

Trip Report (Mammals) – Sabah – 11th March to 5th April 2014

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SUMMARY

On a 23 day trip around Sabah in Borneo, from 11 March to 5 April 2014, with Jo Dale we saw 56 mammals (including 8 primates, 15 squirrels and 10 bats). Jo and I had linked up for this trip after I mentioned on <http://www.mammalwatching.com/> that I was planning a trip around Sabah. She joined me on Day 5 after I had visited Crocker range and Poring Hot Springs; her detailed blog is at <http://safaritalk.net/topic/12548-birds-beasts-and-bugs-trekking-in-sa>. I have included key logistics and costs in the day by day summaries after the mammal list below.

Itinerary:

- 11-12 Mar Kota Kinabalu - Palau Manukan and Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre
- 13 Mar Rafflesia Forest Reserve area in the Crocker Range NP;
- 13-15 Mar Poring Hot Springs;
- 15-19 Mar Kinabalu NP (where I was joined by Jo on the 16th);
- 19-20 Mar Rainforest Discovery Centre (in Sepilok),
- 21-24 Mar Kinabatangan River (Kinabatangan Jungle Lodge);
- 23 Mar Gomantong Cave;
- 25-27 Mar Danum Valley - Borneo Rainforest Lodge and
- 27-31 Mar Danum Valley Field Centre areas) and
- 1-4 Apr Tabin Wildlife Reserve.

Mammal List (names after Wilson and Reeder's Mammal Species of the World third edition).

#	Species (MSW3)	Common Name (MSW3)	Sites
1	<i>Elephas maximus</i>	Asian Elephant	Tabin
2	<i>Tupaia gracilis</i>	Slender Treeshrew	Poring, BRL
3	<i>Tupaia minor</i>	Pygmy Treeshrew (Lesser Treeshrew)	Poring
4	<i>Tupaia montana</i>	Mountain Treeshrew	KNP
5	<i>Tupaia tana</i>	Large Treeshrew	BRL
6	<i>Galeopterus variegates</i>	Sunda Flying Lemur	BRL
7	<i>Nycticebus coucang</i>	Sunda Slow Loris	Tabin
8	<i>Tarsius bancanus</i>	Horsfield's Tarsier	DVFC
9	<i>Macaca fascicularis</i>	Crab-eating Macaque (Long-tailed Macaque)	Poring, Kin, DVFC, Tabin
10	<i>Macaca nemestrina</i>	Southern Pig-tailed Macaque	Sepilok, Kin, Goromontong Cave, DVFC, BRL, Tabin
11	<i>Nasalis larvatus</i>	Proboscis Monkey	Kin
12	<i>Presbytis hosei</i>	Hose's Langur (Grey Leaf Monkey)	Tabin
13	<i>Presbytis rubicunda</i>	Maroon Leaf-Monkey (Red Leaf Monkey)	BRL, DVFC
14	<i>Trachypithecus cristatus</i>	Silvery Lutung (Silvered Langur / Sundaic Silvered Langur)	Kin
15	<i>Hylobates muelleri</i>	Muller's Bornean Gibbon	Kin, Tabin
16	<i>Pongo pygmaeus</i>	Bornean Orangutan	Kin, BRL, DVFC
17	<i>Ratufa affinis</i>	Pale Giant Squirrel	Poring, KNP, Sepilok, BRL, Tabin
18	<i>Aeromys tephromelas</i>	Black Flying Squirrel	DVFC, Tabin
19	<i>Aeromys thomasi</i>	Thomas's Flying Squirrel	BRL
20	<i>Petaurista petaurista</i>	Red Giant Flying Squirrel	Sepilok, BRL, Tabin
21	<i>Callosciurus adamsi</i>	Ear-spot Squirrel	Crocker Range NP
22	<i>Callosciurus baluensis</i>	Kinabalu Squirrel	KNP
23	<i>Callosciurus notatus</i>	Plantain Squirrel	Poring, Sepilok, KIn
24	<i>Callosciurus orestes</i>	Borneo Black-banded Squirrel	Crocker Range NP, KNP
25	<i>Callosciurus prevostii</i>	Prevost's Squirrel	Poring, Sepilok, Kin, BRL,

