

Thailand, from February 1st – February 25th 2011

Another trip with my girlfriend, and a report which I should have finished a long time ago ☺. Most of our time was spent in National Parks, with two cultural stops to see some temples. I didn't know the mammalwatching website when I prepared this trip, so I missed several doable species. Since I wrote this report four years after the trip, it is rather short.

Tuesday February 1st 2011

After having our flight changed due to the troubles in Cairo, we arrived in Bangkok, and on the drive from the airport to the city we saw our first mammal of the trip, a **Variable squirrel**.

Wednesday February 2nd 2011

Today we were going to look for Spoon-billed sandpipers (we saw seven birds), and – despite looking out for whales and dolphins on the Laem Bak Bia sandspit, no mammals were seen.

Thursday February 3rd 2011

We picked up our car at the airport, and started the drive to Kaeng Krachan, where we arrived in the evening, just in time to put up our tent on the campsite near the HQ.

Friday February 4th 2011

I was out at first light, adding two more squirrels to the list: **Pallas's squirrel** and **Burmese striped squirrel**. After breakfast we drove to the park, seeing 20+ **Long-tailed macaques** in the village. The drive to the first campsite was really nice, with the first of many **Spectacled leaf monkeys** (we saw large numbers of this species here every day), but the highlight was a **Dhole** crossing the road in front of our car! After putting up the tent, we were soon walking the area between the campsite and the three streams, adding **Black giant squirrel**, **Crab-eating mongoose** (two) and **Grey-bellied squirrel** to the list. **Pallas's** and **Burmese striped squirrel** were present too. In the evening, a **Sambar** was walking around in the campsite, and after dark, a lone **Asian elephant** was feeding there too, totally unconcerned of the lights and mobile phones of all the Thai people looking at it and taking pictures. Some spotlighting near the restaurant resulted in three **Malayan porcupines** and one **Masked palm civet**. Leaving the campsite in the evening to do some spotlighting was unfortunately not possible, and some people who arrived just after dark met some very angry rangers, who were just about to leave to go looking for them with their guns ready in case they encountered elephants.



Long-tailed macaque, near Kaeng Krachan.



Spectacled leaf monkey, Kaeng Krachan.

Saturday February 5th 2011

Another day in this amazing area, with several of yesterday's mammals seen, including another **Crab-eating mongoose** (most of the squirrels were seen here daily too), but also our first **White-handed gibbons** (seen and heard as well, great to hear these animals vocalizing!), and the only **Yellow-throated marten** of the trip crossed the road while we were driving to the upper campsite. At about km 27, a group of about five **Banded langurs** gave short but nice views.



White-handed gibbon, Kaeng Krachan.

Sunday February 6th 2011

More of the same today, but also a **Northern tree shrew** at the upper campsite, and a **Lesser mouse deer** near the 2nd stream. In the evening, an **Asian palm civet** was present at the campsite.



Spectacled leaf monkey, Kaeng Krachan.

Monday February 7th 2011

We left Kaeng Krachan to head north today, and on the drive to the gate we saw our first **Red muntjac**, and a group of 25+ **Stump-tailed macaques**. Our destination was Sukhothai Historical Park, and no more mammals were seen this day.



Stump-tailed macaque, near Kaeng Krachan.

Tuesday February 8th 2011

Visiting the temples all day, seeing not a single wild mammal.

Wednesday February 9th 2011

We drove to Doi Inthanon and walked some trails in the afternoon, but again no mammals were seen...

Thursday February 10th 2011

Finally some mammals again, two **Pallas's squirrels** near the summit of Doi Inthanon.

Friday February 11th 2011

Pallas's squirrel was the only mammals seen today at Doi Inthanon.

Saturday February 12th 2011

We drove to Doi Chiang Dao, and again only saw a **Pallas's squirrel**...

Sunday February 13th 2011

We spent the whole day at Den Ya Kat, with a **Pallas's squirrel** again, but finally something else too, a nice **Indian giant flying squirrel** sailing over our heads in the evening.

Monday February 14th 2011

Another day without mammals...

Tuesday February 15th 2011

Two **Northern tree shrews** at the temple near Doi Chiang Dao turned out to be the only mammals of the day.

Wednesday February 16th 2011

During the long drive from Doi Chiang Dao to Nam Nao National Park we didn't see any mammals.

Thursday February 17th 2011

We walked the trails of this park all day, and saw a **Variable squirrel** (the pied morph), but also a lone **Asian elephant**. This one was walking on the trail in our direction, resulting in some tense moments, but luckily it soon walked into the forest.

Friday February 18th 2011

The first hours of the day were spent in Nam Nao, with some more pied **Variable squirrels**, and also two **Cambodian striped squirrels**. In the afternoon we drove to Ayutthaya, seeing a white **Variable squirrel** en route.

Saturday February 19th 2011

Another day with temple visits, but this time at least some mammals were present in the form of **Variable squirrels**.

Sunday February 20th 2011

We drove to Khao Yai in the morning, seeing some **Sambar**, the first **Northern pig-tailed macaques** and some **Red Muntjacs**, three species that we would see here every day in good numbers.



