



Once a year Royle Safaris runs our Borneo's Rare Mammals Tour (with optional post tour extension to Tawau Hills National Park) as a small group tour. We also run several private tailored tours to Sabah, Borneo (often focusing on mammals but sometimes birds, diving or herpetofauna), but for anyone wanting to visit Malaysian Borneo on a specific mammalwatching tour at a competitive price our groups are the perfect option. Our tour in late summer 2024 was one of our best ever in terms of having an incredible sightings of a **Sunda Clouded Leopard** which was observed during the day padding down the road in pursuit of a **Malay Porcupine**, coming right next to the vehicle! We also had sightings of several other mammals which we count as rare mammals for the purposes of our Rare Mammals Tours, these included **Banteng, Sunda Pangolin, Short-tailed Mongoose & Pen-tailed Tree-shrew**.

This itinerary is an ever present on our mammalwatching group tour calendar and over the years we have recorded over 117 species of mammals, 200+ species of birds, 55+ species of reptiles, 30+ species of amphibians and even 7 species of fish (across the various different trips we have run); and we added some iconic species to these lists during this trip including the iconic pen-tailed tree-shrew which being a monotypic species is a key one for many family collectors and the incredibly rare banteng.

Being one of the most biodiverse and wildlife rich locations in the world, the island of Borneo is a hotspot for all wildlife lovers, many of our clients are returning to Borneo after other trips, as there is so much to see it can often take a few visits to see everything. Some of the more common species people associate with Borneo include **orangutans, proboscis monkeys, pygmy elephants**, salt-water crocodiles as well as several species of huge hornbills. As well as targeting these species on this itinerary we focus strongly on many of the rarer and more elusive species which require long nights and expert guides to find.

As always our major targets are Borneo's top mammalian predator, the **Sunda clouded leopard** and its smaller cousins, **Sunda Leopard Cat**, Flat-headed Cat, Marbled Cat and the near mythical Bay Cat as well as the world's smallest species of bear (the sun bear) and of course several **civet** species, **gibbon, langurs, macaques, colugos** and **slow loris** and dozens of other species as we explore Borneo by both day and night.

There is a good probability we will not see all of our targets, that is the nature of things when looking for the rarest and most elusive. But it is very hard to spend considerable time in the forests of Borneo and not see an impressive number of species (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians). To help us in our quest for the rarest species we have the expert help from local spotters (this tour was guided by Mike Gordon – for the main trip and then Shavez Cheema for the Tawau extension), incredibly experienced guides and even advice and information from the leading biologists in Borneo. All of this, some specialist equipment and a huge amount of luck would be needed in order to be successful. But if you do not try you will never be successful

The main trip is based around four different destinations, firstly a brief stop at the Rainforest Discovery Centre near Sepilok before heading to the now very famous sustainably logged reserve (low-impact logging) of Deramakot, which would produce Sunda leopard cat and hopefully either or both Sunda clouded leopard and marbled cat; in fact nearly all studied animals in Borneo are found here in higher densities than in other protected areas (including the primary forests of Danum Valley). From Deramakot Forest Reserve we would have a couple of nights looking for the semi aquatic flat-headed cat along the shores of the Kinabatangan River (as well as enjoying the wonderful wildlife watching along the largest river in Borneo), before finishing in the wonderful and Tabin Wildlife Sanctuary; which has a very nice lodge and also a pretty good track record for Malayan sun bears as well as other species of mammals as their proximity (neighbouring) to a palm oil plantation means that there is a good amount of rodents around and this brings in civets and leopard cats and we hoped for good sightings of these, even if the sun bears remained hard to see on this trip. Tabin is also the location of the last Sumatran rhino in Malaysia. One old was kept in a pen inside the forest, a sad reminder of how fragile the forests here are and even sadder when this animal died a couple of years ago, leaving Malaysia with no rhinos at all.

All of these forests have one thing in common. They may not be around (or their inhabitants as numerous) in the near future. These forests are some of the most under threat in the world, increasing human population, coupled with poaching and illegal logging are culminating in the forests and the animals they harbour becoming increasingly rare and endangered. But the single biggest threat here is the ceaseless conversion of forest to monotonous palm oil plantations. By driving around a good part of Sabah (one of the

more wildlife and conservation focused parts of South East Asia) we will see first-hand the difference between pristine forest and monoculture plantations. We aim to showcase the wildlife and forests of Sabah as well as increasing awareness of the problems it is facing.

