Many trip reports have been written and posted on Jon's website about mammalwatching in Malaysia and especially the Sabah Province on Borneo Island. The amount of wildlife and diversity of mammals that can be observed in this part of the world based on all the past reports I could read are very impressive, so we had to pay a visit there. Many options are possible to visit Malaysia and Sabah and we opted to book with Martin Royle (martin@royle-safaris.co.uk) his Borneo Rare Mammals Tour he is scheduling every year during summer time, which is convenient for our vacation dates. My wife and I are not very fond of group tours but we used Martin in the past (for private tours though) and we were always pleased by his service, so we decided to give a try and share this trip to Sabah with other guests. Since Martin's trip was only 2 weeks long and we had some more days available in August 2026, we decided to extend our vacation with a couple of days in Singapore before Sabah and then one more week on the Malaysian Peninsula near Kuala Lumpur.

The full and quite dense itinerary was the following: Singapore (2 days), Sabah with Sepilok - Deramakot Forest – Kinabatangan River & Gomantong Caves – Tabin National Park (14 days) and the Peninsular with Selangor – Taman Negara National Park - Fraser's Hill (5 days).

If the Sabah Tour was booked with Martin, we booked all our international and domestic flights ourselves as well as the week-end in Singapore. The Peninsula itinerary was organized and booked through JungleWalla Tours (junglewalla@gmail.com) that I choosed since I knew they were using Andrew Sebastian (ajsebastian@hotmail.com) as a guide. I contacted him separately by email as I really wanted him to guide us since he has tips and can arrange tapir hides since the collapse of the famous Kumbang hide in Taman Negara several years ago and is still not repaired. Luckily Andrew was available on our dates.

For Singapore, we contacted John Lee through WhatsApp (+65 9655 6555) to get information and advice on how and where to find Sunda pangolins that are regularly seen in city parks. John is THE guy in Singapore who has the most knowledge about this iconic mammal. John was easy to contact, answers fast to messages and is very nice and keen to share information about pangolins that he is asking in return to keep absolutely confidential. For Sabah and one of the reasons I opted to book Martin's tour was that the trip should have been guided by famous Mike Gordon. Unfortunately a few days before the trip, we were informed that due to some recent change in the administration rules in Malaysia, Mike could not guide foreign tourists anymore. Damned! We had in replacement his partner Alcey Kangit and she proved to be an excellent and knowledgeable guide and I have no regret we had her during our trip.

All the international and domestic flights we booked for this trip went smoothly with no delays, missed connections or lost luggage, which was great because considering all the bad experiences we had in the past with airline companies, I'm always a bit concerned when we organize a trip that involves many flights. The internal flights were booked with Turkish Airlines (Marseille to Singapore and Kuala Lumpur back to Marseille), the short flight from Singapore to KLIA was done with the very nice Singapore Airline and all the domestic flights within Malaysia (KLIA to and then Lahad Datu back to KLIA) were booked with Malaysian Airline.

Regarding weather, August is supposed to be the dry season in Malaysia. However, we had a few thunderstorms and heavy rain especially on the first 3 nights when we arrived in Borneo but then and for the rest of the trip, we had mostly clear and sunny sky. The temperatures were high on the other hand and I'm glad we didn't have too much rain during this trip because I found the humidity level to be insane anyway. This was the part of the world where I sweat the most in my life! I thought that the forests in Ghana or Taï forest in Ivory Coast were very humid, but I can tell that the forests in Borneo or Teman Negara were even worse. My body and cameras will remember this trip for a long time. On the positive side, I lost about 10lbs after 3 weeks there 😊 not only because of all the water I've lost but also because I ate very little with such weather conditions. The only place with fresh air and pleasant temperatures was our last stop in Fraser's Hill because of the altitude. It was actually quite nice to finish our trip there 😊

Now a few words about each place we visited.

Singapore

We started our trip with 2 days/2 nights in Singapore and unfortunately during a WE, which is not ideal for wildlife watching as the parks can be crowded with people who are not particularly silent. Travelling to Singapore is easy: we don't need a VISA as French citizens to enter the country, and you just need to fill online an arrival form via the MyICA mobile App two days before landing at the airport. Travelling with a thermal camera and considering past experience from some mammal watchers, I was a bit concern about what could happen through immigration and customs and whether my thermal would be confiscated during our stay in Singapore. My proper experience is that everything went fine and we actually did not see a single agent during the whole immigration & custom process. Everything was done digitally and through automatic gates: this is what I call modernity! Singapore is an impressive and beautiful place to visit, very safe and well connected with excellent roads or many bicycle / pedestrian lanes to get from one place to another. It is also very rich: I was amazed to see there more Ferrari, Lamborghini or Maserati than in Monaco! Singapore is

finally very easy to visit anytime during night and day and has many parks (be careful most are closing at night) that are well maintained so wildlife watching is quite easy and enjoyable there. We stayed at Hotel Ibis Novena, which is conveniently located near many parks and is reasonably priced. To get to the parks or any other places visited during the WE, there is a very well-done App (CDG Zig) to book taxis at any time. Using taxi rather than public transportation is for sure pricier but so much more convenient and by the way, everything is pricey in Singapore 😊. Our main targets for Singapore were Sunda pangolin (with the help of John Lee as explained above) and Raffles' banded langurs who only live in this place. Long story short, we missed both species: quite expected for pangolin given the very short period of time we spent in Singapore but I was a bit more disappointed for the langurs a sighting seemed to be quite easy reading past trip reports. During the day, we mostly visited and spent our time in Lower Peirce Reservoir Park and nearby Thomson Nature Park. There are great places to walk in and where we could see **long-tailed macaques**, **plantain squirrels** and **slender squirrels**, as well as many interesting birds. We also paid short visits to the following parks: Hampstead Wetlands Park, Punggol Park and the Singapore Botanic Garden with the hope to see otters that were seen recently in those places but without luck. Again, birdlife was rich. At night, we did the well-recommended Mandai Track 15 near the Singapore zoo. This trail is a great place indeed with tame and habituated wildlife and I was surprised there were so many animals given the trail location very close to large and noisy highways. During one long hike between 9pm to about 1am, we saw several **Sunda colugos**, including some very tame individuals allowing extended close observation, many **lesser mouse deers**, two **common (Asian) palm civets** and many **lesser short-nosed fruit bats**. We were not alone during this night walk as this trail seemed popular among Singaporeans for cycling or running, even at night (true that temperatures are cooler then), and we also saw many teenagers doing wildlife watching but mostly for herps. Most interestingly, we met a group who found a large female Wagler's pit viper that just caught a bat and was swallowing it when we arrived. Most likely it was a **lesser short-nosed fruit bat**. Too bad for this little creature but that's nature. We also tried the place John Lee recommended us to look for pangolins. This area is where he has regularly spotted Sunda pangolins over the last years but the frequency of sightings is low and as said earlier, we did not succeed to see any with only two attempts. We spent extended time in the area from 1am to sunset when there is no people wandering by but it was fairly quiet mammal wise and we only saw a couple of **Sunda colugos**, some sleeping **long-tailed macaques** and some quick observations of what I believe where **oriental house rats**.

