This was a fantastic three week stay in Sumatra. We decided to base ourselves in two areas: the classic birding destination of Gunung Kerinci, and the much less well-known Gunung Leuser National Park in Aceh in the north.

On the logistics, we flew to Kuala Lumpur then stayed overnight at the Tune Hotel at KLIA2 before catching the 07:50 Air Asia flight to Padang. The Air Asia flights are straightforward to book online before leaving and very cheap. We subsequently flew via Sriwijaya Air from Padang to Medan (arranged when in Sumatra), and then from Medan to KL with Air Asia. All the flights worked out very well. On practicalities, it is worth taking both the Mackinnon and Phillips guide and Craig Robson’s Birds of South-East Asia. We took a scope but it’s not really necessary and wasn’t much used. Aside from a few afternoon downpours at Kerinci, the weather was good throughout (with Gunung Leuser going through a notably dry spell); and we encountered only one leech in the entire trip (attached to my backside in Gunung Leuser!).
I loved Kerinci - a beautiful location with great birds, and staying there is made easy by the fantastic set-up at Pak Subandi’s homestay. Don’t be put off by all the accounts about Kerinci being ‘Mount Doom’ and very slow. Unless you’re focusing purely on the toughest endemics, I found it to be pretty birdy, with reasonably regular mixed flocks. Anyone who thinks Kerinci is slow/birdless should try Gunung Leuser....

**Logistics:** We tried emailing Subandi in advance to arrange accommodation and transport from Padang but struggled to get hold of him. It was much better to text/ring, so try his mobile (+62 81274 114273). Pak charged us 7.2m rupiah for the whole stay, including transport from Padang airport and then a return journey to Bungus Bay, near Padang (and loads of extras like laundry and hired camping gear). Arranging transport direct from Padang airport to Kerisik Tua was a real luxury compared to how we normally do these things, but well worth it in practice! The food and hospitality at Subandi’s is excellent, and it’s easy to arrange drop-off/pick-ups at anti-social hours of the morning/night. Make sure you arrange these with Pak the night before: don’t try the walk to the drop-off, it would sap the energy you need for Kerinci! The 5am (or earlier) banana pancake with chocolate sauce and a strong coffee before departure was a memorable Kerinci ritual. Kerinci is straightforward to do without a guide, though Pak’s son, Dwi, is available and doubtless would be very valuable in helping nail all the endemics.

**The trails:** The logistics of birding Kerinci are well-covered elsewhere and there is a decent trail map in the logbook at Subandi’s. Birding is very much focused on the summit trail and the three main stops: Base Camp (which has a shelter); Air Minum (an open area but no shelter from the rain); and Camp Cochoa (a good shelter/place to sit). There is no shelter beyond Camp Cochoa, with only a collapsed structure at ‘1st shelter’. But it’s worth providing a bit of additional background on the ‘dry streambed’. This is accessible from the car-drop off; apparently from a side-trail off the main trail to Base Camp; from Base Camp (BC); and from Air Minum (AM) but doesn’t necessarily connect as implied in some sketches of the trails (based on some of the maps I had visions of being able to do a circular walk up the main trail to AM then back via the streambed...). From AM, you can drop down easily to the dry streambed, then turn left and reach a sheer look-out over the forest (a nice place to sit for the afternoon and look for canopy mixed flocks/raptors). You can also turn right and walk a short distance up to the top of the streambed (we had nice views of a couple of Trogons in a heavy downpour here!). From Base Camp a narrow but visible trail near the shelter leads down a very steep slope to the streambed. We did manage to walk all the way down from BC to the entrance but I wouldn’t advise this. There are lots of steep gorge sections and a fairly frequent need to divert back into the forest or scramble down awkward gullies. Towards the bottom of the streambed we branched left on an obvious path which weaved back through the fields before
coming out at the car-drop off. We also did the summit – which few birders seem to do – see below for further detail on the (very tough but rewarding) climb.

**Key targets:**

**Salvadori's Pheasant:** we had two fantastic sightings of a lovely male. On 24/6, we picked up a male on the trail about 150 yards before Base Camp at around 6:45 a.m. and managed to follow it carefully over a 20 minute period as it continued up the trail until around 200 yards after BC, when it hopped onto a log and perched in full view for five minutes! I had another amazing view on 26/6 when I stumbled on (perhaps the same) male perched on the main fallen logs on the approach to BC. This was at 8:30 a.m. in an open area so the view was superb. It disappeared when I reached for the camera though....