We will also have the guidance of passionate local guides and there are some fantastic conservation groups working tirelessly to increase sustainable ecotourism here and save as many acres and species as possible.

As many of our targeted species are nocturnal we will be spending a large proportion of our time in the dark, searching the forests and river banks with a spotlight; looking for the tell-tale eye shine of an animals eyes reflecting back the light from your torch. It is always very hard to predict what animals you may see when you embark on a safari, but one thing we know for sure with this trip to Sabah, Borneo: that is that we will see plenty and what we do see will either be endemic, endangered or elusive.

Participants in this trip were Carrie & Colin Monstert, Jill North, Judy Parrish, Jacqui Porteous, Peter Hobbs and Bonnie Shirley and after the main trip three of our clients (colin, carrie and Judy) travelled on to explore the Tawau Hills National Park (as part of our optional post-tour extension) with the expert guidance of our guide Chun. This was a week-long trip to this remote and seldom visited park and neighbouring forests. This extension explored the hill regions of Tawau and resulted in seeing some nice bird species including the dinosaur like helmeted hornbill as well as many species of reptile and amphibian, highlights from the extension included **Banded Civet** on the first night hike there, watching a **Sunda colugo** fly about 40 or 50 yards over the road ahead of the group, finding a **Banteng** wandering along the road ahead of us for a bit, seeing a nice **Maroon Langur** troop with a white morph, as well as a pair of **Irrawaddy dolphins** on a mangrove tour and a superb sighting at close range of a young **binturong** crossing an open tree in daylight. For future trips (2026 onwards) we have combining Tawau hills and Maliau basin to hopefully increase new mammal species which cannot be seen on the main trip.

Below is a run brief synopsis of the trip and then our species count in the following table and some pictures from the trip. The trip started in Sandakan with everyone's arrival and then transfer Sepilok for the first night and a night walk around the Rainforest Discovery Centre. This is the most reliable location for the **western tarsier** and our main target here. We saw this interesting looking primate and also had views of several other mammals including **Prevost squirrel** and **red giant flying squirrel**.

We then went to Deramakot for 8 nights, we would focus heavily at night, the undoubted highlight here was the **Sunda clouded leopard** stalking a **Malay porcupine** in the middle of the road in front of the vehicle in the daytime. Other notable mammals seen in Deramakot included **moonrat**, **diademed leaf-nosed bat**, **trefoil horseshoe bat**, **pent-tailed tree-shrew**, many **Philippine slow lorises**, **Borneo orangutan**, **Sunda pangolin**, **cream-coloured giant squirrel**, **Sunda colugo**, **plantain squirrel**, **Thomas's flying squirrel**, **Borneo striped palm civet**, **Sunda leopard cat**, **large pencil-tailed tree mouse**, **Malay civet**, **long-tailed porcupine**, **Island palm civet**, **lesser mouse deer**, **Hose's pygmy flying squirrel** and **large flying fox** along with a good collection of small rodents and bats also. All are listed in the below species list.

From here the group went to the largest river in Malaysian Borneo, the Kinabatangan River. Unfortunately we didn't get a flat-headed cat but we did see the other major targets along the river including **Borneo orangutan**, **proboscis monkey**, **Sundiac silvered langur**, **long-tailed macaques** and **southern pig-tailed macaque** and others.

The third and final location was Tabin Wildlife Reserve, key species we like to see here include **north Borneo gibbons** and **Sunda stink badger** and other sightings here included **greater sheath-tailed bats** and the rarely seen **Sabah grey langur**.

As well as mammals, below we have listed the notable birds, reptiles and amphibians seen on the trip.

We are Royle Safaris remains committed to establishing small-scale sustainable eco tourism centred around some of the world's rarest and little seen mammal species. So anyone who is interested in looking for such an animal (such as the elusive nocturnal wildlife of Borneo or any other animals) and cannot find a means of getting a trip together or is struggling to find like minded people to travel with; contact us ([info@royle-safaris.co.uk](mailto:info@royle-safaris.co.uk)) we have a network of local guides, researchers and conservationists around the world as well as a large following of clients and so are uniquely situated to put together pioneering mammalwatching trips and get small groups together for such trips. Or we can arrange private tours if you do not want to be in a small group. Any and all options are possible and we look forward to hearing from you and working on the next rare mammalwatching expedition.

We have filled our 2026 Borneo Rare Mammals Tour and optional post tour extension to Tawau Hills National Park and Maliau Basin, but have opened up our 2027 group tour dates and have already received some bookings, so there is limited availability. For anyone interested please contact us and we will be more than happy to answer any questions you may have and provide our brochure for the main trip and post tour extension to Tawau Hills & Maliau Basin.

