

THAILAND: 15-22 MARCH 2014.

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Logistics

As on my previous two trips to Thailand I used Wild Bird Eco-Tour Thailand www.wildbirdeco.net to provide a driver, Mr Thon, who I had used on a previous trip enabling me to spotlight without having to drive at the same time. Mr Thon was extremely keen and worked hard finding some of the good mammals himself. I pre-booked accommodation myself.

Kaeng Krachan – Baan Maka - <http://www.baanmaka.com> - £23 per night for a single room with breakfast. However we left too early each day to benefit from it. Evening meals were also available in the restaurant although I cooked for myself.

Khao Sam Roi Yot – Alfrescos Resort & Restaurant – booked through bookings.com <http://www.booking.com/hotel/th/alfrescos-resort-and-restaurant.html> . £18 per night for a single room including breakfast. Run by a British expat and his Thai wife ideal for people like me who don't particularly like oriental food as it also has a western menu.

Itinerary

- 15th Arrived Bangkok late afternoon and drove south-west to Kaeng Krachan arriving mid-evening.
- 16th 0600-1900 Kaeng Krachan
- 17th 0530-1200 & 1545-1900 Kaeng Krachan
- 18th 0530-1900 Kaeng Krachan
- 19th 0530-1900 Kaeng Krachan
- 20th 0530-0900 Kaeng Krachan. Drove to Khao Sam Roi Yot, recceing area from 1630-1900 then spotlighting until 2100.
- 21st Khao Sam Roi Yot. Spotlighting 0400-0615. Then birding until 0900 before catching up on sleep for rest of the day. Spotlighting from 2100-0200 on the 22nd.
- 22nd Left Khao Sam Roi Yot at 0910 arriving Pak Thale area 1045. Birding until 1600 then returned to Bangkok.

Sites

Kaeng Krachan National Park.

I first visited Kaeng Krachan in 2006 and it is an excellent national park covering 2,915 square kilometres approximately 200 km SW of Bangkok near Pethchaburi. It has an excellent mammal list including Asian Elephant, Malayan Tapir, 'Indochinese' Tiger, Clouded Leopard, Sun & Asiatic Black Bear, Gaur & Banteng & several species of primate.

There are several hotels just outside the park & bungalows &/or camping facilities outside the park by the park headquarters at Kaeng Krachan dam, & inside the park at Bankrang Camp 15 km from the first checkpoint & at Panoenthung Camp at km 30. We stayed 15 minutes from the park at Baan Maka.

Spotlighting is difficult as you can only really spotlight from the vehicle for about 45 minutes after the gates open at 0530 and this is the period when lots of tourists are driving up the mountain to see the sunrise causing disturbance on the road, particularly at weekends. During the week, at least in March, it was much quieter. During the day it was relatively quiet other than for birders/photographers although they spent most of their time on the stretch from the first stream at c.km 17 to the top camp at km 30.

See Nick Upton's excellent webpage www.thaibirding.com/locations/west/kk.htm for further details of the site but the main areas for mammals are as follows.

I spent a lot of time walking the roads particularly between the waterholes and Bang Krang campsite and above Panoen Tung Campsite.

- **Roads from Baan Maka to the park entrance** – Bengal Slow Loris pre-dawn between the lodge and the main road, Burmese Hare on two occasions (pre-dawn) along the main road and Stump-tailed Macaque in the same area during the day.
- **Park entrance to first waterhole, c.9 km.** – The dam immediately after the entrance proved remarkably mammal free but we saw Leopard Cat c. 2 km from the entrance, The area from km 6-9 held Stump-tailed Macaques and several Sambar.
- **Waterholes kms 9-11** – A highly productive area with Asiatic Black Bear, Golden Jackal, Common Palm Civet, Sambar, Red Muntjac, Gaur and Malayan Porcupine all seen here and tracks and droppings of other species.
- **Km 11 to Bang Krang at km 15** – little seen but lots of evidence of mammal activity, see appendix A. Leopard was seen at Bang Krang while we were there.
- **Bang Krang to stream crossing 3** – good for Dusky Langur and squirrels, Grey-bellied, Black Giant and Pallas's, Red Muntjac, and three Crab-eating Mongooses along the trail running back along the first stream.
- **Stream crossing 3 to Panoen Tung Campsite c. km 35.** – Good for Dusky Langur and White-handed Gibbon. Banded Langur also seen along this stretch.
- **Panoen Tung Campsite** – Yellow-throated Marten near the restaurant, they often come for food here. Others have seen Fea's Muntjac here and we found droppings along the barriered trail just past the campsite on the right.
- **Panoen Tung Campsite to Tortip Waterfall** – We saw Crab-eating Mongoose, Binturong, Yellow-throated Marten, White-handed Gibbon and Dusky and Banded Langur on this stretch. Others have seen Clouded Leopard and Sun Bear here.