			DVFC
26	<i>Dremomys everetti</i>	Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel	KNP
27	<i>Exilisciurus exilis</i>	Least Pygmy Squirrel (Plain Pigmy Squirrel)	Poring, Kin, BRL, Tabin
28	<i>Exilisciurus whiteheadi</i>	Tufted Pygmy Squirrel (Whitehead's Pigmy Squirrel)	KNP
29	<i>Sundasciurus jentinki</i>	Jentink's Squirrel	Crocker Range NP, KNP
30	<i>Sundasciurus lowii</i>	Low's Squirrel	DVFC
31	<i>Chiropodomys major</i>	Greater Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse	Poring
32	<i>Leopoldamys sabanus</i>	Indomalayan Leopoldamys (Long-tailed Giant Rat)	KNP
33	<i>Rattus rattus</i>	Roof Rat	BRL, DVFC
34	<i>Hylomys suillus</i>	Short-tailed Gymnure (Lesser Gymnure)	KNP
35		Short-nosed or Horsfield's Fruit Bat ?	Sepilok
36	<i>Pteropus vampyrus</i>	Large Flying Fox	Tabin
37	<i>Rhinolophus acuminatus</i>	Accuminate Horseshoe Bat	BRL, Tabin
38	<i>Rhinolophus creaghi</i>	Creagh's Horseshoe Bat	Goromontong Cave, Tabin
39	<i>Rhinolophus sedulus</i>	Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat	BRL, DVFC
40	<i>Rhinolophus trifolius</i>	Trefoil Horseshoe Bat	Tabin
41	<i>Hipposideros cervinus</i>	Fawn-colored Leaf-nosed Bat (Fawn Roundleaf Bat)	Poring, Goromontong cave
42	<i>Nycteris tragata</i>	Malayan Slit-faced Bat	Tabin
43	<i>Myotis muricola</i>	Nepalese Whiskered Myotis (Whiskered Myotis)	BRL
44	<i>Miniopterus australis</i>	Little Long-fingered Bat (Lesser Bent-winged Bat)	Goromontong cave
45	<i>Prionailurus bengalensis</i>	Leopard Cat	Tabin
46	<i>Mustela nudipes</i>	Malayan Weasel	Seen by Jo at BRL
47	<i>Prionodon linsang</i>	Banded Linsang	Seen by Jo at DVFC
48	<i>Arctogalidia trivirgata</i>	Small-toothed Palm Civet	Seen by Jo at DVFC
49	<i>Paradoxurus hermaphroditus</i>	Asian Palm Civet (Common Palm Civet)	DVFC, Tabin
50	<i>Hemigalus derbyanus</i>	Banded Palm Civet	DVFC
51	<i>Viverra zibetha</i>	Malayan Civet	Kin, DVFC, Tabin
52	<i>Aonyx cinerea</i>	Oriental Small-clawed Otter	Tabin
53	<i>Lutrogale perspicillata</i>	Smooth-coated Otter	Kin
54	<i>Sus barbatus</i>	Bearded Pig	Kin, DVFC, Tabin
55	<i>Tragulus napu</i>	Greater Mouse-deer	BRL, DVFC
56	<i>Rusa unicolor</i>	Sambar	BRL, DVFC

We also had brief views of the Sumatran Rhinoceros recently captured at Danum Valley and caged at Tabin.

Snake List:

At Kinabalu NP: Cave Racer (Beauty Rat Snake).

At Kinabatangan River: Mangrove Snake, Reticulated Python, Speckle-headed Vine Snake.

References

The main field guide used: J. Payne and C.M. Francis (1998). A Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo.

Due in Feb 2015: Q Phillips and Karen Phillips (2015). Phillips' Field Guide to the Mammals of Borneo.

Thanks also to Jon Hall for the info on www.mammalwatching.com and various reports listed there.

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1. KOTA KINABALU

Tue 11 March

I flew from Phuket to KL and onto Kota Kinabalu. And checked into the Casuarina Hotel (\$30/double).

