

OBC BATWATCH NICARAGUA – MAMMAL SPECIES LIST

Feb 24 to March 4, 2013

OBC set up a bat workshop to Nicaragua to contribute to bat study, conservation and education, the second Batwatch Nicaragua. Our trip started in Managua with an evening visit to Masaya Volcano on Feb 24 where we set up a harp trap outside a lava tube occupied by several species of mormoopid bats. The next day we went to Refugio Bartola, a small lodge located next to the large Indio-Maiz National Park, just across the San Juan River from Costa Rica. We spent six nights here, observing and netting bats on trails around the Refugio and in the national park. We also netted across the Bartola River one night.

We recorded 31 species of bats and 17 other species of mammals for a grand total of 48 species.

Phylloderma stenops



Noctilio albiventris



Trip Leaders: Rob Mies (OBC) and Fiona Reid

Local biologists: Arnulfo Medina Fitoria, Milton Salazar, Yuri Aguirre, José Gabriel Martínez

Participants: Dick and Cindy Wilkins, Cindy Holliday, Angie Price, George Smiley, Melissa Donnelly, Brandy Conrad, Jill Taylor, Amanda Felk, Kathy Estes, and Janell Cannon.

Photos in this report by George Smiley. Thanks George!

ANNOTATED LIST OF MAMMALS SEEN

Chiroptera – BATS

Sac-winged Bats, Emballonuridae

Greater White-lined Bat, *Saccopteryx bilineata* – three seen roosting in an abandoned building and three were caught in mist nets, two over Rio Bartola, one in raised net on forest trail

Proboscis Bat, *Rhynchonycteris naso* – a group roosted each night in the main palapa at the Refugio. One roosted the first night in between some of the rooms where we could examine it through my telescope. We also caught two in nets over Rio Bartola and at entrance to national park.

Greater Dog-faced Bat, *Pteropteryx kappleri* – 2 caught in mist nets set over creek in forest at Refugio. This is a rare bat and our first record for Bartola.



Pteropteryx kappleri

Smoky Bat, *Cyttarops alecto* – a group of five to eight were seen roosting in a coconut palm at the same location as Nov 2011 in the garden of Refugio. This is another rare bat, previously known only from one record in Nicaragua in the 1960s.

Noctilionidae, Fishing Bats

Greater Fishing Bat, *Noctilio leporinus* – we caught one female in a mist net set across the Rio Bartola, the first example of this species caught here. We also saw others flying on the river and near the dock.

Lesser Fishing Bat, *Noctilio albiventris* – we caught two in nets set near the San Juan River and *Cyttarops* roost at Refugio. We had not caught this species before at Bartola.

Mormoopidae, Mustached Bats

Common Mustached Bat, *Pteronotus parnellii* – we caught numerous examples of this species at the lava tubes at Masaya.

Lesser Mustached Bat, *Pteronotus personatus* – this species was also very common at Masaya.
Davy's Naked-backed Bat, *Pteronotus davyi* – Another common species at Masaya.
Big Naked-backed Bat, *Pteronotus gymnonotus* – the least common *Pteronotus* at Masaya, we caught 10 or more of this species.

Phyllostomidae, Leaf-nosed Bats

Phyllostomines

Pale-faced Bat, *Phylloderma stenops*. We caught the second specimen of this rare bat in a net over a small creek at Refugio.

Striped Hairy-nosed Bat, *Mimon crenulatum*. We caught a male and female in nets in forest at the Refugio.

Pygmy Round-eared Bat, *Lophostoma brasiliense*. We caught one male of this species in a forest net at Refugio.

Common Big-eared Bat, *Micronycteris microtis*. We found a roost of four bats in a fallen log in the National Park and captured one individual in Melissa's shirt. A second was caught in a mist net.



Micronycteris microtis. Note how the two outer bats are wrapping their wings around the middle bat.

Hairy Big-eared Bat, *Micronycteris hirsuta*. We caught three males, one in a forest net at Refugio Bartola and two in high nets at Indio Maiz park entrance.

Long-legged Bat, *Macrophyllum macrophyllum* – or as Rob would say, Macaroni macaroni. A lovely bat with an amazing face and very long legs and tail membrane. This is a water skimmer and, like *Noctilio*, its wings attach high on the legs. The underside of the tail membrane is marked with rows of small warts. We caught one in river nets on Rio Bartola.

Carolliines

Seba's Short-tailed Bat, *Carollia perspicillata* – five were caught over streams and in forest.

Sowell's Short-tailed Bat, *Carollia sowelli* – a very common bat in the Refugio and national park, we caught 21 in total.

Chestnut Short-tailed Bat, *Carollia castanea* – another abundant species in this area. We caught 23, including several pregnant females.

Glossophagines

Brown Long-tongued Bat, *Glossophaga commissarisi* – ten were caught in mist nets at Refugio and National Park. Two pregnant females were recorded.

Stenodermatines

Greater Fruit-eating Bat, *Artibeus lituratus* – we caught 64 bats of this abundant species. About half of the females we captured were pregnant.

Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat, *Artibeus jamaicensis* – very common, we caught 44 including several pregnant females.

Intermediate Fruit-eating Bat, *Artibeus intermedius* – common, 11 were recorded. This bat is sometimes included in *Artibeus lituratus*.

Watson's Fruit-eating Bat, *Artibeus watsoni* - fairly common, we caught seven and saw tents made by this species, sadly unoccupied.



Vampyressa nymphaea



Artibeus jamaicensis

Striped Yellow-eared Bat, *Vampyressa nymphaea* – two caught on different nights in forest at Refugio Bartola. We did not record this rather uncommon bat in 2011.