**Schneider’s Pitta:** a real holiday highlight came in the form of stunning views of a male and then a female at midday on 28/6! The male was perched motionless in perfect light which allowed unusually good views. But it’s a tough bird and I can see why some birders dip this species despite considerable effort. The location of our unexpected sighting in the middle of the day was around 15 minutes walk above Air Minum. You pass a big obvious upturned tree root on your right hand side, and then around 180 yards beyond this we saw the pitta in an open area to the left of the trail (as the trail goes quite steeply uphill on a straight stretch).

I also had a very brief, unsatisfactory view of a male bounding off the trail at 7:20a.m. on 26/6 on the path to Base Camp (before the first set of fallen logs, where the path splits very briefly into two with an island of vegetation in the middle). We heard the pitta on four other occasions: twice, on 23/6 and 25/6, in the area around 100m before the big set of fallen logs on the path to BC (where a very short side trail leads left off the path as you head towards BC); on 26/6 one was heard distantly from the early section of the trail from the entrance; and on 28/6 one was heard calling distantly from above AM. Unless you get lucky, this is a bird that will require a high degree of perseverance....

**Sumatran Green Pigeon:** only one – on our first evening on 22/6 near the entrance

**Sumatran Trogon:** very conspicuous on our visit – great sightings on each full day we were on the mountain. Locations were: once just above Camp Cochoa; twice between AM and CC; once at the top of the dry streambed above AM; and once at AM. The Camp Cochoa sighting involved three birds together. Beautiful bird!

**Sumatran ‘Short-tailed’ Frogmouth:** a seriously tricky bird to see during our stay – we heard it most days but only connected on our last evening at Kerinci on 1/7. Two birds were having a tussle and one perched nicely, albeit briefly, on a branch around 9:30p.m. This was from the main trail to BC before the first set of fallen logs. We were pretty pessimistic about our chances as it had rained lightly in the evening, but
interestingly the Frogmouths were still active. Huge respect to French birder Marc Thibault who only nailed the bird after sleeping in a hammock one night at Base Camp (though his hammock was subsequently nicked whilst he was birding around Base Camp in the morning!)

**Rajah Scop’s Owl:** a fantastic bird nesting by the first set of fallen logs on the path to BC. Luckily, we accompanied Marc Thibault as he headed out for nightbirding with Dwi, which enabled us to find out about the nest hole location. A useful technique deployed by Dwi was to imitate the call of Barred Eagle Owl to encourage the Rajah Scops to show. Beautiful owl!

**Salvadori’s Nightjar:** heard only on 1/7 from BC. Unfortunately, it rained on the evenings we waited around Base Camp at dusk to try to connect with this species.

**Sumatran ‘Collared’ Owlet:** heard most days, mainly around BC, and nice views on 24/6 around 200m before AM.

**Sumatran Cochoa:** a painful one: heard twice, both times in the Camp Cochoa area. The second time it was close, but my speakers had packed in, so we couldn’t use tapes. Others did see it during our stay but unusually low down the mountain in the Base Camp area. One to return to Kerinci for!

**Sumatran Whistling Thrush:** surprisingly showy during our visit. A very confiding bird was a regular feature of our stops at Base Camp. The dry streambed near Air Minum was the other regular location.

![The endemic Sumatran Whistling Thrush: Base Camp, Gunung Kerinci](image)
**Shiny Whistling Thrush**: common and easily seen.

**Rusty-breasted Wren-Babbler**: its distinctive ‘hot, wet, tea!’ was regularly heard, and we had excellent views on 23/6 just before Base Camp.

**Sumatran Wren-Babbler**: a disappointing dip. Heard twice: near AM on 24/6 and Base Camp on 28/6 but didn’t really get close...

The other notable dip was **Red-billed Partridge**: not a sniff on our visit, though others did see and photograph them! Dwi is apparently very good at whistling these birds in, so you should have a good chance if you go out with him.

The supporting cast of non-endemics at Kerinci is excellent: we had a number of great views of **Eye-browed** and the diminutive **Pygmy Wren-Babbler** (down to one yard!); both **Shortwings** are extremely showy; and I was pleased to connect regularly with **Blue Nuthatch**, having failed to see this species at Gunung Gede. **Snowy-browed Flycatcher** is a real feature of the place and the mixed flocks often include both **Minivets**, **Mountain Leaf** and **Sunda Warblers**, and **White-throated Fantail**.

