

Central African Republic (Dzanga-Sangha Reserve)

July 16-23, 2015

Venkat Sankar

Species List:

- *[1. Western Tree Hyrax (*Dendrohyrax dorsalis*) – calling very loudly in the tree 10-15 ft right above me, though I never quite got looks (7/20)]
- *2. African Forest Elephant (*Loxodonta cyclotis*) – seen well in Dzanga Bai on 7/17 and 7/20; also, 2 animals observed at close range in forest at Mongambe on 7/18
- *3. Potto (*Perodicticus potto*) – 1 animal observed poorly on a night walk on 7/17; 1 more observed very well on a walk on 7/22
- *4. Demidoff's Galago (*Galagoides demidovii*) – 1 heard calling well on the night walk on 7/22 in the dense edge vegetation next to Cabin 7 along the river
- *5. Elegant Needle-clawed Galago (*Euoticus elegantulus*) – 1 heard calling on 7/17 night walk, then one seen very well on the night walk on 7/20
- *6. Moustached Monkey (*Cercopithecus cephus*) – small numbers seen in mixed-species troops twice, once in Mongambe on 7/18, next on the Bai Hokou Road on 7/21
- *7. Putty-nosed Monkey (*Cercopithecus nictitans*) – good numbers seen in mixed species troops at Mongambe, Sangha Lodge, and the Bai Hokou Road on 7/18, 7/19, and 7/21; heard daily
- *8. Crowned Guenon (*Cercopithecus pogonias*) – a small number of what was most likely this species seen mixed with Gray-cheeked Mangabeys at the trail out from Dzanga Bai on 7/17; 2-3 seen well on the Bai Hokou road on 7/22
- *9. Gray-cheeked Mangabey (*Lophocebus albigena*) – small troops seen on the Dzanga Bai trail on 7/17, at Mongambe on 7/18, and on the Bai Hokou road on 7/22; heard a few other times too
- *10. Agile Mangabey (*Cercocebus agilis*) – 1 observed well at Mongambe in a unhabituated troop on 7/18; the large habituated troop at Bai Hokou seen well on 7/22
- *11. Guereza Colobus (*Colobus guereza*) – heard briefly on the trail to Dzanga Bai on 7/17, then seen briefly on the same trail near the stream on 7/20
- *12. Western Lowland Gorilla (*Gorilla gorilla*) – the troop of about 12 seen in dense vine thicket (largely sleeping) at Mongambe at 7/18; the Makumba group of 4 animals observed well at Bai Hokou on 7/21
- *13. African Brush-tailed Porcupine (*Atherurus africanus*) – 1 animal seen well rushing among boulders in the *Picathartes* cave on 7/19; a trip highlight
- *14. Lord Derby's Anomalure (*Anomalurus derbianus*) – 1 animal seen well sunning outside its crevice den in the tree near Cabin 7 at Sangha Lodge on 7/18, then on 7/23
- *15. Thomas's Rope Squirrel (*Funisciurus anerythrus*) – 1 observed briefly on a squirrel walk with Rod on 7/19 afternoon; 2-3 then seen well on 7/21 morning at Sangha Lodge

- *16. Lady Burton's Rope Squirrel (*Funisciurus isabella*) – 1 observed well on a squirrel walk on 7/19 afternoon; then a few more heard and seen over the following days (never as well though)
- *17. Ribboned Rope Squirrel (*Funisciurus lemniscatus*) – 1 heard well, but seen only poorly on the trails at Sangha Lodge on 7/19 afternoon; seen better by Rod
- *18. Red-cheeked Rope Squirrel (*Funisciurus leucogenys*) – 1 observed briefly, but well on 7/21 on the road to Bai Hokou
- *19. Fire-footed Rope Squirrel (*Funisciurus pyrrhopus*) – 1 observed briefly, but well on the road to Dzanga Bai on 7/20 morning
- *20. Red-legged Sun Squirrel (*Heliosciurus rufobrachium*) – 1 observed in the canopy of a fruiting tree near a troop of monkeys on the road to Bai Hokou on 7/21 morning
- *21. Rusty-nosed Rat (*Oenomys hypoxanthus*) – 1 observed briefly, but clearly on the grassy fringe of the road to Dzanga Bai early in the morning on 7/20
- *22. Bates' Slit-faced Bat (*Nycteris arge*) – 1-2 seen well in the dining room at Sangha Lodge in the evenings
- *[23. Hairy Slit-faced Bat (*Nycertis hispida*) – 1-2 of what was most likely this species seen briefly on the night walk on 7/17]
- *24. Giant Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros gigas*) – 4 of these cool bats seen well in a hollow tree near the waterfall on 7/19
- *25. Noack's Roundleaf Bat (*Hipposideros ruber*) – 100s of these bats seen at a roost near Bai Hokou on 7/21; what was most likely this species also seen on a night walk on 7/20
- *26. Black Hawk Bat (*Saccolaimus peli*) – 1 of these large, cool bats seen hawking over the Sangha River from the lodge deck on the evening of 7/20
- *27. Tree Pangolin (*Manis tricuspis*) – one of the highlights of the trip was when the Ba'Aka found one of these awesome animals in a hollow log at Sangha Lodge on the evening of 7/17; the pet Tree Pangolin at Sangha Lodge, Oko, was also seen
- 28. African Forest Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*) – a small herd of 15 animals observed at Dzanga Bai both days, on 7/17 and 7/20
- *29. Sitatunga (*Tragelaphus spekii*) – 1 seen well in one of the large, marshy bais in Bai Hokou on 7/21
- *30. Peters' Duiker (*Cephalophus callipygus*) – 2 observed, one seen well and another briefly, on the bai walk at Bai Hokou on 7/21
- *31. Bay Duiker (*Cephalophus dorsalis*) – 1 observed briefly, but clearly dashing into wet primary forest just above one of the larger bais on the bai walk on 7/21
- *32. Blue Duiker (*Cephalophus monticola*) – 1 seen well on the bai walk moving off a trail at Bai Hokou on 7/21; the two semi-wild pet duikers at Sangha Lodge, Baby and Bokkie, were also seen well on 7/16 in the evening as they came in to feed