Sepilok

After a short night in KLIA where we slept at the very convenient, but expensive, Sama-Sama Hotel and a smooth flight to Borneo on the following day, we landed in Sandakan early afternoon. Someone was waiting for us to drive us to our hotel next to the Sepilok Forest Reserve. We stayed at the Sepilok Nature Resort where we spent one night and met the rest of the group. This resort was very nice with comfortable bungalows and large tropical gardens around a small pond, perfect for bird watching. Right after checking in at the hotel, my wife and I decided to directly walk to the nearby Rainforest Discovery Centre, an interesting place and patch of forest having several trails and a well-built canopy Skywalk of several hundreds of meters long. We reached the entrance mid-afternoon, which gave us enough time to enjoy the place and observe mammals and birds from the Skywalk with direct views on the canopy. During the few hours we spent there, we could observe a large troop of **Southern pig-tailed macaques**, a few **Prevost's squirrels** (black morph), one **Cream-coloured giant squirrel** and the most interesting sighting were two **Thomas's flying squirrels** that showed superbly well in the late afternoon. Bird activity was surprisingly low considering what I could read in past reports. We were supposed to do a night walk there with the rest of the group but due to miscommunication we missed the departure time and could not join them later unfortunately. We tried to join another group for the next night walk session, but it was cancelled because of a big thunderstorm and heavy rain. As a consequence, we missed some interesting nocturnal species including Horsfield's tarsier that was the main target species there and that we could not observe anywhere else during the trip. Damned!

Deramakot Forest

My favorite place in Sabah. What a wonderful forest, large, dense with impressive and tall trees, and that I found quite pristine even if logging is for sure evident and officially done there. To be honest however, except for a few lorries we crossed sometimes during the day and large logs stored in several areas along the main road, we never really felt any logging pressure since we never saw cut trees in the area visited for mammal watching nor forest clearings except at two places: one where a logging factory is located and at the Deramakot Foresty Department headquarters where we actually slept. We stayed a full week in Deramakot, which I found was a good length of time to give us enough chance to see iconic species like clouded leopard for instance. We had a nice room that was much better than I anticipated given all the negative comments I could read on the web stating that the rooms were dirty and very basic, and the restaurant not great. Of course, the rooms are not luxurious but the one we had was not really basic either and

was very clean with good ensuite bathroom. More than adequate to rest or sleep after our long night drive sessions. The food prepared by the staff at the restaurant was tasty, diversified and in good portions. The only problem we had during our stay was that there were shorts on diesel and as a consequence, their generator set was operating all day long, which was not very convenient for charging phones or batteries and AC was not working all the time. Sometimes the rooms were like saunas, and the only cool place was on the balcony around the restaurant where we could find some light breeze. This turned out to be a good place after all to rest while doing some relaxing bird watching 😊. Doing bird or mammal watching in Deramakot is pretty straightforward as there is basically only one option: driving or walking back and forth the main road that crosses the forest. The game drives, either during the day or at night, consisted in driving along the road and focusing on specific areas depending on the day and then praying that animals would show up near the (noisy) car. This reminded me Kaa-Iya in Bolivia where the drives were also done along the single straight road going through the thick Gran Chao forest. The good thing I really appreciated with Deramakot is that you can decide with your guide on the hours you want to do the drives and have extended drives up to 7h per day, which is great to maximize chances of seeing animals. Sometimes the drives can be a bit boring with nothing happening for hours and especially after several days since you do again and again the same thing but sometimes and especially at night, you can have some fabulous and rewarding encounters. Besides the main road, there are a few trials around the Forestry Department but I didn't found them particularly interesting, even for bird watching, and I actually saw much more wildlife walking along the main road than going deeper in the forest using such trails.

Walks done during the day around the buildings and gardens of the Forestry Department allowed us to observe monkeys like **long-tailed macaques** or **Southern pig-tailed macaques**. I could also observe a few squirrels but always far too quickly to really identify which species it was with certainty. Based on past reports, I thought I would have seen more often and many more squirrel species during the day in the Forestry Department area. Walking further away along the main road did not produce much more mammals except for a few **Prevost's squirrels** (black morph), a glimpse of **sambars,** and more interestingly I could observe one day quite well a **lesser treeshrew**. On the other hand, bird life was fairly rich along the main road including large flocks of blue-throated bee-eaters. We walked once on the road at night and near some water streams in the hope to see otter civets but instead, we only saw what we believe were **Oriental house rats** and one **Island palm civet**.

