

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker

Measuring 9 cm and weighing 7 to 8 g, the Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker is a small bird with a short tail. The Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker builds its pouch-shaped nest (tapering from a branch high up in a tree with a side entrance). The male has a navy blue face, wings and tail, with a broad bright red stripe from its crown to its upper tail. The female is olive green with a black tail and scarlet upper tail coverts and rump. Both sexes have creamy white underparts, black eyes and legs, and a dark grey arched bill. The juvenile has plumage similar to the female but has an orange bill and lacks the bright red rump.

Fun Fact:

- Sexually dimorphic, the male has navy blue upperparts with a bright red streak down its back from its crown to its tail coverts, while the female and juvenile are predominantly olive green.

When to look out for it!

- It is found in subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests and occasionally gardens.

Collared Kingfisher

The Collared Kingfisher is a medium-sized Kingfisher also known as the White-collared Kingfisher or Mangrove Kingfisher. The Collared Kingfisher is 22 to 29 cm long and weighs 51 to 90 g. It varies from blue to green above while the underparts can be white or buff. There is a white collar around the neck, giving the birds its name. There may be a black stripe through the eye. The large bill is black with a pale yellow base to the lower mandible. Females tend to be greener than the males. Two to seven rounded whitish eggs are laid directly on the floor of the burrow with no nest material used. When it spots something it glides down to catch it and then flies back to the perch where larger items are pounded against the branch to subdue them. Any indigestible remains are regurgitated as pellets.

Fun Fact:

- Small crabs are the favoured food in coastal regions but a wide variety of other animals are eaten including insects, worms, snails, shrimps, frogs, lizards, small fish and sometimes other small birds as well.

When to look out for it!

- It is most commonly found in coastal areas, particularly in mangrove swamps. It also inhabits farmland, open woodland, grassland and gardens.

Wreathed Hornbill

This type of Hornbill weighs up to 8 pounds and has an average height of 30-35 inches. Wreathed Hornbills can be found roosting in large flocks and eat primarily fruits. Males can be easily distinguished from females by the colour of their throats. Males' throat skin is yellow, while the female's is blue. When the female is ready to lay her eggs, she creates a nest in a tree cavity. The male then encloses her completely in the cavity by sealing it with mud, fruits and faeces. He leaves only a narrow slit through to feed her and her offspring. The mother and child depend on the male for survival for about 4 months.

Fun Fact:

- Their casques are believed to project dominance & gender.

When to look out for it!

- You can see them on the trees in the day or night.

Yellow Bittern

Yellow Bitterns are the smallest of the bitterns. Like other bitterns, Yellow Bitterns are solitary. They hunt quietly alone using their long powerful bills to grab their prey. They slip easily and climb quietly among the bottom of reed beds and undergrowth. While they usually hunt from cover, they may also forage over floating vegetation, e.g., water-hyacinth beds. The males perform a breeding display, advertising from bush tops, hunched with throat puffed out and base of the bill flushed red, accompanied by a soft, monotonous crew crew song. They also make slow-flapping flight circuits and pursue females. They make a small neat nest, generally a thick pad of sticks, reeds, grass. Nests are 10-300 cm above the water line, sometimes roofed by surrounding vegetation. 3-5, average 4, pale blue-green eggs are laid. Both parents share incubation duties. The chicks have pale peach-pink down and can climb before they can fly. The chicks leave the nest when they are about 15 days old.

Fun Fact:

- They are more active at dawn and dusk. They hunt small fish, frogs and invertebrates.

When to look out for it!

- Yellow Bitterns prefer freshwater wetlands with thick vegetation to hide and nest in, marshes, grasslands, reed beds, ponds, reservoirs, including man-made canals, dredge-mine lagoons.

Watercock

The Watercock is a large bird at 43 cm. This bird is seen only at the time of harvest when the tall rice stalks are cleared. Other than Malaysia, the bird is common from Pakistan, India right across southern China to Japan. They nest in a dry location on the ground in marsh vegetation, laying 3-6 eggs. These large rails are mainly permanent residents throughout their range. Adult male watercocks are 43 cm long and weigh 476-650 g. They have mainly black-grey plumage with red legs, bill, extended frontal shield and horn. Young males are buff in colour, darkening as they mature. Their bill is yellow and their legs are green. Female birds are smaller at 36 cm and 298-434 g. They are dark brown above and paler below. The plumage is streaked and barred with darker markings. The bill is yellow and the legs are green.

Fun Fact:

- The bird is extremely sensitive and will avoid human contact.