Wed 12 March: Palau Manukan and Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre

From Jeselton Point in town I caught the first boat, at 0820, to Palau Manukan, a 20 minute boat trip from KK. I walked the 1.5 km jungle trail and then the 1.5 km “running path” back to the jetty; seeing a pair of **Philippines Megapodes** along the running path, and took the first return ferry, at 1215, back to KK.

At 2.30 I took the hotel’s airport shuttle (free 8am-5pm) over to the airport and picked up a rental car for 7 days (\$60/d); then drove across town to the Kota Kinabalu Wetland Centre.

2. CROCKER RANGE - RAFFLESIA FOREST RESERVE

Thu 13 March

0500-0700: I drove 2 hours to Rafflesia Forest Reserve in the Crocker Range NP; then birded road edge areas around the Rafflesia Reserve (59.5 km from KK):

- **Borneo Black-banded Squirrel** – entrance to Rafflesia Forest Reserve.
- **Jentink’s Squirrel** – entrance to Rafflesia Forest Reserve.
- **Ear-spot Squirrel** – near Rafflesia Forest Reserve.

3. PORING HOT SPRINGS

Thu 13 March

At around 1030 I drove north to Poring Hot Springs and checked into the Poring Hot Spring Hotel. I then walked to the Kipungit Waterfall (1 km from HQ) and onto the bat cave (about 30 mins from HQ), seeing:

- **Prevost’s Squirrel** – common at the entrance to the springs.
- **Fawn-coloured Leaf-nosed Bat (Fawn Roundleaf Bat)** - at the cave entrance.
- **Pale Giant Squirrel**
- R – Sabah Forest Skink – in the bat cave.

That night I went spotlighting to the Kipungit Waterfall, looking for flying squirrels, no mammals seen except a shrew (unidentified) on the track about 50 m before the waterfall.

Fri 14 March

At 0600-1200 I walked to the bat cave and onto the Langanan Waterfall Trail; and took 2 hours getting back. Langanan Waterfalls, 120 m high, is an uphill 3.4 km from the HQ, through lowland forest. There was some heavy rain as I reached the waterfall and drizzle on the way back; nobody else on the trail; and no Bornean Muntjacs seen.

- **Least Pygmy Squirrel (Plain Pigmy Squirrel)**
- **Plantain Squirrel**
- **Pygmy Treeshrew (Lesser Treeshrew)** – very small and very long thin tail.
- **Crab-eating Macaque (Long-tailed Macaque).**

That evening I went spotlighting to the waterfall again:

- **Greater Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse** – great views about 6 feet away in secondary growth on the path edge. It sat remarkably still for a 10 minute photo-shoot. A 2004 paper by Wells et al noted that they are the most abundant canopy species here; and they did not trap the Common Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse.

Greater Pencil-tailed Tree Mouse (14-3-2014):



Sat 15 March

At 0800 the nearby canopy walkway opened and I got on before the weekend hordes.

At 10 am I drove to Mt Kinabalu NP.

4. KINABALU NATIONAL PARK (KNP)

Sat 15 March

At 1200 I checked into Kinabalu Pine Resort, about 7 km from the entrance (\$70 deluxe room). Back at the park I then birded the tracks near HQ and drove up to the Timphoon Gate; seeing:

- **Short-tailed (Lesser) Gymnure** - on the Timphoon Gate road edge about 300 m up from the lower entry to Bukit Ular Trail; seen at dusk - around 1830. Brief views, no photo.

Sun 16 March

I got to the park around 0615 (dawn was about 0545):

- **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel** – about 200 m into the park on the road edge.

I then drove up to Timphoon Gate; there was constant drizzle and rain with occasional breaks so at around 0930 I went for a coffee down at the HQ area; it then cleared up and I went onto the trails again until 1200.

Jo Dale flew in today, getting to the hotel at around 1330. At 3 pm we drove over to the park, birded around the HQ area, and walked some of the trails including part of the Liwagu Trail.

- **Bornean Black-banded Squirrel.**
- **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel** – 1 pair in the gully immediately before Grace Hotel.

After dinner at the park restaurant we went spotlighting along parts of the Tymphoon Gate road, no mammals seen.