During our stay in Deramakot, we only did a few game drives during the day: one in the morning and two in the afternoon. Game drives during the day were not very productive, to say the least, and quite boring sometimes. We saw very early morning two **yellow-throated martens** rapidly crossing the road, a few **Prevost's squirrels** and that's all but we were spoiled with great sightings of **Bornean orangutans** on each afternoon drive. We had prolonged and clear views of these beautiful apes that stayed close to the road and did not seem concerned at all by our presence. Looking at them eating and nonchalantly moving through the forest is really a nice experience 😊

If the game drives during the days were not so interesting, it was a different story for the ones done during the nights. This is by the way the main reason why people are visiting Deramakot to explore the forest and its nocturnal wildlife along the main road. The experience and frequency of sightings could vary significantly with some nights being quite empty and boring but others were on the other hand crazy rich with some amazing observations of cool species. Rather than writing a detailed description of every night drive, I will rather describe all the species we could see during these 7 nights. Let's start with the species that were the most common and frequently seen: the flying squirrels with eyeshines seen everywhere every night! We could observe every night and sometimes in very good condition, either **Thomas's flying squirrels** or **Red giant flying squirrels**. On the other hand, we saw **Black flying squirrels** only twice. One night we managed to see fairly well one tiny **Hose's pygmy flying squirrel**. Another night we were caught by surprise to have one **Horsfield's Flying Squirrel** flying close and just above our car. This was a great observation although too sudden to get ready and be able to take a photo. Location, color and size of the squirrel suggested this species and our guides also agreed about this identification. The second most common species we observed were civets. We had both **Bornean stripped palm civets** and **Island palm civets** every night, sometimes far away but on other occasions, we could see them very well and close to our car eating fruits in the trees. Unlike in past trip reports, it was surprisingly hard to observe **Malayan civets**: we could only observe a few of them during our last two nights. More interestingly we had once a great observation of a **Banded palm civet** in the middle of the road, but it did not stay long, and we did not have so much time for photos. We observed this species only one night. Regarding other interesting species, we could observe several times **Philippine slow loris** including one night what might have been my most clear and prolonged view ever of a slow loris! Another surprise compared to past reports is we also had difficulties finding **Malayan colugos** that we observed only a couple of times but we saw once one individual flying from one large tree to another. We observed several bat species: **Lesser short-nosed fruit bats** were the most common; we observed twice **Diadem roundleaf bats** and once a group of **Large flying foxes** in a big tree. Regarding rodents, many were seen through our thermal scopes but for clear and

long enough observation allowing us to guarantee which species we saw, I can only mention **Red spiny rat**, **Oriental House Rat** and **Moonrat** that quickly crossed the road twice near the car. Another great observation was a beautiful **Sunda stink badger** that we saw one night walking in front our car not too fast to allow us a clear view. As far as ungulates are concerned, we did not observe any mouse deer during the whole week and only a few **sambars** that were always very shy and stayed in the thick forest to allow any clear views for photos. One night, we managed to see several **Borneo pygmy elephants** but like the sambars they were very skittish so even if we could observe them well through our thermal scopes, each time we tried to open our torchlight they were quickly running deep inside the forest. Now let's finish by the star mammals everybody in our group wanted to see in Deramakot: cats! Every night we saw **Sunda leopard cats**, sometimes in very good condition and staying relaxed in the open along the road. We even had a couple of individuals walking towards us and passing by our car when we stopped for other species (elephant for instance). We counted in total 33 observations of this beautiful little cat during our seven night drives…and that's it.... Although trying hard and spending long hours in the field at night, Deramakot only delivered this cat species for us, nothing else. Other cats were in the forest for sure while we were there as we know from our guide that other cars could observe a clouded leopard and even a flat-headed cat during our week!! Quite disappointing and shows how mammal watching can be frustrating sometimes but that' the game.

As you can see from above, Deramakot forest remains a great place to see many interesting mammal species, especially at night, but mammal watching is not always easy there and patience, if not some luck, is needed to see elusive species.

Kinabatangan River

Our next stop was on the Kinabatangan River that is a nice place where to see several monkey species and also with some luck flat-headed cats when the conditions are good, that is to say when the water level is low and the riverbanks open. Luckily this was the case when we arrived there, perfect conditions on paper! We stayed 2 nights at the Bilit Adventure Lodge, a nice resort with large and comfortable rooms but definitely not the kind of place I like because this place was hosting hundreds of tourists, often in large groups, and who seemed more interested in the buffet and boat cruises with only goals to see elephants and monkeys. For instance, I was really disappointed by the ridiculously short boat cruises this lodge was offering. Even more frustrating when you know how rich wildlife is along the river. Another consequence is we then had very long hours to wait at the lodge between activities and on top of that, the supposedly nice boardwalk the lodge had to walk through the decent patch of forest surrounding the rooms was down and in repair with ¾ of its length closed to guests… Besides the river, the Gomantong Caves are located quite close to the lodge and proved to be a very interesting place to visit for birds and mammals.

We did one afternoon boat cruise (3 hours) and one morning cruise (1-hour long !!) during which we indeed saw many monkeys including the famous and local stars: the **Proboscis monkeys** but we also observed **Long-tailed macaques**, **Silvered leaf monkeys** and here again a few **Bornean orangutans** including one male who prepared its nest in the late afternoon in preparation for the night: a very cool sighting! We could observe several **Borneo pygmy elephants** including one swimming in a small river stream next to the main river. This was a very nice observation indeed but with too many boats around him I found. During the time I spent on the lodge boardwalk, I managed to see one **Plantain squirrel** and I had a very nice prolonged and clear view of a **plain pygmy squirrel**. What a cutie! When we visited the Gomantong caves that we decided to do in the afternoon so that we could enjoy the show of thousands of bats leaving the caves for the night and chased by raptors, we were spoiled to have some great mammal sightings. First, we had a troop of **Maroon leaf monkeys** that showed very well right at the parking lot at the entrance of the trail to the caves. Later along this trail, we then met two **Bornean orangutans** with one playing with branch sticks. In the impressive caves we could visit we saw colonies of hundreds **Fawn leaf-nosed bats.** There were maybe other types of bats but we could not really identify them with certainty. When we climbed up to the second cave, we saw one **Prevost's squirrel** and then after sundowner, we watched from a viewing platform the show of thousands **Wrinkle-lipped free-tailed bat** flying out of the caves.

