

# Borneo

June 11th-23rd, 2023

## Introduction and Logistics:

Like many before us, we arranged a two-week mammal watching adventure with all around mammal-spotting, Jedi-master Mike Gordon through Adventures Alternative Borneo. They took care of all of the logistics from the airport pick-up until the return to the airport at the end of the trip. We allocated nine nights to Deramakot Forest Reserve, two nights on the Kinabatangan River and two nights at the Infapro Danum Valley area. At Deramakot, we generally did 7 hours per night (the standard is 6 hours but you can pay for additional time if you like) except for the first and last night there. We would generally finish each evening between 2:00-3:30am depending on weather and fatigue (there were a few rainy nights that were challenging). You can do two hour night boat rides at the Kinabatangan River and we went till about midnight at Danum. Infapro gives you the most flexibility compared to the Borneo Rainforest Lodge or the Field Center. The Kinabatangan river was quite high, quashing our hopes of spotting a Flat-headed Cat (worth researching if water levels consistently drop at any time during the year??).

Deramakot can be a test of one's patience, highlighted by moments of panic as animals come into view. While Clouded Leopard was the top target and we did not see one (looks like at least one more trip to Borneo in the future!!), that was more than made up for by a fantastic suite of other mouth-watering mammals including two different Sunda Pangolins, two different Marbled Cats, two different Otter Civets, two stink badgers and 40 total mammal species seen on the trip (a good tally since we did not go to the highlands around Mt. Kinabalu). As has been noted in previous trip reports, Mike's ability to spot wildlife is ludicrous. How does one spot a sleeping Marbled Cat 150 feet up a tree on the side of a hill with just the briefest of sweeps of a spotlight?

There is certainly a bit of random luck involved. Both pangolins just happened to walk across the road in front of our vehicle. The first one was a large male, but 10 minutes before we saw it, there was a brief downpour, so our cameras were still in their waterproof bags when it came out.

On our last evening in Deramakot, we needed to wrap up early because of the following morning drive to Kinabatangan. All of our attention was focused on the ditch at the side of the road watching a Lesser Ranee Mouse valiantly trying to climb and bend over a blade of grass to cross a little rivulet of water from an earlier downpour, and then our driver, Roy, spotted a pangolin just able out into the open to cross the road. We were able to get a great 20 second close-up view of it as it climbed up the hill above the road. We don't know if the Ranee Mouse was successful in its efforts. Below is a table to show the night-by-night variability in sightings.

Our second Marbled Cat was almost the very last mammal of the trip. As we were returning to Infapro around 10pm (our flight the next morning required a 4am departure) we saw one on the road. Luckily after it moved into the brush on the left side of the road, it then decided to cross the road, giving great looks from about 50 feet away before it disappeared again.

A compilation video of some of the mammals seen is on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=es392YAVY6U>

## DERAMOKOT NIGHTLY SIGHTINGS

Species	Night 1	Night 2	Night 3	Night 4	Night 5	Night 6	Night 7	Night 8	Night 9	Total
Moonrat		1			1	1		1		4
Sunda Pangolin		1							1	2
Long-tongued Nectar Bat	1									1
Diadem Leaf-nosed Bat			1					1		2
Short-nosed Fruit-bat				1			1			2
Sunda Colugo	1	3	1	1	3	1	2	1		13
Orangutan	1	2								3
Philippine Slow Loris	1	2				1		1		5
Thomas' Flying Squirrel	2	4	1	2	5	4	2	1		21
Black Flying Squirrel			2		1					3
Red Giant Flying Squirrel			2			1				3
Temminck's Flying Squirrel			1							1
Malayan Field Rat								1		1
Large Sunda Tree-mouse			1							1
Lesser Raneer Mouse						1	1		1	3
Malay Porcupine						1				1
Bornean Thick-spined Porcupine		1								1
Yellow-throated Marten		3								3
Sunda Stink Badger							1	1		2
Malay Civet		2	1	1	2	3	1	1		11
Island Palm Civet		3	2	5	3	2	5	4	1	25
Striped Palm Civet	3	4	2	2	10	8	6	8	1	44
Otter Civet		1		1						2
Sunda Leopard Cat		3			5	2	4	5	2	21
Marbled Cat				1						1
Sambar	1	1	2	5	1	1	1	1		13
Bornean Pygmy Elephant				3			1			4
Lesser Mouse Deer							1			1

Additional mammals seen during day at Deramokot:

- Long-tailed Macaque
- Plantain Squirrel
- Malay Giant Squirrel
- Ear-spotted Squirrel
- Provost's Squirrel
- Red Leaf Monkey

Kinabatangan Mammal List:

- Silvered Langur
- Proboscis Monkey
- Pig-tailed Macaque
- Long-tailed Macaque
- Philippine Slow Loris
- Sunda Colugo
- Striped Palm Civet

Danum Valley Mammal List:

- Thomas' Flying Squirrel
- Long-tailed Porcupine (seen by Mike only)
- Orangutan
- Bornean Gibbon (heard only)
- Sunda Colugo
- Sunda Stink Badger
- Malay Civet
- Island Palm Civet
- Striped Palm Civet
- Marbled Cat
- Leopard Cat
- Greater Mouse Deer
- Lesser Mouse Deer
- Sambar