

MAMMALS IN SABAH

MALAYSIAN BORNEO

10 JUNE-14 JULY 2009

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In June-July 2009 I made two back to back tours of Sabah visiting in order Mabul-Sipadan Island, Danum Valley (DV) staying at the rainforest lodge, Kinabatangan River (KR) staying at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, Gomantong Caves (GC) on two mornings, two afternoon visits to Sepilok Rainforest Centre with one night spotlighting at the Orang centre, Mount Kinabalu (MK) staying at Fairy Garden and I spent two nights at the end of the second tour by myself at Poring Hot Springs (PHS).

All up I recorded 56 species of mammals during the 35 days. I did as many spotlighting walks as practical plus several short drives and four night trips by boat.

Moonrat: (1) spotlit at Sukau Rainforest Lodge on the boardwalk on 7 Jul gave a great view and we could smell the strong ammonia odour as well!

E Mountain Treeshrew: (2-3) at MK on 24-25 Jun and (2) at MK on 9 Jul most easily seen around the dump bin near the Timophon Gate.

E Striped Treeshrew: (2) at DV on 16 Jun gave good views of the black dorsal stripe.

Lesser/Slender Treeshrew: (1-3) at PHS on 12-13 Jul.

Large Treeshrew: (1) on both 20-21 Jun at KR gave great views with (1) at PHS on 13 Jul.

Long-tongued Blossom Bat: (1) spotlit at KR on 19 Jun with two more probable sightings at KR and PHS.

Short-nosed Fruit-Bat: (10) at GC on both 8 Jul and 22 Jun roosting under eaves of old house.

Large Flying-fox: (3) seen whilst spotlighting at DV on 16 Jun and (1) KR on 21 Jun and (3) seen whilst spotlighting at KR on 6 Jul.

Island Flying-fox: (10) on Mabul Island on both 11 Jun and 30 Jun.

Fawn Roundleaf Bat: (40) roosting in a limestone cleft overhang on KR on 19 Jun.

Bornean Horseshoe Bat: (100) plus in GC on both visits.

Wrinkle-lipped Bat: (1) found on the floor of the cave of GC was eaten by a dog!

Flying Lemur: (1) spotlit at DV on 14 Jun glided away from us-spectacular.

Sunda Slow Loris: (1) spotlit at Sepilok on 8 Jul gave stellar views.

E Maroon Langur: (10) seen on both 14 and 16 Jun with (2) on 17 Jun all at DV. (20) on 2 Jul at DV with (10) seen here on 4 Jul.

Sunda Silvered Langur: (10-20) plus seen on 18-21 Jun at KR. (10) plus seen on 5-7 Jul at KR.

E Proboscis Monkey: (30-60) seen on 18-21 Jun at KR. (20-60) seen on 5-7 Jul at KR.

Long-tailed Macaque: (5-10) at DV on 14-18 Jun with (20-60) seen daily at KR. (5) at DV on 5 Jul with (20-60) seen daily at KR.

Sunda Pig-tailed Macaque: (5-10) at DV on 14-15 Jun with and (5-10) seen on 20-22 Jun at KR. (1) at DV on 3 Jul with (15) seen on the drive out of DV on 5 Jul and (20) seen on 6 Jul at KR.

E Bornean Gibbon: (1) male at DV on 14 Jun gave a good view and a wonderful performance from a female at KR on 20 Jun. Heard in the mornings on a further 6 days but not seen. (1) male at DV on 2 Jul gave a good scope view. Heard in the mornings on a further 5 days but not seen.

E Bornean Orang-utan: (4) seen on 14 Jun at DV included a large male and female with infant. Another female with infant was seen on 16 Jun at the Canopy Walkway at DV. (1) large male was seen at Sukau Rainforest Lodge on both 20-21 Jun with a female with an infant also present at GC on 22 Jun. (1-5) seen on 1-5 Jul at DV included large males, females with infants even a mating pair. (1) male seen at KR on both 5 and 7 Jul and (2) seen at GC on 8 Jul, the latter a female with infant.

Creamy Giant Squirrel: (1) at DV on 5 Jul gave a great scope view.

Prevost's Squirrel: (1-3) seen on 7 days at DV and KR. (1-5) seen on 7 days at DV and KR.

E Bornean Black-banded Squirrel: (2-10) seen on 23-25 Jun at MK with (2) at Tambunan on 26 Jun. (1-3) seen on 9-11 Jul at MK.

