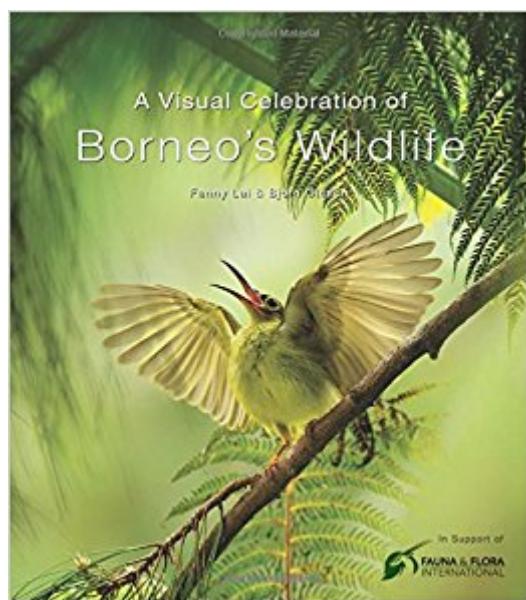


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# A Visual Celebration Of Borneo's Wildlife: [All Royalties Donated To Fauna & Flora International]



## **Synopsis**

This Borneo wildlife pictorial offers nature lovers, visitors to Borneo and armchair explorers an unparalleled introduction to this mysterious treasure island. Illustrated with more than 350 images, taken by Bjorn Olesen and other wildlife photographers, *A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife* is a photographic tribute to the most spectacular wildlife species on the second-largest tropical island on Earth. It displays nature's beauty, revealing many private moments of the astonishing biodiversity of Borneo, where nature runs riot. Based on the latest research, it is filled with captivating little-known facts about the wildlife that modern-day travelers may come across when visiting this enchanting island. It also describes the top 16 wildlife locations in Borneo, with a comprehensive list of recommended reading, websites and blogs provided. Also included is a foreword by HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, President of Fauna & Flora International.\*\*All of the authors' royalties will be donated to Fauna & Flora International for nature conservation work in Southeast Asia.\*\*

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"*A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife* is an embodiment of the wilds of Borneo, which still have so many places and species yet to be explored and discovered!" •Henry Goh, President, Malaysian Nature Society" *A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife* is probably the most comprehensive photographic tribute to the natural wonders in Borneo that can still be experienced in many parts of the island. It makes a powerful case for a relook of the present conservation

policies to preserve some of the world's most stunning biological treasures." •Bare Essentials Magazine"This book contains intimate images and captivating insights into one of the most exhilarating parts of Asia, showcasing the incredible passion of the authors. May it inspire every reader to place an even greater value on nature and act accordingly." •HRH Princess Laurentien of the Netherlands, President, Fauna & Flora International (FFI)"If the great Victorian naturalist Alfred Russel Wallace could have seen this astonishingly beautiful book he would no doubt have declared it the next best thing to exploring Borneo oneself. I have never seen a book on Asian wildlife that so powerfully takes one's breath away with the turn of every page."

•Dr. John van Wyhe, National University of Singapore, historian of science and leading expert on Alfred Wallace, author of *Dispelling the Darkness: Voyage in the Malay Archipelago and the Discovery of Evolution* by Wallace and Darwin"The most important, and visually ravishing, record of Borneo's wildlife ever published. The authors have followed in the storied footsteps of Wallace and Whitehead to capture, in all its glory, the dramatic creaturely life in the most biodiverse forests on Earth. It is a celebration, yes, but also the most powerful case imaginable for the conservation of Borneo's natural wonders against the all-too-rapid encroachment of the bulldozer and plough. Once buried, these wondrous birds and animals will be lost, and a portion of our souls will die with them. Save these forests now!" •Prof. Gillen D. Wood, University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, author of *Tambora: The Eruption that Changed the World*"This impressive volume presents a gorgeous visual display of Borneo's magnificent wildlife. Accompanied by highly informative captions and brief text, many images are outright spectacular, capturing rarely photographed animals •including many endemics, rarely-documented behaviour, and wildlife of stunning beauty." •Hans P. Hazebroek, author of *Danum Valley, the Rain Forest, National Parks of Sarawak and Maliau Basin: Sabah's Lost World*."In A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife the authors have documented the natural wonders of Borneo through stunning photographs and informative text, and illustrated that these marvels of nature are still alive and well in Borneo, at least in certain areas. Hopefully people reading this book will join the fight to save the wildlife of Borneo." •Paul S. Sochaczewski, leading conservationist and author of *An Inordinate Fondness for Beetles: Campfire Conversations with Alfred Russell Wallace* and *Soul of the Tiger: Searching for Natural Answers in Southeast Asia*"Drawing on the finest works by photographers of Borneo wildlife, a book like this might never be repeated." •Dr. Geoffrey W.H. Davison, National Parks Board, Singapore, author of *Wild Malaysia, Wild Singapore, and Belum, A rainforest in Malaysia*

Fanny Lai is passionate about wildlife. She is a cartoonist, author, travel writer and former Group CEO of Wildlife Reserves Singapore comprising of Singapore Zoo, Night Safari, Jurong Bird Park and River Safari. She is equally known for her entrepreneurial business development skills following a career that has spanned more than 30 years in branding, marketing and corporate management. Fanny holds an Executive MBA from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. Bjorn Olesen is a retired corporate executive, award-winning wildlife photographer, author and engaged conservationist. A Singapore permanent resident, he lived for 16 years in Malaysia and Indonesia, so Borneo, which he has visited dozens of times, is literally his home turf. His images and articles have appeared in overseas and local publications. All of his photos are available free of charge to non-profit NGOs.