![A beautiful male Pink-headed Fruit Dove at c2,700m and a Mitred Leaf-Monkey below Base Camp](image)

**The climb to the summit**: There’s no strong birding rationale for doing this, but reaching the summit was a fantastic experience and I’d definitely recommend it to any visitor to Kerinci (as long as you’re reasonably fit...). We did it on our own without a guide, which was fine, though you would need to take care if the summit area was covered in cloud (and, in fact, would need to seriously consider aborting given that the path is quite sketchy in places once you’re above the treeline). The key piece of advice for a summit climb is to make sure you reach the summit for 8 a.m. or before. Pak reckoned that the clouds generally roll in on Kerinci at 10 a.m. but they came down at 8:45 when we climbed it. It would be an incredibly tough and arduous climb to end up with no views at from the top...
I had to impose a self-denying ordnance on birding to allow us to actually make it to the summit! For those trying it in the future, the walk timings for us were: 7:45a.m. set-off from the drop-off; at First Shelter for 10:05a.m.; Shelter 2 at 12:50p.m. and set up camp; set off for the summit at 5a.m. the following morning; at Shelter 3 just after 6 a.m.; at the summit for 7:50a.m. The trail becomes progressively steeper after Shelter 2, and you often need to clamber up it by hauling yourself up tree roots etc. Camping at Shelter 2 looks to the best bet – you would be fine at Shelter 3 but it is comparatively exposed and probably even colder than Shelter 2 at night (which was freezing!).

Birding wise it gets fairly quiet as you go higher but the species composition changes. **Orange-spotted Bulbul** becomes frequent beyond First Shelter and very common around 2\textsuperscript{nd} shelter and above. **Mountain White-eye** is common as you go higher and was the only bird we saw above 3\textsuperscript{rd} shelter. Key notable sightings:

- **Pink-headed Fruit Dove** – we had incredible eye-level views of a beautiful male about 20 minutes walk above First Shelter (see photo above). From reading the few other accounts in Pak’s old logbooks of birders who have made it to the summit, it looks like the Fruit Dove becomes commoner as you head higher up.
- **Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon** – becomes common around First Shelter and above. Its eerie song was echoing around the mist covered slopes as we camped at 2\textsuperscript{nd} shelter, providing another evocative birding memory from Kerinci.
- **Island Thrush**: very conspicuous hopping around our tent at 2\textsuperscript{nd} shelter. Another was seen higher up. Not a sniff of Sunda Thrush though...
• **Rufous-vented Niltava**: separate sightings of an adult and a juv between 1st and 2nd shelters

It’s also worth an honourable mention for the excellent mammals at Kerinci. **Mitred Leaf-Monkeys** were a frequent sight on the lower stretches of trail in particular. Kerinci was particularly good for **Siamang**: we had memorable encounters with this fantastic gibbon most days (having dipped them previously at Taman Negara and Fraser’s Hill). The cheeky **Three-striped Ground Squirrels** are good value around BC and Camp Cochoa, and we had a single **Black Giant Squirrel** from BC.

**GUNUNG TUJUH**: We had a break from Kerinci to climb to Danau Tujuh one day. You can catch a bemo from just outside Subandi’s to Pelompek (ask for Pelompek/Gunung Tujuh). The bemo (4k Rupiah) should only take c25 minutes and drop you off by a right-hand turn in Pelompek. It’s then around a 2km walk along the road to the Tujuh trailhead – we flagged down a couple of ojek which is definitely worth doing to save your legs. You can get a permit (20K) at the office just next to the entrance sign. The path is easy to follow initially but then weaves through fields – make sure you bear right over a small stream when the path seems to split at one stage. It then meanders up through the fields to the forest and is then straightforward to follow (it splits a couple of times but these trails always re-join). You reach the forested summit and then need to descend steeply down on a path to the crater lake. It took us 2 hours to walk from the entrance to the lake, but we were going fairly quickly.

The crater lake at Tujuh is lovely and well-worth a visit, but the walk was fairly quiet for birds. A few mixed flocks were similar to Kerinci – Sunda and Grey-chinned Minivets; Golden Babbler; Sunda and Mountain Leaf Warblers; Blyth’s Shrike Babbler; Shiny Whistling Thrush.