Two night boat cruises were booked for our group through the Bilit lodge. Unlike the day cruise, these night cruises were of decent length but the doat driver and guide who was supposedly an expert of the area did not really seem to be so good and I'm glad we had Alcey with us and who scrutinized the river banks all the time and found most of the mammals we could observed at night: more **Borneo pygmy elephants**, a couple of **Malayan civets** and that's it for mammals... Unfortunately we could not see any flat-headed cat…

Tabin Reserve

After Kinabatangan River our next and final destination in Borneo was the Tabin Reserve. When we arrived at Lahad Datu, we stopped at the local airport where the Tabin Wildlife Resort registration offices are located. We then switched to the resort vehicles and drove for about 1h30 before reaching the resort itself. I found this resort to be a gorgeous place located inside the forest,

although at the edge and next to the palm oil plantation. They have nice bungalows overlooking a small river and the main area was often visited by numerous **Borneo pygmy elephants** during our stay, which created sometimes complication for the organization of our activities as they were blocking the lodge entrance. As soon as we arrived at the lodge on the first day, Alcey urged us to get out of the car quickly and walk to the river as she heard high pitch screams indicating that otters would be there. And indeed, a couple of cute **Asian small-clawed otters** were swimming and playing right next to the resort bungalows. What a great start!, and we would not see them anymore for the rest of our stay at the lodge. The lodge activities mainly consisted in game drives, both night and day, guided walks along the trails around the lodge or spending time at their bird hides. Some of the hides proved to be very good to see some iconic birds like pittas or great argus but they weren't visited by any small mammals unfortunately. Birds around the lodge were plentiful and mammal activity was decent as well although the resort was located at the very edge of the forest right next to palm oil plantation. As a matter of fact, the combination of forest and plantation on each side of the main road that the lodge vehicles would take for the night drives proved to be good to see a decent diversity of mammal species. All the activities had to be done with a local guide from the resort. We were assigned one during our entire stay (3 days and 3 nights). He did a fairly good job although not particularly good either and here again, we were glad to have the support of Alcey who was as good, if not better, than the local guide to find animals, both mammals and birds. During the walks, the focus was mostly on birds but we could see some interesting mammals as well like **Long-tailed macaques,** large groups of **Southern pig-tailed macaques**, a few **Prevost's squirrels**, and one **plain pygmy squirrel**. Beside the otters, the most interesting mammal we observed during our walks were **North Borneo gibbons** that apparently lived around the lodge premises and that showed superbly well one day, including a mother with a cute baby. During the drives to the bird hides or to the famous mud volcano located a few kilometers away from the lodge, we could see more macaques, one **cream-coloured giant squirrel** and once again two **Bornean orangutans**. We were really spoiled with orangutans' sightings during this trip as we could see these marvelous apes very well in most of the places we visited in Borneo. During the three night drives we did in Tabin and that lasted between 2 to 3 hours, we mostly saw all the typical mammals that we could observed elsewhere previously, like: **Philippine slow loris, Black flying squirrel, Thomas's flying squirrel** and **Red giant flying squirrel** but also **Bornean stripped palm civets** and **Island palm civets**, as well as our best observations of **Malayan civets**. We also observed **Sunda leopard cats** each night but sadly no other cat species (which is possible in theory but was not really expected). The unique mammals we saw in Tabin and nowhere else in Borneo were a nice **Malayan porcupine** and few **Island flying foxes**. We could not really tell ourselves which species it could be, but our guide was positive given their size according to him that they were not large flying foxes. Ok then.

After Tabin, we drove back to Lahad Datu where the group split. Half of the group, including us, took a plane back to Kuala Lumpur while the rest continued with an extension to Tawau Hills. Good for them as we learned afterwards that they were very lucky and had several amazing observations of marbled cats and binturongs there!

Selangor

After a night at the Ibis Styles Sepang hotel near KLIA airport, Andrew, our guide for the Malaysia peninsula leg of our trip, picked us up early morning on the following day and we drove directly to Kuala Selangor. We did a small stop at this place to look for the very local **Selangor silvered langur** that we found easily and could observe well. There was a large group with families and cute orange colored babies resting in a big fig tree next to the parking lot of the small nature park entrance there. In addition to the langurs, we also observed a couple of **long-tailed macaques**. After about an hour spent in Selangor, we took the car for a long drive to Teman Negara. En route to the park, Andrew suggested us to stop for lunch at a very large resort in the mountains called The Chateau Spa & Wellness Resort (next to the Colmar Tropicale resort with very surprising architecture reminding old mansions from Alsace / Germany) and where Siamangs are apparently regularly observed around the gold course. We had a very nice lunch there and saw some interesting birds but unfortunately the Siamang did not show up.

Taman Negara NP

We arrived mid-afternoon at Kuala Tahan village, the gate for the Tama Negara National Park and where we stayed at the AsiaCamp resort, a hotel full of noisy teenagers and backpackers when we were there. This wasn't a real problem as we actually never slept there but used this hotel as a place to rest and take showers after the nights we would spend in a hide Andrew booked for us inside the park with the main hope and target to see a Malayan tapir. Observing tapirs in Taman Negara has been very difficult since the collapse and closure of the famous Bumbung Kumbang hide located deep inside the forest but I learned that Andrew had been working hard in setting up new small hides with some success for tapirs and that is why we really wanted to have him as our guide for that part of trip. Andrew is really a phenomenal guide with lots of field experience and knowledge about where to look and find the local fauna, both birds and mammals. He is also very active in wildlife conservation in Malaysia and on top of that, a very nice

