

Trip Report (Mammals): Way Kambas (Sumatra, Indonesia) 9-16 Aug 2014

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SUMMARY

I visited Way Kambas NP, South Sumatra, for 7 days in August 2014 and saw 31 mammal species, only one snake and some good owls. I stayed at Satwa Lodge just outside the main gate. Hari, the best (only?) good local guide, was unavailable the first 2 days and over the next 5 days we did 3 morning and 3 afternoon-night sessions in the park (the rest of my time taken up by some work reading I had to do). Hari was excellent and highly recommended. We concentrated on the one road into the park; this road ending at the Way Kanan ranger station on the river. I had bats in about 6 of the 15 culverts along the road. The Look Trail (?) is a paved track starting and ending at Way Kanan; we went on this twice. I did not use the park boats or do any river trips when I was with Hari. I rented a vehicle from the lodge and we had to take one of the park rangers in with us. I also went spotlighting around the village and behind the lodge.

The names on my mammal list overleaf follow Wilson and Reeder's Mammal Species of the World third edition, with some of the better photos at the end of the report after the brief daily accounts.

I had first heard about Way Kambas NP on MammalWatching.com; thanks to Carmen and Torbjörn Lundqvist and Richard Webb for their reports posted there. Thanks to Jon hall who after his recent 2015 trip (1) confirmed the Short-nosed Fruit Bat as Forest, I had thought it was the Sunda form and (2) measured the Sheath-tail as Small Asian Sheath-tail (*E. alecto*) which I had as Lesser Sheath-tail based (based on the IUCN red list distribution info).

LOGISTICS

Satwa Ecolodge is the only place to stay; it is about 300 m before the NP entry gate. They have internet in the restaurant. Phone 0725-764-5290. I booked on Agoda: \$70 per night for a 3 bed room including breakfast. Satwa charged IDR85,000 per lunch and the same for dinner; there is no menu, just give the cooks your preferences; the food was fine. When out late the lodge dispatched the meal to us by moped which was great.

The lodge charged IDR-450,000 for the pickup at Bandar Lampung airport and 2 hr drive to the lodge.

When using Hari I paid IDR-450,000 for a car and driver for a day (morning and evening sessions) in the park; booked via the lodge.

Hari is seemingly the only bird- and mammal-savvy local guide; he can be contacted through Satwa or by email hariyono_ecolodges@yahoo.com.

On the first entry into the park you have to go through a rather bureaucratic entry process filling in forms. Park charges:

- IDR-20,000 for the entry forms you sign, you get a copy.
- IDR-150,000 park entry each day (225,000 on holidays).
- IDR-250,000 DSLR camera fee (one-off fee).
- IDR-300,000 for ranger to accompany you per half-day (morning or evening session); my sessions were generally from 4.30 m to 11 am and 4 pm to 11 pm; so IDR-600,000/day for a morning and evening session.

WILDLIFE LISTS

Mammals

31 mammals identified, listed overleaf, including 7 squirrels and 6 bats

Reptiles

Oriental Vine Snake, Flying Lizard (Black-bearded?) and Water Monitor.

Birds

Included Large-tailed Nightjar (common), Large Frogmouth, Reddish Scops Owl, Buffy Fish Owl, Brown Hawk Owl, Bathawk, Crested Fireback, White-winged Duck and Red-naped Trogon.

