MAMMALS and MPHIBIANS seen in Colombia

2 – 24 mars 2013

Stefan Lithner



White-footed Tamarin Photo Stefan © Lithner

This compilation is an English version for mammals and amphibians. The trip was a birding trip conducted by the Swedish travel agency for birders, Heliangelus Naturresor. The original report is written in Swedish, by the manager of the agency as well as the trip Samuel Hansson. The report in Swedish is available on

http://www.heliangelus.se/files/Colombia%202013%20II.pdf

This report also presents a few data on some rather rarely reported mammals that we did not see or could not assess, but may still be of interest to mammal- enthusiasts.

During the first part of the trip we visited the three Andean ridges of central Colombia where we visited: Parque La Florida, Jardin Encantado, Laguna de Tabacal, Cañón del Río Claro, Medio Magdalena, Reserva Natural Arrierito Antioqueño, La Romera, Bolombolo, Reserva Natural Colibri del Sol, Urrao–El Carmen, Reserva Natural Las Tangaras, Jardín, Río Blanco, Nevado del Ruiz.

We then went by air to the Caribbean coast. Our second part we spent near the Caribbean coast as well as some days on Colombias highest mountain Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. In

this part we visited Minca, Reserva Natural El Dorado Santa Marta, Parque Nacional Isla de Salamanca, Parque Nacional Los Flamencos.

For our last days we retuned to the surroundings of Bogota, where we visited Mundo Nuevo and Guasca

MAMMALS

Common Opossum

Didelphis marsupialis

One seen 6/3 near Arrierito.

Nine-banded Armadillo

Dasypus novemcinctus

One encountered during spotlighting 19/3 near El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta.

White-footed Tamarin

Saguinus leucopus

A group of six seen 5/3 at Rio Claro.

Lemurine Night Monkey

Aoutuslemurinus

On 18/3 the scientific staff saw a group of Lemurine Night Monkeys foraging about ten metres from the balcony of the main building. During late evening 19/3 a group of night monkeys was heard rather loudly moving through the canopy 15 -20 metres above me. I did not manage to see them.

Venezuelan Red Howler

Alouatta seniculus

Three were seen 5/3 and two were heard at Rio Claro. The species was also heard at El Dorado Santa Marta 18 - 20/3.

Red-tailed Squirrel

Sciurus granatellus

At least 13 individuals were seen during the trip; 4/3 Laguna de Tabal, 5 -6/3 Rio Claro, 17/3 Minca and 18 - 20/3 El Dorado Santa Marta.

Andean Squirrel

Sciurus pucheranii

One was seen 7/3 and three were seen 8/3 at. Arrierito. One was seen 9/3 at La Romera, one seen 4/3 in Jardin and one seen 15/3 in. Rio Blanco.

Western Dwarf Squirrel

Microsciurus mimulus

One was seen 12/3 at Las Tangaras.

Brazilian Guinea Pig

Cavia aperea

One was seen 3/3 at. La Florida.

Magdalena Water Rat

not assessed

Nyctomys magdalenae

During late evening of 14/3 I did a bit of night watching in Rio Blanco Nature Reserve on the central ridge of the Andes, owned by the city of Manizales. Our lodge is situated at 2500 metres asl, surrounded by a mown lawn and situated next to a river or creek. The creek is edged with secondary and montane forest vegetations. After midnight I saw a rat initially foraging on the lawn, and eventually gently disappearing in the vegetation next to the creek. Unaware of the existence of *Nyctomys magdalenae* I identified this rat at as *N. squamiceps*, which I had previously seen in Atlantic rain forest in eastern Brazil.

The ranger responsible for the lodge seemed well aware of the animals around the lodge as well as in the surrounding forests. Due to inadequate knowledge of each others languages we communicated by short phrases, scientific names, paper and pen. The ranger spontaneously called tis rat "Nutria". When I showed him the name *Nyctomys* he vividly confirmed this. The ranger also told me that these rats were not uncommon and were still found also at higher elevation than that of the lodge.