and funny guy to talk with on many subjects. We unfortunately got the bad news from him just a few days before we arrived that his hide was destroyed by elephants but told us not to worry as he worked on a Plan B with another hide inside the park he had good hope to see tapir there. I will not disclose the place as this is Andrew's work, but you can contact him for future trips. After leaving our luggage at the AsiaCamp resort and taking with us our camera gears and toilet stuff for the night, we then headed right away to the park so that we could arrive on time before the park gates closed for the night. We took a small boat at the village harbor and after a short cruise along a small river making the border of the park forest, we reached the place where we had to disembark for a short walk to the hide itself. Here a local guide and a cook with whom Andrew used to work with, were waiting for us. I was pleasantly surprised by the size and comfort of such hide. It had a nice viewing platform overlooking a forest clearing with some artificial salt licks. We had a good dinner prepared by Andrew's team and then got prepared for the night and wait what this place could offer us. Nothing much occurred at the beginning but after less than an hour, a large shape appeared in my thermal scope and the shape made it clear it was a **Malayan tapir** 😊 Unbelievable! Andrew and his team were also elated that a tapir showed up as planned and so quickly. After looking for a while at the animal through the thermal scope, we decided to put on our flashlights for a photo and this is when the drama occurred… I don't know what I did with my camera settings and flashlight mount but I totally screwed my photos and my wife could only take one before the tapir disappeared into the forest but it was blurry. Damned!! such a wonderful observation and photo opportunity totally wasted because I was not prepared well enough. I will remember this for my entire life!! Luckily, AI made a good job in treating my wife's unique picture to something more than decent. I stayed awake until very late that night with the hope the tapir would show up again but of course it did not. At some point I had to sleep and in the early morning, we enjoyed the view from the hide with some nice bird observations but with very few mammals, except for a **Slender squirrel**. After we took a Pantagruelic breakfast, we decided to go back to the park entrance by walking along a 3-hour long trail down to the park headquarters and Mutiara Resort. It was a nice experience to walk through this dense forest but the temperature and humidity levels made the hike quite tough and wildlife observation and photos proved to be very challenging in such a dense vegetation. We heard gibbons calling not far from us but could not see them and as far as other mammals are concerned, we only saw some squirrels including one whose color and shape suggested a **Low's squirrel.** When we reached the Resort, we met the group of young Dutch we already saw in Deramakot and who were lucky to observe a flat-headed cat there. They told me they were just coming from Fraser's Hill where they saw a Sunda pangolin! Man, these guys are definitely lucky! But we had a tapir😊. We headed to our lodge to freshen up, eat and rest for a while before going back again to the village harbor to take the boat for our second night at the same hide. During the short cruise we saw a small group of **long-tailed macaques** and once in the hide while waiting for dinner, we did not observe any specific mammals, except for a few squirrels on the large trees next to the hide that were difficult to distinguish between **Slender squirrel** or **Low's squirrel**. Once the night arrived, we made sure our camera gears were properly set this time and put my thermal camera on. We waited until late at night but did not see a single mammal and the tapir did not show up… On the following morning, a **sambar** came to a salt lick close to the hide. This was our best observation of sambar for the entire trip to Malaysia. We once again decided to walk back to the park entrance along the trail and this time, not only we heard but could also see very well a lonely **white-handed gibbon** in a tall tree although a bit in the distance. Besides the gibbon, the only other mammal we saw was a **grey-bellied squirrel**. Back to the hotel, we showered, packed our luggage and took the car with our guide for a long drive to our next and last destination of our trip in Malaysia.

Fraser's Hill

After a long, narrow and tortuous road up the mountains, we arrived in Fraser's Hill in the mid-afternoon. What a beautiful place is this old village built during the British colonial period with large mansions and houses with a unique architecture you don't see anywhere else in the country. I really liked this place because of the nice landscape, mountainous and more open forest making the wildlife observation much easier compared to Taman Negara NP and moreover, thanks to the elevation, temperatures were cooler with some fresh breeze finally, which was very enjoyable for our last stop in Malaysia. We stayed at the Puncak Inn hotel very well located right in the village center with comfortable but strangely organized rooms. We visited the Frazer's Hill area for 2 days and 2 nights during the weekend unfortunately and therefore it was very crowded with local tourists and campers everywhere along the roads. However, this didn't prevent us from seeing much wildlife. We roamed in the area with Andrew's car and stopped in various places in the village surroundings, either at the well-known birding stakeouts or at specific spots Andrew knew and where we would walk back and forth in search of birds and mammals. We spent most of our time around the golf course, Jin Mager's road just before the village entrance or along the Telekom Loop. We did our night walks near and around this loop on both nights. I found much easier to see wildlife here than in all the dense humid forests we had visited so far in Malaysia, which made mammal watching very enjoyable in this place. During the day, we first observed very well a group of **dusky leaf monkeys** who paused long enough for nice photos and then, we saw many **long-tailed macaques** here and there. It was more difficult to see our first **white-thighed** surili, but

then we saw several others around the golf course including a very tame individual who was looking for food in the village. We tried hard and searched very actively Siamangs, but in vain. We however heard many calling loudly on one morning. Not seeing this iconic primate was the only frustration we had in Fraser's hill. Besides monkeys, we saw in daylight plenty of small mammals in the various birding stakeouts we visited: **Grey-bellied squirrels** and **Asian red-cheeked squirrels** were very tame and common, we saw several hyperactive **Himalayan striped squirrels** and once, we were lucky to get a **common treeshrew** that showed up for only a few seconds. Unlike in many trip reports I read, we had hard time to find **Maxwell's short-tailed gymnures**. We indeed saw only one individual and on our last morning not so long before we had to leave the place back to Kuala Lumpur. The night walks were also rich in observations with several **Malayan colugos**, **Sunda slow lorises** and **Asian palm civets** observed most of the time in very good conditions. We also observed two cute **dark-tailed tree rats** running fast between tree branches but managed however to take good pictures. Of course, we did not see any pangolin like the lucky Dutch guys😊. After 2 days of intense wildlife watching, time came to leave Frazer's Hill and drive back to Kuala Lumpur. Andrew left us at the Ibis Styles Sepang hotel where we freshened up and packed our luggage for our flight back to France from KLIA.

In conclusion, this trip to Malaysia was a great and successful one with many and diversified wildlife observed in both the Borneo and Peninsula parts of the country. We managed to observe 55 different species in 3 weeks, which is not bad, including many lifers for me in a single trip and some great mammals like the Borneo pygmy elephants, gibbons, orangutans, several civets and of course the iconic Malayan tapir! We were less lucky with cat species with only Sunda leopard cats that could be observed. Another notable miss were the Siamangs in Frazer's Hill. All this gives very good reasons to go back to Borneo in the coming years😊. A big thank you to Alcey and Andrew, our great guides who were passionate, very knowledgeable and dedicated to searching wildlife. They both made this trip enjoyable and so rich in mammal observations. I recommend their service with no hesitation to anyone who would like to discover the Malaysian and unique Borneo wildlife. I just hope the forest would remain in good shape for the coming years, which is far from being granted, especially with the huge forest fires that occurred everywhere this year in Indonesia and Borneo just after we came back to France. A very sad situation indeed.

