

## Mammals, Amphibians and Butterflies

March 27 – April 8 2016

Stefan Lithner



Waterhouse's leaf-nosed bat

This expedition was offered as a birding trip by Heliangelus Naturresor (Heliangelus Nature Tours) <http://www.heliangelus.se/>, locally conducted by John Kvarnäck. For full details about trip as well as birds please see this site.

## Participants

Stefan Andersson Reftetele, Bengt Antonsson Kalmar, Evamaria Ferm Mölndal, Jan Herrmann Lund, Stefan Lithner Karlshamn, Bo Runesson Johanneshov.

## Acknowledgements

I acknowledge the participants Stefan Andersson and Jan Herrmann having contributed with images in order to identify species not identified during the trip. I also acknowledge Tim Norriss in charge of <http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/> for his decisive support in identifying and/or confirming lizards and butterflies.

## ITINERARY IN SHORT

Havanna – La Güira NP (Sonora) – Camagüey – Sierra de Najasa – Cayo Coco – S:ta Clara - Playa Larga (Bahia de Cochinos) – Zapata Swamp area (Bermejas – Sopilliar – Hato de Jicarita) - Havanna

## MAMMALS

Species listed in order according to: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_mammals\\_of\\_Cuba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_Cuba)

### Bats

Identifying bats by reading scientific articles as well as comparing with published photos offers lots of obstacles and pitfalls. A lot of scientific articles are not available unless you sign up. Often when you try to do that you are obliged to present an e-mail-address to a university/research institute. If you are allowed to read these articles you surprisingly often find measurements of different parts of the body for different species. Some researchers offer wingspan, while others offer measurements of forearm. When you look for head-body measurements you often are offered body weight in one article but not body length. Other articles for one of the species compared present lots of measurements about length and width of teeth and measurements of skull while another article presenting the other species in question shows data on ear-length, hair-colour and body weight. When comparing images you rather often find good photos but no name of the species shown. Every now and then the species shown is incorrect. Photographers in general are more anxious to show their good (sometimes excellent) photos, than giving the species correct scientific names, which has caused considerable confusion.



Little goblin bat



Broad-eared bat (probably)

In Ché Guevara Caves PN La Güira two species have previously been identified by local experts; greater-antillean- (Cuban-) fruit-eating bat and little goblin bat. We saw bats well in accordance with these two species.

Photographs sometimes make animals look different depending on angle and light. We found two bats with ears looking different enough from little goblin bat and resembling reasonably reliable photos of broad-eared bat available on internet, to suggest they maybe were broad-eared batt.

**Big brown bat**

*Eptesicus fuscus*

At least two were resting in the ceiling of Jaali Cave, Cayo Coco April 3.

**Little goblin bat**

*Mormopterus minutus*

Several seen resting in crevices in Che Guevara Caves PN La Güira March 29.

**Broad-eared bat (Not assessed)**

*Nyctinomops lacticaudatus*

Two bats resting in a crevice in Che Guevara Caves PN La Güira March 29 looked a bit different. Images available on the internet are not fully comparable, but indicate this species. (See photo).

<https://www.bing.com/images/search?q=Nyctinomops+lacticaudatus+images&view=detailv2&&id=B3AABE187A09002CA206C96A4F254BF1F1A36A96&selectedIndex=0&ccid=ApnQ2qQs&simid=608017793693125952&thid=OIP.M0299d0daa42c01a8a73fce83e0aed7cfo0&ajaxhist=0>

**Waterhouse´s leaf-nosed bat**

*Macrotus waterhousii*

About a dozen resting and flying around in Jaali Cave, Cayo Coco April 3

**Northern yellow bat**

*Lasiurus intenedius*

This species is primarily found along the coastal regions from Virginia (USA) to Guatemala and is also recorded from Cuba. (<http://www.nsr1.ttu.edu/personnel/RJBaker/Publications/103-Lasiurus%20intermedius-Webster%20et%20al-1980.pdf> ).

About five kilometers before Camagüey in the evening of March 30 we found several hunting between two and ten meters above savannah-like habitat. Size, colour, habitat and hunting-habitat coincide only with this species among those mentioned in List of Mammals of Cuba ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_mammals\\_of\\_Cuba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_mammals_of_Cuba) ).