Mammal List

1	Common Treeshrew	<i>Tupaia glis</i>	Common at the lodge in the afternoons.
2	Pygmy Treeshrew (Lesser Treeshrew)	<i>Tupaia minor</i>	Within 1 km of Way Kanan Camp. Seen on 12 and 13 Aug.
3	Pen-tailed Treeshrew	<i>Ptilocercus lowii</i>	Seen on 14 Aug from 2m away; about 9.30pm. About 3 km before Way Kanan. Also seen on 13 Aug.
4	Sunda Slow Loris	<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>	15 Aug
5	Crab-eating Macaque	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	9 Aug. At the entry gate.
6	Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	12 Aug
7	Sumatran Surili (Mitred Langur)	<i>Presbytis melalophos</i>	Shy, distant views. 11 and 13 Aug
8	Siamang	<i>Symphalangus syndactylus</i>	13 Aug
9	Black Giant Squirrel	<i>Ratufa bicolor</i>	12 Aug
10	Red Giant Flying Squirrel	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	11 and 13 Aug
11	Temminck's Flying Squirrel	<i>Petinomys setosus</i>	1 km before Way Kanan
12	Plantain Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	Most common squirrel in the area.
13	Prevost's Squirrel	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	11 Aug
14	Three-striped Ground Squirrel	<i>Lariscus insignis</i>	Look Trail near Way Kanan Substation. 12 Aug
15	Black-eared Squirrel (Black-eared Pygmy Squirrel)	<i>Nannosciurus melanotis</i>	Way Batin Bridge. Seen 12 and 13 Aug on the same tree.
16	Indomalayan Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse	<i>Chiropodomys gliroides</i>	About 9pm. About 3 km before Way Kanan.
17	Malayan Porcupine	<i>Hystrix brachyura</i>	A pair at around 10 pm on the road.
18	Forest Short-nosed Fruit Bat	<i>Cynopterus brachyotis</i> (Forest)	Roosting in the entry gate to Way Kanan. Species ID confirmed by Jon Hall on his 2015 visit. Also in other buildings. 12 and 13 Aug.
19	Trefoil Horseshoe Bat	<i>Rhinolophus trifolius</i>	Hanging off a vine alongside road hawking.
20	Orbicular Leaf-nosed Bat (Small-disc Roundleaf Bat)	<i>Hipposideros orbiculus</i>	Groups of up to 10 in culverts. Seen daily.
21	Lesser False Vampire Bat	<i>Megaderma spasma</i>	In the culvert 300m past entry gate. Also in old buildings near the entry gate and at Way Kanan. Seen daily. Other Greater False Vampire Bat records from here are likely mistaken ID as they are not present so far south?
22	Small Asian Sheath-tailed Bat	<i>Emballonura alecto</i>	A group of about 20. In a partly blocked culvert about 3 km before the turn to the rhino center. Seen 12 and 14 Aug.
23	Malayan Slit-faced Bat	<i>Nycteris tragata</i>	3 seen in the culvert at the old boom gate culvert 1 km before Way Kanan, with about 10 Orbicular Leaf-nosed Bats. 13 Aug.
24	Marbled Cat	<i>Pardofelis marmorata</i>	Seen 12 Aug at 50m before the entry gate to Way Kanan. Seen at dawn in bad light running headfirst down a 45 degree angled tree and jumping to ground before bolting. Stocky cat with long tail, body markings not seen in the poor light; overall impression was that of Marbled Cat. Not great views but no other options based on size and features seen. Probable.
25	Small-toothed Palm Civet	<i>Arctogalidia trivirgata</i>	200m from Satwa Lodge
26	Malayan Civet	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	One foraging in the ranger's dining area at Way Kanan. Seen 13 and 14 Aug.
27	Yellow-throated Marten	<i>Martes flavigula</i>	One seen crossing the road on 12 Aug.
28	Wild Boar	<i>Sus scrofa</i>	13 and 14 Aug, including one at Way Kanan.
29	Lesser Mouse-deer	<i>Tragulus kanchil</i>	Off the road – 12 Aug +
30	Greater Mouse-deer	<i>Tragulus napu</i>	Off the road, only one seen – 11 Aug
31	Red Muntjac	<i>Muntiacus muntjak</i>	1 pair near entry gate; Seen 10 and 13 Aug.
32	Unidentified Shrew		Small shrew in leaf litter at road edge.

DAY RECORDS

Sat 9th Aug

I flew Jakarta - Bandar Lampung on Garuda, arriving 10am and was met at the airport by the driver from Satwa Ec lodge. It was then a 2 hrs drive to Satwa, at the entrance to Way Kambas NP. I checked into Satwa Lodge for 7 nights.

From 4 pm to dusk I walked the first km into the park; nobody at the gate. A small shrew was seen in leaf litter along the edge of the road, not identified. That evening I met an English couple at the lodge and arranged to go into the park with them the next morning. Spot lighting around the lodge: no Loris seen but Large-tailed Nightjar common.

Sun 10 Aug

At 5.30 am with nobody at the gate I walked in and at around 7.30 am I was picked up along the road by the English couple and their guide, as planned. From Way Kanan substation we took a short boat trip to a drop point and a short walk to peat swamp habitat, seeing White-winged Duck but nothing else of interest. Another birder saw a Sun Bear near Way Kanan; whilst we were on the boat trip. We were back at the lodge for lunch after which I had to sort out my entry paperwork with the head ranger who was somewhat irate that I had gone in unaccompanied (twice).

Mon 11 Aug:

Common Treeshrew run around the lodge gardens late afternoon. From 1630 to 2030 I went into the park with Hari (the guide), a ranger and a driver and car rented from the lodge. We walked, drove and spotlighted along the main road to Way Kanan and did the same on the way back. In the late afternoon we had Prevost Squirrel, Mitred Langur (distant view). After dusk we had Red Giant Flying Squirrel, Greater Mouse-deer, Oriental Vine Snake and good close views of Large Frogmouth, Reddish Scops Owl and Crested Fireback (roosting above the road).

Tue 12 Aug:

At 4.30 am I went into the park with Hari (the guide), a ranger, driver and car rented from the lodge. Red Muntjac are regular near the entry gate. We walked drove and spotlighted along the main road to Way Kanan camp. We had a Lesser Mouse-deer early on. We had a sighting in poor dawn light of the probable Marbled Cat near the entrance to Way Kanan, about 20 m off the track; we had all walked past it but then I spooked it after turning back to look at some movement beyond it. We saw a Pygmy Treeshrew within 1 km of Way Kanan; and Southern Pig-tailed Macaque.

At Way Kanan we also walked the paved Look Trail (where Sun Bear had been seen 2 days before); it was quite leech-infested, seeing Three-striped Ground Squirrel.