Mammals with photos or well seen (lifers in green)				
Species	**Espèces**	**Latin Name**	**Where seen**	**Pic**
Borneo elephant	Eléphant de Bornéo	Elephas maximus borneensis	A few herds observed in Kinabatangan River and Tabin reserve. Some could be seen in Deramakot forest as well.	X
Common treeshrew	Toupaye commun	Tupaia glis	One individual observed shortly while waiting at one of the gymnure stake outs in Fraser's Hill	X
Lesser treeshrew	Toupaye nain	Tupaia minor	One observed in a thick bush during a walk in Deramakot	X
Malayan colugo	Colugo de Malaisie	Galeopterus variegatus	Several observed easily in Singapore and then a couple in Deramakot (including one flying!) and in Fraser's Hill	X
Sunda slow loris	Loris lent de Java	Nycticebus coucang	Several observed during night walks done in Fraser's Hill	X
Philippine slow loris	Loris lent des Philippines	Nycticebus menagensis	Several great observations in Deramakot	X
Long-tailed macaque	Macaque crabier	Macaca fascicularis	Commonly observed throughout the trip	X
Southern pig-tailed macaque	Macaque à queue cochon des îles de la Sonde	Macaca nemestrina	Several groups observed in Sepilok, Deramakot, Tabin and Fraser's Hill	X
Proboscis monkey	Nasique	Nasalis larvatus	Only observed in Kinabatangan River but quite common there	X
Maroon leaf monkey	Semnopithèque rubicond	Presbytis rubicunda	A few observed once only at the parking lot to the Gomantong Caves	X
White-thighed surili	Semnopithèque du Siam	Presbytis siamensis	A few observed very well in Fraser's Hill	X
Dusky leaf monkey	Semnopithèque obscur	Trachypithecus obscurus	Only one group observed once in Fraser's Hill	X
Silvered leaf monkey	Semnopithèque à coiffe	Trachypithecus cristatus	Several observed in Kinabatangan River	X
Selangor silvered langur	Langur argenté de Selangor	Trachypithecus selangorensis	Easy and observed very well at the usual place in Selangor	X
White-handed gibbon	Gibbon à mains blanches	Hylobates lar	Heard several times calling loudly in Teman Negara and one individual observed in a tall tree there.	X
North Borneo gibbon	Gibbon de Bornéo	Hylobates funereus	A family with a baby observed superbly well in Tabin	X
Bornean orangutan	Orang-outan de Bornéo	Pongo pygmaeus	We were lucky to see these magnificent apes	X

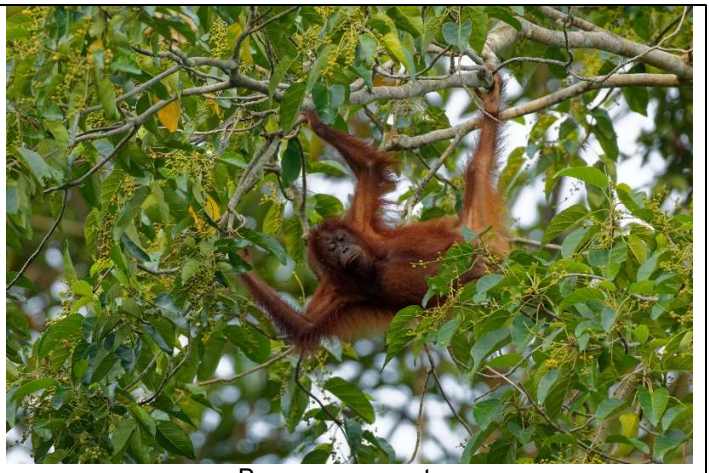
			several times through the tip: Deramakot, Kinabatangan River and Tabin	
Malayan porcupine	Porc-épic de Malaisie	Hystrix brachyura	Observed once during a night drive in Tabin	X
Cream-coloured giant squirrel	Ecureuil géant commun	Ratufa affinis	Surprisingly not easy to see with only 2 observations: once in Sepilok and in Tabin	X
Black flying squirrel	Grand écureuil volant noir	Aeromys tephromelas	Not common: 2 observed in Deramakot and one lone individual in Tabin	X
Thomas's flying squirrel	Ecureuil volant de Thomas	Aeromys thomasi	Commonly observed during all our night drives in Deramakot and Tabin but also 2 individuals observed late afternoon in Sepilok	X
Red giant flying squirrel	Pétauriste roux	Petaurista petaurista	Commonly observed during all our night drives in Deramakot and Tabin	X
Horsfield's Flying Squirrel	Ecureuil volant javanais	Iomys horsfieldii	One great observation in Deramakot of one individual flying just above our car but this was too sudden and fast to get a photo. Location, color and size suggest this species.	
Hose's pygmy flying squirrel	Ecureuil volant pygmée de Hose	Petaurillus hosei	One observation of this very small squirrel in Deramakot	X
Grey-bellied squirrel	Ecureuil à ventre gris	Callosciurus caniceps	Several observed in Fraser's Hill	X
Plantain squirrel	Écureuil plantain	Callosciurus notatus	Several observed in Singapore and at the lodge in Kinabatangan River	X
Prevost's squirrel	Écureuil de Prévost	Callosciurus prevostii	Quite common and regularly observed in all the places visited (black morph mostly)	X
Asian red-cheeked squirrel	Ecureuil à joues rouges d'Asie	Dremomys rufigenis	Several tame individuals observed in Fraser's Hilll	X
Plain pygmy squirrel	Petit écureuil pygmée	Exilisciurus exilis	Two great observations: one at the lodge in Kinabatangan River and another one in Tabin	X
Low's squirrel	Écureuil de Low	Sundasciurus lowii	One, or maybe 2, observed in Taman Negara	X
Slender squirrel	Ecureuil élancé	Sundasciurus tenuis	A few observed in Singapore and in Taman Negara as well	X
Himalayan striped squirrel	Écureuil rayé de l'Himalaya	Tamiops mcclellandii	A few guys observed in Fraser's Hill	X
Red spiny rat	Rat épineux rouge	Maxomys surifer	One individual observed during our first night drive in Deramakot according to our guide	X
Oriental House Rat	Rat d'Asie	Rattus tanezumi	A few observed in Deramakot and Tabin near houses and trash areas	X
Dark-tailed tree rat	Rat arboricole à queue noire	Niviventer cremoriventer	Observed twice during our night walks in Fraser's Hill	X
Moonrat	Grand gymnure	Echinosorex gymnura	2 observations in Deramakot but each time crossing the road too quicky for a photo	
Maxwell's short-tailed gymnure	Gymnure à queue courte de Max	Hylomys maxi	Hard to observe compared to what I could read in past reports. After many attempts we finally saw one on the last day in Fraser's Hill	X
Lesser short-nosed fruit bat	Cynoptère à nez court	Cynopterus brachyotis	Several observed in Dermakot and Singapore	X
Island flying fox	Petit renard volant	Pteropus hypomelanus	Two individuals observed in Tabin. Identified by our guide to be this species because of the size	X
Large flying fox	Roussette de Malaisie	Pteropus vampyrus	One group observed in Deramakot at night	X
Diadem roundleaf bat	Phyllorhine diadème	Hipposideros diadema	A few lone individuals observed in Deramakot	X
Fawn leaf-nosed bat	Phyllorhine cervine	Hipposideros cervinus	Colonies observed inside of the Gomantong Caves	X
Wrinkle-lipped free-tailed bat	Molosse à lèvres ridées et à queue libre	Mops plicatus	Thousands observed flying out of the Gomantong Caves in the late afternoon	
Sunda leopard cat	Chat-léopard de la Sonde	Prionailurus javanensis	The only cat we saw in Borneo (sadly) but we observed many of them and several times in very good conditions	X
Bornean stripped palm civet	Civette palmiste à trois bandes	Arctogalidia stigmatica	Commonly observed in Deramakot and Tabin	X
Island palm civet	Civette des Philippines	Paradoxurus philippinensis	Commonly observed in Deramakot and Tabin	X
Asian palm civet	Civette palmiste commune	Paradoxurus hermaphroditus	Several observed during our night walks in Fraser's Hill and Singapore	X
Banded palm civet	Civette palmiste à bandes de Derby	Hemigalus derbyanus	Only one observation of this great species in Deramakot	X
Malayan civet	Civette de Malaisie	Viverra tangalunga	Surprisingly hard to find in Deramakot where we finally saw 2 of them in the last nights and then more common in Tabin and Kinabatangan	X

