



Emmons' Tree Rat (*Pithecheirops otion*)

Borneo Notes

Ben Schweinhart

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I just returned from a trip to Sabah with David and Arlene Karesh. The sites are well-documented and I'm a couple years behind on processing photos, so I wrote up some quick notes on my more notable mammal observations rather than a detailed report.

I found two Emmons' Tree Rats (*Pithecheirops otion*) at Danum Valley Field Centre. Both were about three meters up in primary forest (one was on the nature trail near the short tower, the other was on the path just behind the campground). I located them using my headlamp rather than a thermal scope.

We had a total of five observations of Pen-tailed Treeshrews (*Ptilocercus lowii*), three on the trails at DVFC and two on night drives at Deramakot. They do not appear to be uncommon but rather exceedingly skittish. All but one of the treeshrews quickly disappeared, and they seemed to mind red light as much as white. Luckily, one remained motionless for several minutes on a tree trunk and I was able to get good views and photos. It may have been busy eating something. Sadly, this treeshrew kept its exquisite tail hidden until it decided to run away. As described by Louise Emmons, they have incredibly bright eye-



Pen-tailed Treeshrew (*Ptilocercus lowii*)

shine for their size. I recommend searching for them alone on foot. If someone else sees one, it's likely to be gone by the time they mention it.

Clouded Leopards are being seen less predictably after African Swine Flu nearly wiped out the Bearded Pigs. We heard about recent observations at DVFC and Deramakot but were not lucky enough to find one ourselves. There are reports of pigs persisting at/returning to Tabin and Deramakot.

Tawau: We had several close observations of Banded Civets foraging along the trail. Also, a Spotted-Winged Fruit Bat was roosting at night under an epiphytic fern opposite the river observation hut (at about 500 meters along the trail). After I left Borneo, David returned to Tawau and saw a Banded Linsang cross the path!

Danum Valley Field Centre: in addition to the Pithecheirops and Treeshrews, I found a Sunda Pangolin and a medium-sized grayish flying squirrel.

Kinabatangan: the water level was too high to search for Flat-headed Cat. A different time of year might be better. However, we had incredible views of Bornean Pygmy Elephants, thanks to Osman.

Deramakot: highlights over a week of night drives included a Sun Bear crossing the road and two fleeting glimpses of Pen-tailed Treeshrew. Also, a dwarf flying squirrel. Mike Gordon told me that he's recently seen Saban Grizzled Langur near the accommodation; I spent several afternoons searching for it without success.

My photos are available on my website, iNaturalist, flickr, and Instagram.

1 Mammal List

Here's a tentative trip list. I observed a number of taxa that I have yet to identify. In particular, I've made no effort to determine the identities of smaller squirrels and rats/mice with the exception of the *Pithecheirops*

1. Moonrat (*Echinosorex gymnura*) : a few seen at both Tawau and DVFC.
2. Pen-tailed Treeshrew (*Ptilocercus lowii*) : see above.
3. Sunda Colugo (*Galeopterus variegatus*)
4. Large Flying Fox (*Pteropus vampyrus*)
5. *Cynopterus* sp - several photographed.
6. Spotted-winged Fruit Bat (*Balionycteris maculata*) : one at Tawau.
7. Trefoil Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus trifoliatus*)
8. *Rhinolophus* sp - one or two more species. They should be easy to identify when I get around to it.
9. Philippine Slow Loris (*Nycticebus menagensis*)
10. Western Tarsier (*Tarsius bancanus*) : 1-3 seen nightly at DVFC. I also saw one at Tawau and a couple at Deramakot.
11. Maroon Langur (*Presbytis rubicunda*)
12. Silvered Langur (*Trachypithecus cristatus*)
13. Proboscis Monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*)
14. Long-tailed Macaque (*Macaca fascicularis*)
15. Pig-tailed Macaque (*Macaca nemestrina*)
16. North Bornean Gibbon (*Hylobates funereus*)
17. Bornean Orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*)
18. Sunda Pangolin (*Manis javanica*): one at DVFC.
19. Sunda Giant Squirrel (*Ratufa affinis*)
20. Prevost's Squirrel (*Callosciurus prevostii*)
21. Plantain Squirrel (*Callosciurus notatus*)
22. Bornean Pygmy Squirrel (*Exilisciurus exilis*)
23. *Callosciurus* sp: to be identified from photos.
24. Black Flying Squirrel (*Aeromys tephromelas*)

25. Thomas's Flying Squirrel (*Aeromys thomasi*)
26. *Petinomys?* sp: DVFC
27. Red Giant Flying Squirrel (*Petaurista petaurista*)
28. Emmons' Tree Rat (*Pithecheirops otion*) : two at DVFC.
29. Muridae sp: several, to be identified by photos.
30. Malay Porcupine (*Hystrix brachyura*)
31. Sun Bear (*Helarctos malayanus*) : one at Deramakot.
32. Sunda Skunk (*Mydaus javanensis*): several at DVFC and Dermakot.
33. Asian small-clawed otter (*Aonyx cinereus*): one family group at DVFC.
34. Sunda Leopard Cat (*Prionailurus javanensis*)
35. Malay Civet (*Viverra zibetha*)
36. Island Palm Civet (*Paradoxurus hermaphroditus*)
37. Bornean Striped Palm Civet (*Arctogalidia stigmatica*)
38. Binturong (*Arctictis binturong*)
39. Banded Civet (*Hemigalus derbyanus*) : a few at Tawau, one at Deramakot.
40. Bornean Elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*)
41. Lesser Mouse-deer (*Tragulus javanicus*)
42. Greater Mouse-deer (*Tragulus napu*)
43. Bornean Yellow Muntjac (*Muntiacus atherodes*) : a couple at DVFC.
44. Sambar (*Rusa unicolor*)