

Nicaragua

January 5th – 25th 2018

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We visited Nicaragua with the intent of diving half the time and doing a 6 day mammal trip with Maynor Fernandez, organized by Jose Martinez. The weather in the Corn Islands made it not worth going to dive there, so we ended up doing some birding and trying to find some of the diurnal mammals that I wasn't sure we would get on the mammal part of the trip. We also decided to head down to San Carlos and go to Sabalos Lodge to get some extra time in the Caribbean forest. This worked out as we saw Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth, Wrinkle-faced bats, and Lindsay's first Keel-billed Toucan. After the trip, we had a couple days which we stayed at Laguna de Apoyo, where we picked up a couple more mammals.

Maynor was a great guide. He doesn't speak English, but with our limited Spanish abilities we were able to get by just fine. At the time of the trip he did not have a Drivers License, but should by now. I rented a truck from Enterprise and did all the driving on the trip. Driving in Nicaragua was easy, but slow. Top speed limit is 80 kph. In hindsight, I probably would have given myself more time between sites, stopping at Laguna de Apoyo or Vulcan Masaya between San Carlos and El Ostional. All preplanning was done with Jose Martinez. He answered emails promptly and was quite knowledgeable about all aspects of the trip.

This was my first international trip with a thermal imager. My first lifer with it was a Wrinkle-faced Bat, which was a great way to start the trip. I also found a Mexican Mouse Opossum and Mexican Porcupine with it, as well as several species I had already seen. They are also great for checking nets from a distance.

Sites visited

Laguna de Apoyo – We stayed at San Simien Lodge and Pajaro Azul. Night walks were decent and there are roosting bats in various places.

Selva Negra – We stayed here for four nights to bird and relax. One of the few highland places we found where you could walk trails without a guide. Food was best of the trip.

Sabalos Lodge – On the San Juan River, forest is in better shape than La Bartola, but not great. We did an excursion to Boca Negra, a small stream, forest was in much better shape there.

El Ostional – There were a couple netting sites near here, and we visited El Abuelo during the day. Stayed at the same hotel on the beach as past groups.

La Bastilla – Highlands lodge, netting numbers were low, but diversity was very high. Trapping was good as well.

La Bartola – I liked this site, however the recent hurricane destroyed the forest. It was apparently closed canopy before, but is now wide open. We missed the Water Possum, but that may have been my fault due to having a terrible uncontrollable cough at the time. Netting was surprisingly slow, but we did get some nice species.

Common Opossum (*Didelphis marsupialis*) - Several were observed on night hikes at Laguna de Apoyo, as well as both netting sites near Ostional.

Mexican Mouse Oossum (*Marmosa mexicana*) - One found with thermal imager at the hot springs site near Ostional.



Gray Four-eyed Opossum (*Philander opossum*) - One was seen briefly only by me at the creek site at La Bastilla.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) - One found with thermal imager on night boat trip at La Bartola.

Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*) - One found on a night hike at Sabalos Lodge.



Proboscis Bat (*Rhynchonycteris naso*) - Two sets observed day roosting on Boca Negra excursion from Sabalos Lodge. Some probably observed on night boat trip at La Bartola.



Greater White-lined Bat (*Saccopteryx bilineata*) - Three individuals were day roosting at La Bartola and a few at El Abuelo.



Gray Sac-winged Bat (*Balantiopteryx plicata*) - El Abuelo.



Lesser Doglike Bat (*Peropteryx macrotis*) - Three found day roosting in abandoned house next to Pajaro Azul at Laguna de Apoyo.

Davy's Naked-backed Bat (*Pteronotus davyi*) - One caught at creek site at La Bastilla.



Lesser Mustached Bat (*Pteronotus personatus*) - One caught at hot springs site near Ostional, One at El Abuelo.



Common Mustached Bat (*Pteronotus parnellii*) - One caught in dry forest near Ostional.

Greater Fishing Bat (*Noctilio leporinus*) - Two caught at hot springs site.



Common Vampire Bat (*Desmodus rotundus*) - We caught a few at La Bastilla, near Ostional, and saw several in El Abuelo.



Tiny Big-eared Bat (*Micronycteris minuta*) - One caught at dry forest site near Ostional. Probably this species in larger numbers at a roost tree at Laguna de Apoyo.

Seba's Short-tailed Bat (*Carollia perspicillata*) - El Abuelo and dry forest near Ostional.