Mon 17 March

At 0530 we left the hotel and drove up to the lower end of the Bukit Ular Trail, walking the road up to Tymphoon Gate and then down the Bukit Ular Trail. That took the morning. A fruiting tree at the Km 4 mark had 4 squirrel species:

- **Bornean Black-banded Squirrel** – km 4 post at 0730.
- **Kinabalu Squirrel** – km 4 post at 1130.
- **Jentink's Squirrel** – km 4 post at 1130.
- **Pale Giant Squirrel** – km 4 post at 1130.
- **Whitehead's Pigmy Squirrel** – 300 m above the lower entry to the Bukit Ular Trail.

At the main viewing platform:

- **R - Cave Racer** – about 6-7 foot long; sunning itself about 2 m in front of the viewing platform at 2.5 km; eventually retreating under the platform.

At around 1 pm we drove back to the hotel for lunch

At 4 pm we returned to the park for evening birding (not much) and had dinner in the park restaurant before going back up to Bukit Ular trail (lower end) spotlighting the road uphill seeing:

- **Flying Squirrel** – unidentified, seen in flight, distant.
- **Indomalayan Leopoldamys (Long-tailed Giant Rat)** – Mount Kinabalu form with dark face; at the Power Station Bins.

We then walked the Bukit Ular trail back to the car, no mammals seen, but worth another try.

Tue 18 March

At 0545 we left the hotel and drove directly up to Tymphoon Gate and walked the first part of the Summit Trail, Jo stopped at the first shelter. I carried onto the 2.5 km mark, checking the first 3 shelters for habituated squirrels:

- **Bornean Mountain Ground Squirrel** – a few at the first shelter were well-fed and habituated to trekkers.
- **Mountain Tree Shrew** – two at the first shelter.

Returned to hotel for the afternoon.

At 1800 we drove over to the park and went up to the bin area at the Power Station; again seeing

- **Indomalayan Leopoldamys (Long-tailed Giant Rat)** - a few of them coming by the bins every 5 minutes.

Long-tailed Giant Rat (18-3-2014)



Wed 19 March

At 0600 we checked out of the hotel and returned to the KNP for 3 hours birding before leaving at 0900 for a 2 hour drive to the airport at Kota Kinabalu, catching a 1320 Air Asia flight to Sandakan.

5. SEPILOK AND RAINFOREST DISCOVERY CENTRE (RDC)**Wed 19 March**

From Sandakan Airport we took a beat-up taxi about 20 km (myr 40) to the Sepilok Jungle Resort (std room with a/c = RM105/n). The resort is a 5 minute walk from the Orang-utan Rehab Centre and a 1.5 km walk from the Rainforest Discovery Centre (RDC) where there is an excellent walkway system, observation towers and trail system.

At 4 pm we walked to RDC, birded from the walkway and walked back.

- **Prevost's Squirrel**
- **Pale Giant Squirrel**
- **Plantain Squirrel** – at Sepilok Jungle Resort

Thu 20 March

At 6 am we walked to RDC, did the canopy walkway, Hornbill Tower and Kingfisher Trail; and walked back to the resort at midday. I then had to go into town to find an ATM, then went back to the resort; Jo went to the Orang-utan rehab centre.

- **Short-nosed OR Horsfield's Fruit Bat** – day-roost in the alcove above stairs to the dining area at Sepilok Jungle Resort.

At 5 pm we had a car drop off at the RDC and returned at 9 pm; from the Hornbill Tower seeing **Barred Eagle Owl** and:

- **Southern Pigtailed Macaque**
- **Pale Giant Squirrel**
- **Red Giant Flying Squirrel** – one seen at 1840 from the Hornbill Tower.

We also went spotlighting on the Kingfisher Trail, no mammals seen.

6. KINABATANGAN RIVER AND KINABATANGAN JUNGLE CAMP (KJC)**Fri 21 March**

We left Sepilok at 0900, picked up by bird guide Robert Chong, owner of Kinabatangan Jungle Camp (KJC); we had booked a stay for 4d/3n (RM1680; including a side trip to Gomantong cave on + 7 river cruises). From Sepilok it was a 2 hour drive to KJC followed by a 20 min boat ferry to the lodge set on the edge off the Kinabatangan River.

