

## **Indonesia Mammal Watching Trip Report**



This is a report of the wildlife (mostly mammals) observed on a trip to Indonesia by Ian Loyd (Reef and Rainforest Tours), Lorna Watson and Steve Morgan in late June and early July 2014. We visited TanjungPuting National Park in Indonesian Borneo in the first week and then teamed up with Steve Morgan, a friend and fellow mammal enthusiast for a long stay at Way Kambas National Park in southern Sumatra. The trip was an overall success with some superb wildlife seen but we also came away slightly frustrated by the poor views of unidentified cats. For species lists see the bottom of this report.

### **Kalimantan**

We flew from London Heathrow to Jakarta via Abu Dhabi on Etihad and spent a night at the FM7 Resort Hotel on arrival. The next day we flew on Trigana Air to PangkalanBuun in southern central Kalimantan, Indonesian Borneo to spend four days exploring TanjungPuting National Park.

Our guide Eddy was very knowledgeable, humorous and had excellent English. While exploring TanjungPuting we stayed at Rimba Eco lodge. The lodge is located in TanjungKeluang village and is the only accommodation option in the park if you don't want to sleep on the *Klotok* house boats.

### **TanjungPuting**

TanjungPuting is the largest protected forest in central Kalimantan and covers 3,040 square km of lowland dipterocarp and peat swamp forest and is probably home to highest density (over 6000) of wild orang-utans in the world. The best wildlife viewing centres on Camp Leakey (2 hours upstream from Rimba Eco Lodge). Camp Leakey was set up in 1971 by Louis Leakey to support research into orang-utans and, over the years, scientists here have habituated and studied hundreds of orang-utans. The chief researcher is Birute Galdikas who, together with Jane Goodall and Dian Fossey, worked with Leakey to form many of the current theories on primate behaviour and biology. The site was also one of the foremost rehabilitation centres for orphaned orangs. In 1995 new regulations in Kalimantan prohibited the reintroduction of orang-utans into areas already supporting healthy wild populations to prevent the risk of disease transmission, and there are currently now no new releases to the Camp Leakey area.

The population of orang-utans at Camp Leakey is a mixture of rehabilitated, descendants of rehabilitated and truly wild but habituated orang-utans. It's a 30 minute walk from the boat drop station to a feeding station in the forest, where a mixture of fruit is put out to provide an extra food source for the apes as it is thought there are no longer enough fruiting trees to support the orang-utan population here.

We had every possible type of orang-utan encounter here including mothers with newborns, infants and large males. On arrival on our first visit we had a young male actually walk past us on the boardwalk. As he got closer I knelt down to seem less intimidating and encourage him to pass by us, which he did but stopped right alongside us and actually looked into each of our eyes with curiosity at a distance of just a few feet.



Another memorable encounter was walking along a shaded track and spotting an orang curled up almost asleep at the foot of a large tree ahead of us. When we got quite close he purposely approached and Eddy, our guide thinking he recognised this individual as an aggressive young male grabbed Lorna and ran back with her concerned he might be telling us to back off. As it turned out this male was not the aggressive individual Eddy remembered but another

young male with a bite wound on his shoulder. It actually transpired that this male wanted some company and later followed us down the track. He then grew bolder and actually walked alongside us as part of the group for 5 minutes! This is very unusual as the species is normally solitary.

With the abundance of fruit on the feeding table at Camp Leakey, this area is also the best spot to see **agile gibbon** and **bearded pig** within the park, and we had superb close views of both near the feeding station and along trails through the forest. We also saw a pair of **black-eared pygmy squirrels** in the low scrub towards the end of the longest stretch of walkway. **Proboscis monkey, long-tailed macaque and silvered langur** were all easily seen each day on outings along the river.



As the primates roost in the branches overhanging the river, dusk always produced the highest numbers and most entertaining behaviour. The **Malaysian false gharial crocodile** which is becoming increasingly rare due to the loss of peat swamp forest still thrives in the park and we had some good sightings of this species as well as the massive saltwater or estuarine crocodile. The gharials were more numerous in the black water streams and higher up into the park. Although we didn't see any, the estuary at Kumai is home to Irrawaddy river dolphins although the population is probably very low and it appears they are rarely seen.





### **Way Kambas National Park**

Way Kambas National Park covers 1300 square km of coastal lowland and dipterocarp forest in southern Sumatra to the east of Bandar Lampung. I first heard about the potential of this park on the [mammalwatching.com](http://mammalwatching.com) website and in particular the useful trip reports by Richard Webb. SteveMorgan and I planned a trip to the park in the hoping of seeing some of its exciting and more elusive mammals and in particular the notoriously difficult marbled cat.

Way Kambas is one of the oldest protected forests in Indonesia and despite heavy logging, development and poaching in the area has retained populations of some of the most endangered mammals in South-East Asia. There are thought to be 20 Sumatran rhino and maybe as many as 180 wild Sumatran elephants in the park and we were even told by a ranger that there are also 30 Sumatran tigers. However we think this was an over estimate or exaggeration given the size of the park. There is an impressive list of other mammal species including a good population of sun bear and Malayan tapir as well as a mouth-watering list of cats including tiger, sunda clouded leopard, marbled cat, Asian golden cat, fishing cat, leopard cat and flat headed cat.

