

YTL'S

NATURAL WONDERS

Nº.5

VOICE OF CONSERVATION

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A SYMPHONY OF WINGS & WONDERS

A survey conducted over the last few years across Tanjong Jara Resort, Gaya Island Resort, and Pangkor Laut Resort reveals a vibrant world of birdlife waiting to be discovered, offering guests a rare glimpse into nature's quieter, more captivating side.

A WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM JUSTIN JUHUN



Dear guests,

We are so happy to share the fifth edition of The Natural Wonders – Voices of Conservation. In this issue, we celebrate starting 2026 off on the right foot, with the observation of Earth Hour across three of our resorts.

This tribute to Mother Nature was encapsulated by the reverent at the mangrove restoration site of Gaya Island Resort. This site was made possible through our efforts, which enabled over 3,000 mangrove saplings of Borneo's unique flora and fauna.

Here at Gaya Island Resort, our continual treatment and rehabilitation of rescued sea turtles have also led to fascinating discoveries of their amazing survival instincts and unique lives. Resident number 36 of Gaya Island Resort's Marine Centre – a Green Sea Turtle named Dato – showed its remarkable resilience in the wild to not just survive but thrive. Satellite monitoring of its geotag saw Dato covering a vast expanse of the seas around the island that make up the 4,929-hectare protected Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, covering distances of up to 180 kilometres within a week.

Across a trio of our resorts—namely Tanjung Jara Resort, Gaya Island Resort and Pangkor Laut Resort—a wildlife survey of feathered friends that has been in the making over the last few years has unearthed an incredible number of birds that call these locations home. A total of 167 avian species have been recorded in our studies across the three resorts, a real treat for guests who enjoy birdwatching during their stay.

Please enjoy the following updates and I hope to meet you during your next stay with YTL Hotels, to connect and share our stories of conservation!

Yours sincerely,

Justin Juhun
Director of Conservation



Female Mangrove Blue Flycatcher



Chestnut-Winged Cuckoo

IT ALL BEGINS WITH BIRDS

Where birds sing, nature thrives: a living symphony of biodiversity across our resorts.



The National Audubon Society has long regarded birds as symbols that reveal the health of our planet and people. Indeed, birdsong is an instant stress reliever, an indication of a safe environment and that all is right with the world. At all three of our YTL Hotels' resorts, a comprehensive species survey over the last few years on avian populations and biodiversity has resulted in a fascinating snapshot of the respective locations' birdlife.

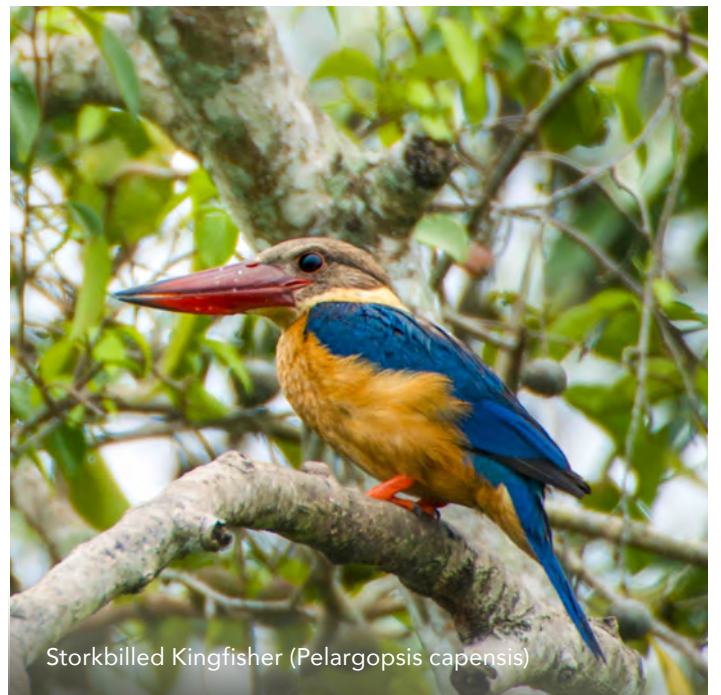
At Gaya Island Resort, we have recorded a total of 77 avian species including the latest, the distinctive Chestnut-Winged Cuckoo (*Clamator coromandus*). It forages and sings high in a dense canopy with a range that takes its vocalisations from a high-pitched 'veep-veep' to a strident 'kooree'. Measuring an average of 47cm, the beautiful crown – almost like a witch's hat and bright orange throat makes it a delight for birders.



Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher

One of the most colourful birds to emerge from our avian species survey comes from Pangkor Laut Resort. Our discovery of 33 species residing across 300 acres of primordial forest includes the Oriental Dwarf Kingfisher (*Ceyx erithaca*), a mere 12cm in length making it one of the smallest kingfisher species in existence. Its vibrant complexion has earned it the moniker of 'jewel of Indian rainforests' with a coral-red bill, blue-black back and wings, and pale orange underparts.