The book portrays an amazing collection of wildlife. In turning the pages, the pictures so vividly & beautifully photographed, it seemed like the animals and forests are right there with me in my living room. My favourite part of the book are the section on birds - utterly gorgeous and so colourful. IF

The photographs in this magnificent book are far more than just beautiful objects, or even (as the title says) a "celebration" of Borneo's wildlife. They are valuable scientific documents, accompanied by an illuminating text. Here you will find beautifully-printed images of some of Borneo's rarest and most endangered plants and animals, including the recently-rediscovered Bornean Rainbow Toad, the remarkable Bornean Earless Monitor (now being decimated by unscrupulous collectors), and the Spectacled Flowerpecker (a bird still undescribed by science). Some of these photographs, such as the superb camera-trap shot of a Bornean Bay Cat, are the only decent ones ever taken in the wild of the species they portray. Others illustrate behaviours only recently discovered, such as the mutualistic relationship between the Mountain Treeshrew and Low's Pitcherplant (as the mammal feeds on nectar, its droppings fall into the pitchers and provide the plant with nutrients). Others are simply amazing; as someone who knows how difficult it can be to photograph wildlife in Borneo, I am still in awe of the Bat Hawk snatching Wrinkle-lipped Bats out of the air and the pin-sharp Giant Pitta. Most of the photographs are the work of Bjorn Olesen, but the editor, Yong Ding Li, wisely decided to include the work of other photographers so that some extreme rarities could be included (such as the highly-localised Black Oriole, photographed by Yeo Siew Teck in the Paya Maga highlands of eastern Sarawak). Borneo enthusiasts have a wide range of superb natural history books available (mostly published by the indefatigable CL Chan's Natural History Publications (Borneo)), including many beautifully-illustrated monographs filled with specialized

information. This, though, is surely the best general single-volume book on Borneo's wildlife available. It is a necessary purchase for anyone awed by tropical nature, and will surely inspire those seeking to save some of the vanishing wildlife it portrays. I am very glad indeed to have it on my shelf.

From the stunning photograph on the cover and all the way through to the very last, this book is a remarkable accomplishment. Apart from being a visual delight, it is also an extremely informative and well-written book. It is divided into main sections dealing with The Land, Flora, Wildlife, The People, Conservation and Places to Go, and each main section is further divided into sub-chapters, which makes it possible for the reader at a glance to find and study a subject of particular interest. But the book deserves to be read and enjoyed from cover to cover, as it is a poignant reminder of the fragility of nature and the diverse creatures living therein, especially in the environment of a tropical rain forest. If we are not mindful of the destruction of the habitat, all the diversity will eventually be a thing of the past, and then future generations will only have photographs [such as those in this book] and other visual images to remind them of what once were. Fanny Lai and Bjorn Olesen should be congratulated for their magnificent work and the years of time and effort spent gathering material for their book in support of a very worthwhile cause, namely Fauna & Flora International. This book is highly recommended as a wake-up call for the general reader, as well as to any person concerned with the future of wildlife, not just on Borneo, but all over the world.

This is a true celebration of Wildlife Photography, Scenic Beauty, Peoples of Borneo and the Flora and Fauna. The amazing photography and text holds the reader's attention throughout the book, guiding us into this wonderful journey through Borneo. As past visitors to the island, we realised how fortunate we had been to appreciate the sights we had then seen. Bjorn Olesen and Fanny Lai have the gifts of being able to share their love of Borneo through their perceptive texts and photographs. Throughout the journey the reader can sense the rarity of many of the animals and vegetation which remains in present day Borneo, and the threat that hangs over them by human interference. So much has still to be learned of this wondrous island but the detailed commentary and glorious images shown in the photography can only whet the appetites of people who wish to preserve the threatened Fauna and Flora. To the authors of the book, thank you for allowing us to share with you, this amazing and living journey through Borneo. We can make a difference!

What's in a picture? "A Visual Celebration of Borneo's Wildlife" goes to show just how far beyond mere gaze a photo can truly take you. An amazingly themed book, in many cases the photographers gaze right into what can only be the very souls of their subjects. What is compelling about the book is that it holds the reader's attention through the various scientific Kingdoms, going through life-cycle, diet, habits and habitat without falling into tedious repetition. All is presented in stunning colour, with subjects ranging from barely macroscopic invertebrates right up to crocodilians, primates and different peoples. This is a highly recommended work, and goes to support the work of Fauna & Flora International - a worthy cause!

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