The park is also home to the Sumatran rhino breeding centre where currently four individuals are kept in large enclosures with natural surroundings in the hope of creating a viable captive breeding programme for the species which is on the verge of extinction. We tried to arrange a visit to the centre during our stay but as the rhinos were showing signs of breeding behaviour we could not visit, in order to keep disturbance to a minimum.

We arranged our visit with Ecolodges Indonesia and stayed at the lovely Satwa Elephant Eco Lodge in the village of Rajabasalama which is just a 2 minute drive from the entrance to the park. The lodge has four comfortable cottages scattered around its gardens and a nice open sided restaurant.

Hari is the lodge's resident naturalist guide, who is highly recommended. Unfortunately we were not able to be guided by Hari during the first 4 days of our stay despite specifically booking him in advance. Sadly we did feel this had a significant impact on the success of our excursions as Hari had very good English, knew the park like the back of his hand, had excellent field craft skills and was always enthusiastic to find as much as he could. The main activities on offer in the park include game drives along the main jeep track, boat trips along the Way Kanan River, hikes through the forest along trails (including a known tiger trail to see fresh tracks if lucky) and elephant rides on the domesticated elephants at the elephant rescue centre.

## Way KambasDiary

### Day 1

On arrival at Satwa lodge we were greeted by a friendly team and shown a baby **Sunda slow loris** of about a week or two of age. It had been separated from its mother and fallen to the ground the night before. It was clearly not in the best health and we tried unsuccessfully to reintroduce it back to the wild, hoping its mother would find it and still accept it despite the human smell. When it became clear this would not work, Lorna (being an experienced veterinary nurse) volunteered to try and nurse it to better health in the hope that a future reintroduction effort might be successful. Unfortunately after an initial improvement the baby died halfway through our stay which may have been the best outcome.



Our first evening foray was in search of adult **sunda slow loris** (hoping we might find the mother) in the trees around the lodge and outskirts of the village. We almost immediately found a male climbing along a telegraph wire between trees, allowing for a wonderful close up sighting. We then found a more distant adult atop a tree on the edge of the lodge garden. A walk around the nearby fields produced a **large-tailed nightjar** and some distant eye shine of an

unidentified mammal as well as some large **unidentified rats** at an old chicken house. The area around Satwa Lodge is probably the most reliable spot to see a slow loris anywhere in the world.

### Day 2

We awoke early for a pre-dawn game drive into the park which produced our first sighting of many **Indian red muntjacs** in the gloom of the early morning light. As it became lighter we found a skittish troop of **southern pig-tailed macaques** crossing the track ahead of us and later a sounder of **Eurasian wild boar** rooting in the vegetation at the roadside. The birds then started to wake up and we saw our first **crested firebacks** and **red junglefowl**. Reaching somewhere about halfway along the track we stopped and began to walk for a while, and all experienced our first Way Kambas leeches. Along this walk though we heard a crash in the canopy above us and Hari quickly located a fantastic **siamang gibbon** staring down at us from the canopy directly over the track. He posed for a couple of minutes before swinging off into denser cover.

Hari then took us to a small bridge where we found a roost of about 11 horseshoe bats. After scrutinising our pictures of them and much studying of the field guides we concluded that they were **acuminate horseshoe bats**.



By about 9 am we arrived at the end of the jeep track at the Way Kanan Ranger Substation. After a well needed breakfast in the bush we explored the buildings around the station in search of more bats. Hari knew of a roost of fruit bats, which can regularly be seen under the canvas roof of the last shelter before the river. These were **Greater short-nosed fruit bats** and very attractive animals. We also found a superb roosting **lesser false vampire bat** in the roof of a decrepit building. Here we also saw more muntjacs feeding in the lush grass near the back of the clearing. The silence was suddenly broken when a trio of siamang gibbons decided it was time for their morning song, and what a sound it is! We followed the sound to find the three gibbons excitedly moving through the larger trees on the edge of the clearing again this time we obtained even better views. The return journey along the jeep track was much less eventful but we did find an elusive **three-banded ground squirrel** as well the much more common and widespread **plantain squirrel**. Back at the lodge we were treated to our first really good views of **common treeshrews** in the lodge grounds. In the evening we made our first night drive into the park. The first animal of note was a **colugo** I spotted climbing up a huge trunk at the side of the track. The prolonged view gave us a superb opportunity to study the perfect camouflage and curious profile of this unique mammal. I then spotted eyeshine at about head height in the trees and was initially very puzzled as to what the creature was. It turned out to be a **Sunda slow loris** but this time it was very obscured by dense foliage. We also had our first sighting of a **lesser mouse deer** although very brief and distant.