**TAPAN ROAD**: We only did one day on the Tapan Road. Although we did manage to connect with most of the specialities on our day trip, the Tapan Road would certainly warrant a good few days of birding. If we went back, I’d be tempted to camp at the ranger station (no facilities but a good flat area for camping), and also try staying lower down at Muaro Sako (we only got as far as the second bridge). After initially planning on staying in Sungai Penuh, we ended up following Marc Thibault’s advice and going with Pak (which costs 800K). It’s a 2hr+ drive from the homestay, and a 4:40a.m. departure, but really comfortable in the van and it’s worth going with Pak for the Graceful Pitta experience alone! Key sightings:

**Sumatran Treepie** - common
**Sumatran Drongo** – fairly common, mainly around the 2nd bridge
**Cream-striped Bulbul** – common and easily seen
**Spot-necked Bulbul** – several flocks and pretty conspicuous
**Blue-masked Leafbird** – lovely bird! 2 sightings of 2 birds: once above 1st bridge; one sighting just below the 2nd bridge
**Graceful Pitta** – an amazing experience to visit the Subandi stake-out above the 1st bridge!

**Sumatran Peacock-Pheasant** was a (very) distant ‘heard only’, and surprisingly we didn’t manage to connect with a Sumatran Bulbul. The birding at Tapan Road is much more than just the endemics though. The sightings of **Wreathed Hornbill** were great; **Fire-tufted** and **Black-browed Barbets** are particularly showy here; **Black-and crimson Oriole** was seen a number of times; and **Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush** was amongst other highlights.

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**Graceful Pitta: a real highlight of the Tapan Road**

**BUNGUS BAY:** This was a great and really underrated place to chill out near Padang. We travelled direct from Subandi’s and then stayed at Tin Tins homestay by the beach. The day trip to the islands offshore was fantastic: beautiful place and had an amazingly remote feel given it isn’t that far from Padang [it cost 800K for both of us for the day, including lunch]. The snorkelling isn’t up to much but there are some fish offshore from Pulau Mara. Snorkelling was made harder, though, by the fact that Tin Tin forgot the snorkels so we only had a mask! Tin Tin helped us sort out flight tickets from Padang to Medan via a travel agent, which was very handy. Make sure you negotiate hard: our tickets ended up costing less than half the original quote! [940K for both of us]. Tin Tin also arranged a taxi for the 90 minute trip from the homestay to Padang airport (costing 200K).

Birding was very limited but we did see **White-bellied Sea Eagle** (in the bay and at Pulau Pagang); **Black-naped Tern**; **Oriental Pied Hornbill** on Pulau Mara; and **Scaly-breasted Munia** from our room.
**GUNUNG LEUSER:**

**Logistics:** We flew from Padang to Medan, then stayed overnight in the Hotel Ibunda, which was pretty good and did great food downstairs in the restaurant. Definitely recommend getting the new train from the airport to the centre of Medan, which is very comfortable (plus views of Egrets, Cinnamon Bittern from the train). The key site to look up for getting from Medan to Ketambe is this: [http://www.ketambe.com/ketambe_how-to-reach.html](http://www.ketambe.com/ketambe_how-to-reach.html). We got a taxi from the hotel (there are always a few people hanging around outside) to Padang Bulan. The guy who gave us a lift then helped ask around for a minibus to Ketambe and we then flagged one down at the roadside. The bemo is comfortable enough and takes around 8 hours to Kutacane. After a bit of help in Kutacane we managed to get a labi labi open sided truck up to Ketambe and stopped at Pak Mus (one of the first guesthouses on the right hand side as you enter the village). When we left, Pak Mus arranged for us to get a shared car from Kutacane back to Medan, which dropped us off at the Hotel Ibunda. He said that he would have been able to arrange a car to pick us up from Medan if we’d wanted – just need to pre-arrange by mobile (+62 853619 36857).

The main aim here was to see Orangutan but the birding was also good value, albeit very slow in the steamingly hot forest. As usual we were resistant to doing an organised trek and insisted on wandering about on our own. But in hindsight it would probably be worth doing a trek higher up and having a go for Sumatra Laughingthrush and potentially Hoogerwerf’s Pheasant. The overall highlight here was being able to stay at the Gurah bungalows run by Pak Mus – a beautiful (and deserted) place around 2km above Ketambe, with rooms just above the roaring Sungai Alas. We got our labi labi to drop us off at Pak Mus’ guesthouse in the village, and he then took us up to Gurah. Some of the Mus family seem to base themselves up at Gurah and looked after us during our stay (total cost for 5 nights with all food and drink and transport to Kutacane – 1.1m for both of us – so it’s pretty cheap).