When to look out for it!

- You can find them in the day near any floral as they seek for nectars.

Large Green Pigeon

The Large Green Pigeon is a species of the Columbidae family. You can usually find them at their natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests. Today, the species is threatened by habitat loss. This bird can be up to 36 cm long and are considered as large, arboreal pigeon. The males are generally greyish-green, paler below with dark golden patch on the chest and blackish grey wings that are fringed with yellow. Their legs are yellow. Females on the other hand, have yellow chest patch and red legs.

Fun Fact:

- The pigeons have deep and rich growling notes which sounds like 'kak-kak' or 'kwok-kwok'.
- Their remarkable green colouration comes from a carotenoid pigment in their diet such various fruits, nuts and seeds. That's awesome!

When to look out for it!

- Look for the pigeons at the dense forests in the day to spy on their activities and behaviour.

Great Slaty Woodpecker

A unique and basically unmistakable bird, it is the largest species of woodpecker that is certain to exist today. 48-59 cm long and a weight of 560-580 g, it stands as the largest woodpecker in the world. Among standard measurements, the wing chord is 21.5 to 25 cm, the tail is 13.4 to 16.2 cm, the bill is 6 to 6.5 cm and the tarsus is 3.6 to 4.1 cm. This unique-looking woodpecker has several obvious distinctive features: a very long, strong chisel-tipped bill, an elongated neck and a long tail. This species plumage is almost entirely dark grey or blackish slate-grey overlaid with small white spots.

Fun Fact:

- It has a weak, quiet voice, especially compared to other large woodpeckers, which tend to have loud, booming voices.

When to look out for it!

- The species usually lives below an elevation of 600 m, but also locally in hilly areas of up to 1,100 m, occasionally ranging up to 2,000 m.

Mountain Hawk-eagle

Mountain Hawk-eagles are birds of prey and in the family of Accipitridae. They are medium-large raptor at 69-84cm in length and a wingspan of 134-175cm. These birds eat small mammals, birds and even reptiles. The eagles are also the second-largest Asian hawk eagles.

Fun Fact:

- Hawk eagle hunts from a perch and take their prey on the ground.
- Do you know that their nests are usually built in a forest tree, usually deciduous and sometimes a conifer? Yes, indeed! Their nests are usually large built from twigs and branches.

When to look out for it!

- You can look out for the eagles in the day when they hunt for their food.

Great Hornbill

Great Hornbill is one of Malaysia's most precious bird species. These birds range from the size of a pigeon to large birds with a 6-foot (1.8m) wingspan. Hornbills have long tail, broad wings, white and black, brown or grey feathers, bright yellow casqued and brightly coloured neck, face and bill. Hornbills are diurnal, often rising with the sun to preen and call for their friends before heading for a meal.

Fun Fact:

- The first sign of an approaching hornbill is the rhythmic chuffing sound made by their wings as they fly that can be heard at a long range.
- In between meals, the birds preen themselves and each other as well as do a bit of sunbathing! How cool is that?

When to look out for it!

- When the sun rises in the morning.

Blue-winged Pitta

The Blue-winged Pitta is native to Australia and Southeast Asia. It forms a superspecies with three other pittas and has no subspecies. Measuring 18-20 cm in length, the Blue-winged Pitta has a black head with a buff-coloured supercilium, white chin and buff underparts. The shoulders and mantle are greenish, the wings are bright blue, and the vent is reddish. The bill is black, eyes are brown and the legs pale pink. Juveniles have similar patterned plumage but are duller. It resembles the mangrove pitta but can be distinguished by its shorter bill.

Fun Fact:

- The Blue-winged Pitta mostly feeds on worms and insects, hunting them on the ground or from a low branch or perch but they also eat hard-shelled snails.

When to look out for it!

- Its natural habitat is subtropical and tropical moist lowland forests. It is found in a variety of habitats to an altitude of 800 m, including broadleaved forests, parks and gardens, and mangroves, though avoids dense rainforest.

White-bellied Sea Eagle

The White-bellied Sea Eagle or White-breasted Sea Eagle is a large diurnal predator from the Accipitridae family. The eagle has a white head, breast, under-wing coverts and tail. Their upper parts are grey and the black under-wing flight feathers contrast with the white coverts. Like many raptors, the female is slightly larger than the male, and can measure up to 90 cm long with a wingspan of up to 2.2 m, and weigh 4-5 kg. These sea eagles generally feed on aquatic species, from fish and sea snakes to turtles and water birds.

