

DESMODONTIDAE—Vampire Bats

37. *Desmodus r. rotundus* Geoffroy *D. rufus* Wied *D. rufus*, Wied

38. *Diaemus youngi* Jentink

NATALIDAE—Funnel-Eared Bats

39. *Natalus stramineus* Gray *N. stramineus* Gray

FURIPTERIDAE—Smokey Bats

40. *Furipterus horrens* Cuvier *F. horrens* F. Cuv.

THYROPTERIDAE—Disk-Winged Bats

41. *Thyroptera tricolor* Spix *T. tricolor* Spix *T. tricolor*, Spix
albigula (G. M. Allen)

VESPERTILIONIDAE—Vespertilionid Bats

42. *Myotis n. nigricans* (Schinz) *M. nigricans* Wied *Vespertilio nigricans* Wied

43. *Myotis albescens* Geoffroy

44. *Lasiurus borealis* subsp.? *frantzii*?? (Peters)

45. *Dasypterus e. ega* Wied *D. ega* Wied

46. *Rhogeessa io* Thomas or *R. tumida* H. Allen

MOLOSSIDAE—Free-Tailed Bats

47. *Cynomops p. planirostris* (Peters)

48. *Tadarida b. brasiliensis* (Geoffroy)

49. *Promops centralis* Thomas

50. *Molossus r. rufus* True

51. *Molossus r. nigricans* Miller *M. rufus* Wied *M. rufus*, Geoff.

NOTE: It is almost impossible to determine which subspecies of *M. rufus* the 1892 and 1936 lists refer to. I arbitrarily assign *M. r. nigricans* to them since it is by far the commoner of the two subspecies.

52. *Molossus m. major* (Kerr) *M. obscurus* Geoff. *M. obscurus*, Geoff.

Summary: The 1956 list includes 52 species and subspecies.

The 1936 list includes 34 species.

The 1892 list includes 26 species.

REFERENCES

- (1) Vesey-FitzGerald, D. 1936 "Trinidad Mammals" Tropical Agriculture, 13:161-165.
(2) Thomas, Oldfield. 1892 "A preliminary list of the mammals of Trinidad" Journal Trinidad Field Naturalist Club 1:158-168.

NOTES ON SOME TRINIDAD BATS

BY F. W. URICH

WITH ADDITIONAL OBSERVATIONS

BY LUDOLF WEHEKIND

Saccopteryx bilineata

A pretty brownish bat almost black on the back, and light brown mouse colour on the underside. Two white lines run down the sides of the back from the shoulder blades to the end of the body. This as well as the next species has a peculiar little pouch or sac nearly large enough to hold a pea in the wing membrane in front of the arm in the male sex.

Expanse of wings about 250 mm. Forearm 44–50 mm.

Habits. Both species of the genus *Saccopteryx* are low flying bats that course rapidly to and fro for insects through the openings in the forests or over tree-bordered shady lanes. They are sometimes seen feeding in the shade of the forest during the day.

Food. Small insects of various kinds.

Sleeping places. On tree trunks in shady spots, often near water. Head downwards. (L.W.—Common in the organ loft of the R.C. Cathedral, Port-of-Spain.)

Distribution. Port-of-Spain, Caparo, Caura, Mt. St. Benedict. (L.W.—Caroni River, Maracas Valley.)

Saccopteryx leptura

A smaller bat than the preceding species, of a reddish colour; the back is reddish brown with two inconspicuous white lines running from the shoulder blades to the end of the body. Underside is light brown.

Expanse of wings about 220 mm.

Habits. Much the same as the preceding species.

Food. Small insects.

Sleeping places. On tree trunks and occasionally under banana leaves, hanging head down.

Distribution. Port-of-Spain, Caura, Caparo, Caroni River.

Noctilio leporinus

An American genus of two or three species of which *N. leporinus* occurs in Trinidad. Mr. J. E. Harting in an article in "The Field" proved without doubt that the stomachs of some of these bats, sent to him by Sir William Robinson, contained fish.

