

Central America 18.01.11 - 17.02.11 from Cancun (Mexico) to Belize and Guatemala.

Central America 5.01.12- 21.03.12 from Cancun (Mexico) to Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

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In 2011 I arrived in Cancun (Mexico) and I have visited the following places:

in Belize: Shipstern reserve near Sarteneja, Crooked Tree wildlife sanctuary, La Milpa station in Rio Bravo Conservation area, Cockscomb basin wildlife sanctuary west of Maya Centre.

in Guatemala: Tikal national park, Biotopo del Quetzal south of Coban, Atitlan lake, Los Tarrales lodge at the base of Atitlan volcano, Corazon del Bosque reserve near Panajachel), Rio Dulce to Livingston of the atlantic coast.

In 2012 I arrived again in Cancun (Mexico) where I stayed 5 days: I visited Coba and Chichen Itza, but except a few birds I have not seen any mammal. These places were crowded of tourists. I visited the following places:

In Belize Cockscomb basin Wildlife Sanctuary, Monkey Bay and the Tropical Education Center.

In Guatemala: Tikal, Biotopo del Quetzal, Los Tarrales Lodge, Monterrico.

In Honduras I visited only Mountain of Celaque national park near Gracias, Cuero y Salado national park near la Ceiba, Cerro Azul y Meambar national park south of San Pedro de Sula. All these parks were very disappointing and I saw very few birds and just a few squirrels. Security is a problem everywhere; In Cuero y Salado and Cerro Azul y Meambar you are guarded by the army. I stayed only 8 days in this country.

In Nicaragua I went to Cosanguine volcano reserve west of Leon, Lagunas de Apoyo and Masaya volcano, Lagunas de Apoyo near Masaya, Mambocho volcano near Granada, Isla de Ometepe in the middle of lake Nicaragua.

In Costa Rica I visited: Santa Rosa national park near Liberia, Monteverde reserve and Valle Escondido reserve, Heliconias Lodge near Bijagua, Quepos and Manuel Antonio national park, Carara national park near Jaco, Bahia Drake and Corcovado national park at

La Sirena (I went there by boat from Bahia Drake. As recommended by Jon Hal I didn't book anything with a travel agent, just phoned to a hotel where I stayed, and where they arranged my stay and transfer to La Sirena. It was easy and cheap), Tortugueros national park on the Caribbean coast, Tirimbina lodge and Selva Verde lodge near Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí, Quebrada Gonzales station in Braulio national park, Poas volcano national park near Alajuela.

On both trips I travelled all the time by public transport, and have used guide only at Los Tarrales lodge, La Milpa for a night drive, Quepos for a boat drive and at Valle Escondido for a night tour which was very disappointing.

Here are only the mammals I saw, but I did also a lot of birdwatching:

Shipstern reserve : 1 Gray four eyed Opossum just caught in the poultry of the camping. The manager told me there are very common and when they forget to close the door by night, they kill a lot of chicken. At least 19 White nosed coatis, 1 Central american Agouti, 1 Yucatan squirrel and a lot of Baird tapirs' footprints (they come in the bananas plantations by night).

Crooked Tree: 7 Yucatan black howlers, 1 Yucatan squirrel, . F

Rio Bravo La Milpa: 3 Yucatan black howlers, at least 3 Central american spider monkeys, 1 Red brocket deer, at least 10 White tailed deers, 1 Tapir by night (I saw just the back), 1 Yucatan squirrel, 2 Deppe's squirrels, 1 Gray fox near the accommodation, 1 Gray four eyed opossum.

Cockscomb: Red brocket deers (3 in 2011 and 6 in 2012), Common opossum (1 in 2011 and 2 sightings in 2012), Neotropical otters (2 in 2011), Yucatan black howlers (heard only in 2011 and several in 2012), Kinkajou (1 in 2011 and 2012), Collared peccaries (10 in 2011 and at least 3 in 2012), Yucatan squirrel (1 in 2011 and several in 2012), Deppe's squirrels (4 in 2011 and several in 2012), Tamandua (1 in 2011 and 2012), Grey fox (1 or 2 seen several times in 2012), White nosed coatis (at least 10 in 2012 and several in 2011), Ocelot (1 in 2012 at less than 10m from my tent at 9pm), Baird's tapirs (fresh footprints both year: a ranger told me they are regularly seen by tubing in April by the afternoon in the middle of the river).

Monkey bay and the Tropical education center (2 places with accommodation west of Belize City): 2 Agoutis in 2012, 2 Gray fox in 2012 at the rubbish dump.

Tikal: Central American spider monkeys (common in 2011 and 2012), Yucatan black howlers (common in 2011, but only 3 groups in 2012),

but less than the former species), several Deppe's squirrels both year, Yucatan squirrel in 2011 and 1 in 2012), Ocelot (footprints in 2012), White nosed coatis (at least 15 in 2011 and 21 in 2012-2 isolated males and a group of 19, Agoutis (common both years).

Biotopo del Quetzal: Deppe's squirrel: 1 in 2012. The ranger told me they are Cacomistles and Collared peccaries in the park.

South of Flores a dead Yapok.