Khao Som Roi Yot. <http://www.thaibirding.com/locations/west/ksry.htm>

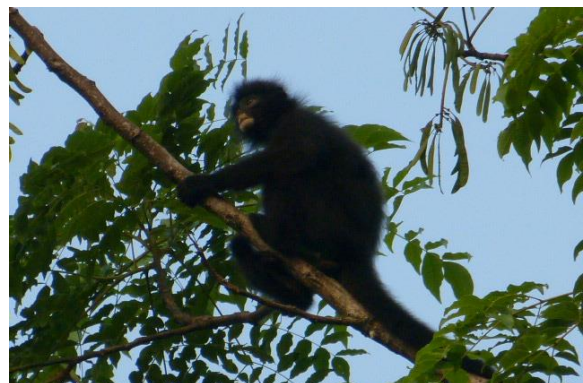
KSRY is approximately 2 hours south of KKNP and is to the south-east of Pran Buri. I visited the area to look for Fishing Cats which have been the subject of a major study in this area but despite spending 6-7 hours spotlighting drew a blank only finding several domestic cats scattered among the shrimp ponds, marshes and rice paddies. Serow also occurs in the park although we did not look for it. The only mammals we did see were Long-tailed Macaques along the 1020 near the park visitor centre.

Pak Thale area. <http://www.thaibirding.com/locations/central/lpb.htm>

We went here primarily to look for shorebirds but apparently large numbers of Lyle's Flying Foxes can be seen here at dusk.



Dusky Langur



Banded Langur?

Mammal List

Bengal Slow Loris Banded Langur	One near Baan Maka pre-dawn on the 18 th KKNP: 16 th 3+ with Dusky Langurs below the upper campsite. 19 th : 6+ above the upper campsite. There appears some dispute over langur identification. Several people have claimed and posted photos/video of Tenasserim Langur in KKNP but according to the IUCN website & Primate Taxonomy (Groves) it is only known from sites much further to the north and it appears that some of the posted photos at least are Banded Langurs of the race robinasi. None of the official park lists seem to recognise Tenasserim Langurs and I think that the problem is created as a result of inaccurate illustrations of Banded Langurs in Mammals of South-East Asia (Francis). KKNP – common, several troops totalling up to 50 a day. KKNP: 16 th groups of 15+ & 30+. 19 th 15+. One between Baan Maka & KKNP on the 17 th .
Dusky Langur Stump-tailed Macaque	Up to 20 near the Khao Sam Roi Yot visitor centre on both days.
Long-tailed Macaque	KKNP: Commonly heard but also seen widely, 16 th (2), 17 th (3 & 8), 18 th (1, 3 & 2) and 19 th (3).
White-handed Gibbon	KKNP: 18 th . One near the first waterhole pre-dawn.
Golden Jackal	KKNP: 19 th . One by the first waterhole at 1600 hours.
Asiatic Black Bear	KKNP: 16 th . One along the track above the upper campsite and another at the campsite itself.
Yellow-throated Marten	KKNP: One near the second waterhole pre-dawn on the 19 th . KKNP: 18 th . The back end of one crossing the track above the upper campsite at 1100.
Common Palm Civet Binturong	KKNP: 16 th . Three along the trail by the first stream crossing. KKNP: 17 th . One c.2 kms from the entrance gate pre-dawn. KKNP: 18 th one by the third stream crossing early morning. 19 th : One at the first waterhole pre-dawn.
Crab-eating Mongoose Leopard Cat Red Muntjac	KKNP: 16 th . Female by first waterhole late afternoon. 17 th . Male by first waterhole midday. 19 th . Four before the first waterhole pre-dawn and another at the first waterhole early afternoon. 20 th : one near the first campsite early morning. KKNP: Lots of evidence but no sightings. KKNP: One seen by the driver near the second waterhole mid-afternoon on the 17 th .
Sambar	KKNP: 16 th (2), 17 th (1), 19 th (1) KKNP: Three above the third stream on the 16 th . KKNP: 16 th (1), 17 th (2), 18 th (4) Ban Maka: 17 th (1), 20 th (4+)
Asian Elephant Gaur	KKNP: One above the upper campsite on the 19 th . KKNP: two near the waterholes prior to dawn on the 18 th . Singles pre-dawn between Ban Maka and KKNP on 18 th & 20 th .
Black Giant Squirrel Grey-bellied Squirrel Pallas's Squirrel	
Western Striped Squirrel Malayan Porcupine Burmese Hare	
Honorary Mammals	
Reticulated Python	A 12-footer on the track near the first waterhole at dusk on the 18 th , absolutely fabulous.
Oriental Pratincole	A terrific flock hawking over fields between Ban Maka and KKNP on the 20 th .
Blue-bearded Bee-eater	KKNP: One at the first waterhole on the 19 th .

APPENDIX A – The following tracks and scat were all found along a 4 km stretch of track between the waterholes and Bang Krang one morning. Add to these the Asian Elephant and Sambar droppings it demonstrates the richness of the area,