Asian small-clawed otter	Loutre cendrée	Lutra cinerea	Two cute and playful guys observed in the river next to our lodge in Tabin	X
Yellow-throated marten	Martre à gorge jaune	Martes flavigula	Two observed crossing the road very rapidly one early morning in Deramakot	
Sunda stink badger	Télagon de Java	Mydaus javanensis	One nice observation in Deramakot	X
Malayan tapir	Tapir de Malaisie	Tapirus indicus	One great observation at the hide in Taman Negara but only through the thermal scope	X
Lesser mouse deer	Petit chevrotain malais	Tragulus kanchil	Only observed in Singapore but very well	X
Sambar	Sambar	Rusa unicolor	A few glimpses in Deramakot and then much better views at the hide in Taman Negara	X
		Total Species Recorded = 55		
Other species seen during the trip but that I don't count given the circumstances				
Ranee mouse	Souris de Margaret	Haeromys margarettae	Observed a few times in Deramakot according to our guide but I could never saw it !	
Long-tailed porcupine	Porc épics à longue queue	Trichys fasciculata	One crossed the road one night in Deramakot but not everyone in the group could saw it, which was our case	
Bornean yellow muntjac	Muntjac jaune de Bornéo	Muntiacus atherodes	One spotted during the day on the road in front of our car in Deramakot but quickly ran away inside the forest and we didn't see it	
Bearded pig	Sanglier à moustaches	Sus barbatus	One crossed the main road in Deramakot on our way to the camp on the first day but only the first car could saw it.	

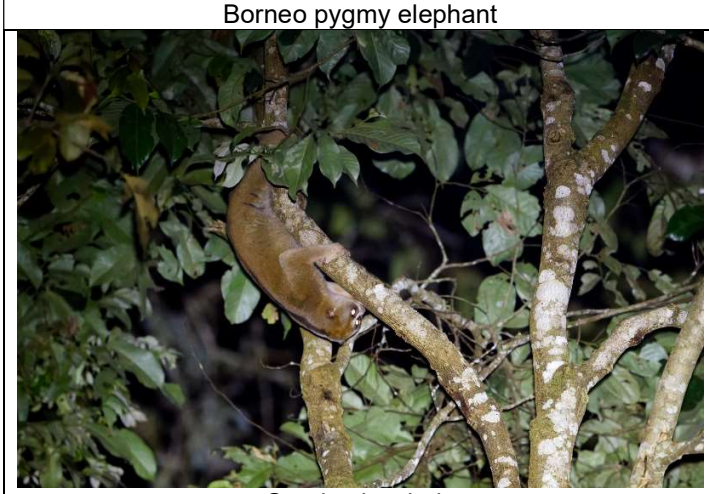
I'm adding below some pictures of the mammals we could observe during this trip...