Returning back to Sweden, doing supplementary work on our observations, tour leader Samuel Hansson and I learned that *N. squamiceps* stays east of the Andees in Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay. *N. apicalis* is found east of the Andes in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia. *N rattus* is an amazonian species and *N. palmipes* is a Trinidad species. In 2013 we learned that *N. magdalenae* is found along riversides and riverbeds in Magdalena Valley up to 1000 metres asl. In 2014 I learned it occurs up to the altitude of 2000 metres.

We hold *N.magdalenae* to be the most plausible alternative, but do not completely ignore the alternative *Spec. nova* at this altitude in northern parts of the Andes.

White-tailed Olalla Rat not seen *Olallamys albicauda*Before starting my trip to Colombia I studied the possibilities of encountering different species of mammals. I found that the birding-group most likely would visit areas where this species occur. When I asked the ranger in charge of the lodge at Rio Blanco Nature Reserve on the central ridge of the Andes, owned by the city of Manizales about this rat, he appeared to be surprised that I knew about this species, and also that it is present here. He told me that this rat occasionally comes out on the lawn to forage, but more often is encountered in the "secondary lawn" beyond the actual lawn, and in the forest.

Red Crested Tree-rat

In May 4 2011 a juvenile Red Crested Tree-rat was photographed on the banister of El

Dorado Lodge Santa Marta. This was the first reliable sighting since 1899. For this reason Dr

Samuel Martinez was assigned with the mission to estimate the population of this species in
the area. When the Swedish birding group arrived he had just been active for about two
weeks, trying to catch (live traps and photo traps) any. During his efforts he had not
succeeded in finding any *Samanthamys*, nor any other rodent in the immediate neighbourhood
of El Dorado Lodge. According to Dr Martinez the most plausible place for this specimen to
dwell in the area was under one of the guesthouses, which happened to be my guesthouse. In
the afternoon of 18/3, about 13:40 I took a 15 minutes power nap. When I woke up I heard a
gentle but persistent gnawing from the outside of the upper right hand corner of the room. We
tried to locate the animal but were not successful.

Eastern Cottontail Sylvilagus floridanu
One was seen at Los Flamencos 23/3. This species replaces Forest Rabbit in drier habitats of

Northern Grey Fox

One was seen during spotlighting 14/3 in Rio Blanco Nature Reserve.

South American Coati

One was seen during spotlighting 15/3 in Rio Blanco Nature Reserve.

northern Colombia and Venezuela.

Kinkajou *Potos flavus* One was een during spotlighting 19/3 outside. El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta.





Photo Stefan © Lithner Savegei's Salamander

Photos Stefan © Lithner

AMPHIBIANS

Savegei's Salamander Bolitoglossa savege One was seen outside El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta 19/3 (Det. Samuel Martinez).

Santa Marta Poison Arrow Frog One was seen 18/3 Sierra Nevada, Santa Marta. Colostethus ruveni

Magdalena Giant Glass Frog Centrolene tayrona Abundant around El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta 17 - 20/3 (Det. Samuel Martinez)

Santa Marta Pristimantis Pristimantis sanctaemartae One was seen outside El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta 19/3 (Det. Samuel Martinez)

EVERTEBRATES

Central American Bark Scorpion

Cenruroides margaritatus

Scorpions were seen at least on two occasions, both at night: Rio Claro 5/3 and near El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta 19/3. The latter was photographed. Photos were sent to people with knowledge about scorpions, for identification. At the Swedish Museum of Natural History, where Mr Julio Ferrer (PhD univ of Stockholm) was working at least during August 2014, states that this species ought to be Centuroides margaritatus, Gervais

Unidentified tarantula

During spotlighting in the evening of 19/3 around El Dorado Lodge, Santa Marta I photographed a tarantula. Efforts to get it determined included contact with two experts on tarantulas in South America; Dr. Caroline Sayuri Fukushima and Dr. Rogério Bertani. Dr Fukushima states: "It is not possible to identify this specimen without examine it. The tarantulas's fauna in Colombia is poorly known"





Central American bark scorpion

Photos Stefan © Lithner

Unid. tarantula at El Dorado Lodge Santa Marta

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ADRESSES

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Photos from this trip available on: http://www.pbase.com/stefan lithner