There were 2 **Storm's Stork** foraging alongside the restaurant; Robert said that one had been rescued by him at least 6 years ago, pulled from near drowning in the river; it had no primary feathers at the time. Once they grew it hung around a bit then flew off and returns every year, with a mate. They had both just returned the day before we arrived. A pair of **Brown Wood Owls** were also roosting alongside the lodge jetty.

At KJC.

- **Prevost's Squirrel** – comes by the dining area for snacks.
- **Plantain Squirrel** – dining area.
- **R - Water Monitors** – a few large ones hang around the lodge all day.

At 1500 we left for the afternoon river cruise on a motorised 10-man boat returning at 1800, seeing:

- **Proboscis Monkey** – common in the evenings in groups along the river edge.
- **Bornean Orang-utan** (a female and a 4/5 year old). I had avoided going to the Orang-utan rehab centre next door to our resort in Sepilok so as to not downgrade my first viewing of one in the wild.

- **Silvery Lutung (Silvered Langur)** - late evening at the river edge.

1930 dinner. The night river cruise started at 2000 and ended 2215, no mammals seen; we also walked a road within an oil palm plantation but no cats or owls seen.

- R - Reticulated Python – one seen on the river bank; another seen the next day.

Sat 22 March

6 am breakfast

- **Muller's Bornean Gibbon** – one hanging from a tree off the edge of the resort area.

From 0630 to 1115 we (4 guests) went downstream and then up a narrow tributary, looking for the Bornean Ground Cuckoo; but not seen.

- R - Saltwater Crocodile – one seen up close on the bank.

1330 lunch back at the resort.

1530-1830 – Boat cruise upriver looking for the ground cuckoo and pitta, neither seen; generally quiet.

- **Silvery Lutung (Silvered Langur)** – riverside trees on the cruise back.

After dinner I walked the boundary track for almost a kilometre seeing one rodent briefly and:

- **Malayan Civet** – along the boundary track.
- R - Speckle-headed Vine Snake - on the jetty boardwalk at around 10 pm.

Sun 23 March

6am breakfast and 0630 boat cruise looking for the Ground Cuckoo but no luck.

- **Bornean Gibbon** – seen at 0630 from the KJC jetty.
- **Least Pygmy Squirrel (Plain Pigmy Squirrel)**
- **Southern Pig-tailed Macaque**
- **Smooth-coated Otter** – two seen at 0930 on the way back to KJC, on reedy riverbank.

From 1230-1600 we visited Gomantong Cave (see next section), after which we returned to Bilit and went straight for our evening river cruise, the guide Herman calling in a **Black Crowned Pitta**.

- R - Mangrove Cat Snake - two in the same tree, the larger one about 2 m.

Back at KJC:

- **Bearded Pig** - six were foraging around the camp in the evening,

Mon 24 March

From 0630 to 1030 we did a river cruise downstream to the two tributaries, nothing out of the ordinary and a bit quiet. At 1100 we left KJC. The stay with Robert had been excellent. He drove us to the road junction and kindly organised one of the cars waiting for charter. We paid myr180 for a Hilux to drop us in Lahad Datu; arriving about 1400. After checking into Silam Dynasty Hotel (\$45/room) we took a taxi over to DVFC to make bookings and transport arrangements.

7. GOMANTONG CAVE

Sun 23 March cont.: At 1230 we left KJC for Gomantong Cave, Herman showing us the 3 species of nest swiftlets, all nesting. At around 4 pm we drove back to Bilit. Orang-utan are sometimes seen along the trails to the cave but not today. Mammals seen at the cave included:

- **Fawn Roundleaf Bat**
- **Creagh's Horseshoe Bat**

- **Little Long-fingered Bat (aka Lesser Bent-winged Bat)** – tentatively identified by size. It is small; significantly smaller than the Fawn and Creagh's Horseshoe Bats whereas the Large Bent-winged Bat is same FA size as Creagh's HB (only the two bent-wing bats seem to occur at the cave, as per the list below).
- **Southern Pig-tailed Macaque**

