

NATURE NOTES

MY TOP FIVE ANIMALS OF BORNEO

By: Pat Clark-Gray



dreds of tourists took her photo.

It is sad to find out that there are only as few as 15,000 orangutans left in the wild compared to 250,000 a century ago. We feel blessed to have seen one in the wild and one at the center.

Proboscis Monkeys

Of all the monkeys we saw on this trip, I found the face of the Proboscis monkey the most captivating. They live in groups of 10 to 32 monkeys. The male monkeys have large protruding noses and it is thought that it is used to attract the females. Besides attracting mates, the nose amplifies their warning calls by swelling with blood making the warning louder and more intense.

Pygmy Elephants

We were very excited to see 14 Pygmy Elephants swimming by the river on our river cruise because there are only 1,500 to 2,000 of these elephants left on the island of Borneo and are considered endangered.

They form a sub-species of the Asian elephant and the

males stand only about 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) tall, compared to around 3.0 meters for mainland Asian elephants. They also only have a single finger at the tip of their trunks. They eat plants including palm and banana. Their numbers have been reduced due to hunting and habitat loss.

Rhinoceros Hornbill

When I told my co-worker Tom, who used to live in Indonesia, that we were going to Borneo he said that I needed to buy The Birds of Borneo field guide and that we needed to see the Rhinoceros Hornbill. So when I



My husband Ken and I just returned to our trip to Malaysia. to attend our son's wedding reception in Malaysia. The second part of our trip we spent in Borneo viewing wildlife. We saw an amazing variety of animals that we have never seen in wild. For this article, I will feature my top five animals.

Orangutans

We were fortunate to see a wild female Orangutan on our river cruise. We were heading back to the Bilit Lodge when our captain and guide spotted a female

making her nest for the night in the top of a tree. Since it was getting dark we did not get very good photos or see her clearly. Luckily, when we went back the next day, she was swinging through the trees and we were able to observe her for several minutes.

We also got to observe a female and her adorable baby at the Sepilok Rehabilitation Center where they rehabilitate orphaned and injured orangutans for return to the forest life. She had come to feeding platform and ate several bananas as the hun-



heard this roaring call our first morning at the Borneo Rainforest Lodge I was hoping it was a hornbill. There were three large birds roaring loudly in the tops of some nearby trees. I was so excited to discover that they were Rhinoceros Hornbills. Later on our trip we got to watch two juvenile Rhinoceros Hornbills eating fruit in a tree while we sat in our boat on the Kinabatangan River.

Green Sea Turtles

We went to Turtle Island specifically to see female turtle lay eggs so we were happy that 12 females landed and layed 990 eggs the night we spent on the island. Because they have a turtle hatchery at the island they gather the eggs the female lay and re-bury them in the nursery. This allows more turtle eggs to hatch. We were allowed to watch and take photos

of the female laying her eggs and the Ranger re-burying the eggs. We also got to observe 63 hatchlings released back into the ocean. It was exciting to see the baby green sea turtle rush to the sea to begin their long life in the sea. Very few of the baby turtles will survive to come back and lay their eggs on the same island that they were born.

Hornbills have a unique nesting arrangement. The female spends 2 to 3 days plastering up the entrance to her nest with her own droppings with help by the male. When they are done there is a narrow vertical slit left where the male gives her food when she sticks her bill through the slit. The theory why the hornbills do this is for protection against the bands of monkeys which roam the forest.



History of Earth Day

When Marina's Earth Day event occurs next month on April 16th at Locke-Paddon Park, a tradition that began four decades ago in this country and that is observed around the world will continue, and you can be a part of this tradition!

What is Earth Day and how did it get started?

In September of 1969, Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin announced that a grassroots demonstration throughout the nation would take place the following spring on behalf of the environment.

This was long before recycling and reuse had established much of a foothold. We lived then in what many people called a "throw away society." Earth Day would give Americans the opportunity to show their concerns about what was going on with our land, water, and air.

What happened on April 22, 1970, caught many by surprise. Some 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day. Over time, people began to focus more on the environment and the



need for conservation. Thanks in part to Earth Day, the United States created the Environmental Protection Agency and passed the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

The event grew over the years and is annually the largest public gathering throughout the world.

Citizens for Sustainable Marina in partnership with The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District and the City of Marina will observe Earth Day on Saturday, April 16th at Locke-Paddon Park, from 9:00am -1:00pm. Registration for service projects (pulling invasive weeds, painting, and picking up trash) will begin at 8:30 am. Service will end at 11:00 and those volunteering on these park beautification projects will receive a free lunch. From 11:00am-1:00pm

there will many fun and educational booths promoting sustainability with many organizations, clubs, and businesses joining in.

We hope to see at the park on April 16th. Please contact Committee Lead **Natalie Zayas** at nataliezayas@gmail.com for more information.

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