

Bennett Borneo Trip Report (March 2023) - Mammals:



Because of the lack of time spent in mammal-rich areas of Sabah, Borneo, did not get too too high a list, but a respectable 11 species, 3 endemics and several endemic races/morphs, due to time spent at the incredible Kinabatangan River. Saw high numbers of various primates. Looking forward to returning here to search for and study Bornean mammals in the future!



Primates were my targeted group of mammals for this trip. Saw 5/13 or 5/21 Bornean Species (depending how they are split), 2 lifers and 2 endemics including 1 megalifer, the Bornean Orangutan; a wild mother with a baby, right next to the banks of the Kinabatangan River!



Species List:

(11 Total Including 6 Lifers!)

1. **Bornean Orangutan** (Endemic) (Lifer)- Got a very good, half-hour view of a mother and baby in an overhanging tree along the Kinabatangan River on our second afternoon river cruise, March 23rd. An unforgettable encounter with these amazing great apes.
2. **Silvery Langur** (Lifer)- Saw 2 sizable troops with 5+ individuals and 1 lone monkey in trees along the Kinabatangan River, March 23rd morning, March 23rd evening and March 24th morning.
3. **Cream-Colored Giant Squirrel** (endemic Sandakan race) (Lifer)- Saw 1 individual partially concealed by vegetation resting on a medium-height branch of a dipterocarp at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center, March 22nd.
4. **Prevost's Squirrel** (endemic Sabah race) (Lifer)- Saw 2 individuals, one along the Kinabatangan River feeding on figs on our last morning safari, March 24th, and one relatively habituated individual at Sukau Rainforest Lodge, March 23rd and 24th. Both were of the endemic black and orange/black and maroon Sabah race.
5. **Large Flying Fox** (Lifer) - Saw several individuals on our first night safari, one flying and one hanging on a branch. Got a good observation of the second individual. Noticeably huge size for bats when observed, comparable to medium-sized birds of prey.
6. **Bornean Striped Palm Civet** (Endemic) (or Small-Toothed Palm Civet depending on taxonomic split) (Lifer)- Saw one individual in a fig tree next to Sukau Rainforest Lodge on our first night cruise. Got a good view of the animal: enough for photos. March 22nd.
7. **Proboscis Monkey** (Endemic)- Endangered, spectacular Bornean endemic. Quite common along the Kinabatangan River during the morning and evening. Saw 5-6 separate troops of both the harem and bachelor varieties, and probably close to 100 individual monkeys, generally within close proximity to us. Visited one troop close to Sukau Rainforest Lodge multiple times for easy observations. March 22nd-March 24th.
8. **Southern Pig-Tailed Macaque**- Not as common along the Kinabatangan as Long-Tailed Macaque, but larger, more muscular and more beautiful. Saw 2 troops at Sepilok Orangutan Rehabilitation Center stealing food from the orangutans at the feeding platforms. First troop was led by a large alpha male. Saw only one relatively small troop at the Kinabatangan, down the Menanggol Tributary, March 22nd.
9. **Long-Tailed Macaque**- So abundant along the Kinabatangan that my mom nicknamed them 'tree rats'! The most abundant mammal along the river—saw dozens of troops, either jumping around in trees or resting along the banks of the waterway. Hundreds of individuals in total. Seen on every river safari, including one aggressive alpha male around Sukau Rainforest Lodge. An additional troop of monkeys on the beach of Gaya Island near Kota Kinabalu, March 20th, March 22nd, March 23rd and March 24th.
10. **Lesser Dog-Faced Fruit Bat**- Saw several individuals each night around Sukau Rainforest Lodge and on the first night safari. Could not confidently ID so this is an educated guess as to the species of fruit bat I saw, March 22nd and March 23rd.
11. **Plantain Squirrel**- Saw two individuals, one ID'd by our guide, Shah, on a conifer outside a restaurant near Kinabalu Park. One I ID'd at Sukau Rainforest Lodge. March 19th and March 24th.