Along the coastal shores of Tanjong Jara Resort, we are also heartened by the recording of 57 avian species. The latest to join the list is the Stork-Billed Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*). Guests are likely spot this bird among the tree cover, it measures 35cm in length and has a buff neck, green back, blue wings and an olive-brown head. It is also very feisty when its territory is under threat and is known to chase eagles and other larger predators off its hunting grounds where it seeks out fish, frogs, crabs, rodents and even young birds.



Storkbilled Kingfisher (*Pelargopsis capensis*)



Collared Kingfisher (*Todiramphus Chloris*)



Female Olive-Backed Sunbird

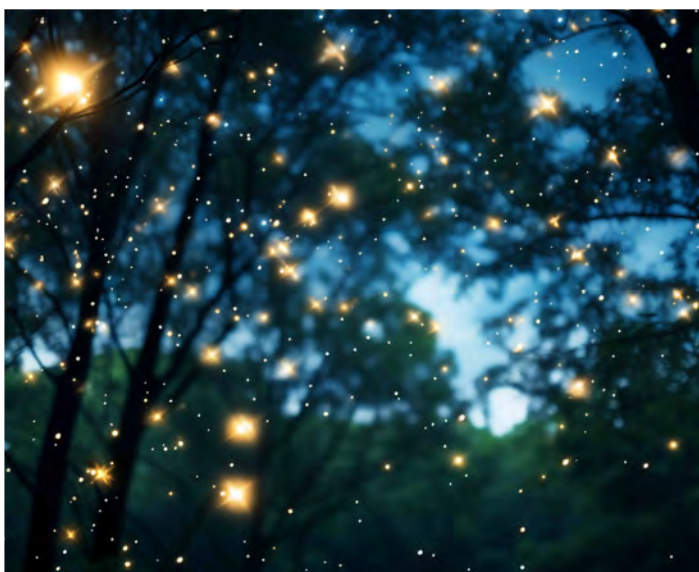


Ashy Tailorbird
(*Orthotomus Ruficeps*)





EARTH HOUR CELEBRATIONS RESTORE BALANCE WITH NATURE



*Earth hour at our resorts: a moment to reflect,
a commitment to protect.*

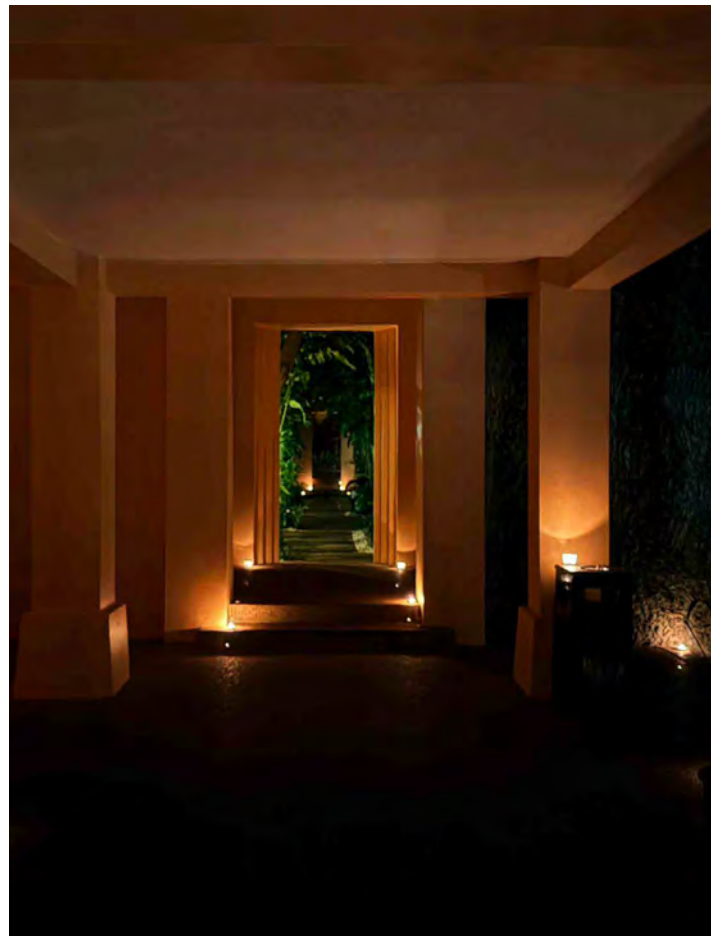
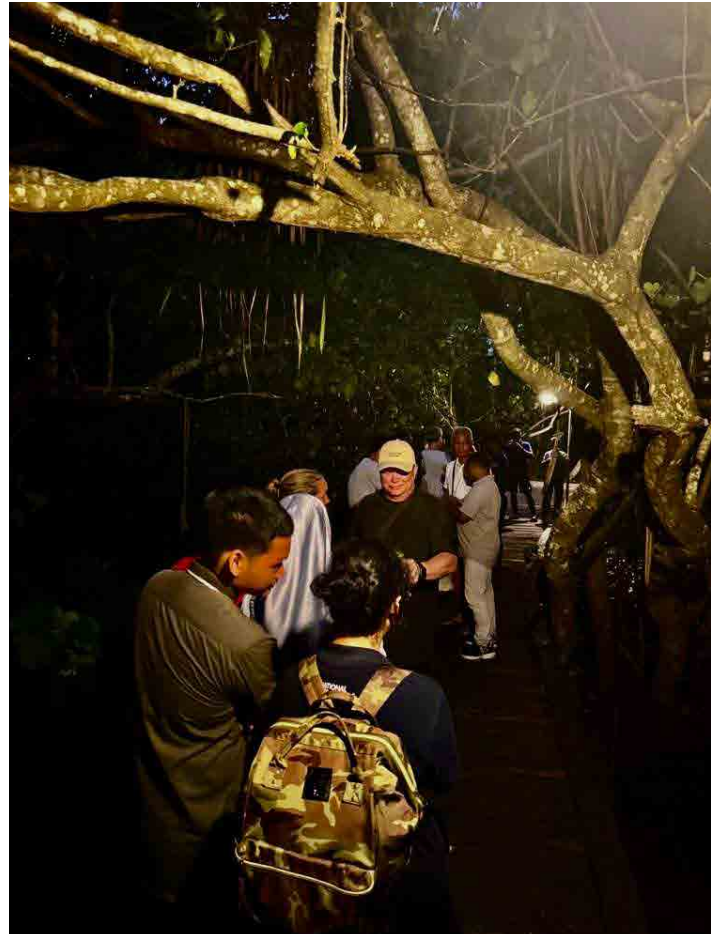
Across three of YTL Hotels' resorts, the celebration of Earth Hour on March 28 this year offered a poignant pause and a moment of reflection for guests. This annual occurrence allows guests to commune with nature, as well as with our Conservation Team who share insights into the ecosystems in which our resorts are situated, as well as the ongoing efforts to preserve and protect these natural wonders.