# Species List

## Borneo's Rare Mammals Tour & Tawau Hills Extension – Aug/Sep 2024

### *Mammals*

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Black Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys tephromelas</i>
2	Thomas's Flying Squirrel	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>
3	Borneon Striped Palm Civet	<i>Arctogalidia stigmatica</i>
4	Binturong	<i>Arctictis binturong</i>
5	Banteng	<i>Bos javanicus</i>
6	Ear-spot squirrel	<i>Callosciurus adamsi</i>
7	Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>
8	Prevosts Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>
9	Western Tarsier	<i>Cephalopachus bancanus</i>
10	Sambar Deer	<i>Cervus unicolor</i>
11	Large Sunda tree mouse	<i>Chiropodomys major</i>
12	Lesser Short Nosed Fruit Bat	<i>Cynopterus brachyotis</i>
13	Moonrat	<i>Echinosorex gymnura</i>
14	Asiatic Elephant	<i>Elephas maximus</i>
15	Greater sheath-tailed bat	<i>Emballonura monticola</i>
16	Sunda colugo	<i>Galeopterus variegatus</i>
17	Ranee mouse	<i>Haeromys margarettae</i>
18	Banded Palm Civet	<i>Hemigalus derbyanus</i>
19	Diadem Roundleaf Bat	<i>Hipposideros diadema</i>
20	North Borneon Gibbon	<i>Hylobates funereus</i>
21	Malayan porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>
22	Horsfield's flying squirrel	<i>Iomys horsfieldii</i>
23	Smooth-coated otter	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>
24	Long Tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>
25	Southern Pig Tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>
26	Sunda pangolin	<i>Manis javanica</i>
27	Wrinkle-lipped free-tailed bat	<i>Mops plicatus</i>
28	Sunda Skunk	<i>Mydaus javanensis</i>
29	Proboscis Monkey	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>
30	Sunda clouded leopard	<i>Neofelis diardii</i>

31	Dark-tailed tree rat	<i>Niviventer cremoriventer</i>
32	Phillipine Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus menagensis</i>
33	Irrawaddy dolphin	<i>Orcaella brevirostris</i>
34	Island Palm Civet	<i>Paradoxurus philippinensis</i>
35	Hose's Pygmy Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurillus hosei</i>
36	Red Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>
37	Borneo orangutan	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>
38	Sabah grey langur	<i>Presbytis hosei</i>
39	Maroon Langur	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>
40	Sunda Leopard Cat	<i>Prionailurus javanensis</i>
41	Large flying fox	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>
42	Pen-tailed treeshrew	<i>Ptilocercus lowii</i>
43	Cream-coloured Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa affinis</i>
44	Trefiol Horshoe bat	<i>Rhinolophus trifoliatus</i>
45	Silvery Langur	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>
46	Lesser Mouse Deer	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>
47	Greater mousedeer	<i>Tragulus napu</i>
48	Long-tailed porcupine	<i>Trichys fasciculata</i>
49	Malay Civet	<i>Viverra zangalunga</i>

**Note:** Some bats identified 100% at roosts or with good views. Others identified with spectrograms in combination with sightings (no spectrograms without visual confirmation are recorded as a sighting), behaviour and habitat – so not 100% but best educated guesses. For more information please email me.

## Birds

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Crested goshawk	<i>Accipiter trivirgatus</i>
2	White Crowned Hornbill	<i>Aceros comatus</i>
3	Wrinkled Hornbill	<i>Aceros corrugatus</i>
4	Wreathed Hornbill	<i>Aceros undulatus</i>
5	Javan mynah	<i>Acridotheres javanicus</i>
6	Common Mynah	<i>Acridotheres tristis</i>
7	Common sandpiper	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>
8	Edible-nest swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus fuciphagus</i>
9	Black-nest swiftlet	<i>Aerodramus maximus</i>
10	Eastern crimson Sunbird	<i>Aethopyga siparaja</i>
11	Blue Eared Kingfisher	<i>Alcedo meninting</i>