### Day 3

We gave ourselves a lie in this morning and just enjoyed the birds and common treeshrews in the grounds. In the afternoon we met our replacement Guide, Apri whose full time job was as a ranger in the National Park. We set off later than planned for a boat trip along Way Kanan River heading downstream towards the coast. We passed some beautiful areas of forest with natural clearings which we noted as being likely spots to produce a sighting later on. We soon found troops of **long-tailed macaques** and **Sunda silvered langurs** in the riverside trees. Once it finally became dark we began spotlighting along the river and found eyeshine from some very large **saltwater crocodiles**, a possible **Bonaparte's nightjar** flew along the river and we found a couple of eye shines deep in the forest that evaded us. About halfway into the journey Steve exclaimed he had carnivore like eyeshine low to the ground. We double backed with the boat and initially struggled to relocate the eyes in the dense vegetation. However once we had re-found it we were able to get a better look at it through binoculars and could clearly see it was a cat. We could distinguish that it had a large head with large eyes and some markings around the side of the eyes as well as striped above the eyes. Despite it remaining sat on the ground watching us from a distance of just 7 or 8 metres the thick vegetation around it made it just too difficult to see well. It was clearly sitting in the middle of the vegetation where it may have been stalking something and was now just watching us. After a few more fleeting glimpses we all concluded that we thought it was a **fishing cat**. However the views were extremely frustrating. We then travelled only a few hundred meters further upstream to find a pair of **Malayan tapirs**!

They were grazing in the first clearing we had passed that we thought could provide an exciting sighting earlier on. Bingo! The final sighting of the night was of an unidentified pair of large eyes Lorna and I first thought was a large cat but we were never sure exactly what it was as it disappeared before we could identify it.

#### Day 4

The morning game drive through the park this morning produced sightings of long-tailed macaques, siamang gibbons and plantain squirrels. There were also some exciting birds including **red-naped trogons**, **storm's stork** and **chestnut-winged babbler**. In the afternoon we took another boat trip along the Way Kanan and almost immediately came across a mother and fawn **sambar deer** that posed well in the first main clearing. Long-tailed macaques were followed by silverlangurs and we also found a **rough-necked monitor lizard** clinging to a tree stump. Next was a sighting of **prevost's squirrel** almost asleep on a horizontal branch and a fly past **purple heron**. **Dollarbirds**, **imperial green pigeon**, **white-throated** and **stork billed kingfishers** were all seen further downstream. The spotlighting this evening was much less productive and we only found distant eyeshines that never revealed themselves. The return journey along the jeep track was at first looking interesting when we discovered some very fresh elephant droppings and a trail of destruction showing where they had very recently passed. Unfortunately however our vehicle failed on us and once we got it started again we had to race back to the lodge without any spotlighting effort in case the battery died again.

#### Day 5

Today we took another morning walk along the jeep track which produced birds including **red-naped trogon**, **Rufous-winged philentoma**, and **purple-naped sunbird**. At about mid-morning we saw a **lesser mouse deer** cross the road in front of us with a muntjack alongside it giving us a fantastic comparison of size. In the evening we took another boat trip along the Way Kanan which produced little of note as we had an extremely noisy boat. We did however run into a squabble between families of **long tailed macaques** and watched as the youngsters of the group were severely told off for being naughty in some way, which was very entertaining. Once dark had fallen we headed up a different stretch of river through an area with more open forest and grassland that looked very promising. Hari picked up eyeshine in deep forest on the other side of the river which we soon identified as a very small cat. We could see the cat moving between the trees on the other side of the river which had very delicate features but sadly kept itself very well hidden despite quite prolonged views. We were fairly confident that it was a **leopard cat**. We continued further upriver but found it to become quieter and quieter except for some monstrous saltwater crocodiles. Hari exclaimed that he has always found this area to be quiet but it is where others have seen tapirs and is reputedly the best area to see a Sumatran rhino, however the chances might be 2% at best. The rest of night was fairly uneventful apart from a superb snake I spotted coiled up on a log over the water. As of yet I have not been able to identify it to species level.

## Day 6

Today we had Hari guiding us again all day which made a huge difference to our success. In the afternoon we took a boat trip along the Way Kanan again and soon came across an area of flattened grass at the water's edge in one of the larger clearings with some large piles of dung nearby. **Elephants!** Hari whispered pointing into the forest. They were not visible but we could hear a faint rustle, and a few minutes later an unmistakable elephant trumpet! We had clearly arrived about 5 minutes too late as it was apparent the herd had been drinking here before we arrived. However Hari's keen hearing helped us predict where they might emerge next and we tracked their movements by watching the tops of the trees shake. We all waited with bated breath in silence for about an hour until finally an elephant sounded like it was approaching us. For such a massive animal they were remarkably quiet and stealthy in their forest environment. Finally an adult emerged at the edge of the