Borneo pygmy elephant



Bornean orangutan



Sunda slow loris



Philippine slow loris



Long-tailed macaque



Southern pig-tailed macaque



Silvered leaf monkey



Selangor silvered langur



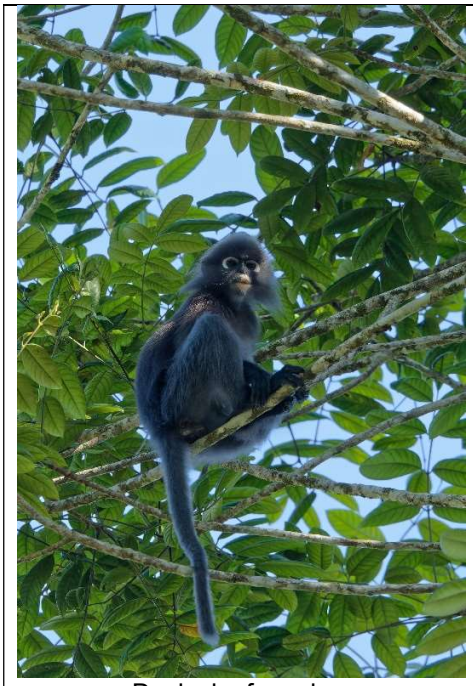
Maroon leaf monkey



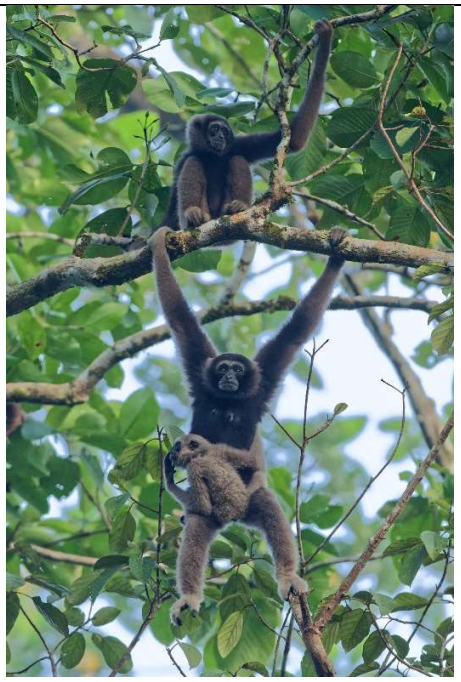
White-thighed surili



White-handed gibbon



Dusky leaf monkey



North Borneo gibbon



Proboscis monkey



Malayan colugo



Lesser treeshrew



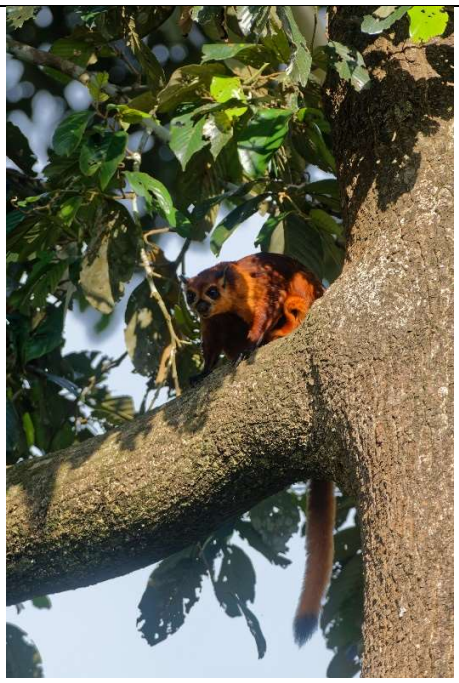
Thomas's flying squirrel



Black flying squirrel



Common treeshrew



Red giant flying squirrel



Himalayan striped squirrel



Cream-coloured giant squirrel



Asian red-cheeked squirrel



Grey-bellied squirrel



Plantain squirrel



Prevost's squirrel



Hose's pygmy flying squirrel



Plain pygmy squirrel



Maxwell's short-tailed gymnure



Slender squirrel



Low's squirrel



Oriental House Rat



Island flying fox



Red spiny rat



Dark-tailed tree rat



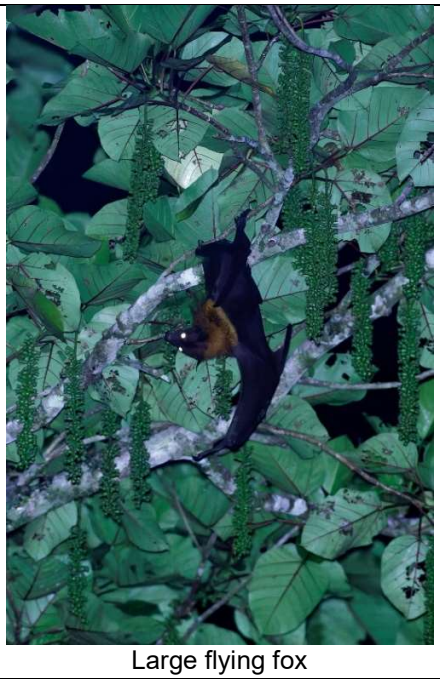
Lesser short-nosed fruit bat



Diadem roundleaf bat



Fawn leaf-nosed bat



Large flying fox



Sunda stink badger



Malayan porcupine



Asian palm civet



Banded palm civet



Island palm civet



Bornean striped palm civet



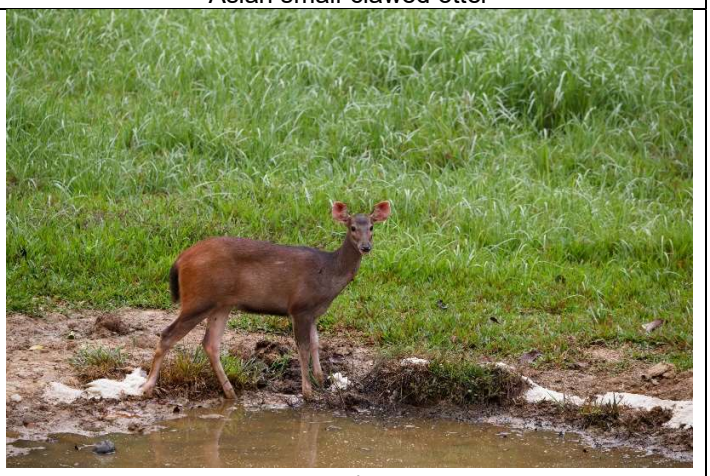
Malayan civet



Asian small-clawed otter



Lesser mouse deer



Sambar



Sunda leopard cat 1



Sunda leopard cat 2



Malayan tapir