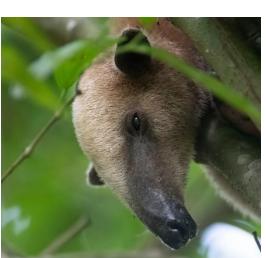
Panama · 2-23 Sep 2022

This is a report on a three-week trip to Panama, spent mostly teaching a fieldcourse based with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) in Gamboa, with 6 days' travelling afterwards to find some of the mammals only found elsewhere. In Gamboa most of the sightings we made were in the open areas around town, along Pipeline Road, in the Rainforest Resort Hotel grounds, or along Laguna Trail; all were good for finding mammals, especially at night. We also had a fantastic batcatching session with STRI staff; visited Parco Metropolitano and Punta Culebra in the daytime; and had an overnight stay on Barro Colorado Island (BCI).

Later we drove east (with guide Alex Guevara – WhatsApp +50761121643 – who was outstanding) to Tortí, where we went out with a local farmer to see brown-headed spider monkeys and Colombian white-faced capuchins in forest fragments on his property. We then spent two nights in El Valle de Anton (to break the long drive to the west); and two nights staying in the wonderful Cabin 8 at Los Quetzales, near Volcan, where the staff had kindly been putting out bananas for several days to draw in cacomistles. While there we had hoped to visit Volcan Barú NP to look for bushy-tailed olingos with local guide Raul (WhatsApp +50762474455; a friend of Alex) but hadn't realised this would entail a 5h round trip from Los Quetzales, so opted for more time with the cacomistles. We returned to Gamboa for our final night, meeting up with Alex and his colleague Carlos for a very productive 4h night walk up and down Semaphore Hill Road. On the way back to the airport we called in (following up on Jon Hall's recent report) at the Miraflores Locks visitor centre for midafternoon views of Central American red brocket.

We are grateful to numerous contributors to mammalwatching.com for recommendations, the Gamboa Bat Lab, Fiona Reid for generous help with several tricky IDs, and Sofia Alonso, Carlos and especially Daniel Field for use of their photos.

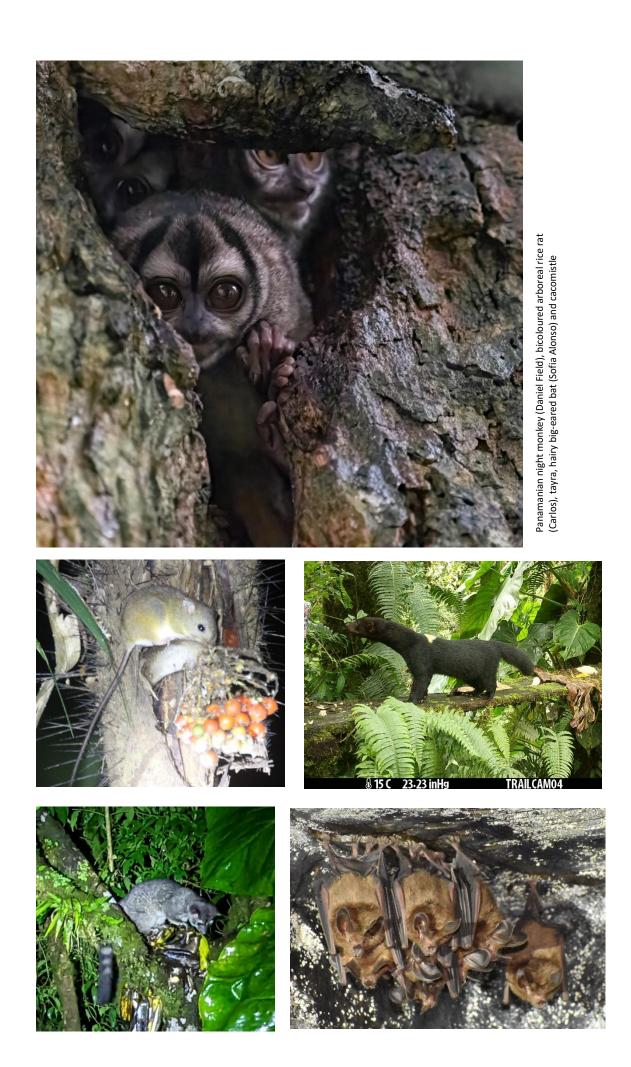








Northern tamandua, Hoffmann's two-toed sloth, and crab-eating raccoon (all photos Daniel Field)



What we saw (or otherwise detected) and where:

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Lesser white-lined bat	Roosting in open hut before start of Pipeline Rd;
	Saccopteryx under wooden bridge near start of
	Semaphore Hill Rd probably this species too
Greater white-lined bat	widespread on buildings on BCI and in Gamboa
Seba's short-tailed bat	caught by STRI staff; under Semaphore Hill bridge
Common long-tongued bat	under Semaphore Hill bridge (based on ID by Karina
	Karenina & Andrey Giljov); notably larger and longer
	snouted than Seba's)
Niceforo's bat	shown by STRI staff; ID kindly confirmed by Fiona Reid
Common big-eared bat	caught by STRI staff
Hairy big-eared bat	roosting in open hut before start of Pipeline Rd; ID kindly
	confirmed by Fiona Reid
Fringe-lipped bat	shown by STRI staff
Jamaican fruit eating bat	caught by STRI staff
Pygmy fruit-eating bat	caught by STRI staff
Pale spear-nosed bat	Gamboa - 1 v large bat flying and feeding on bananas
Common tent-making bat	caught by STRI staff
Thomas' shaggy bat	abundant along interior of Pipeline Rd; v frequently and
	unambiguously ID'd by Echometer 2
Hairy-legged myotis	small bat flying low around small fish ponds below Cabin
	8; seems to be only water-associated Myotis likely at
	2270m, and frequently identified as this by Echometer 2

45 species (+ 3 detected but not seen)







Rosenberg's gladiator frog, milk treefrog and red-eyed leaf frog