**Velvety free-tailed bat**

*Molossus molossus*

Recorded as well as seen at dusk at Camagüey March 31 and one also recorded outside the hotel (Hotel Presidente) in Havanna March 27, with Pettersson Utrasound bat detector D 240X and analyzed with Pettersson BatSound 4.03.



Big brown bat PHOTO Stefan Andersson Reftele



Jamaican fruit-eating bat and Cuban flower bat

**Greater Antillean (Cuban-) fruit-bat***Brachyphylla nana*

Some seen in the ceiling of Che Guevara Caves in PN La Güira March 29.

**Jamaican fruit-eating bat***Artibeus jamaicensis*

Five resting under tree roof at the entrance of Los Canejes outside S:ta Clara April 4 and April 8. One fruit bat was see flying outside the entrance of Hotel Playa Giron April 7 and 8, which according to local bat expert also belonged to this species. Recoedings of this bat were not successful due to too much barkground noice.

**Cuban flower bat***Phyllonycteris poeyi*

Two resting under tree roof at the entrance of Los Canejes outside S:ta Clara together with five and six respectively of the previous species on April 4 and April 8. This species is among the most common and widespread Cuban bats. During research projects it showed high capture rates in an evergreen forest and several patches of secondary vegetation (CARLOS A. MANCINA; MAMMALIAN SPECIES 42(852):41-48)

**European Polecat***Mustela putorius*

One was seen crossing a forest road into Hato de Jicarita in Zapata Swamp April 6. According to our local guide, this species was introduced to Cuba and thrives very well.

**REPTILES and AMPHIBIANS****Tortoises and Terrapins****Cuban slider***Trachomys decusata angusta*

Seven were seen at Soroa March 28 and one was seen March 31.

**Snake**

Cuban dwarf boa

PHOTO Stefan Andersson Reftetele



Cuban dwarf boa

PHOTO Jan Herrmann Lund

**Cuban dwarf boa***Tropidophis melanurus*

One was seen along the roadside driving to Camagüey during a heavy rainshower March 30. Dwarf boas (*Tropidophis*) are seldom encountered even by the native people who live in areas where they may be found. Even now in the 21st century new *Tropidophis* are occasionally

discovered, particularly in Cuba. <http://www.reptilesmagazine.com/West-Indian-Dwarf-Boas/>

## Frogs and Toads

### Western giant toad

*Peltophryne fustiger*

One was seen on the side of the road driving to Camagüey during a heavy rainshower March 30.

## Lizards

The lizards are listed in alphabetic order according to scientific names even though common names are placed first.

### Allison's anole

*Ameiva allisoni*

One was seen outside Jabali Cave, Chayo Coco April 3

### West Cuban anole

*Anolis bartschi*

One was seen in the opening of Che Guevara's Cave PN La Güira March 29.



Habana anole



West Cuban anole

### Knight anole

*Anolis equestris*

One was found at Ber Mejas April 5.

### Habana anole

*Anolis homolechis*

One normally coloured and one melanistic morph were seen at Soroa Mars 27 and several were seen at Bermejas April 7.

### Cuban green anole

*Anolis porcatius*

Some were seen in the garden of our accommeation in Soroa March 29 and 30, and two were seen at restaurant along the road to Cayo Coco April 4.

### Brown anole

*Anolis sagrei*

Several were seen in the garden of our accommeation in Camagüey March 31.

### Yellow-headed gecko

*Gonatodes albogularis*

One was seen in the dining room of our accommodation in Soroa March 29 and 30.



Knight anole



Yellow-headed gecko

**Northern curlytailed lizard**

*Leiocephalos carinatus*

One was seen at entrance to wells at Playa Larga April 7.

**Cuban curly-tailed lizard**

*Leiocephalos cubensis*

One was seen on Cayo Guillermo April 1. One was seen at S:t Tomas Research Station in Zapata Swamp April 7 and several were seen along the coast April 7.

**BUTTERFLIES**

The butterflies are listed I alphabetic order according to scientific names even though common names are placed first.



