

## A VISIT TO GUNUNG NYIUT IN WEST KALIMANTAN

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Almost no ornithological fieldwork has been done in the montane regions of Kalimantan in recent decades (Holmes & Burton 1987)

We spent 10 days from 28 August to 6 September 1986 observing birds in Gunung Nyiut Wildlife Refuge, West Kalimantan (110° E, 1°N) and hope that our records will contribute to the distributional knowledge of the avifauna of Borneo.

The wildlife refuge covers 140,000 ha. of mainly submontane forest. The highest elevation at the summit of Gunung Nyiut is 1701 m. Between 800 and 1500 meter very little change in vegetation can be seen, but above this elevation and up the steep slopes of Gunung Nyiut the trees become quite low, only reaching 10-15 m in height.

The following is an annotated checklist of birds recorded above about 800 m - our altitudes are estimates and therefore they are only indicative. Unless otherwise stated, all birds were seen in primary, submontane forest.

*Macropygia ruficeps* Little Cuckoo-Dove: Common.

*Harpacies oreskios* Orange-breasted Trogon: One at 1000 meter.

*Megalaima monticola* Mountain Barbet: Common - its distinctive call being one of the characteristic sounds above 1000 meter.

*Megalaima eximia* Black-throated Barbet: A single bird seen at 1200 meter. It was observed at about 15 meters range for several minutes, tapping on a dead trunk like a woodpecker.

*Hirundo rustica* Barn Swallow : A small flock around summit of Gunung Nyiut.

*Criniger ochraceous* Ochraceous Bulbul: Common.

*Hypsipetes flavala* Ashy Bulbul: A few.

*Dicrurus leucophaeus* Ashy Drongo: A few.

*Trichastoma pyrrhogenys* Temminck's Babbler: One observation.

*Pomatorhinus montanus* Chestnut-backed Scimitar-Babbler: One observation.

*Napothera crassa* Mountain Wren-Babbler: Common at 1200-1400 meter, frequenting low bushes, seen in pairs or small groups.

*Napothera epilepidota* Eye-browed Wren-Babbler: Singles noted around 1200 meter in dense undergrowth. It proved somewhat difficult to identify the Wren-Babblers because of skulking behaviour and similar plumage. Mountain Wren-Babbler was identified by larger size, all white throat and breast, faintly streaked upperparts, and by lighter brown colour. Eye-browed Wren-Babbler could be confusing due to a wide range of plumages, but when seen the white spots on wing-coverts were conclusive.

*Stachyris nigriceps* Grey-throated Babbler: Common.

*Pteruthius flaviscapis* White-browed Shrike-Babbler: One at 1000 meter.

*Alcippe brunneicauda* Brown Fulvetta: Common.

*Yuhina everetti* Chestnut-crested Babbler: Very common from 500 meter and upward.

*Enicurus leschenaulti* White-crowned Forktail: A single bird at 1000 meter in swampy forest near a slow moving stream.

*Chlamydochaera jefferyi* Black-breasted Thrush: One pair seen feeding their fully grown young - once presumably with a tiny fruit. Observed at 1200 meter and always keeping to low branches of small to medium-sized trees. A further single individual was seen in the same habitat and altitude.

*Abroscopus superciliaris* Yellow-bellied Warbler: A few.

*Seicercus montis* Yellow-breasted Warbler: Common.

*Phylloscopus trivirgatus* Mountain Leaf-Warbler: Common.

*Orthotomus cuculatus* Mountain Tailorbird: Common above 1000 meter in dense thickets.

*Ficedula hyperythra* Snowy-browed Flycatcher: Two records.

*Ficedula westermanni* Little Pied Flycatcher: One.

*Cyornis concreta* White-tailed Flycatcher: One.

*Rhipidura albicollis* White-throated Fantail: Common. They had the paler underparts of *R.a. sarawacensis* and a narrower white throatstripe compared to the illustration of *R.a. kinabalu* in Smythies(1981); sometimes this stripe was barely visible.

*Pachycephala hypoxantha* Bornean Mountain Whistler: Common.

*Aethopyga siparaja* Crimson Sunbird: One male at 800 meter.

*Aethopyga mystacalis* Scarlet Sunbird: Several records at 800-1000 meter.

*Arachnothera longirostra* Little Spiderhunter: Two records.

*Chlorocharis emiliae* Mountain Black-eye: Several seen near summit of Gunung Nyiut in small trees.

Most of these species are widely distributed in Borneo, or known from the nearby Penrissen and Poi ranges in Sarawak. However major extensions of known range, to the order of 350 km, are indicated for the Mountain Barbet, and of 500 to 700 km for the Black-breasted Thrush, Mountain Wren-Babbler and Mountain Tailorbird. (Smythies, 1957 and 1981) From the lowlands one species deserves mention: In typical lowland dipterocarp forest a single *Caprimulgus concretus* Bonaparte's Nightjar was seen perched in a small tree about 3 meters above the ground in full daylight for 4-5 minutes. The bird, of typical nightjar appearance, was generally dark brown, had two small but distinct white patches on the outer tail feathers, a white throat patch (as the bird usually held its bill pointing down this patch was partly hidden), a barred dark and buff upper breast, bordered below by an indistinct white breast band, and a barred brown and buff belly. It lacked any markings in the wing and lacked the ear tufts of *Eurostopodus temminckii* Malaysian Eared Nightjar. Although not a reliable field indicator, the size appeared to be small.

#### REFERENCES

Holmes, D.A. & K. Burton, 1987. Recent notes on the avifauna of Kalimantan. *Kukila* 3 (1-2): 2-32.

Smythies, B.E., 1957. An annotated checklist of the birds of Borneo. *Sarawak Mus.J.* VII (9, New series)

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