Note that 16 bats are recorded at and around Gomantong cave (Abdullah et al, 2007, – at the website http://www.academia.edu/1724764/The_Large_Bat_Caves_of_Malaysian_Borneo_2007)

- Fruitbats: *Cynopterus brachyotis* C. *horsfieldi*
- Cave Nectar Bat: *Eonycteris spelaeae*;
- Horseshoe Bats: *Rhinolophus borneensis*; *R. creaghi*; *R. philippinensis*;
- Roundleaf Bats: *Hipposideros ater*; *H. bicolor*; *H. cervinus*; *H. galeritus*; *H. diadema*; *H. galeritus*;
- *Myotis gomantongensis*;
- Bent-winged Bats: *Miniopterus magnate*; *M. australis*;
- *Chaerephon plicata* (*Tadarida plicata*).

8. DANUM VALLEY – BORNEO RAINFOREST LODGE (BRL)

Tue 25 March

We had a 0900 pick-up from our hotel in Lahad Datu by the BRL driver. After registering at the BRL town office the two of us were driven out by land-cruiser to the lodge; a 2 hour trip. The 2 night stay cost us RM2450 each (shared room) including the transport and standard guided walks.

At midday:

- **Sunda Flying Lemur (Colugo)** – one resting high in the trees in front of the reception area; midday.
- **Least Pygmy Squirrel (Plain Pigmy Squirrel)** – photo'd from about 5 feet away for about 10 minutes at the base of the tree outside Standard Room 4.
- R - Striped Bornean Tree Skink.

At 1530 our guide (Asnil) took the two of us plus another 2 guests on a 2 hour walk:

- **Whiskered Myotis** – 4 roosting in curled up fronds about 50 m before the lodge building.
- **Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat** – 2 in a culvert 200 m before the lodge.
- **Bornean Orang-utan** – one pair seen at Hornbill Trail area.
- **Sambar Deer.**

Jo and I then walked over to the canopy walkway for dusk, seeing one of the large flying squirrels but not much else.

The evening night drive from 2030-2200 produced 2 flying squirrels at canopy level:

- **Red Giant Flying Squirrel**
- **Thomas's Flying Squirrel**

Wed 26 March

The guides only start working from 0830 so at 0530 we went spotlighting on the Nature trail before going to breakfast.

Mammals:

- **Greater Mouse Deer**
- **Large Tree-shrew** – a pair resident at the base of the tree 20 m up the path past the River View platform.

Large Treeshrew (26-3-2014)



After yesterday's walk I arranged with the manager to have our own guide as the 2 guest with us were not birders and the standard route that morning was to walk up to the viewpoint. We instead walked up to the Jacuzzi Pool then back along the Belian Trail. Mammals and reptiles seen:

- **Pale Giant Squirrel**
- R – Sabah Forest Skink – common, with barred lips.
- R – Bornean Angle-headed Lizard – continuous dorsal and nuchal crest.
- R – Black-banded Skink - at Jacuzzi Pool.
- **Prevost's Squirrel** – at the lodge.
- **Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat**.

After dinner various groups set off on different night-walks. I was with one of the guides keen on snakes; no mammals seen; but after that I briefly went to the compost bins alongside the workshop area at the staff quarters.

- **Roof Rat (House Rat)?** – at least 5 rats going into the compost storage at the workshop.
- R – Bornean Angle-headed Lizard – green, continuous dorsal and nuchal crest; trees outside reception.

Thu 27 March

Jo and I walked the Nature Trail up to the River View, for sunrise; Jo then headed off to join the guided walk:

- **Maroon Leaf-Monkey** – across the river from the River View point.
- Southern Pig-tail Macaque – at River View.
- **Large Treeshrew** – same pair as yesterday.
- **Acuminate Horseshoe Bat** – culvert along road to BRL.

Jo and others had a **Malay Weasel** cross the road about half-way to the canopy walkway.

At 1330 we checked out of the lodge and were dropped by the BRL at Danum Valley Field Centre - a 45 min drive.