We took it fairly easy here but tried walking the road above and below Gurah, and the few trails around the area. In practice, though, the best tactic was often to laze around on our verandah and wait for the birds to come to us. In practice we ended up seeing very little on the trails but compiled a great list of birds from the verandah – **Green Broadbill**, **Rufous-backed Kingfisher**, **Wreathed**, **Bushy-crested** and **Rhinoceros Hornbills**, **Chestnut-naped Forktail** and **Blue Whistling-Thrush**. The small stream leading to the river just outside our room was a particularly reliable spot for the pair of Forktails. The Green Broadbill bizarrely perched on the wooden railing on the verandah briefly at one point!

The birding from the road and trails was, it has to be said, extremely slow going. Mixed flocks were largely absent. The calls of **Great Argus** echoed around the forest by the Gurah entrance road but we didn’t get close to seeing one. Hornbills were a major feature of the place. We had **Rhinoceros** both at Gurah and very nice views of
two on the road above. **Bushy-crested** were only seen at Gurah. **Wreathed** seemed common in the park but difficult to pin down and actually see well (it’s possible that Plain-pouched was also present, but the only birds I saw well enough to confirm were definite Wreatheds).

The real highlight, though, was seeing Orangutan in the wild. This was actually pretty tough - we had only two sightings. Both provided great views, though, as they moved quite quickly through the grounds at Gurah. Wonderful. Thomas’s Leaf Monkey were seen most days in the Gurah area, and we had Black Giant Squirrel twice at Gurah. There was also a huge roost of enormous Flying Foxes clinging to the riverside trees upstream, which then poured down the river every evening.

**Trails/area:** there is a real paucity of information about Ketambe and Gunung Leuser available for the independent birder. We mainly birded around Gurah and from the road uphill beyond Gurah and down to Ketambe, though there are a few trails
SYSTEMATIC LIST:

**Purple Heron:**
- 1 in fields near Pelompek, nr Gunung Tujuh, 25/6

**Cattle Egret:**
- common in fields near Padang/Medan

**Little Egret:**
- a few near Padang

**Pacific Reef-Egret:**
- a few sightings at Bungus Bay

**Cinnamon Bittern:**
- Several seen from the train to and from Medan airport

**Oriental Honey-Buzzard:**
- Two sightings in Gunung Leuser

**Black-winged Kite:**
- 1 on the drive between Kutacane and Medan

**White-bellied Sea Eagle:**
- A frequent sight in the Bungus Bay area.

**Crested Serpent Eagle:**
- 1 from the look-out above Ketambe on 9/7

**Black Eagle:**
- 1 at Kerinci on 23/6 near Burnt Tree

**Blyth’s Hawk Eagle:**
- Nice views of an adult from Burnt Tree on 23/6

**Wallace’s Hawk Eagle:**
- An adult and juv seen on the Gurah-Ketambe road, 6/7

**Great Argus (H):**
- Fairly frequently heard around Gurah

**Salvadori’s Pheasant:**
- Male on 24/6 and 26/6, trail to BC, Kerinci

**Sumatran Peacock-Pheasant (H):**
- Heard distantly twice on Tapan Road, 27/6.

**Black-naped Tern:**
- a few sightings at Bungus Bay

**Sumatran Green Pigeon (E):**
- 1 on 22/6, near entrance on trail to BC, Kerinci

**Wedge-tailed Green Pigeon:**
- common at First Shelter and above; also seen at AM, Kerinci

**Pink-headed Fruit Dove:**
- Male seen on Kerinci at c2,700m between 1st and 2nd shelter on 29/6

**Barred Cuckoo-Dove:**
- Common at the Tapan Road, 27/6

**Little Cuckoo-Dove:**
- A few at the Tapan Road, 27/6
**Spotted Dove:**
- A few near Ketambe and other villages, but surprisingly uncommon

**Sunda Cuckoo (H):**
- Heard fairly frequently at Kerinci

**Rusty-breasted Cuckoo:**
- Seen briefly at Gurah, Gunung Leuser on 9/7

**Square-tailed Drongo Cuckoo (H):**
- Heard only on Tapan Road, 27/6

**Green-billed Malkoha:**
- Several sightings at Tapan Road, 27/6

**Raffle’s Malkoha:**
- Seen at Gurah by Suzanna only, 5/7

**Mountain Scops Owl (H):**
- Heard twice at Kerinci on 23/6 and 24/6 but distant.

**Rajah Scops Owl:**
- Fantastic nesting bird by the first set of fallen logs at Kerinci, seen beautifully on several occasions.