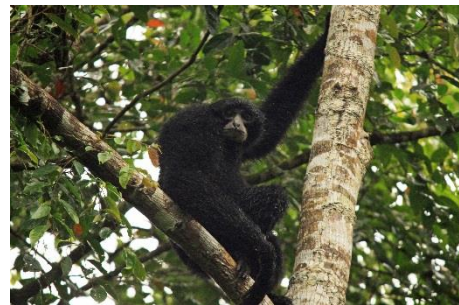
clearing and crept out just enough to see us and dash back in to the forest again. We had a good view but it was clear just how shy these elephants were of people. A second appeared further up the river where it had a drink and took a trunk full of vegetation giving us a much better view as it had not spotted us. The rest of the herd then approached the river and we could hear them drinking just the other side of some bushes. This created a dilemma for Hari and the boat driver as if we crept closer silently with the oars we would be very close and potentially vulnerable if the elephants felt spooked and charged. Therefore we waited a few minutes to create a plan. We could actually see the elephants drinking from the water because of their reflection in the water underneath the small bush that separated us from them! We decided the best option was to switch on the engine behind the bush in safety and then speed past them to give us a view without being at risk of being crushed. We started up and raced by with cameras at the ready only to be greeted by an empty clearing! They must have bolted the second they heard the engine start. The rest of the boat trip was fairly uneventful but we did have a close view of a **water monitor lizard**.

The night drive back produced some great views of **lesser** and **greater mouse deer**. About half way back I spotted eyeshine about 20 metres back in the forest. I initially thought it was another mouse deer as I could only see one eye, but it was shining a very bright green. After following it for a few seconds in the torch it turned to face us, giving us all a view of both its bright green eyes. The animal was clearly a carnivore with forward facing eyes and a roundish face. I eventually got it in the bins and confirmed it immediately as a cat, it had a wide face with large ears and I could make out some dark markings and stripes on the top of the head. It had an overall shaggy appearance and was low to the ground (not much bigger than a domestic cat). It then started to walk away from us and despite rodent squeaking attempts we lost it. I felt pretty sure it was a **marbled cat** but it was not conclusive as I could not rule out golden cat. Hari then exclaimed that we were about 50 metres from where he had seen a marbled cat with Richard Webb last year.

## Day 7

This morning just I went out with Hari. We spent some time concentrating on birds at first and found **green-billed, red-billed** and **raffles malkohas, red-bearded bee eater, brown barbet, velvet-fronted nuthatch, Malaysian blue flycatcher** and eventually the striking **green** and **banded broadbills**. We also did exceptionally well for woodpeckers with **banded, maroon, buff-necked, crimson-winged, checker-throated and rufous woodpecker** all seen very well.

While watching a mixed flock of bulbuls we heard disturbance further back in the trees and tracked down a pair of **siamang gibbons** and a very large squirrel which eventually stopped long enough to be identified and photographed. It was a **cream-coloured giant squirrel**, a real giant of a squirrel. After following another mixed species bird flock moving through the canopy our attention was drawn to



a very small, slender mammal leaping through the midstorey branches. At first we both assumed this was a species of pygmy squirrel but as soon as we got it in the binoculars it was apparent it was actually a treeshrew. I managed to get some pictures, which proved very valuable in helping to clinch identification of it as a **lesser treeshrew**. This was a new sighting for Hari. We made our way further along the jeep track to an area Hari has seen mitred langur in before. The forest was very dense here making it difficult to penetrate into if we saw anything. We heard a crash very close and raced to its location only to find no sign of any animal. We spent around 30 minutes quietly waiting in this area until suddenly I caught a sight of a blonde primate leaping vertically up a trunk just back from the track. It was a **mitred langur** but soon vanished into the canopy. Hari had a second glimpse of it swinging away but that was all we ever saw of this fantastic primate. They are clearly extremely shy here maybe as a result of poaching.

Back at the lodge, I went for a wander and was drawn to a peculiar sound coming from the bushes at the back of the garden. The sound was like nothing I have heard before, but after realising where it was coming from I started to wonder if it was an amphibian. Sure enough it was; a large golden coloured treefrog of unknown identity, however that was not the end of the story. The frog was half engulfed by the gaping mouth of a **painted bronzeback tree snake**! I tried to not disturb the predation to let the outcome be a natural one but the snake was clearly distressed by my presence once it saw me and reared up with the frog still in its mouth and moved several metres across the lawn demonstrating its power for such a small snake. The frog then miraculously seemed to leap free of the snake's grip and hopped off seemingly unscathed.

The evening spotlighting drive started very quietly until I spotted a **Malayan porcupine** ambling down a small ditch to drink from a small pond. We reversed up to the ditch with the porcupine calmly drinking away giving Lorna and me on the right side of the vehicle a great view.

Sadly the driver accidentally nudged the car horn just as we came to a stop where we could all see it and take pictures and it bolted before Steve and Hari even got to see it. We later found a stunning **Malayan civet** wandering around the back of the Kay Kanan station and a second in the forest close by unfortunately neither stayed in view long enough to see through the bins well or take any pictures. On the return we found a **brown hawk owl** obligingly perched on a branch above the track.



