

The Bahamas, 2021

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Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bat, *Macrotus waterhousii*

I visited the island of Eleuthera in The Bahamas briefly around New Years, 2021-22. It was more vacation-focused than mammal-focused, but I did visit a few caves looking for Bats. Cathedral Cave near the town of Rock Sound was the only productive one, where I was able to see both **Buffy Flower Bat** (*Erophylla sezekorni*) and **Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bat** (*Macrotus waterhousii*) there. I visited on multiple days, and only saw Waterhouse's on the later visit. Buffy Flower Bat was present both days. Waterhouse's were all together towards the right of the cave entrance, meanwhile Buffy Flower were present throughout the cave.



Buffy Flower Bats, *Erophylla sezekorni*

Elsewhere on the island, Preacher's Cave showed no bats Present, and ending up being a rather small cave that showed a lot of evidence of repeated human visitation; it is unlikely in my mind that many Bats would be found there. Hatchet Bay Cave looked as though it would be more productive, but I did not have the time to visit.



Waterhouse's Leaf-nosed Bats, *Macrotus waterhousii*

Additionally, I saw a species of **dolphin** swim through the bay at Governor's Harbour, but only while driving down the road at night, and so did not get a good enough look to identify it.

There are only around 4 species of Bat from the island on Eleuthera (Speer et al, 2015), and they are relatively easy to tell apart. I was able to do so using the previously mentioned paper in conjunction with pictures of the pages for each species from my copy of 'The Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World' from Lynx Nature. The island is accessible via a short flight or ferry from Nassau, as well as flights from Florida directly to the island.



Buffy Flower Bat, *Erophylla sezekorni*

Sources:

[Speer et al](#)
[Illustrated Checklist of the Mammals of the World](#)