Cuban crescent

PHOTO Stefan Andersson Reftele



Gulf butterfly

PHOTO Stefan Andersson Reftele

**Gulf butterfly** (silver spotted flambeau)

*Agraulis vanillae*

The species was frequently seen during the trip.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Agraulis+vanillae+images>

**Cuban peacock**

*Anartia chrysopela*

One was seen at the parking area in Camagüey.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Anartia+chrysopela+images>

### White peacock

*Anartia jathropae*

The species was seen several times during the trip.

<https://www.google.se/#q=White+peacock+Anartia+images>

### Cuban crescent

*Anthanassa frisia*

At least one was seen at Soroa march 28.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/anthanassa-frisia---cuban-crescent.html>



White peacock



Cuban peacock

### Statira Sulphur

*Aphrissa statira*

The more or less yellow *Coliadinae*-butterflies on Cuba are difficult to determine indeed. After having studied photos and text on <http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/> i feel rather confident we saw this species on Cabo Coyo March 31 and April 1.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Aphrissa+statira+images>

. I also believe we saw at least one, probably two more (Sierra de Najasa and Zapata Swamps). These I have not been able to identify.

### Great southern white

*Ascia monuste*

Some were seen on Cayo Coco April 2.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Ascia+monuste+images>

### Cuban Calisto

*Calisto herophile sensu stricto*

One was seen in Hato de Jicarita, Zapata Swamp April 6.

The superspecies *Calisto herophile sensu lato* has recently been studied and split into 13 species, of which to at this date are not yet described. The individual in Zapata Swamp has been determined by Tim Norriss (see above).

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/calisto-herophile---cuban-calisto.html>

### Radians skipper

*Choranthus radians*

Some were seen at least in Hato de Jicarita, Zapata Swamp April 6.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/choranthus-radians---radians-skipper.html>

### Mexican fritillary

*Euptoieta hegesia*

Some were seen in Finca La Belen March 31

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/euptoieta-hegesia---mexican-fritillary.html>

### Cuban white

*Ganyra menciae*

Some were seen on Cayo Coco April 2.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Ganyra+menciae+images>



Radian skipper



Zebra longwing

### Zebra longwing

The species seen at least twice during the trip. One was photographed in PN La Güira March 29 and one was seen April 6.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Heliconia+charitonius+images>

*Heliconia charitonius*

### Tropical (Mangrove -) buckeye

One was seen in Finca La Belen March 31.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/junonia-genoveva---tropical-buckeye.html>

*Junonia genoveva*



Tropical buckeye

PHOTO Stefan Andersson Reftele



Cassius blue

PHOTO Stefan Andersson Reftele

### Lyside Sulphur

Some were seen while shorebird-watching on Cayo Coco April 2.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/kricogonia-lyside---lyside-sulphur.html>

*Kricogonia lyside*

### Cassius blue (Tropical striped blue)

Some seen at Finca La Belen March 31.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/leptotes-cassius---cassius-blue.html>

*Leptotes cassius*

### Large orange Sulphur

Several were seen at least at Camagüey March 31 and probably on a few more occasions.

<https://www.google.se/#q=Phoebis+agarithe+images>

*Phoebis agarithe*

### Tropical checkered skipper

Some seen in Soroa March 28.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/pyrgus-oileus---tropical-checkered-skipper.html>

*Pyrgus oileus*



**Dorantes longtail***Urbanus dorantes*

One seen on Cayo Guillermo April 2.

<http://www.butterfliesofcuba.com/urbanus-dorantes---dorantes-longtail.html>**Bella moth***Utethesia ornatrix*

Several were seen in Hato de Jicarita, Zapata Swamp April 6.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utetheisa\\_ornatrix](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Utetheisa_ornatrix)**CRAB****Brilliant fiddler crab***Uca (Leptuca) speciosa*Syn: *Gelasimus speciosus*, *Uca (Celuca) [crenulata] speciosa speciosa*, , *Uca speciosa*[http://www.fiddlercrab.info/u\\_speciosa.html](http://www.fiddlercrab.info/u_speciosa.html) )

Several were seen at Playa Larga (Zapata area) April 7.

**ADDRESSES and LINKS**Report compiler Stefan Lithner: [slit@lithner.se](mailto:slit@lithner.se)Photos from this trip available on: [http://www.pbase.com/stefan\\_lithner](http://www.pbase.com/stefan_lithner)