Towards the end of the drive Steve found some quite large eyeshine from a probable carnivore. We stopped and tried to relocate the animal which completely disappeared so we decided to try and walk into the forest a little way with the lights off to try and squeak it closer. We actually ended up walking a fair way into the trees and squeaked for a few minutes to no avail. Hari then turned on the spotlight to see if something had come in to investigate, and did a quick scan with the torch. "**Feather-tailed treeshrew!**"



He exclaimed in an almost hysterical voice. We could hardly believe our eyes when this rarely seen and truly spectacular looking mammal ran along a horizontal branch at head height in front of us. Hari then skilfully kept the spotlight on it as it ran through the branches until it very obligingly stopped to rest amongst a clump of thick vines giving a superb view and photo opportunity. We were all thrilled. Further on Hari spotted something on the side of the track, but it disappeared as soon as the vehicle approached. He then squeaked for several minutes and turned on the spotlight. Lorna, Hari and I could all see an animal approach to within a few feet of the car but it was still hidden within thick vegetation, unfortunately Steve was on the wrong side of the car again and couldn't quite see it. I first thought it was a leopard cat but soon realised that the animal was not a cat at all and Hari called it as a banded civet. However at the time both Lorna and I thought it was actually a **banded linsang**, and after further research we feel more confident of its identity.

The view I had was very obscured by the dense vegetation but what both Lorna and I could clearly see was a very conspicuous small pink nose, small cat like paws, a very pale throat and a pale face with some dark masking and blotching. After doing some research I feel fairly certain that the animal was a linsang as banded civets have much more elongated noses than the animal we saw that had a much more cat like face and the nose of the civet is rarely shown as being pink.

We then took an extra dive along the elephant track road. Here came across very fresh elephant dung in the middle of the road, it was still steaming! We then passed a small ride in the forest and there, just 15 metres away, was a bull **Sumatran pygmy elephant** casually walking down the track away from us.

We then passed a fig tree which I spotted eyeshine inside of, we all got out to try and get a better view and unfortunately the animal spooked, but I did manage to see that it was a palm civet of unknown species. As we tried to relocate it an **oriental bay owl** briefly landed on a horizontal branch long enough for us all to see it. The rest of the night was uneventful.

## Day 8

This morning we decided not to go in the park until later as we went to check our mammal traps and found that Steve had caught something. It was a beautiful ginger rat with a clean white belly and which we identified as a **red spiny rat**. After we took some pictures we released him where we caught him. I spent some time that morning photographing birds and butterflies around the garden. **Orange-bellied flowerpecker, sooty-headed bulbul and crested serpent eagle** were all seen well and *Tirumala limniace exotica*, *euploeacamardzemanhyponis*, *ideopsis vulgaris mocrina*, *ideopsisjuventajuventa* and *pachilopetraaristolochiae* were among the identified butterfly species.

The evening night drive was a mostly frustrating one with multiple unidentified eyeshines and poor views of lesser and greater mouse deer. We did however have a good but brief view of a **common palm civet**. It was scavenging around the buildings at Way Kanan and bolted as soon as it saw us. Hari took us to look for **large frogmouth** here too which we found without much difficulty and enjoyed some outstanding views of this impressive species.

## Day 9

Today we made an early start in search of mitred langur along the jeep track trying in many good areas without success however we did have some good views of long-tailed macaques, red muntjacks and wild boar. On the bird front we found **fluffy-backed tit babbler, crimson-breasted flowerpecker, blue-winged leafbird, dark-throated oriole, greater racket-tailed drongo and scarlet minivet**. We found very fresh small cat tracks in the mud from the night before along the track close to the turn off for the rhino centre, (near where I had the possible marbled cat). This time we could see that there was a pair of cats walking together, which we all suspected was a mother and cub (possibly a marbled cat) based on size. We also found a largish cat scat which after some research on the internet looked likely to be clouded leopard! The last moment of excitement occurred when we were walking back along the jeep track watching some birds when a muntjac bolted across the track followed by a second this time barking loudly in distress at something hidden in the forest ahead. This muntjack remained on the forest edge barking in one direction and clearly fixated by something of concern even when we surprised it from behind. The first sighting on the night drive that evening produced a fantastic sighting of a **red giant flying squirrel** feeding in the top of a tree, followed by a **colugo** which we were lucky enough to see glide from tree to tree. The sight of these strange mammals effortlessly gliding through the trees is really memorable. Next came some great close up views of 2 different large **tarantulas** of unknown species, well spotted by our driver. As we neared the Way Kanan Substation I picked up eyeshine from a cat crouched on the forest floor. However it was only visible from the car at a very awkward angle, so it took several attempts of reversing before we could all see it but unfortunately just as I got it in the bins it got up and walked away into the forest. We tried to follow it a little way in to the forest too but soon lost it. I was pretty certain it was a **leopard cat** but was left with unsatisfactory and inconclusive views yet again. A confiding lesser mouse deer at close range however provided the best view yet of this wonderful animal. We took a drive along the elephant centre track after the jeep track this evening which only produced **sambar deer** and a **collared scops owl**.



