

Night Sky Predator



Mostly, bird-watchings are best practice in the morning. Since the beginning of the first

sunlight, many birds are already starting their activities.

As the sun rising higher on the top of canopies, larger sized bird start to fly across. In the morning, Eagles, Hornbills, or Storks, seen only having a short slide and flying from tree to tree. As the air warmed by the sun,

their feathers become dry, and the hot air stream become some kind of surf-board that helps the bird large body to rise and fly high. They are then, so called as 'master of the sky'.



But as the sunset down on the west, light out and the air getting colder, it's turn for the "flying night-predator" to takes over. The limited species number of the night bird and their nocturnal behavior makes them as rare and mysterious creatures. Their ability to hunt in the dark, their odd body shape and sound, many times has halt back people step. In Indonesia, they are called as "Burung Hantu", means the ghost bird. Scary thoughts are that entire crossing for those who don't know how wonderful they are actually.



Expert on Way Kambas night-bird

"Way Kambas National Park, Sumatra, Indonesia is the best Asian night-birding", is a quote that written by Janos Olah & Attila Simay in Birding Asia magazine, on 2007. Not only the great variety of the otherwise scarce and hard to-come-by species is what makes this national park world-famous, but also the relative ease in finding them. No other place in Sumatera that has 4 species of Frogmouth, and also the Bonaparte's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus concretus*). In KUKILA bulletin, volume 8, 1996, it was mention that the record of Bonaparte's Nightjar in Way Kambas as the first record of this species after the last record of this species in Sumatera, on 1916.



A compilation by Sherry Parrot & Paul Andrew, in KUKILA bulletin, volume 8, 1996, listed the WKNP night bird, as below:

Owls:

Oriental Bay Owl (*Phodilus badius*), Reddish Scopsowl (*Otus rufescens*), Barred Eagle-Owl (*Bubo sumatranus*), Buffy Fish-Owl (*Ketupa ketupu*), Brown Wood-Owl (*Strix leptogrammica*), Collared Scopsowl (*Otus lempiji*), Brown Hawk-Owl (*Ninox scutulata*).

Frogmouths:

Large Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus auritus*), Gould's Frogmouth (*Bataraachostomus stellatus*), Javan Frogmouth (*Brathachostomus javensis*), Sunda Frogmouth (*Brathachostomus cornutus*).

Nightjars:

Bonaparte's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus concretus*), Malaysian Eared Nightjar (*Eurostopodus temminckii*), Large-Tailed Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrurus*), Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*).



INFORMATION: SAHABAT BURUNG WAY KAMBAS
 Address: Taman Nasional Way Kambas, Jl. Raya Labuhan Ratu, Lampung Timur, Lampung 34196.
 Contact: Dicky (dekine_green@yahoo.com), Marcellus (rhinomar22@gmail.com), Isnan (distnan@gmail.com).



Tips of Night-Birding In Way Kambas

To meet special bird with their special behavior, require special information and extra preparations. Bellow some tips to increasing the night bird encounter probability in Way Kambas NP. :

- Most of the night bird can be encountered on the main jeep track from Plang Ijo to Way Kanan.
- Dusk and Dawn are the best time for observing the nightjars and scops-owls.
- On 10 pm up to 4.30 am, is the best time for Frogmouths and Oriental Bay Owl.
- It's better to bring a flash light/torch and turn it on only on the right time (keep a minimum disturbance for the bird). A night bird recorded sound and a mini loud speaker can be used to attract the bird to get near.



Well than, please make sure that any time during your visit to Way Kambas NP, spare some of your time to have a sensational night-birding experience, as our way to appreciate our passion for the biodiversity of Indonesia.

Way Kambas National Park

Lampung Indonesia



Barn Owl in Plang Ijo



The Best Asian Night Birding



Supported by

Way Kambas National Park's Night Bird

Oriental Bay Owl (*Phodilus badius*)



Size: Medium-sized (27 cm).
Voice: a soft hoot and ringing *hoo-h-weeyoo*, also mournful musical whistles *kwankwit-kwankwit-kwankwit-kek-kek-kek*.
Range: India, South China, South East Asia, Philippines, Borneo, Sumatera, Belitung, Java and Bali.

Distribution and status: A rare forest bird, up to 1500 m.

Brown Hawk-Owl (*Ninox scutulata*)



Size: Medium-sized (30 cm).
Voice: Mellow, rising falsetto whistle *pung-ok*, the second note short with rising inflection, repeated every one or two seconds, sometimes for long periods, usually at dawn and dusk. **Range:** India, E Asia, SE Asia, Philippines, Sulawesi, Borneo, Sumatra and W Java.

Distribution and status: Both resident and winter migrant races are found. All are uncommon at low to moderate altitudes up to 1500 m. The species is more common on Borneo and Sumatra.



Barred Eagle-Owl (*Bubo sumatranus*)

Size: Large (45 cm).
Voice: In flight, loud deep *who* or *hooa-who*, ending in a deep groan.
Range: Malay Peninsula, Borneo, Sumatra, Bangka, Java and Bali.

Distribution and status: An occasional, though rarely seen, bird of lowland forest, up to 1000 m, and higher.