Orbicular Leaf-nosed Bat (Small-disc Roundleaf Bat) were seen daily in the culverts whilst Lesser False Vampire bats were the common bat in the old buildings at Way Kanan and near the entry gate (and in some of the culverts). Only one of the culverts had the Small Asian Sheath-tailed Bat, this culvert blocked at one end, making it somewhat cave-like. The entry arch at Way Kanan had a few Forest Short-nosed Fruit Bat.

On the way back we had brief views of a Yellow-throated Marten crossing the track; and Black-eared Squirrel at Way Batin Bridge after about 30 minutes of searching for it; also seeing it the next day on the same tree.

Wed 13 Aug:

From 4.30 am Hari and I did various sections of the road to Way Kanan and back, including a walk of the last 3 km of road. We also had Siamang and Mitred Langur in the same tree. In one of the culverts I saw three Malayan Slit-faced Bat.

1630-2230: The evening session with Hari, and one of the rangers driving the car, was overcast and relatively quiet mammal-wise apart from a Pen-tailed Treeshrew; we eventually ate at Way Kanan after walking a few km. A Malayan Civet cornered itself under a bench in the Rangers' dining area at Way Kanan; allowing me to photograph it from about

5 feet away. It then rained at Way Kanan; and on the drive back so we did not stop to walk, seeing only seeing a pair of porcupines.

Thu 14 Aug:

1630-2300: Hari and I worked the main track; during dinner at Way Kanan at 7 pm we had a boar and the Malay Civet in the grounds. After a rainstorm we then walked from Way Kanan for 2.5 hours. Mammals included Temminck's Flying Squirrel about 1 km from Way Kanan; great views of Feather-tailed Treeshrew from less than 2 metres away; an Indomalayan Pencil-tailed Tree-mouse; and a Brown Hawk Owl.

Fri 15 Aug:

Hari and I only went into the park at 5.45 am and after breakfast at Way Kanan we walked the Look Trail looking for Sun Bear, but nothing significant seen, less leeches than last time. We then walked the road; getting back to the lodge by 11 am.

On another evening walk around the village for an hour and I again did not get the loris but did see one Small-toothed Palm Civet. I then went out for a later session and managed to finally see one Sunda Slow Loris, my last mammal of the trip and one which should have been easier.

Sat 16 Aug

10am I left Satwa for Bandar Lampung and returned to Jakarta.

PHOTOS



Pen-tailed Treeshrew (Feather-tailed Treeshrew)



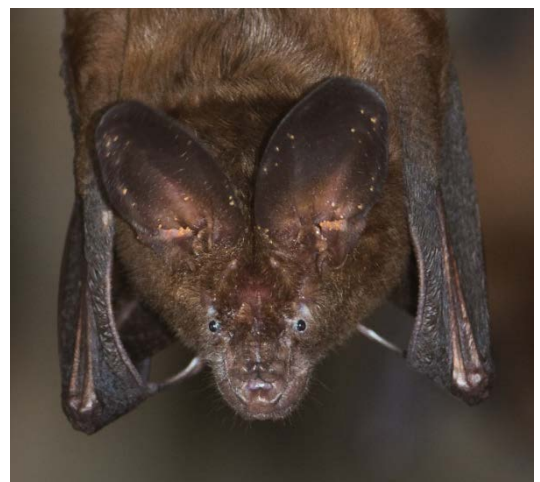
Common Treeshrew



Pygmy/Lesser Treeshrew



Siamang



Malayan Slit-faced Bat



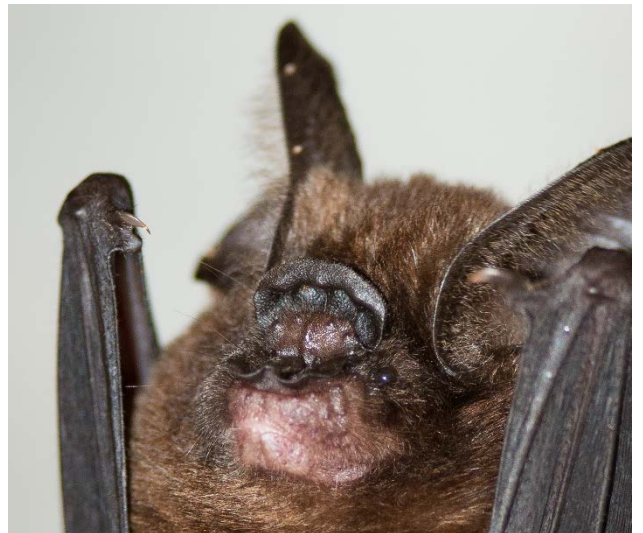
Lesser False Vampire



Small Asian Sheath-tailed Bat



Orbiculus Leaf-nosed Bat (2 pics above)



Forest Short-nosed Fruit Bat



Malay Civet



Malayan Porcupine



Black-eared Pygmy Squirrel (2 pics above)



Temminck's Flying Squirrel



Indomalayan Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse



Large Frogmouth



Reddish Scops Owl



Oriental Vine Snake