## Day 10

This morning I stayed at the lodge as Lorna had become quite unwell with a stomach upset, and Steve went out with Hari. They eventually found a mitred langur. In the afternoon I took a final walk around the village to soak up the rural village life and saw some nice butterflies in the lodge gardens. We all set off on our final night drive hoping for one last exciting sighting. We started with a solitary sambar grazing near the park entrance and a pair of **buffy fish owls** also giving good views in the same area. Further along we came across what was presumably the same **giant red flying squirrel** as the day before feeding even higher in the canopy of the same tree. It then obliged us by opening its impressive flaps of skin and glided effortlessly out of the tree and deeper into the forest. Next came a third sighting of a colugo this time perched underneath a large branch and giving the best stationary view yet. We also found a stunning **Malayan civet** crossing the track ahead of the car which we briefly managed to squeak back for a second view but still not long enough for a picture.

It was then mostly quiet until the return journey when at some point along the upper jeep track a huge black and white beast appeared in the middle of the track. A third **Malayan tapir**! Not only did it stay for a picture it actually calmly walked up the track towards us until it was no less than 15 metres from the car and veered off into the forest and immediately vanished! We were all left speechless. We assumed it would not get much better than that tonight but still wanted to do



one last drive along the elephant centre track. Here we quickly found a **sunda slow loris** doing what it says on the tin, and moving extremely slowly up a vine tangle in the open and had good sightings of sambadeer and **buffy fish owl**. We then pulled up alongside a fruit bearing tree which was shaking violently with the weight of an animal inside it. A large dark civet bounced out and paused for a second in the open, enough time for me to grab a record shot and then it was gone. Hari and I saw a pale mask on the face and a check of my picture which showed a white-tipped tail confirmed it as a **masked palm civet**! The final sighting was by Hari only as he spotted a small cat sitting in very dense undergrowth at the side of the track bordering the forest. We tried to relocate it, but unsuccessfully, so we went into the trees to see where it had been sitting. Here we found its footprints in the soft mud, which looked most likely to belong to a leopard cat. Sadly that was to be the final sighting of the night.

### Summary.

We had a great trip and enjoyed the company of Steve, Hari, Eddy and all of the team at the Ecosafari Lodges. We left feeling Way Kambas had enormous potential for wildlife watching and in particular mammal viewing. The park which is currently off the main tourist map would greatly benefit from increased ecotourism which would in turn increase funds, local employment, protection and conservation work within the park.

As for the wildlife viewing in Way Kambas, we did expect to find more animals actually walking along the main jeep track as this is common behaviour for forest species which use the track as a corridor and territory boundary. Although we did find a few animals on the track, most were spotlighted at the sides which meant obtaining good views and pictures was almost always out of the question.

It is possible that most animals were already on the track until they heard the vehicle approaching and then moved to the side. Therefore having a 4x4 or pickup truck with more open room for spotlighting would greatly enhance the experience.

Boats with quieter engines and more comfortable seating would also improve the river based wildlife viewing. TanjungPuting was an equally enjoyable experience and it is hard to imagine anywhere with better orang-utan viewing but the diversity of other wildlife sightings was lower than at other sites in Borneo.

## **Species Lists**

### **Mammals**

#### **1. Bornean orang-utan**

Many wild and semi wild individuals seen in TanjungPuting National Park, with a whole of sightings including having large males shake branches at us to warn us our boat was too close, to having a curious young male walk alongside us for several minutes as we walked along a trail. The orang utans at Camp Leakey consist of both truly wild and semi wild orang utans. The semi wild individuals were all born in the wild and live wild now but have were orphaned at some stage of their life and have rehabilitated to enable them to survive in the wild.

#### **2. Agile gibbon**

We had just one sighting of a female that came to the feeding station at Camp Leakey on our first visit.

#### **3. Siamang gibbon**

I had at least 5 sightings in Way Kambas, and many different locations including the forest next to the clearing at Way Kanan. We heard gibbons calling every morning.

#### **4. Proboscis monkey**

We saw at least 4 or 5 troops each day in TanjungPuting National Park mostly in the evenings when they come to roost in the trees overhanging the river. We had some very memorable sightings including a young female leaping as far as she could across the river.

#### **5. Long tailed macaque**

Seen daily in TanjungPutingNational Park and most days in Way Kambas.

#### **6. Southern Pig tailed macaque**

Just one troop of at least 7 individuals crossed the road ahead of us in Way Kambas just after dawn on our first morning drive.

#### **7. Mitred langur**

I had one good but brief sighting of an individual climbing into thick vegetation not far from the Way Kanan in Way Kambas.



**8. Sunda silvered langur**

We saw this species on three evenings in TanjungPuting National Park in Riverside trees and on each of our boat trips in Way Kambas where they were common along the first stretch of river from Way Kanan.

**9. Sunda slow loris**

Our first encounter was with the approximately week old orphaned baby nursed by Lorna. We then found two adult loris, including an inquisitive male, on a telephone wire in the trees close to the garden of Satwa Lodge in Way Kambas. We also found one along the middle jeep track and another along the elephant centre entrance track.

**10. Sunda flying lemur (Colugo)**

We had three very good views including one gliding through the forest at night all along the middle to end of the jeep track where the trees were generally taller.