**Sumatran ‘Collared’ Owlet (E):**
- Heard most days around BC, Kerinci, and seen on 24/6 around 200m before AM.

**Sumatran Frogmouth (E):**
- Two seen at Kerinci on 1/7 on trail to BC. Others heard on most night trips. Unusually one heard calling loudly at 6pm c100m before BC.

**Salvadori’s Nightjar (H):**
- Heard only on Kerinci on 1/7 around BC

**Whiskered Treeswift:**
- Common on Tapan Road, and seen well perched near 2nd bridge.
- Also seen from the Gurah-Ketambe road, Gunung Leuser, including perched birds

**Glossy Swiftlet:**
- Regular at Kerinci

**Edible-nest Swiftlet:**
- Possibly this species nr Padang, but who knows with swiftlets...

**Sumatran Trogon (E):**
- Wonderfully conspicuous at Kerinci. See full trip report for details.

**Scarlet-rumped Trogon:**
- Lovely male at Gurah on 6/7 by the start of the entrance rd.

**Rufous-backed Kingfisher:** excellent views at Gunung Leuser:
- Ad and juv from the verandah, 6/7
- 1 at the Gurah entrance road, 7/7
- 1 by the ‘picnic site’ from the Gurah-Ketambe road (see map)

**White-throated Kingfisher:**
- 1 at the Kerinci car drop-off 23/6
- 1 in the fields on the walk at Gunung Tujuh, 25/6
**Rhinceros Hornbill:**
- Great views of 2 on the road north of Gurah as it starts to descend on 6/7
- 1 across the river at Gurah at 7/7/14

**Wreathed Hornbill:**
- 2 flying over at the Tapan Road, 27/6;
- Common in Gunung Leuser, with a maximum flock of c10 over the river at Gurah.

**Bushy-crested Hornbill:**
- 5 at Gurah on 7/7; 3 on 9/7

**Oriental Pied Hornbill:**
- 2 from the boat on Pulau Mara in Bungus Bay, 3/7

**Fire-tufted Barbet:**
- Common at Kerinci and Tapan Road and seen well;
- Heard only at Gunung Tujuh

**Black-browed Barbet:**
- Common at Kerinci and Tapan Road and seen well;
- Heard only at Gunung Tujuh

**Blue-eared Barbet (H):**
- Heard only at Gurah, Gunung Leuser

**Lesser Yellownape:**
- 1 on Kerinci between AM and CC, 24/6 (most reports from Kerinci are Greater Yellownape, but this was a confirmed Lesser).

**Grey-capped Pygmy Woodpecker:**
- 1 on Kerinci on 30/6

**Maroon Woodpecker:**
- 1 at Tapan Road on 27/6
- 1 on Kerinci on 23/6 near BC
- 2 at Gurah on 9/7

**Green Broadbill:**
- 2 at Gurah on 9/7, including one that perched briefly on the railing of our verandah!

**Schneider’s Pitta (E):**
- Pair + one male seen; four others heard only, Gunung Kerinci. See trip report for full details

**Graceful Pitta (E):**
- Adult plus juvenile seen at the staked-out clearing just to the right of the road and before the 1st bridge, Tapan Road, 27/6

**Black-winged Flycatcher Shrike:**
- 2 Gurah-Ketambe road, Gunung Leuser 9/7

**Bar-winged Flycatcher-Shrike:**
- A few at Kerinci

**Sunda Cuckooshrike:**
- 1 on the Tapan Road, 27/6
Grey-chinned Minivet:  
- Common at Kerinci and often in mixed flocks with Sunda Minivet; also seen at Gunung Tujuh

Sunda Minivet:  
- Common at Kerinci; also seen at Gunung Tujuh

Long-tailed Shrike:  
- A regular sight from Pak Subandi’s and walking between the car drop-off and forest entrance at Kerinci;  
- Also common in the fields around Gunung Tujuh trailhead

Blyth’s Shrike Babbler:  
- Kerinci on 24/6 and 30/6  
- One on the Gunung Tujuh walk on 25/6