Desmodontines

Common Vampire Bat, *Desmodus rotundus* – we caught seven on a forest trail and another near the lodge at Bartola.

Thyropteridae, Disk-winged Bats

Spix's Disk-winged Bat, *Thyroptera tricolor* – I found an active roost in the Refugio Bartola garden area. There were five bats in the roost, and we held the male briefly to examine his suction cups, watching him in a glass cup to see them in action.

Vespertilionidae, Plain-nosed or Vesper Bats

Black Myotis, *Myotis nigricans* – Fairly common in forest nets, we caught four during the trip
Riparian Myotis, *Myotis riparius* – our most common Myotis of the trip, we caught eight altogether.
Elegant Myotis, *Myotis elegans* – a new species for us at Refugio Bartola, we caught three in a high net set in the clearing at the park entrance. This bat is a bit smaller than the Riparian Myotis and has two small premolars visible in the upper toothrow.

Molossidae, Free-tailed Bats

Little Mastiff Bat, *Molossus molossus* - three caught in a high net near Refugio Bartola.



Molossus molossus

Didelphidae – OPOSSUMS

Yapok or Water Opossum, *Chironectes minimus* – this incredible and uncommon animal was caught by hand by the intrepid Jose Gabriel Martinez, after chasing it across the river, up a tree, back into the water and finally grabbing it! We all had great looks as I held it by the tail, although it refused to stop snarling. Equally impressive was its exit from the scene, diving into the Bartola River and swimming underwater, emerging briefly downstream and then setting off again underwater.



Gray Four-eyed Opossum, *Philander opossum* – seen on the banks of the Bartola River by the late-night battling crew.

Central American Woolly Opossum, *Caluromys derbianus* – a total of 3 seen on separate occasions. One was seen descending to the ground and walking between two bat netters in hopes of an easy bat meal! The others were seen in forest, one in a tree along the bank of the Rio Bartola when netting and one a bit closer to the lodge.

Carnivora - CARNIVORES

Gray Fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – one seen on way out of Masaya, Feb 24.

Kinkajou, *Potos flavus* – Three seen in Refugio Bartola near San Juan River. Other nocturnal crashing overhead was likely this species.

Tracks of Puma (*Puma concolor*) seen in the national park, and an Ocelot seen by Juan Jose on his way to pick us up, but not seen by group. We saw a domestic cat at night – black, mangy-looking – in the deep forest next to the Rio Bartola – rather unexpected.

Xenarthra – ANTEATERS, SLOTHS AND ARMADILLOS

Northern Tamandua, *Tamandua mexicana* – one was reported as hanging around near the lodge and was seen on the trail parallel to the San Juan River on several occasions, finally seen by some of our group, but not by all.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegatus* – I failed to find a sloth on our way to the lodge so we organised an outing by boat on our last full day, and as we were heading back to the lodge, I spotted one asleep in a Cecropia tree. This was a male, showing its orange back patch. Fortunately its slow habits allowed us to go back to the lodge and collect a few people who were not with us, so all got good looks.

Primates - MONKEYS

Central American Spider Monkey, *Ateles geoffroyi* – surprisingly common on this visit, unlike in 2011 when we only saw one poor captive. We saw groups along the river on our way to and from the lodge and on our boat trips, a group came by a couple of times to feed on fruit right by the dining area, and some were seen along the Rio Bartola.



Mantled Howler Monkey, *Alouatta palliata* – less common than in 2011. Seen on river trips on the Rio San Juan and heard regularly, but not seen very close to the lodge.

White-faced Capuchin, *Cebus capucinus* – nice views of a troop coming in to the same fruiting tree as the spider monkeys, and a few others seen in the National Park and Refugio forest.

Lagomorphs – RABBITS AND HARES

Forest Rabbit, *Sylvilagus brasiliensis* – one or two could be seen most days or nights in the grassy areas near the lodge

Rodentia - RODENTS

Variiegated Squirrel, *Sciurus variegatoides* – we saw a very nice color morph of this large squirrel in the cleared areas near the lodge on several occasions.

Salvin's Spiny Pocket Mouse, *Liomys salvini* – seen by George, I think most likely this species, at the cave entrance at Masaya. I am not sure if anyone else saw it, but his description and the habitat best fit this species.

Northern Pygmy Rice Rat, *Oligoryzomys fulvescens* – a tiny, long-tailed mouse seen on a few occasions dashing across the grass and even over the cemented floor of the palapa one night. Although we didn't manage to capture it (perhaps the boa that took up residence in our room did!) it is the only rodent that fits the description and habitat.

Northern Climbing Rat, *Tylomys nudicaudus* – caught by hand at the base of a tree on a forest trail near the lodge. I was not only quite proud to capture it bare-handed, I was happy not to get bitten! It was a young male with the distinctive white tail tip. The taxonomy of these rats is not well-understood as they are seldom caught in traps, but the two widespread species appear to be separated by the San Juan River.

Armored Rat, *Hoplomys gymnurus* – seen along a stream in Indio-Maiz National Park, and alongside the Bartola River. This is a really large, handsome spiny rat with incredibly bright eyeshine. I saw it a few times in 2011 but this time I was able to show it to the people netting bats with me in the national park, along the fated stream with poisonous plants, deep mud and a ton of mosquitoes! Some compensation at least. I am pretty sure this is the animal we saw running along the forest near the Bartola River as we motored back from netting one night.

Central American Agouti, *Dasyprocta punctata* – easily seen in the grassy areas around the lodge early or late in the day.



Batwatchers!