**11. Asian (pygmy) elephant**

We had a good view of at least 2 in Way Kambas, drinking from the Way Kanan River on our third boat trip just before dusk at the second significant clearing on the river if heading downriver from Way Kanan. We had a second very close sighting of a lone bull walking away from us down a small ride in the forest along the entrance road to the elephant centre. We found fresh dung along here every time we drove along here.

**12. Malayan tapir**

The first sighting was of a pair of adults grazing in the first significant clearing along the Way Kanan River, just after you leave the Way Kanan ranger station on our first boat trip about an hour after dark. We had good but brief views as they were spooked by our spotlights. The second sighting was of a lone adult in the middle jeep track area that walked to within 15 metres of the car before disappearing into the forest about 2 hours after dark.

**13. Sambar deer**

We had sightings of this species on average every other day in Way Kambas, mostly and the best sighting was of a mother and fawn in the first significant clearing along the Way Kanan in daylight.

**14. Indian red muntjac**

We saw this species every day in Way Kambas at many different locations, but the first part of jeep track and Way Kanan ranger station were hotspots.

**15. Lesser mouse deer**

We saw this species on almost every night drive in Way Kambas, but obtaining good views was quite difficult.

**16. Greater mouse deer**

This species was much less common than the former in Way Kambas and we only had four sightings.

**17. Eurasian wild boar**

We had several sightings of both individual boars and medium sized family sounders along the jeep track in Way Kambas. We often found them at the pools on the middle part of the jeep track.

**18. Bearded pig**

We had several good sightings of this species at Camp Leakey in TanjungPuting, where they are habituated to people and commonly seen at the orang-utan feeding station.

**19. Masked palm civet**

We had just brief sighting of this species feeding in fig tree along the elephant centre entrance track on our last night drive.

**20. Common palm civet**

We had a good but brief view of one at the Way Kanan ranger station; it quickly disappeared as soon as it saw us.

**21. Malayan civet**

We had three sightings in Way Kambas including one at the Way Kanan Ranger Station, along the upper jeep track and at least one along the middle jeep track.

**22. Malayan porcupine**

I had a great view of one making its way to drink at small stream right at the side of the first section of the jeep track, unfortunately as we got the car to stop the driver accidentally pressed the horn and it immediately ran before everyone could see it and any chance of pictures.

**23. Feather-tailed treeshrew**

We had an exceptional view in Way Kambas of one running along a horizontal branch just above our heads followed by a prolonged view of it stationery in a dense clump of vegetation. We had stopped somewhere along the middle jeep track to investigate some eye shine deep in the forest and ventured into the forest after it when Hari picked it up running just above us.

**24. Lesser treeshrew**

I had a good view of one running along branches just above head height on the middle jeep track in Way Kambas at mid-morning.

**25. Common treeshrew**

We saw at least one every day in the garden at Satwa lodge in Way Kambas. At least three were regularly visiting the fruiting trees and appeared to be most active in the late afternoon.

**26. Red giant flying squirrel**

We saw what we suspect to be the same individual feeding a fruiting tree along the middle jeep track in Way Kambas on two consecutive nights including a view of gliding to another a tree.

**27. Prevost's squirrel**

We had sightings most days of this species in Way Kambas. Surprisingly we did not see any in TanjungPuting.

**28. Plantain squirrel**

We had sightings most days of this widespread species in all forest types in both TanjungPuting and Way Kambas.

**29. Black-eared pygmy squirrel**

We had a great close range view of a pair at the end of the boardwalk at Camp Leaky in TanjungPuting National Park.

**30. Cream-coloured giant squirrel**

We had two sightings along the middle jeep track in Way Kambas National Park.

**31. Three-striped ground squirrel**

I had just one good but still brief sighting of this species plus a couple of very brief and obscured views at around 9 am along the upper jeep track in Way Kambas.

**32. Red spiny rat**

We caught a single specimen of this beautiful species in Steve's live trap in an area where some rubbish had been dumped in the Banana plantation behind Satwa Lodge in Way Kambas.

**33. Lesser false vampire bat**

We found this species roosting inside one the furthest buildings and nearest to the river at Way Kanan Ranger Station in Way Kambas.

**34. Trefoil horseshoe bat**

We saw this species demonstrating its distinctive perch hunting behaviour. We found it hanging upside down from a low branch along the middle jeep track at Way Kambas.

**35. Acuminate horseshoe bat**

We found approximately ten roosting under a small bridge along the upper jeep track in Way Kambas National Park.

**36. Greater short-nosed fruit bat**

We found several roosting in the buildings at Way Kanan Ranger Station in Way Kambas.

Probable sightings:

**Marbled cat**

**Fishing cat**

**Leopard cat**

**Banded linsang**





### Identified Reptiles/Amphibians

**1. Hawksbill sea turtle**

We released two individuals from a breeding project to sea at TanjungKeluang peninsula close to Pangkalan Bun in Borneo.

**2. Saltwater (Estuarine) crocodile**

We had one very good sighting of a large individual in the wide river channel at the entrance to TanjungPuting and had several sightings in the Way Kanan River at night in Way Kambas.

**3. Malaysian false garial**

We had several good sightings, mostly at night in TanjungPuting National Park. They were most common in the river upstream from Rimba Eco Lodge.