12	Finsch's bulbul	<i>Alophoixus finschii</i>
13	White-breasted waterhen	<i>Amaurornis phoenicurus</i>
14	Oriental anhinga	<i>Anhinga melanogaster</i>
15	Bushy Crested Hornbill	<i>Anorrhinus galeritus</i>
16	Oriental Pied Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros albirostris</i>
17	Asian Black Hornbill	<i>Anthracoceros malayanus</i>
18	Asian glossy starling	<i>Aplonis panayensis</i>
19	Pacific swift	<i>Apus pacificus</i>
20	Long-billed spiderhunter	<i>Arachnothera robusta</i>
21	Little spiderhunter	<i>Aracthothera longirostra</i>
22	Purple Heron	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>
23	Great argus	<i>Argusianus argus</i>
24	White-breasted woodswallow	<i>Artamus leucorhynchus</i>
25	Jerdon's baza	<i>Aviceda jerdoni</i>
26	Blyth's frogmouth	<i>Batrachostomus affinis</i>
27	Barred Eagle Owl	<i>Bubo sumatranus</i>
28	Rhinoceros Hornbill	<i>Buceros rhinoceros</i>
29	Helmeted Hornbill	<i>Buceros vigil</i>
30	Striated heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
31	Brown Barbet	<i>Calorhamphus fuliginosus</i>
32	Greater Coucal	<i>Centropus sinensis</i>
33	Oriental dwarf kingfisher	<i>Ceyx erithaca</i>
34	Ruby-cheeked sunbird	<i>Chalcoparia singalensis</i>
35	Common emerald dove	<i>Chalcophaps indica</i>
36	Lesser Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis cyanopogon</i>
37	Greater Green Leafbird	<i>Chloropsis sonnerati</i>
38	Little bronze cuckoo	<i>Chrysococcyx minutillus</i>
39	Storm Stork	<i>Ciconia stormi</i>
40	Olive-backed sunbird	<i>Cinnyris jugularis</i>
41	Feral Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>
42	Oriental Magpie Robin	<i>Copsychus saularis</i>
43	White Crowned Shama	<i>Copsychus stricklandii</i>
44	Lesser Cuckooshrike	<i>Coracina striata</i>
45	Slender Billed Crow	<i>Corvus enca</i>
46	Grey-headed canary-flycatcher	<i>Culicapa ceylonensis</i>
47	Grey-and-buff woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus moluccensis</i>
48	Thick-billed flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum agile</i>
49	Orange-bellied flowerpecker	<i>Dicaeum trigonostigma</i>
50	Bronzed Drongo	<i>Dicrurus aeneus</i>

51	Greater racket-tailed drongo	<i>Dicrurus paradiseus</i>
52	Olive-backed sunbird woodpecker	<i>Dinopium raffesii</i>
53	White-bellied woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus javanensis</i>
54	Green Imperial Pigeon	<i>Ducula aenea</i>
55	Great Egret	<i>Egretta alba</i>
56	Little Egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
57	White Crowned Forktail	<i>Enicurus leschenaulti</i>
58	Black-and-yellow broadbill	<i>Eurylaimus ochromalus</i>
59	Dollarbird	<i>Eurystomus orientalis</i>
60	Zebra dove	<i>Geopelia striata</i>
61	Hill Myna	<i>Gracula religiosa</i>
62	Brahminy kite	<i>Haliastur indus</i>
63	Diard's trogon	<i>Harpactes diardii</i>
64	Scarlet-rumped trogon	<i>Harpactes duvaucelii</i>
65	Whiskered treeswift	<i>Hemiprocne cornata</i>
66	Pacific Swallow	<i>Hirundo tahitica</i>
67	Black-naped monarch	<i>Hypothymis azurea</i>
68	Lesser fish eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga humilis</i>
69	Grey-headed fish eagle	<i>Ichthyophaga ichthyaetus</i>
70	Indian Black Eagle	<i>Ictinaetus malayensis</i>
71	Buffy Fish Owl	<i>Ketupa ketupu</i>
72	Lesser Adjunctant	<i>Leptoptilos javanicus</i>
73	Chestnut Munia	<i>Lonchura atricapilla</i>
74	Dusky Munia	<i>Lonchura fuscans</i>
75	White-bellied munia	<i>Lonchura leucogasta</i>
76	Blue-crowned hanging parrot	<i>Loriculus galgulus</i>
77	Bat Hawk	<i>Macheiramphus alcinus</i>
78	Fluffy-backed tit-babbler	<i>Macronus ptilosus</i>
79	Scaly-crowned babbler	<i>Malacopteron cinereum</i>
80	Buff-rumped woodpecker	<i>Meiglyptes tristis</i>
81	Blue Throated Bee Eater	<i>Merops viridis</i>
82	White-fronted falconet	<i>Microhierax latifrons</i>
83	Bold-striped tit-babbler	<i>Mixornis bornensis</i>
84	Asian brown flycatcher	<i>Muscicapa latirostris</i>
85	Wallace's hawk eagle	<i>Nisaetus nanus</i>
86	Red Bearded Bee Eater	<i>Nyctornis amictus</i>
87	Dark-throated oriole	<i>Oriolus xanthonotus</i>
88	Dark-necked tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus atrogularis</i>
89	Rufous-tailed tailorbird	<i>Orthotomus sericeus</i>

