

## **COSTA RICA MAMMALS**

Birdwatching in Costa Rica brings some amazing surprises: Large Mammals! This is always a great treat as catching tiny birds flitting through the trees is much harder than the large slow moving Three-Toed Sloth or the ubiquitous Howler Monkeys. So, this blog is an accidental collection of wonderful mammals that turned up while Birdwatching it includes: Agouti, Big Cat, Bats, Coati, Deer and Monkeys. The Sloths and Anteaters are included in the next blog.

### **AGOUTI**

The Central American Agouti are wonderful creatures. They are diurnal and mainly eat seeds and fruit. They are related to Guinea Pigs.



*Figure 1 AGOUTI FAMILY CAHUITA LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF MYCABIN GARDEN*

*Figure 2 AGOUTI MR PINK EARS WITH THE SUN BEHIND*





*Figure 3 WONDERFUL AGOUTI FAMILY LIVES IN MY CABIN GARDEN*

*Figure 4 AGOUTI SKILFUL FOREST FLOOR SCAVENGERS FOR SEEDS AND FRUIT*



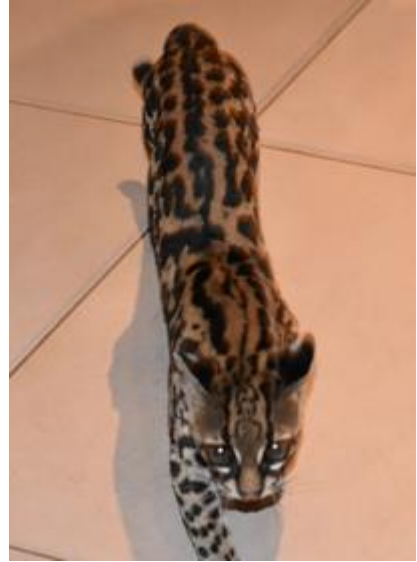
### **MARGAY CAT BIG ONE**

This beautiful Margay Cat wandered through the café at Arenal Observatory Lodge. The staff reported that she strolls by once a week. They are endangered due to loss of habitat.



*Figure 5 MARGAY CAT ARENAL OBSERVATORY LODGE*

*Figure 6 MARGAY CAT ARENAL THIS WAS AN INCREDIBLE SURPRISE. IT WALKED IN ONE DOOR OF THE RESTURANT AND OUT THE OTHER AS IF IT OWNED THE PLACE*



## **BATS**

There are about 110 bat species in Costa Rica. They do a great job at keeping down pests and help with pollination.



*Figure 7 PART OF BAT FAMIILY CAHUITA. THEY ROOST DURNG THE DAY BY HANGING FROM THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE TREE HOUSE. THEY ARE VIRUS FREE AND DO NOT ATTACK HUMANS*

*Figure 8 BAT PRESENTATION TIRIMBINA RESERVE SHOWING THE SONAR NAVIGATION SYSTEM. I THINK THIS IS THE CHESTNUT SHORT-TAILED BAT*



*Figure 9 THE BAT SHOWS ALL THE STRUCTURE OF A MAMMAL ARMS HANDS LEGS FEET - TIRIMBINA*

## COATI

The White-Nosed Coatis are a member of the raccoon family. They have adapted to most regions of Costa Rica.

*Figure 10 COATI ARENAL LODGE FORAGING IN FOREST*







*Figure 11 Coati looking for breakfast*

*Figure 12 COATI ENJOYS A BANANA AT NATURALISTA RESERVE*



## DEER

I think this is the White-Tailed Deer but did not get a look at the tail. In 19195 it was declared Costa Rica's National Animal.



*Figure 13 I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND DEER AT MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK*

## MONKEYS

It was great luck to be able to photograph all four Costa Rica species of monkeys: Squirrel Monkey, White-Faced Capuchin, Howler Monkey and Geoffrey's Spider Monkey.