9. DANUM VALLEY FIELD CENTRE (DVFC)

Thu 27 March

We checked into a standard room (MYR-300 for 2 p) as opposed to the dorm option (MYR-91 ea). Full board meals was MYR-111/p/d). Camera charge for DSLR was MYR-100. Food was fine (with soft-drinks and more critical beverages available). The generator was turned off from midnight to 0700.

In the evening we walked the entry road along the river:

- **Maroon Leaf Monkey** – around the reception area.
- **Crab-eating macaque (Long-tailed Macaque)** – at the Suspension Bridge.
- R – Warty House Gecko. Outside our room

At 2030 five of us went on a night drive up the entry road, seeing:

- **Red Giant Flying Squirrel** – one.
- **Black Flying Squirrel** – one.
- **Malaysian Civet** – three sightings on the road.

Buffy Fish Owl displayed around the dining area each evening.

Fri 28 March

Before breakfast Jo and I checked out the suspension bridge area, hoping for Small-clawed Otter (reported here), not seen. After the 7 am breakfast I walked the River Trail and met up with Jo at the Observation Tower, returning to the rooms at around 11 am. There was heavy rain around lunch with drizzle and rain carrying on all afternoon.

The rain let up after dinner and we joined a group of 6 tourists being led by one of the guides to see a tarsier resident near the observation tower on the Nature Trail then returned to the dining area. Jo and I carried on spotlighting until 11 pm, getting better views of two civets seen earlier:

- **Horsfield's Tarsier (Western Tarsier)** – close to the Observation Tower on the Nature Trail. No photo.
- **Banded Palm Civet** – foraging around the dining area. Photo.
- **Asian / Common Palm Civet** – foraging around the dining area.
- **Bearded Pig** – raiding the bins around the dining area. Photo

Banded Palm Civet (28-3-2014)



Sat 29 March

Jo and I looked around the suspension bridge area for an hour before 7am breakfast:

- **Bornean Orang-utan** – one young one in trees above the Orchid Trail start.

0800-1300: Jo and I birded the Coffin Cave Trail; male **Great Argus** pheasant near the start of the Coffin trail, and a female on the trail near the Coffin Cave; otherwise relatively quiet for birds:

- **Lesser Woolly Horseshoe Bat** - 3 in an old log.
- R - Forest Skink
- R - Sun Skink

- R - Striped Bornean Tree Skink – at the suspension bridge.

1700-1845: I sat up at the Tree Platform (access up a narrow 35 m vertical ladder), hoping for flying squirrels but none. It then rained the next hour.

2030-1030: I went spotlighting on the Menggaris Trail (up the road behind the standard rooms) and the Nature Trail:

- A – Wallace's Tree Frog – road-cut and puddle about 200 m up road to Menggaris buildings.
- A – Harlequin Tree Frog – same site.
- **Greater Mouse Deer** – Nature Trail.
- **Roof Rat (House Rat)?**

Jo went on the night drive; and had Banded Linsang, Masked and Small-toothed Palm Civets.

Sun 30 March

0730 at the dining area:

- **Bornean Orang-utan** – one eating jackfruit in the tree outside the kitchen.

0800-1200: I walked the 0 West trail southwards and returned the same way. Birds included a pair of Bornean Wren Babbler.

- **Low's Squirrel** – digging in leaf-litter along the trail edge – at around 0W-1S
- **Prevost's Squirrel**

0830-1030: I went spotlighting on the Nature and River Trails.

- **Greater Mousedeer**

Mon 31 March

0600-0700: Jo and I birded the Menggaris and Orchid Trails.

0830-1030: DVFC minibus back to Lahad Datu.

1130: checked into the Silam Dynasty Hotel (\$45/room).

10. TABIN WILDLIFE RESERVE

Tue 1 April

0745-0930: The hotel pickup took us to the Tabin Wildlife Resort Office from where a 4WD took us to Tabin Wildlife Resort. We had booked ahead for a 4d/3n package (RM-2400/p) which included camping the second night at the Lipad mud volcano but a few days prior to our trip we were told that the tower is under maintenance and that was cancelled.