90	Sunda scops owl	<i>Otus lempiji</i>
91	Eurasian Tree Sparrow	<i>Passer montanus</i>
92	Stork Billed Kingfisher	<i>Pelargopsis capensis</i>
93	Fiery Minivet	<i>Pericrocotus igneus</i>
94	Oriental Honey Buzzard	<i>Pernis ptilorhynchus</i>
95	Chestnut-breasted Malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus curvirostris</i>
96	Red-billed malkoha	<i>Phaenicophaeus javanicus</i>
97	Maroon-breasted philentoma	<i>Philentoma velata</i>
98	Oriental bay owl	<i>Phodilus badius</i>
99	Malayan black magpie	<i>Platysmurus leucopterus</i>
100	Chestnut-backed scimitar babbler	<i>Pomatorhinus montanus</i>
101	Yellow Bellied Prinia	<i>Prinia flaviventris</i>
102	Yellow-rumped flowerpecker	<i>Prionochilus percussus</i>
103	Black-eared barbet	<i>Psilopogon duvaucelii</i>
104	Black-headed Bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus atriceps</i>
105	Asian red-eyed bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus brunneus</i>
106	Yellow-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus goiavier</i>
107	Black-and-white bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus melanoleucus</i>
108	Cream-vented bulbul	<i>Pycnonotus simplex</i>
109	Orange-backed woodpecker	<i>Reinwardtipicus vallidus</i>
110	Silver Rumped Spinetail	<i>Rhaphidura leucopygialis</i>
111	Raffles Malkhoha	<i>Rhinortha chlorophaea</i>
112	Malaysian Pied Fantail	<i>Rhipidura javanica</i>
113	Spotted fantail	<i>Rhipidura perlata</i>
114	Rufous piculet	<i>Sasia abnormis</i>
115	Velvet-fronted nuthatch	<i>Sitta frontalis</i>
116	Crested Serpent Eagle	<i>Spilornis cheela</i>
117	Changeable Hawk Eagle	<i>Spizaetus cirrhatus</i>
118	Brown Wood Owl	<i>Strix leptogrammica</i>
119	Blyth's paradise flycatcher	<i>Terpsiphone affinis</i>
120	Collared Kingfisher	<i>Todiramphus chloris</i>
121	Little Green Pigeon	<i>Treron olax</i>
122	Pink-necked green pigeon	<i>Treron vernans</i>
123	Ferruginous babbler	<i>Trichastoma bicolor</i>
124	White-chested babbler	<i>Trichastoma rostratum</i>
125	Hairy-backed bulbul	<i>Tricholestes criniger</i>

## Reptiles

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Asiatic soft-shelled turtle	<i>Amyda cartilaginea</i>
2	Mangrove cat-snake	<i>Boiga dendrophilia</i>
3	Green Crested Lizard	<i>Bronchoccela cristatella</i>
4	Stoliczka's stream snake	<i>Stoliczka borneensis</i>
5	Estuarine Crocodile	<i>Crocodylus porosus</i>
6	Brooke's house gecko	<i>Hemidactylus brookii</i>
7	Asian House Gecko	<i>Hemidactylus frenatus</i>
8	Reticulated Python	<i>Malayopython reticulatus</i>
9	Sabah forest skink	<i>Sphenomorphus sabanus</i>
10	Borneon Keeled Pit Viper	<i>Tropidolaemus subannulatus</i>
11	Rough-necked monitor	<i>Varanus rudicolis</i>
12	Asian Water Monitor	<i>Varanus salvator</i>

## ***Amphibians***

	Common Name	Binominal Name
1	Four-lined tree frog	<i>Polypedates leucomystax</i>
2	Dark Eared Tree Frog	<i>Polypedates macrotis</i>
3	File Eared Frog	<i>Polypedates otlophus</i>
4	Wallace's flying frog	<i>Rhacophorus nigropalmatus</i>
5	Harlequin Flying Frog	<i>Rhacophorus pardalis</i>



Sunda Clouded Leopard stalking a Malay Porcupine in broad daylight!!