Los Tarrales lodge: Deppe's squirrel (1 in 2011), Agoutis (a lot both years), White tailed deer(1 in 2012), Cacomistle (1 heard in 2011 and 2012 and 2 seen in 2012: both times by night when climbing Atitlan volcano to see Horned guan), Mexican gray squirrel (1 in 2011); in 2012 one of the guide saw a Margay by night one week ago while going to the volcano; another saw a Puma 3 days ago laying in the middle of the private road by 3pm).

Corazon del Bosque: 1 Mexican gray squirrel in 2011.

Mountain of Celaque national park: only 1 Deppe's squirrel; Southern Flying squirrel is present (I hurted several trees with woodpeckers holes, but without success).

Cuero y Salado national parks: Mantled howlers monkeys (heard only). White faced capuchin is present but more difficult to see.

Cerro Azul y Meambar national park: 1 Variegated squirrel and several Deppe's squirrels.

Volcano Cosinguine reserve: 1 Tamandua, 4 Variegated squirrels, 1 tame White tailed deer.

Masaya town: 1 Virginia opossum(according to the extension of white on the tail) by daylight, early morning.

Laguna de Apoyo: a lot of Mantled howlers, several Variegated squirrels.

Volcan Mambacho: 1 Variegated squirrel, several Mantled howlers.

Santa Rosa national park: White tailed deer (very common), 1 Eastern cottontail, Tapir's footprints (according to a guy I met in Thailand, they are easy to see on the beach by night), White faced capuchins (at least 15), Central american spider monkeys (twice 2), Tamandua (1), Gray fox (a lot of feaces), but no Skunks.

Monteverde reserve and humming bird gallery: 3 White nosed coatis, 2 Red tailed squirrels, 1 Agouti; 1 Olingo the first day at 17h30 drinking

from a feeder; the second day 1 emptying one feeder at 16h30 and the second feeder at 17h30; another Olingo seen by night running on a wire between the reserve and Monteverde village. On 2 days I walked from Monteverde reserve to Santa Elena. I saw an unidentified Mouse deer and I met a goup with a guide. They were looking at a Porcupine when I arrived, but it disappeared and I didn't see it. These guide worked for Ficus Trail and was really looking for mammals, contrary of what happened at Valle Escondido. It told me that he sees regularly Porcupine, but not everyday.

Valle Escondido: I went there because Jon Hal saw a Mexican porcupine, but the Porcupine was not in the ficus tree this year. The night tour was very disappointing, because the guide was very noisy and looking only at ants, spiders and fireflies. It was my first tour in my 2012 trip and it was the last (except Quepos). By day I saw 3 White faced capuchins and 4 Red tailed squirrels.

Heliconias lodge: I went there to see Crested owl. I got the information from a canadian I met in Santa Rosa. I saw Agoutis, 3 Mantled howlers, 5 White faced capuchins, 1 Hoffmann's 2 toeds Sloth and 1 Alfaro's pygmy squirrel.

Santa Elena: 1 Hoffmann's 2 toeds Sloth Brown along the road to Monteverde.

Quepos: Following Jon Hal's trip report I went with Avenatura (phone call: 27770973 or 4513) on a boat tour in the mangroves near Isla Dama. I was with an american mammalwatcher in the same boat . Milently and the boat driver found 1 Silky anteater and White faced capuchins.

Manuel Antonio national park: a crowded park I didn't like. But in one morning I saw: a lot of White faced Capuchins, 1 Mantled howler, 1 Northern raccoon by daylight at the beach and 4 Brown throated 3 toeds Sloth.

Bahia Drake: Variegated squirrels (3); Mantled howlers (heard).

La Sirena Corcovado national park: 1 Red tailed squirrel, Central american spider monkeys (a lot), Mantled howlers (a lot), Squirrel monkeys: 2 groups (25 and 4), White nosed coatis: 2, Red brocket deer: 1, Collared peccary: 4, Agoutis: 3, Neotropical otter: twice 1, Baird's tapirs: 5 different including only 1 radio collared (I saw a male one my first day in the forest and the others at the beach or the Sirena river (early morning or by night-as it is impossible to sleep because hikers start by 4am, I did the same), 3 Pantropical spotted dolphins. I didn't see White lipped peccary. Several guides told me they are in the hills at this time of the year, because it is too dry.

Carara national park: 1 Tamandua dead on the road, 3 Variegated squirrel, 1 Central American Mantled howlers, 1 Central American Agouti.

Tortuguero national park: Mantled howlers (at least 25), Neotropical otter (2), Northern raccoon (2), Central American spider monkey (at least 10).

Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí: 1 Otter, 1 Tayra along the river near Selva Verde lodge. A dead Nine-banded Armadillo.

Tirimbina lodge: Mantled howlers (heard), Variegated squirrel (2).

Selva Verde lodge: Mantled howlers (heard).

At both last places I went there to try and see Honduras white bats, but the guides had not a stake out at this time. I phoned to La Selva and it was the same.

Braulio national park Quebrada Gonzales station: 1 Agouti.

Poas Volcano national park: 2 Red tailed squirrels and 1 Mountain squirrel.

Comment: It is not easy to spotlight, because it is forbidden at most places: the exceptions are the road between Monteverde and the reserve, Cockscomb which is with Corcovado the best places for mammalwatching, Heliconias Lodge, Santa Rosa and Tikal national parks.

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