1030: our guide Mohammed, designated to us for our stay, took us for a 90 minute intro walk along the entry road to the bridge over the Lipad River, about 1 km from the resort:

- **Acuminate Horseshoe Bat** – a pair in culvert pipes opposite Trogon House.
- **Acuminate Horseshoe Bat** – x20 in the culverts about 200 m before the Sabah Wildlife Dept offices.

Heavy rain after lunch and the river rose significantly.

1530: we and 6 other guests with a couple of guides were ferried to the Lipad mud volcano; zero wildlife.

1930: dinner.

2030-2230: night drive with the 6 other guests, back about 5 km along the main road that we came in, forest on one side and oil palm plantation on the other:

- **Leopard Cat** – x5
- **Malayan Civet** – x1
- **Asian (Common) Palm Civet** – x2
- **Large Flying Fox** – one photo'd in a tree.
- **Black Flying Squirrel** – 1 pair. Grey underparts, not creamy like the Smoky Flying Squirrel.

Wed 2 April

0630-0730: Jo and I walked the entry road; and then the first parts of the Otter Trail (across the suspension bridge).

- **Muller's Bornean Gibbon** – opposite the dining area, seen every day around the resort area.
- **Least Pigmy Squirrel** – dining area.
- Long-tailed Macaque

1630-1945 dusk drive on the main entrance road up to the entry gate and back:

- Southern Pig-tailed Macaque
- **Trefoil Horseshoe Bat** - yellow noseleaf and ears; hanging near perched serpent eagle.
- **Asian Elephant (Bornean Pygmy Elephant)** – a single bull about 3 km up the road from the resort.

Thu 3 April

From 0800 to 1200 we walked the 3 km long Gibbon Trail, with our guide. Apart from Gibbons at the resort the only mammals were:

- **Creagh's Horseshoe Bat** – a few under cabin HL06.
- **Malayan Slit-faced Bat** – a pair in a log towards the end of the trail, one of them carrying a juvenile. Considered a separate species in MSW3 but as a subspecies of Javan Slit-faced (Hollow-faced) bat in the Borneo mammal guide.

Back at the resort:

- **Oriental Small-clawed Otter** – I had brief views as one swam across the small river outside room RL09, at around 1 pm. Presumed to be Oriental as Hairy-nosed Otter is rare in the area.

1630-1945 dusk drive past the Mud Volcano road and into some degraded forest:

- **Hose's Langur (Grey Leaf Monkey)** - I saw 2 at around 500 m past the mud volcano turn.
- **Asian (Common) Palm Civet** – including one with a white-tipped tail which the guide called as Masked Palm Civet but a review of photos showed it to clearly be Common Palm Civet.

2030-2130: Night drive (Mohammed, Jo and myself only) produced:

- **Leopard Cat** – x3
- **Asian / Common Palm Civet** – a pair of young ones playing in the road at the resort T-junction
- **Sunda Slow Loris** – a pair about 2 km up the road.
- **Bearded Pig** – a few sightings.
- **Red Giant Flying Squirrel** – a pair in trees above the boardwalk at the resort car park.

Fri 4 April

0800 – along the resort road:

- **Bornean Gibbon** - around the staff quarters.
- **Pale Giant Squirrel** – at Trogon Hall.

0900-1000 we, with Mohammed, drove over to the Lihad Waterfall drop-off point. Mohammed and I went about 200 m downstream to Lihad Cave immediately off the river hoping for bats but found none; a few hundred Glossy Swifts nesting at the cave entrance; the cave only about 8 m deep. On the walk out we had:

- R – Bornean Angle-headed Lizard

On the way back we drove past the rhino holding area and managed to get a glimpse of the pregnant female **Sumatran Rhinoceros** just moved over from Danum Valley after being trapped there on 19 March. Nobody, including guides, is allowed to go view the captive rhino, and new pens away from the road are being built.

1330-1500: minibus transfer from Tabin to Lahad Datu airport.

1730-1825: flew LD to KK on Air Malaysia. Stayed at the Casuarina Hotel near the airport; with dinner at the nearby Shangri-la and left KK on the 5th.