The only image of the Squirrel Monkey with her baby, was taken at dawn, in very poor light, as the troop moved quickly through high trees at Arenal lodge. The Howler Monkeys seem to be everywhere and often wake you up at dawn with their loud howling. Yesterday morning they were right over my hotel roof having spent the night in the tree outside my window. The Capuchins were only spotted in Quepos and Antonio Manuel National Park. The same for the Spider Monkeys who were right near the park entrance although I did get a fleeting glimpse at Cahuita Park Entrance. One afternoon a troop of about 15 Capuchin cavorted for over an hour in my Quepos hotel garden. They ignored the humans as they entertained themselves with so much playful fun.

*Figure 14 CAPUCHIN MONKEY LOOKS VERY WISE MANUEL ANTONIO PARK*





*Figure 15 SPIDER MONKEY WITH BABY ARENAL LODGE*

*Figure 16 CAPUCHIN AT HOME IN A PALM QUEPOS HOTEL GARDEN*



*Figure 17 CAPUCIN MONKEY PALM READING*

*Figure 18 WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THE JOKE*



*Figure 19 HOWLER (OR CONGO) WISE BEYOND HIS YEARS*

*Figure 20 EVERYONE LOVES THE TENDER SHOOTS AND FLOWERS OF THE CECROPIA TREE*

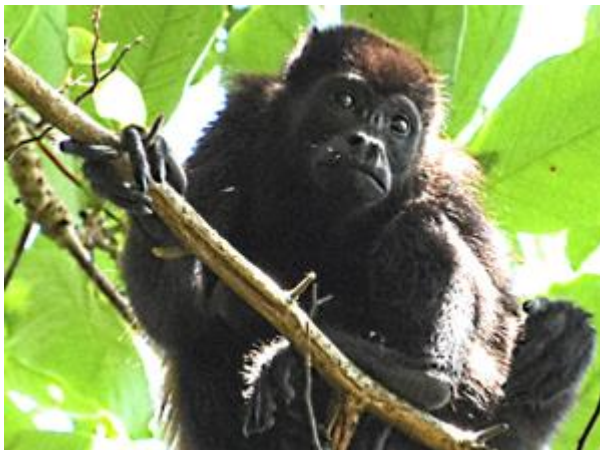






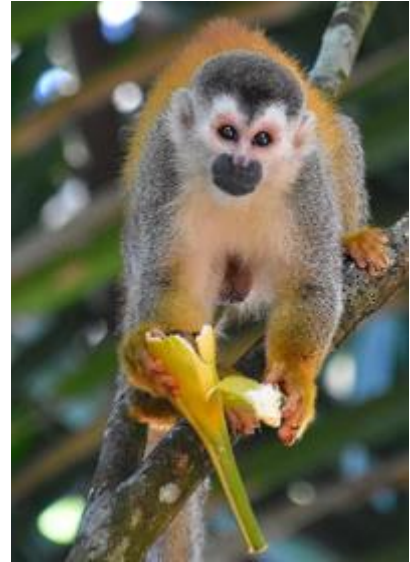
*Figure 21 ALWAYS POLITE, FRIENDLY AND UNOBTRUSIVE HOWLER MONKEY*

*Figure 22 WHAT GESTURE FROM A HANDSOME HOWLER MONKEY*



*Figure 23 HOWLER MONKEY ARENAL RAIN FOREST*

*Figure 24 SPIDER MONKEY MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK*



*Figure 25 SPIDER MONKEY MANUEL ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK*

*Figure 26 CAPUCHIN MONEY BEAUTIFUL POSE*



*Figure 27 THEY ALWAYS LOOKS SO THOUGHTFUL*



*Figure 28 CAPUCHIN SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL PARK*



It has been an incredible journey through parts of wonderful Costa Rica. The travels from the Pacific up and over the central Mountains and down to the Caribbean Lowland brings an incredible diversity of mammals reptiles and birds.

The Sloths and Anteaters are in the next blog coming soon.

Save travels!

Terry

Tamarindo  
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