Northern pig-tailed macaque, Khao Yai.

Monday February 21st 2011

Early morning was spent in the watchtower in the hope of seeing a Tiger or some Dholes, but we only saw more of the common species. On the trails later that day we saw several **White-handed gibbons**, two **Lesser mouse deer**, and **Black giant**, **Grey-bellied** and **Variable squirrels**.



Sambar, Khao Yai.

Tuesday February 22nd 2011

All day on the trails again, with lots of the common mammals, but nothing new. In the evening we saw an **Asian palm civet** near the visitor centre. We also took one of the night safaris, and although I didn't expected to see much, we ended with three **Malayan crested porcupines**, three **Small Indian civets**, and best of all, a **Bengal loris**.



Black giant squirrel, Khao Yai.

Wednesday February 23rd 2011

Our last full day in Thailand, with more of the same species, but also two new mammals: two **Smooth-coated otters** which gave good views at the Haew Suwat Waterfall Trail, and an **Indochinese ground-squirrel** was present at the campsite. Near the watchtower we found very fresh tracks of some Dholes, but unfortunately we didn't see the animals itself.



Smooth-coated otter, Khao Yai.



Northern pig-tailed macaque, Khao Yai.

All in all this was a great trip, with some nice mammals and birds, very friendly people, and some great food. I could have seen more if I had known the mammalwatching website, but can't complain with what I saw. A good reason to go back to this very nice country 😊!

Mammals list

1. **Asian elephant** *Elephas maximus*: two solitary animals were seen, one at Kaeng Krachan and one at Nam Nao.
2. **Masked palm civet** *Paguma larvata*: seen once, at Kaeng Krachan.
3. **Asian palm civet** *Paradoxurus hermaphrodites*: seen at Kaeng Krachan and Khai Yai.
4. **Small Indian civet** *Viverricula indica*: seen once, during the night safari in Khao Yai.
5. **Crab-eating mongoose** *Herpestes urva*: seen twice at Kaeng Krachan.
6. **Dhole** *Cuon alpinus*: one animal crossed the road to the first campsite in Kaeng Krachan. In Khao Yai we found some fresh tracks near the watchtower.
7. **Smooth-coated otter** *Lutrogale perspicillata*: two animals were seen very well at the Haew Suwat Waterfall Trail in Khao Yai.
8. **Yellow-throated marten** *Martes flavigula*: seen once, an animal crossing the road to the upper campsite in Kaeng Krachan.
9. **Lesser mouse deer** *Tragulus kanchil*: we saw two solitary animals in Kaeng Krachan and two together in Khao Yai.
10. **Red muntjac** *Muntiacus muntjak*: seen once in Kaeng Krachan, and up to 15 daily in Khao Yai.



11. **Sambar** *Rusa unicolor*: seen once in Kaeng Krachan, and up to 100 daily in Khao Yai.
12. **Malayan porcupine** *Hystrix brachyura*: Seen several evenings in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai.
13. **Grey-bellied squirrel** *Callosciurus caniceps*: Daily sightings in both Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai.
14. **Pallas's squirrel** *Callosciurus erythraeus*: three were seen at Kaeng Krachan, and seen daily at Doi Inthanon.

15. **Variable squirrel** *Callosciurus finlaysonii*: first mammal of the trip in Bangkok, also seen in Nam Nao, Ayutthaya and Khao Yai.
16. **Indochinese ground squirrel** *Menetes berdmorei*: seen once, at the campsite in Khao Yai.
17. **Indian giant flying squirrel** *Petaurista philippensis*: only seen at Den Ya Kat.
18. **Black giant squirrel** *Ratufa bicolor*: seen in both Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai.
19. **Burmese striped squirrel** *Tamiops macclellandii*: several sightings in Kaeng Krachan.



20. **Cambodian striped squirrel** *Tamiops rodolphii*: seen in Nam Nao and Khao Yai.
21. **Northern tree shrew** *Tupaia belangeri*: sighted on three days, in Kaeng Krachan, Doi Chiang Dao (2 animals) and Khao Yai.
22. **Bengal loris** *Nycticebus bengalensis*: seen once, during the night tour in Khao Yai.
23. **Stump-tailed macaque** *Macaca arctoides*: a group of about 25 animals was seen upon leaving Kaeng Krachan.
24. **Long-tailed macaque** *Macaca fascicularis*: a group of about 20 animals was seen upon entering Kaeng Krachan.
25. **Northern pig-tailed macaque** *Macaca leonina*: seen daily in large numbers in Khao Yai.



26. **Banded langur** *Presbytis femoralis*: a group of five animals gave good views in Kaeng Krachan.
27. **Spectacled leaf monkey** *Trachypithecus obscurus*: only seen in Kaeng Krachan, with up to 65 seen daily.



28. **White-handed gibbon** *Hylobates lar*: seen or heard daily in Kaeng Krachan and Khao Yai, their sound is one of the best things to hear in a rainforest!