Chestnut Short-tailed Bat (*Carollia castanea*) - One caught at La Bastilla.

Gray Short-tailed Bat (*Carollia subrufa*) - One caught in the dry forest near Ostional.

Sowell's Short-tailed Bat (*Carollia sowelli*) - Three caught at La Bartola.

Striped Hairy-nosed Bat (*Mimon crenulatum*) - One caught at La Bartola. This one was even new for Maynor.



Common Sword-nosed Bat (*Lonchorhina aurita*) - One netted at ridge site of La Bastilla. The field guide says they often hover in front of nets and are hard to catch. We think that that the high winds pushed it into the net.



Greater Spear-nosed Bat (*Phyllostomus hastatus*) - One was caught at the dry forest site near Ostional. A little scary to handle with that size and teeth. Very large individual. Forearm was slightly longer than given range.



Pale Spear-nosed Bat (*Phyllostomus discolor*) - One caught at the same time as the Greater Spear-nosed, interesting to see both in hand at once. Also observed in roost at Laguna de Apoyo.

Wooly False Vampire Bat (*Chrotopterus auritus*) - One netted at ground level at the ridge site of La Bastilla.



Common Long-tongued Bat (*Glossophaga soricina*) - Four caught in dry forest near Ostional.

Toltec Fruit-eating Bat (*Artibeus toltecus*) - Caught at both sites at La Bastilla.

Pygmy Fruit-eating Bat (*Artibeus phaeotis*) - One caught at La Bartola. Possible that it was an *A. watsoni*, but seemed to match *A. phaeotis* better.

Little Yellow-shouldered Bat (*Sturnira lilium*) - Caught at the creek site of La Bastilla and both sites near Ostional.

Highland Yellow-shouldered Bat (*Sturnira ludovici/hondurensis*) - Caught at the ridge site at La Bastilla.

Wrinkle-faced Bat (*Centurio senex*) - Four were found with a thermal imager at Sabalos Lodge. They were all low in trees eating fruit. Easily approached.



Great Fruit-eating Bat (*Artibeus lituratus*) - Caught at dry forest site near Ostional.

Jamaican Fruit-eating Bat (*Artibeus jamaicensis*) - Caught at La Bartola and both sites near Ostional.

Great Stripe-faced Bat (*Vampyroides caraccioli*) - One caught in ridge net at La Bastilla.
This was the fifth record for Nicaragua.



Salvin's Big-eyed Bat (*Chiroderma salvini*) - One caught at creek site at La Bastilla.



Mexican Funnel-eared Bat (*Natalus mexicanus*) - Several at El Abuelo.



Riparian Myotis (*Myotis riparius*) - One caught at creek site of La Bastilla.



Hairy-legged Myotis (*Myotis keaysi*) - One caught at creek site of La Bastilla.



Panamanian White-throated Capuchin (*Cebus imitator*) - Only observed on the Boca Negra excursion from Sabalos Lodge.

Mantled Howler (*Alouatta palliata*) - Observed or heard at nearly every site we visited.

Central American Spider Monkey (*Ateles geoffroyi*) - Observed at El Abuelo, Sabalos Lodge, and La Bartola. Even saw a few walking on the ground on the Costa Rican side of the river.

Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) Sabalos Lodge, Selva Negra, and Laguna de Apoyo.

Deppe's Squirrel (*Sciurus deppei*) - Seen a couple times at Selva Negra.

Forest Spiny Pocket Mouse (*Heteromys desmarestianus*) - Five caught in Sherman traps at La Bastilla.

Sumichrast's Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys sumichrasti*) - One found at ridge net site at La Bastilla.

Mexican Deermouse (*Peromyscus mexicanus*) - Three caught in Sherman traps at La Bastilla.

Mexican Porcupine (*Sphiggurus mexicanus*) - One found with thermal imager at Laguna de Apoyo. Would NEVER have found this without it.



Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - A few were seen in the mornings at Selva Negra, and at least three regularly visit the yard at La Bartola.

Eastern Cottontail (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) - One on the road late at night near El Ostional.

Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*) - Excellent views of one while netting at the hot springs site.



Southern Spotted Skunk (*Spilogale angustifrons*) - One while netting the dry forest site near Ostional, and one near San Simien Lodge at Laguna de Apoyo. It has a den in their stone fence.



In addition to these species, we saw several DOR Northern Tamanduas and a recently captured White-nosed Coati on the El Abuelo road.