Fun Fact:

- Do you know that these eagles have a really great vision? Their eye sight is extremely acute.
- The sea eagles' loud callings are believed to be a warning to shellfish of the changing tides.

When to look out for it!

- Discover the beauty of these eagles when they soar high in the sky for food hunting at the sea.

Brown-winged Kingfisher

Kingfishers are one of the most colourful birds in the Langkawi's avian population. These birds can be easily seen due to their colourful and shiny plumage and are usually spotted near water and wetlands waiting for the meal of fish, frogs, insects and crabs. You can find them in the tropical mangrove forests. The bird has a very large (36cm) brown and orange coastal with a huge red bill.

Fun Fact:

- These birds have a laughing descendent 'cha cha caha' call.

When to look out for it!

- Catch a glimpse of the birds in the evenings when there are flying around the mangrove forest.

Black-hooded Oriole

The Black-hooded Oriole has a striking body image. For the males, the bird is draped in black and yellow colours. Its plumage is yellow with a solid black hood and black wings and tail center. The females are drabber bird with greenish underparts and black hood. These birds can be shy but its flight is somewhat strong like a thrush with shallow dips over longer distances. The birds primarily eat insects and fruits such as figs.

Fun Fact:

- These birds usually hunt and move around in pairs or in small family parties.
- The Oriole make occasional calls to signify its presence around the area.

When to look out for it!

- You can find the Oriole in the tree canopies at a certain time in the morning.

Brahminy Kite

The Brahminy Kite is one of the medium-sized raptors in Langkawi with a white head and breast. Their bodies are in striking chestnut brown, and the tip of the tail is white. Their bill is strongly hooked and has dark eyes. This bird loves to sail on level wings along shorelines and mudflats. Hunters by nature, the kite feeds on carrion, insects, small animals and fish. Brahminy Kite can swoop in low over the water, the ground or tree tops to snatch live prey or carrion from the surface. It also steals from fish-hunting birds, snatching prey in flight.

Fun Fact:

- Brahminy Kites are considered by many to be the namesake of Langkawi's helang-eagle, kaw-i, reddish brown.
- The adult Brahminy Kites has a very distinct call which sounds like a baby crying.

When to look out for it!

- Capture the beauty of these eagles when they soar high in the sky for food hunting at the sea.

Greater Painted-snipe

Greater Painted-snipe are from the water species: Rostratula and Ncticryphes. You'll find that these snipes are short-legged, long billed birds similar to the true snipes, but their plumage is much more striking. These birds inhabit reedy swamps and marshes, usually in lowlands. They are omnivorous, feeding on invertebrates and seeds such as worms, snails, aquatic and marsh insects, as well as crustaceans.

Fun Fact:

- Do you know that males do the parental care? These snipes' nature are that once the female laid the eggs, the males provide all the incubation and parental care.

When to look out for it!

- These birds are very secretive and shy. So when you look for them in the day, try to be discreet!

Plain-backed Sparrow

The Plain-backed Sparrow is also called the Pegu Sparrow or Olive-backed Sparrow. It has prominent brown eye streak and a striped crown with a buffy breast, some white belly feathers and a conical beak. They love to live in thickets, chaparral or undergrowth environment near forests. This type of bird feeds on seeds and insect larvae.

Fun Fact:

- Their main call are loud and clear disyllabic 'chump'.

When to look out for it!

- It can be found in moist lowland trees and bushes.

Oriental Pied-hornbill

The Oriental Pied-hornbill is a species of hornbill in the Bucconidae family. It is found in the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia. This is a small Hornbill at 70 cm long. Pied as it is called the bird is white & black. It has white facial marking with white belly and vent. This undertail is black with white-tipped outer feathers. The bill and casque is in uniform pale yellow but sometimes the yellow is fairly rich as well.

Fun Fact:

- The Oriental Pied-hornbill's diet includes wild fruit (especially figs, genus Ficus) and other fruit such as rambutans, along with larger insects and small reptiles such as lizards and frogs.

When to look out for it!

- Its natural habitat is subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests.

Red-wattled Lapwing

The Red-wattled Lapwing wings and back are light brown with a purple sheen, but the head and chest and front part of the neck are black. A white patch runs between these two colors. The tail is tipped black and there is a red, fleshy wattle in front of each eye, black-tipped red bill and the long legs are yellow. Males and females are similar in plumage but have a slightly longer wing and carpal spur. They usually keep in pairs or trios in well-watered open country, ploughed fields, grazing land and mangroves. They feed at night and particularly around a full moon. The main characteristic of this species is that they have a slightly harsh call and are vigilant.