**4. Rough-necked monitor lizard**

We had just one sighting of an individual in a tree stump at the side of the Way Kanan in Way Kambas.

**5. Water monitor lizard**

We had multiple sightings of large and small individuals in both TanjungPuting and Way Kambas.

**6. Asian house gecko**

They were common on most buildings at night at both sites.

**7. Common four-clawed gecko**

We had a couple of sightings on the buildings at night at Rimba Eco Lodge in TanjungPuting National Park.

**8. Warty house gecko**

This species was common on both buildings and trees at night at Rimba Eco Lodge in TanjungPuting National Park.

**9. Common sun skink**

We had several sightings along trails and forest clearings in TanjungPuting National Park and Rimba Eco Lodge.

**10. Black-banded ground skink**



We had just one good sighting of this species in the clearing at the information centre at Camp Leaky in TanjungPuting National Park.

**11. Tricoloured ringneck snake**

We had a good sighting of this tiny snake hanging from a reed on the water's edge in TanjungPuting National Park.

**12. Sumatran spitting cobra**

One swam across the river just in front of our boat in TanjungPuting National Park.

**13. Painted bronzeback tree snake**

Seen trying to swallow a treefrog in the gardens at Satwa Eco Lodge.

**14. Mangrove cat snake**

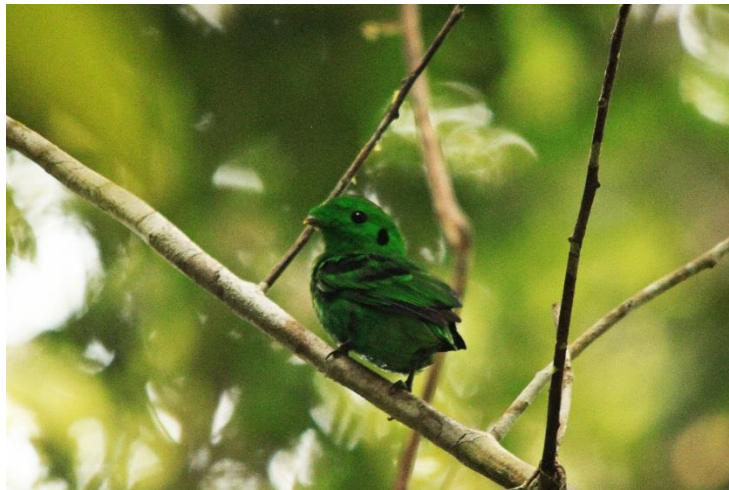
Seen coiled above the river at the first bridge along the jeep track in Way Kambas.

**15. Welang snake**

Local name for unidentified red, black and white striped snake seen twice along the Way Kanan at night.

**16. Asian common toad**

Common throughout.



**Birds**

1. Oriental darter
2. Purple heron
3. Great egret
4. Cattle egret
5. Striated heron
6. Chinese pond heron
7. Storm's stork
8. Brahminy kite
9. Crested serpent eagle
10. Changeable hawk eagle
11. Crested fireback
12. Red junglefowl
13. Green imperial pigeon

14. Emerald dove
15. Long-tailed parakeet
16. Blue-crowned hanging parrot
17. Green-billed malkoha
18. Raffles' malkoha
19. Red-billed malkoha
20. Greater coucal
21. Oriental bay owl
22. Buffy fish owl
23. Brown hawk owl
24. Collared scops owl
25. Large frogmouth
26. Large-tailed nightjar
27. Edible-nest swiftlet
28. Little swift
29. Red-naped trogon
30. Blue-eared kingfisher
31. Stork-billed kingfisher
32. White-throated kingfisher
33. Red-bearded bee eater
34. Dollarbird
35. Oriental pied hornbill
36. Brown barbet
37. Rufouspiculet
38. Banded woodpecker
39. White-bellied woodpecker
40. Rufous woodpecker
41. Maroon woodpecker
42. Buff-necked woodpecker
43. Crimson-winged woodpecker
44. Checker-throated woodpecker
45. Dusky broadbill
46. Black-and-red broadbill
47. Banded broadbill
48. Green broadbill
49. Pacific swallow
50. Asian house martin
51. Scarlet minivet
52. Sundaminivet
53. Blue-winged leafbird
54. Sooty-headed bulbul
55. Cream-vented bulbul
56. Bronzed drongo
57. Greater racket-tailed drongo
58. Dark-throated oriole

59. House crow
60. Velvet-fronted nuthatch
61. White-chested babbler
62. Chestnut-winged babbler
63. Short-tailed babbler
64. Fluffy-backed tit babbler
65. Magpie robin
66. Rufous-tailed tailorbird
67. Malaysian blue flycatcher
68. Pied fantail
69. Rufous-winged philentoma
70. Hill myna
71. Purple-naped sunbird
72. Thick-billed spiderhunter
73. Crimson-breasted flowerpecker
74. Orange-bellied flowerpecker
75. Eurasian tree sparrow (introduced)

Ian Loyd. (Reef and Rainforest Tours)