

Banded leaf-monkeys crossing road

Subjects: Banded leaf-monkey or Raffles's banded langur, *Presbytis femoralis femoralis*
(Mammalia: Primates: Cercopithecidae).

Subjects identified by: Contributor.

Location, date and time: Singapore Island, Old Upper Thomson Road; 12 September 2016; 1635-1644 hrs.

Habitat: Metaled road through secondary forest.

Observer: Contributor.

Observation: Six banded leaf-monkeys were observed crossing Old Upper Thomson Road, moving from the state land side (Thomson forest) to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. All seemed to be young adults, and appeared to be members of a troupe. No juveniles or infants were seen in this group, and no alarm calls were heard.

Between one and two minutes elapsed between the crossing of each monkey. The fourth, fifth and sixth monkeys were videographed. They ran swiftly, with only the fourth individual pausing briefly in the middle of the road to look at the observer (Fig. 1). The fifth and sixth monkeys were seen to leap from low trees onto a lamp-post, and sliding two or three metres down the metal pole before leaping to the ground and dashing across the road (Figs. 2, 3 & 4). No vehicles were moving along that stretch of road when each of the monkeys were crossing, so there was no risk of collision. However, two vehicles did pass through in the intervening minutes.

After moving over to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, the monkeys remained active at the edge of the forest.

Remarks: In Singapore, the banded leaf-monkey is mainly confined to the Central Catchment Nature Reserve, and occurs largely in the Nee Soon swamp-forest (Ng & Lim, 1992). However, it is known to access peripheral areas such as the Lower Peirce forest (Tay & Doshi, 2015) and the state land across Old Upper Thomson Road (Baker, 2014, Law & Serin, 2016, present observation). These areas are separated from the Nee Soon swamp-forest by metaled roads, which the monkeys are known to cross via interlocking canopies of trees on both sides of the road (Law & Serin, 2016). The present observation shows that these primarily arboreal monkeys can and do descend to the ground to get to the other side of the road.

References:

- Baker, N., 2014. Banded leaf-monkeys at Upper Thomson. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2014: 327-329.
- Law I. S. & S. Serin, 2016. Banded leaf monkey feeding on seed pods of rain tree. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2016: 101.
- Ng, P. K. L. & K. K. P. Lim, 1992. The conservation status of the Nee Soon freshwater swamp forest of Singapore. *Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems*. 2: 255-266.
- Tay, M. & D. Doshi, 2015. Banded leaf-monkeys at Lower Peirce forest. *Singapore Biodiversity Records*. 2015: 52.

Contributor: Nick **Baker**

Contact address: <http://www.ecologyasia.com/html-menu/feedback.htm>



Fig. 1. Fourth monkey pausing briefly on road.



Fig. 2. Fifth monkey (indicated by arrow) descending lamp-post.



Fig. 3. Fifth monkey dashing across the road.



Fig. 4. Sixth monkey (indicated by arrow) launching off lamp-post.

Still images extracted from a video by Nick Baker