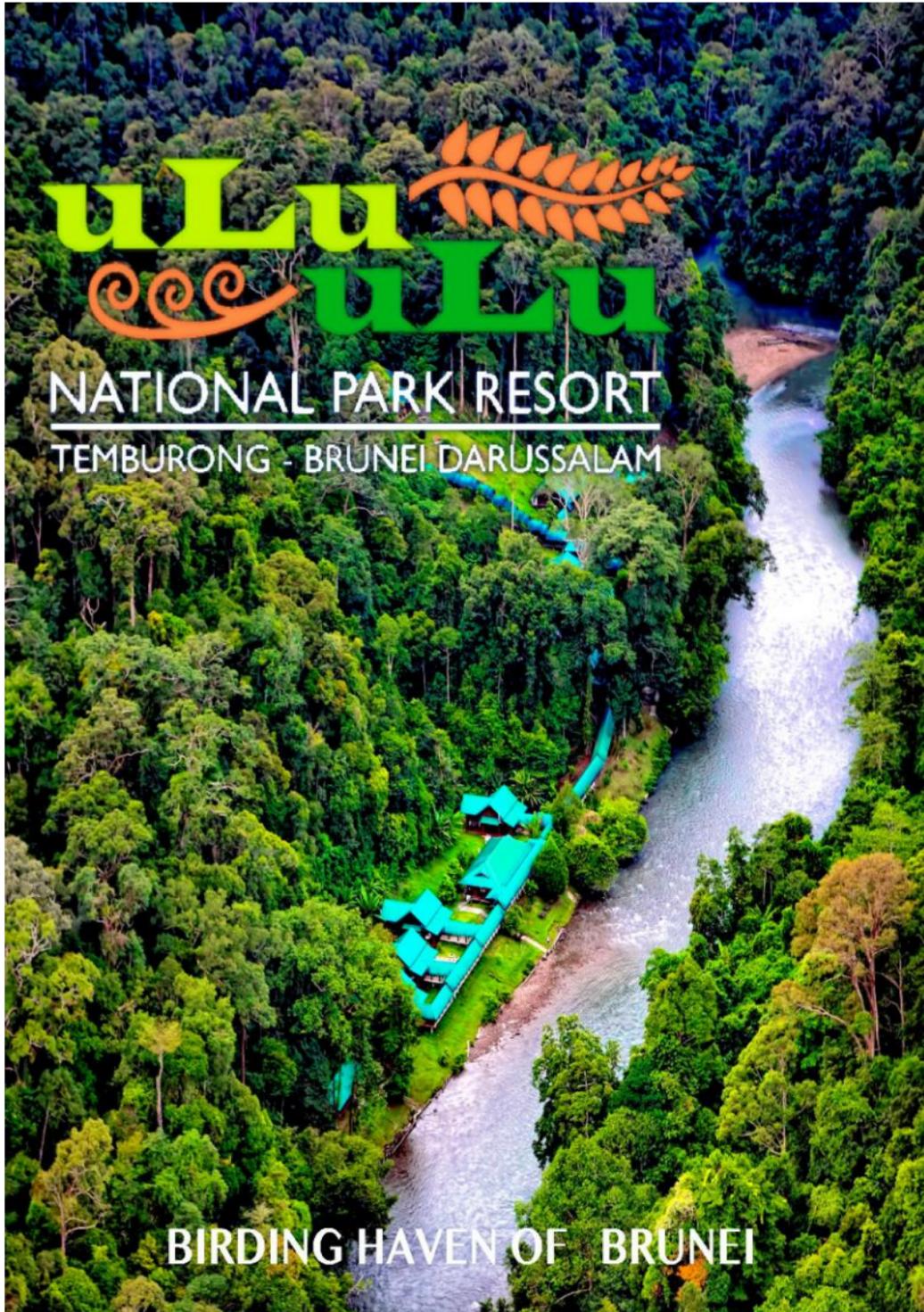


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