Buffy Fish Owl (*Ketupa ketupu*)



Size: Large (45 cm).
Voice: Various loud shrill calls *kootookookootook*, a ringing *pof-pof-pof*, and also *hie-ee-ee-eeek-heck*.
Range: SE Asia, Borneo, Sumatera with eastern islands, and Nias, Java, and Bali.
Distribution and status: Not uncommon in lowland forests up to 1100 m.

Brown Wood Owl (*Strix leptogrammica*)



Size: Large (47 cm).
Voice: Distinctive deep *boo-boo*, or four-syllable *goke-galoo, huhu-hooo* and others.
Range: South India, China, SE Asia, Borneo, Belitung, Mentawai, Nias W & C Java.

Distribution and status: In Borneo and Sumatra an uncommon bird of lowlands, In Java this is a rare montane bird.

Collared Scopsowl (*Otus lempiji*)



Size: Small (20 cm).
Voice: Male gives a soft hoot *woop*, inflected upwards; also a steady series of gruff notes at one second intervals. Female call is higher-pitched, quavering, inflected downward *wheoo* or *pwok*, about five times a minute; also a gentle twitter. Pairs often call in duet. **Range:** SE Asia, Philippines, Borneo, Bangka, Belitung, Java and Bali.

Distribution and status: A quite common owl up to 1600 m, including tree-lined suburban streets of large towns.

Reddish Scops Owl (*Otus rufescens*)



Size: Small (19 cm).
Voice: Hollow, high-pitched whistle *hooee*, repeated at regular interval. **Range:** Malay Peninsula, Philippines, Borneo, Sumatera, Bangka and Java. **Distribution and status:** An uncommon lowland bird, probably absent from East Java.

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)



Size: Unmistakable large (34 cm).
Voice: Harsh, hoarse, high-pitched screech *wheech* or *se-rak*; also a high *ke ke ke ke* call.
Range: Cosmopolitan.
Distribution and status: An uncommon bird in the lowlands of Sumatera, Java, and Bali, up to 800 m.



Large Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus auritus*)

Size: Very large (40 cm)
Voice: Loud wheezy call.

Range: Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, Natunas and Borneo.

Distribution and status: An uncommon bird of lowland forests.

Gould's Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus stellatus*)



Size: Smallish (25 cm).
Voice: Male call is two clear notes, higher on second note, with wavering tremolo connecting notes, given at 7-second intervals.

Range: Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, N. Natunas, and Borneo.

Distribution and status: An occasional bird below 500 m.

Javan Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus javensis*)



Size: Smallish (25 cm).
Voice: Hoarse cackling *gwaa* notes, descending in pitch; barks; trills, and a wheezy, rising, plaintive whistle.

Range: SE Asia, Palawan, and Greater Sundas.
Distribution and status: Status on Sumatra uncertain; one specimen from Bintang (Riau

Archipelago) and one specimen from lowland N Sumatra in 1884. On Borneo recorded in lowlands from most parts, and on Java it is an occasional bird of the wetter lowland and hill forests.

Sunda Frogmouth (*Batrachostomus cornutus*)



Size: Medium-sized (28 cm).

Voice: A descending series of *gwaa* notes, all starting on the same pitch.

Range: Endemic to the Greater Sundas.

Distribution and status: Recorded from East Sumatra (including Bangka and Belitung), Borneo, and Kangean. It is an uncommon bird of lowland and coastal area.



CREDIT
 All photos by Dicky T. Sutanto, except Buffy Fish Owl by Marcellus Adi CTR. Text by Dicky T. Sutanto and design by Marcellus Adi CTR -for ALERT 2011. References and drawing: From The Book A Field Guide to the Birds of Borneo, Sumatra, Java, and Bali by John Mackinnon and Karen Phillipps.

Bonaparte's Nightjar (*Caprimulgus concretus*)



Size: Smallish (22 cm).
Voice: Deep 'tiger like' sound. **Range:** Endemic to Sumatra and Borneo.

Distribution and status: Few record from Sumatra; recorded in lowland forest of mainland and Belitung. On Borneo a rare but widely distributed bird of open lowland forest, including heath forests up to 500 m.



Malaysian Eared Nightjar (*Eurostopodus temminck*)

Size: Large (42 cm).
Voice: Clear 3- note call.

The first starts low, followed by two longer notes, each rising then dipping and broken in the middle, *tap-ti bau*. Stress in on first and lat notes. **Range:** Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Borneo. **Distribution and status:** A common bird of forest edge and heath forests below 1200 m.

Large Tail Nightjar (*Caprimulgus macrurus*)



Size: Largish (30 cm).
Voice: Rich, deep *tchoink* like two stones being struck together, given at steady rate of about 3 per second following a purring warm up; also low growling. **Range:** India, SE Asia, Philippines, Indonesia to New Guinea and Australia.

Distribution and status: A local but common bird of forest edge and wooded country, including mangrove up to 1200 m.



Savannah Nightjar (*Caprimulgus affinis*)

Size: Smallish (22 cm).
Voice: Penetrating, plaintive *chweep* uttered

constantly for 30 min at dusk and dawn, on the wing. **Range:** India, S China, SE Asia, Sulawesi, Philippines, Sundas. **Distribution and status:** This is the common nightjar of lowlands, in dry open coastal areas including large cities.