Sunda Clouded Leopard



Sunda Clouded Leopard



Sunda Leopard Cat



Malay Civet



Borneo Striped Civet



Island Palm Civet



Binturong



Smooth-coated Otter



Philippine Slow Loris



Borneo Orangutan



Western Tarsier



Long-tailed Macaque



Long-tailed Porcupine



Thomas's Flying Squirrel



Red Giant Flying Squirrel



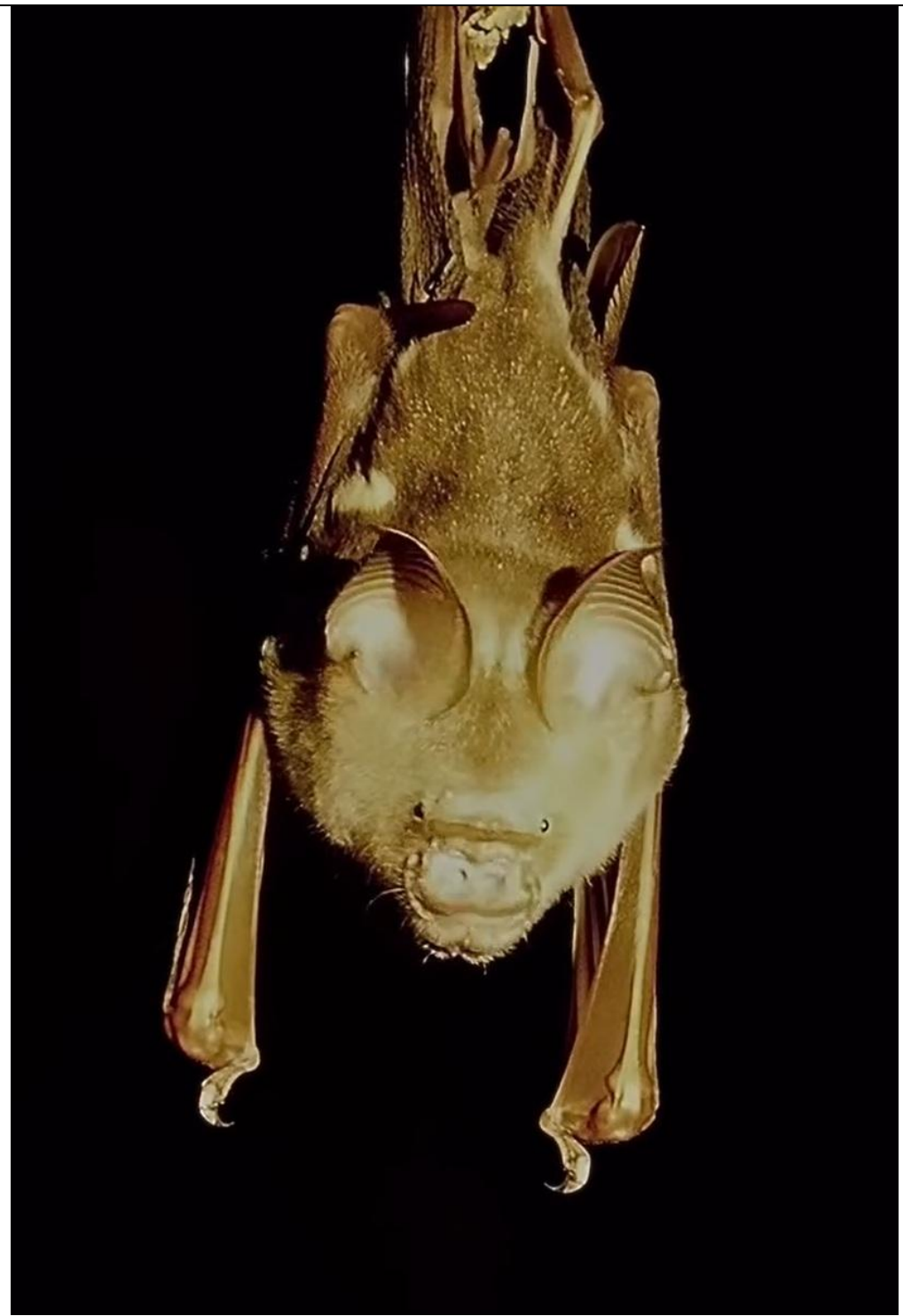
Sunda Colugo



Bornean Pygmy Elephant



Banteng



Diademed Leaf-nosed Bat