Possibles, Camera-trapped, Near-misses, Sign, and Pets:

African Giant Squirrel – what was probably this species was heard crashing off through dense vegetation near the swamp forest at Sangha Lodge on 7/23 morning

Emin's Giant Rat – a fresh, active burrow seen near the trail to the waterfall

Link Rat – seen on the camera trap at Sangha Lodge on the trails during the time of our visit; it was camera trapped in the garden right by Rod's house!

Long-tailed Pangolin – the beautiful semi-wild pet Long-tailed Pangolin, Pangi, was enjoyed at the Sangha Lodge; sightings of wild animals are extremely rare

Leopard – fresh tracks of an animal seen while tracking Gorillas at Bai Hokou

Congo Clawless Otter – lots of tracks of these seen along the stream running through the first bai on the bai walk at Bai Hokou

Giant Forest Hog – in Dzanga Bai often during the time of our stay according to Andrea; unfortunately, we weren't lucky enough to see them

Red River Hog – fresh diggings at Bai Hokou while gorilla trekking; missing a small group of these by minutes while tracking Mangabeys at Bai Hokou was rather more heartbreaking though...

Bongo – lots of fresh tracks in the first large bai on the bai walk at Bai Hokou; not seen in Dzanga Bai (the best site) for about a month however

Misses: (*realistic chance of seeing on a given trip, with appropriate effort)

*Thomas's Galago: heard on almost every night walk on the Sangha Lodge forest and seen often too; I really should have seen one of these

?*Allen's Swamp Monkey: what is most likely this species, according to Christian, seen, but not too reliably, in an area of dense swamp forest near Doli Lodge; found at Bomassa Island at the CAR-Congo-Cameroon border to the south (3.5-4 hr boat trip); there are publications suggesting the presence of this species in Bayanga

De Brazza's Monkey: mostly poached out in the Bayanga area, a small population persists in the swamp forest on the trail near Sangha lodge, where they are seeable, but very elusive (Rod heard them the day before I arrived) (possible S of lodge near Bomassa?)

*Red Colobus: seen reliably along the Sangha Lodge about 3-4 hours South of the Lodge by boat

Central Chimpanzee: heard and seen occasionally along the Sangha Lodge South of the Lodge and seen once and heard often near the waterfalls to the West of the lodge

Beecroft's Anomalure: seen once by Rod near Sangha Lodge and occasionally around Doli Lodge; difficult to see reliably

*African Giant Squirrel: seen regularly by Rod in the swamp forest near Sangha Lodge; also possible in swamp forest near Doli Lodge; another species I should have seen

African Pygmy Squirrel: seen uncommonly by Rod in dense liana thickets on the trail to the waterfall, but elusive and tough to spot; easier in Campo Ma'an NP in Cameroon

*Emin's Giant Rat: fresh burrows seen occasionally on the trails near Sangha Lodge; spotlighted occasionally crossing trails or the entrance road at night; camera-trapped often

*Hammer Bat: reliably heard and seen when a fig tree in front of the lodge dining area is in fruit; it wasn't fruiting when I was there, so sightings were irregular (Rod had heard them the day before I arrived though)

Servaline Genet: occasionally seen near Doli Lodge and seen once crossing the Sangha Lodge entrance road; a tough species to see

*African Palm Civet: seen reliably on the trails around Sangha Lodge at night, especially when the big fig near the dining room is in fruit; I really should have seen one of these

*Long-nosed Mongoose: seen from time to time near the creek at and on the road to Bai Hokou; Rod has seen these a few times on the trails near Sangha Lodge too

Black-footed Mongooses: Rod reckons hiking at the edge of the forest around the first bai at Bai Hokou at night may be a good way to see these, though he has never tried

Flat-headed Cusimanse: seen occasionally around Sangha Lodge close to the river, and once on the Babongo River trail; also camera trapped in a large Sapele mahogany tree on the trail network, but they had vacated many months ago (we checked the den site anyway without success)

Spotted-necked Otter: seen occasionally in the creek near Mongambe camp

*Congo Clawless Otter: probably best seen by hiking along the creek near Bai Hokou and Dzanga Stream, where I saw lots of tracks, early in the morning; more likely at Mbeli Bai in Nouabale-Ndoki NP, according to Rod

*Giant Forest and Red River Hogs: although it was disappointing to miss these species, they are much more likely in the dry season when they are seen in Dzanga Bai about 1 in 4 times; that said, Giant Forest is easier in Kenya and Red River in Gabon

Water Chevrotain: seen occasionally by Christian on the road to Mongambe; spotlighting the roads to Mongambe and Bai Hokou may be a possible way to look for this species; easier in Odzala NP

*Black-fronted Duiker: I really should have seen one of these as they are supposed to be quite common around the bays at Bai Hokou; I should have tried again for this species as it is the only regularly-seen duiker species I missed (Yellow-backed is near-impossible)

*Bongo: seen in 1 in 2 visits to Dzanga Bai in the dry season, according to Rod; I was sad to miss them, but the chances really weren't in my favor given the time of year I visited (Rod reckoned less than 50% through the course of my stay)