Black-and-crimson Oriole:  
- Several at Tapan Road, 27/6

Ashy Drongo:  
- Common at TR, 27/6

Sumatran Drongo (E):  
- Fairly common and easily seen, Tapan Road, 27/6

White-throated Fan-tail:  
- Common in mixed flocks at Kerinci; also seen at Tujuh

Sumatran Treepie (E):  
- Common at TR, 27/6

Cinerous Tit:  
- Fairly common at Kerinci

Cream-striped Bulbul (E):  
- Fairly common at Tapan Road, 27/6

Spot-necked Bulbul (E):  
- Several flocks and pretty conspicuous, TR 27/6

Red-eyed Bulbul:  
- Pretty common at Gurah

Grey-cheeked Bulbul:  
- 1 on Ketambe-Gurah road on 6/7; and 2 at Gurah on 9/7

Hairy-backed Bulbul:  
- 2 on the road up from Gurah, 8/7, and two sightings at Gurah on 9/7

Orange-spotted Bulbul:  
- 1 on the Tapan Road, 27/6;  
- Frequent beyond 1st Shelter on Kerinci summit climb on 29-30/6 and very common in the 2nd Shelter area.

Ashy (‘Cinerous’) Bulbul:  
- 2 after 2nd bridge, Tapan Road, 27/6

Yellow-vented Bulbul:  
- Regular in the fields near Kerinci car drop-off

Barn Swallow:  
- A few at Kerinci/Tapan Road
**Pacific Swallow:**
- Common over the tea plantations at Kersik Tua in particular

**Mountain Tailorbird:**
- Common at Kerinci

**Ashy Tailorbird:**
- Seen at Bungus Bay and Gurah, Gunung Leuser

**Dark-necked Tailorbird:**
- 1 at Gurah on 8/7

**Sunda Bush Warbler:**
- Regular on Kerinci and became commoner higher up. Great views around Camp Cochoa in particular

**Mountain Leaf Warbler:**
- Common at Kerinci

**Sunda Warbler:**
- Common and vocal at Kerinci

**Hill Prinia:**
- A few higher up at Tapan Road, 27/6

**Grey-throated Babbler:**
- Pretty common on Kerinci

**Spot-necked Babbler:**
- only 2 seen: on the trail on the first evening at Kerinci, 22/6, between the 2nd fallen logs and BC

**Golden Babbler:**
- Fairly common at Kerinci; also seen on the Tapan Road and Tujuh

**Rusty-breasted Wren Babbler (E):**
- One seen extremely well just before BC on our first morning, 23/6, and heard regularly.

**Eye-browed Wren Babbler:**
- Fairly common at Kerinci and some great, close views

**Pygmy Wren Babbler:**
- some fantastic views of this diminutive bird shuffling around our feet at Kerinci. Very responsive to play back, and pretty common by voice. BC probably the best area but also very showy around CC.

**Sumatran Wren Babbler (H):**
- Dipped. See trip report for heard only locations

**Black-capped Babbler:**
- 1 seen at the entrance road at Gurah, GL, 9/7

**Grey-headed Babbler:**
- 2 on the road up from Gurah, GL, 8/7

**Moustached Babbler:**
- A couple of small groups seen at Gurah, GL

**Chestnut-capped Laughingthrush:**
- Small group of 3+ on the Tapan Road, 27/6

**Brown Fulvetta:**
- 1 from Gurah-Ketambe road, Gunung Leuser on 8/7
Long-tailed Sibia:
- 1 at Kerinci on 24/6
- 1 at Kerinci on 30/6

Oriental White-eye:
- 1 at the dry stream bed ‘lookout’ nr AM, Kerinci on 26/6

Black-capped White-eye:
- Occasional at Kerinci, including below BC on 22/6 and together with Mountain White-eye at Camp Cochoa on 28/6

Mountain White-eye:
- Commoner higher-up at Kerinci, and the only bird seen above 3rd shelter
- 2 seen on the Tapan Road, 27/6

Green Iora:
- Seen most days at Gurah, Gunung Leuser

Blue Nuthatch:
- Seemingly common, including an excellent 3 together near BC and at the dry streambed lookout on 26/6

Sumatran Cochoa (E)(H):
- Heard only. See trip report for details

Rufous-vented Niltava:
- separate sightings of an adult and a juv between 1st and 2nd shelters, 29-30/6

Verditer Flycatcher:
- one at Tapan Road, 27/6

Grey-headed Canary Flycatcher:
- 1 at Tapan Road, 27/6
- 1 at Tujuh 25/6
- 2 at Kerinci on 28/6