Plantain Squirrel: (1-2) on both 20 and 22 Jun at KR. (1) on both 5 and 7 Jul at KR.

E Earspot Squirrel: (1) having an encounter with a Green Vine Snake on 17 Jun at DV was a rare sighting.

Horse-tailed Squirrel: (1) at DV on 18 Jun gave a good view.

Low's Squirrel: (2) at Sukau Rainforest Lodge on both 18 and 20 Jun. (1) at Sepilok BRC on 8 Jul was associating with a pair of Buff-necked Woodpeckers.

Jentink's Squirrel: (1) at PHS on 13 Jul gave a good view of the creamy boomerang on the snout.

E Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel: (2-10) seen on 4 days at MK mostly around the rubbish dump. (1-6) seen on 3 days at MK mostly around the rubbish dump. (1) at PHS on 13 Jul was a low altitude record.

Four-striped Ground Squirrel: (1) at PHS gave a good view in the giant bamboo.

E Whitehead's Pygmy Squirrel: (1) at MK on 23-24 Jun with (1) at Tambunan on 26 Jun. (1) at MK on 11 Jul was seen by a lucky handful of squirrelologists.

E Plain Pygmy Squirrel: (1-2) seen on 5 days at DV and KR. (1-2) seen on 4 days at DV and KR. (1) at PHS on 13 Jul.

Temminck's Flying Squirrel: (1) spotlight on the Hornbill Trail at DV gave three great views of this tiny squirrel with its interesting flattened black tail raised and held flat in an agitated manner against the trunk.

Red Giant Flying Squirrel: (4) gave a stunning volpaning performance on our drive into DV on 1 Jul with Anna spotting the first one. Quite a show! (1) spotlight by Dion at DV on 4 Jul and (2) spotlight at Sepilok on 8 Jul.

E Thomas's Flying Squirrel: (2) on both 13 and 15 Jun showed the diagnostic all red tail at DV.

Yellow-throated Marten: (1) well spotted at DV on 3 Jul gave a good view.

Malay Badger: (1) spotlight at Sukau RL on the boardwalk on 20 Jun was even tempted to squirt foul smelling liquid in my direction when I approached complete with chattering growl. It gave a great repeat view.

Hairy-nosed Otter: (2) at the end of Menangol Channel at KR on 19 Jun gave a good but brief view.

Smooth Otter: (1) at KR on 20 Jun gave a good repeat view.

Oriental Small-clawed Otter: (3) at DV on 16 Jun. (1) being attacked by dogs at GC on 8 Jul took shelter in a storm water drain and emerged after we drove the dogs away.

Malay Civet: (2) at DV on 17 Jun and (1) at KR on 20 Jun gave good views.

Binturong: (1) on both 14 and 15 Jul at DV in fruiting fig; on the first date a male seen in the morning, on the second spotlight at night. (1) spotlight by Dion at DV on 3 Jul in fruiting fig.

Common Palm Civet: (1) spotlight at DV on 15 Jun. (1) spotlight by Dion at DV on 3 Jul and (1) spotlight at KR on 6 Jul.

Flat-headed Cat: (1) spotlight at Menangol Channel at KR on 21 Jun gave a great view.

Spinner Dolphin: A pod of (10) seen off Sipadan Island on 30 Jun.

E Whitehead's Rat: (2) at MK around the power station in the late afternoon gave one good view on 25 Jun.

Muller's Rat: Probably this species spotlight at KR on four occasions with a good view at Sukau RL on 6 Jul.

Long-tailed Giant Rat: (1) on 20 Jun spotlight at KR.

Brown Spiny Rat: (1) spotlight at DV on 3 Jul.

***Brown Rat:** (3) rats spotlight inside GC looked like this species.

Asian Elephant: (1) heard at DV on 5 Jul with (8) showing well despite the best efforts of several over-zealous tour operators and mindless tourists at KR on 6 Jul.

Bearded Pig: (1-2) seen on 9 days at DV and 2 days at KR; often the resident tame one at DV!

Greater Mouse Deer: (1-2) seen on 6 days at DV with (1) well spotted by Hazwan at night at Sepilok on 8 Jul.

E Yellow Muntjac: (1) was well spotted by Owen at DV on 17 Jun.

Sambar: (4-5) seen at DV on 13-17 Jun (1-4) seen at DV on 1-4 Jul.