Fun Fact:

- They would make good watch 'dogs' because of their vigilance. The eggs are laid in a shallow scrape sometimes fringed with pebbles or animal droppings.

When to look out for it!

- The open spaces in fringed with trees and bushes which they nest.

Paddyfield Pipit

It is a non migratory breeder in open scrub, grassland and cultivation in southern Asia east to the Philippines. This is a large pipit at 15 cm, but is otherwise an undistinguished looking bird, mainly streaked grey-brown above and pale below with breast streaking. It is long legged with a long tail and a long dark bill. It builds its nest on the ground under a slight prominence, a tuft of grass, or at the edge of a bush. The paddyfield pipit breeds throughout the year but mainly in the dry season. Birds may have two or more broods in a year.

Fun Fact:

- It feeds principally on small insects but consumes larger beetles, tiny snails, worms etc. while walking on the ground, and may pursue insects like mosquitoes and termites in the air.

When to look out for it!

- Found in open habitats, especially short grassland and cultivation with open bare ground. It runs rapidly on the ground and when exhausted, does not fly far.

Naturally LANGKAWI

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BIRDWATCHING IN LANGKAWI

Your Colourful Avian World

Love catching the glimpse of rare wild bird?

Read on about birds at Langkawi's spectacular twitching areas.

With this guide, you can spot some of the colourful bird species on the island from the iconic Great Hornbill to the stunning Mountain Hawk Eagle. Langkawi is renowned for its diversity of birdlife, with more than 220 species spreading across the Langkawi Geopark area. Currently, there are 5 forest reserves area in Langkawi where you can dwell on the chirpers for its beauty and behavior.

So, what are you waiting for? Let's start our bird-venture!

Your Birding Essentials

Read on about birds at Langkawi's spectacular twitching areas.

1. Get a pair of binoculars. A pair with reasonable magnification (e.g. 7x or 8x) and lighter weight works better in cluttered environments like forest. Higher magnification (10x or 12x and heavier weight) glasses are better for open country and wetland birding.
2. Get a field guide. Just bring this guide or the Langkawi Geopark Guide for your reference. Study the birds' habits, calls, and field marks before birding. This way, you'll be ready to identify a particular bird the instant you see it.
3. Find other bird watchers. Contact the Langkawi Geopark office to find out whether classes or walks are being offered. The more sets of eyes and ears there are, the more birds you'll find, especially if you go with bird watchers who are more experienced.
4. Dress accordingly. Do wear clothes that are suitable to the birding area so that you can roam around comfortably and freely to catch a glimpse of your favourite birds.



Machinchang Cambrian

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Collared Kingfisher	Orange-breasted Green Pigeon	Laced Woodpecker
Mountain Hawk-eagle	Wreathed Hornbill	Blue-winged Pitta	Large Green Pigeon
Brown-winged Kingfisher	Great Slaty Woodpecker	Greater Racket-tailed Drongo	Brahminy Kite
Great Hornbill	Oriental Pied-hornbill	Ruby-crowned Sunbird	

Kilim Karst

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Collared Kingfisher	Black-headed Oriole	Common Kingfisher
Brown-winged Kingfisher	Black-capped Kingfisher	Mangrove Pitta	Red-wattled Lapwing
Grey-faced Buzzard	Brahminy Kite	Oriental Pied-hornbill	Common Flameback Woodpecker

Gunung Raya

Crimson Sunbird	Great Crested Serpent Eagle	Mountain Hawk-eagle	Champoodle Hawk-eagle
Large Green Pigeon	White-bellied Sea Eagle	Wreathed Hornbill	Oriental Pied-hornbill
Great Slaty Woodpecker	Great Hornbill	Orange-breasted Trogon	Common Flameback Woodpecker

Pantai Cenang

Collared Kingfisher	Purple Swampfen	White-bellied Sea Eagle	Ruby-crowned Sunbird
Slaty-breasted Rail	Yellow Bittern	Brahminy Kite	Greater Palm-footed-shrike
White-browed Crake	Watercock	Plain-backed Sparrow	

Pulau Tuba / Dayang Bunting Marble

Scarlet-backed Flowerpecker	Collared Kingfisher	Yellow Bittern	Watercock
White-throated Kingfisher	Blue-winged Pitta	White-bellied Sea Eagle	Brown-winged Kingfisher
Little Egret	Brahminy Kite	Red-wattled Lapwing	Little Heron

Top twitching spots in **LANGKAWI GEOPARK**
 Let's spy on some of our amazing bird species at these magnificent locations...