Pygmy Blue Flycatcher:
- 1 at Kerinci before BC on 28/6

Snowy-browed Flycatcher:
- Common and easily seen at Kerinci

Lesser Shortwing:
- Very conspicuous on the trails at Kerinci

White-browed Shortwing:
- Fairly common around CC in particular on Kerinci

Chestnut-naped Forktail:
- A wonderfully showy pair were a regular feature around our verandah at Gurah, particularly in the morning/evenings.
- One also seen in a stream from the Gurah-Ketambe road, 7/7

Shiny Whistling Thrush (E):
- Common and easily seen at Kerinci; also seen at Tujuh

Sumatran Whistling Thrush (E):
- surprisingly showy at Kerinci during our visit. A very confiding bird was a regular feature of our stops at Base Camp.
- The dry streambed near Air Minum was the other regular location.
**Blue Whistling Thrush:**
- A single seen from the verandah at Gurah in the evening on 5/7 and 6/7

**Blue-masked Leafbird (E):**
- Two sightings of 2 birds at the Tapan Road, 27/6: once above 1st bridge; one sighting just below the 2nd bridge

**Crimson-breasted Flowerpecker:**
- A few at Gurah, Gunung Leuser: 1 on 6/7; 1 on 8/7; two on 9/7

**Yellow-breasted Flowerpecker:**
- 1 at Gurah, Gunung Leuser on 6/7; a few on 7/7

**Orange-bellied Flowerpecker:**
- 1 on Tapan Road, 27/6
- Fairly common at Gurah, Gunung Leuser

**Scarlet-rumped Flowerpecker:**
- 2 sightings at Gurah, Gunung Leuser on 8/7

**Plain Flowerpecker:**
- 1 on 6/7 at Gurah, Gunung Leuser

**Purple-naped Sunbird**
- Nice views of 1 at Gurah on 7/7

**Plain Sunbird:**
- 1 at Gurah on 9/7

**Plain-throated Sunbird:**
- 1 at Bungus Bay on 3/7

**Temminck’s Sunbird:**
- Fairly common on Tapan Road, 27/6

**Little Spiderhunter:**
- 1 on Tapan Road, 27/6
- 1 at Gurah on 9/7

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:**
- Common at Pelompek, 27/6

**Scaly-breasted Munia:**
- 1 at Bungus Bay, 27/6

**White-headed Munia:**
- 2 over the tea plantations from Subandi’s, Kerinci on 1/7
**Mammals**

**Siamang:**
- Kerinci was excellent for this great mammal. Seen most days on the mountain with some fantastic views. Camp Cochoa was the best area, though we did see them as low as Air Minum.
- Heard only in the Gurah area, Gunung Leuser.

**Mitred Leaf Monkey:**
- A regular and noisy sight at Kerinci, particularly on the trail to BC

**Thomas’s Leaf Monkey (E):**
- Seen most days at Gurah, Gunung Leuser, though quite shy

**Orangutan:**
- Two sightings of a single at Gurah, Gunung Leuser

**Long-tailed Macaque:**
- Seen at Bungus Bay and at Gurah

**Southern Pig-tailed Macaque:**
- Several troops on the Tapan Road, 27/6
- One shy animal from the road above Gurah, Gunung Leuser

**Black Giant Squirrel:**
- One sighting from Base Camp, Kerinci; and two sightings at Gurah

**Three-striped Ground Squirrel:**
- Common and cheeky at Gunung Kerinci

**Low's Squirrel:**
- Assumed that the smaller squirrels at Kerinci were this species

**Yellow-throated Pine Marten**
- An excellent sighting on the drive down from the Tapan Road pass in the evening on 27/6.
Orangutan, Gurah: Gunung Leuser NP and Siamang, Camp Cochoa: Gunung Kerinci NP

L: the gorgeous Rufous-backed Kingfisher, Gunung Leuser NP; R: another shot of Graceful Pitta, Tapan Road

L: Rhinoceros Hornbill, Gunung Lesuer NP; R: Fire-tufted Barbet, Tapan Road
L: the punishing stretch of trail between Shelter 2 and 3 (note the hat and gloves!); R: our tent at the ‘Shelter 2’ campsite; Below: the crater lake of Danau Tujuh
Above: the lookout towards the research station from the road above Ketambe, Gunung Leuser; Below: the sulphur cloud from Kerinci crater, with Danau Tujuh in the background.