At the private island of Pangkor Laut, where otters frolic and hornbills soar, we held conversations with guests at our Nature Conservation Centre, located on the pristine edge of a three-million-year-old virgin rainforest. Among these talks was the relative absence of mosquitoes, thanks to the natural cycle of insect-eating wildlife that abounds on the island including bats, birds and reptiles.



Over at Tanjong Jara Resort, in which natural rhythms shape the languid pace of life along the East Coast, we witnessed a symbolic release of fireflies into the dusky night, a reminder of the fragility of its habitat and the importance of protecting the natural surrounding environment.

Across the South China Sea and just a 15-minute speedboat ride from the Borneo mainland, Gaya Island Resort's marine and mangrove ecosystems came to light. These rich and amazing flora, which can simultaneously tolerate the brackish conditions of saltwater and freshwater mix (filtering up to 90 per cent of salt through its roots to its leaves) are a marvel of nature and act as a natural against erosion, a nursery for marine life and a carbon sink.





TURTLE WATCH AT GAYA ISLAND RESORT (CASE NUMBER 36)

Preserving 'From Rescue to Return': Dato's Journey Guided by Nature, Back to the Wild.

At the Gaya Island Resort Marine Centre, located on the quiet shores of Tavajun Bay, you will usually encounter some temporary guests – the rescued sea turtles – who are being rehabilitated for the wild. Case number 36, a Green Sea Turtle by the name of Dato, came into our care at the end of last year and after four months of treatment, was released with a geotag on his carapace.

The resulting satellite tracking results were indeed very warmly welcomed. For one, they exhibited the unique ability of turtles to sense Earth's magnetic fields, which guides them back to their foraging, breeding and eventual nesting areas as they have done for 230 million years since the Late Triassic Period. Dato's movements clearly show his decisive and purposeful swim towards the north – covering a distance of nearly 180





kilometres within a week – to arrive at the tip of Borneo where he had been foraging for food prior to his rescue.

In the weeks that followed, the satellite data revealed Dato to be moseying around the waters, covering less acreage and making occasional swims in westerly, northerly and easterly directions but always returning to his favourite foraging spots. What we surmise is that the area where he has been spotted most offers sufficient seagrass beds for feeding, as well as potential mates for Dato to continue propagating his species – continuing the lineage of one of the oldest reptile groups, which predates even some dinosaurs.



YTL HOTELS

Treasured Places, Treasured Moments

The Natural Wonders - Voice of Conservation aims to share the latest conservation news from our collection of Luxury Resorts in Malaysia.

Discover the infinite variety, complexity, sheer beauty of the natural environment and the passion of its people that make each resort an exceptional experience.



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