Habits. They live near the sea and catch small fishes. (L.W.—They readily eat chopped fish in captivity. They fill the pouches on both sides of the mouth, then hang up and feed.)

Breeding. (L.W.—A captive female gave birth to a young one while hanging up in the normal way. After the young one had crawled to the mother's breasts, the placenta was eaten by the mother. The note recording the incident has been lost but other events enable the birth to be dated as occurring in December 1934.)

Sleeping places. Caves near the sea. They have also been found in the tower of the Police Barracks at San Fernando and in a dark corner of the Harbour Master's Office at Port-of-Spain. (L.W.—I have found them in hollow silk cotton trees, an immortelle tree and the gable of the estate house at Santa Barbara, Maracas.)

Distribution. Common in the gulf. (L.W.—Found in the Caroni Swamp, Maracas valley, Nelson's bamboos, Gasparee.)

Mormops megalophyllum (*Mormoops megalophylla*)

A medium-sized bat of red brown colour. Rather uncommon.

Sleeping places. Caves.

Habits. Not known to any extent; it is likely to be a fruit eater.

Distribution. Tamana, Caura. (L.W.—One was shot in the Tamana caves on 8th June, 1934, and another at Masson's Bay on 28th July, 1934.)

Chilonycteris rubiginosa

A brown bat expanding about 365 mm., darker on the back and lighter on the underside. In some lights the underside looks greyish.

Habits. A very common bat in the Northern Range.

Food. Fruit.

Sleeping places. In caves and narrow gorges near rivers.

Distribution. Northern Range, Guacharo Caves, Tamana. (L.W.—Most of the bats seen in the Tamana caves on 8th June, 1934, were *C. rubiginosa* and *Anoura geoffroyi*. Four of each were shot.)

Phyllostoma hastatum (*Phyllostomus hastatus*)

The second largest bat in Trinidad, spanning 610 mm. across the wings. General colour dark brown, lighter on the underside. The back of the head and neck are brown, the back is brown to the shoulder. From the shoulder to the end of the body is reddish.

Habits. Not a very common bat whose habits are not well known.

Food. Fruit. (L.W.—A skinned *Artibeus* bat was eaten by a captive specimen on 28th September, 1934.)

Sleeping places. Caves and old houses.

Distribution. Guacharo Caves, Heights of Oropouche, Jumby Cave at Caura. (L.W.—They have been found, also, in La Veronica house, Caura valley, and the bellfry of the R.C. Church at La Pastora.)

Vampyrus spectrum (*Vampyrum spectrum*)

The largest bat in Trinidad if not in the continent of South America. I have had a specimen measuring thirty inches (762 mm.) across the wings. In spite of its forbidding aspect it is a fruit eater. It was supposed to be a blood sucker. It is comparatively rare and, in consequence, specimens for study are not easily obtained.

Food. Fruit. (L.W.—On 12th July, 1934, one was shot in a silk cotton tree at St. John's, Tunapuna. In cooperation with Miss Ruth O'Connor the stomach was examined and only animal matter was found: fur, feathers and bone. It was shown to Prof. Ulrich who verified the observations. At the foot of the tree were feathers of bluebirds and doves, and a rodent's tail. On 20th July two more were shot in the same tree. Their stomachs were opened and it was found that they had fed on birds; the intestines were full of feathers and small bones. A female shot on 24th July had an empty stomach.)

Sleeping places. Caves. (L.W.—I have never found them in caves; all the ones shot in 1934 were in hollow silk cotton trees.)

Distribution. (L.W.—In 1934 seven were shot in St. John's, two in St. James, Port-of-Spain and others in Four Roads, Diego Martin.)

Glossophaga soricina

A bat expanding 260 mm. and fairly common. General colour slightly reddish brown, a little darker on the back.

Habits. The tongue is long and extensible, and is much attenuated towards the tip where it is covered with strong, recurved papillae. This led Spix to describe the bat as a very cruel blood sucker, believing that the tongue was used to increase the flow of blood. This view is, however, altogether without foundation, and from the observations of Osburn and others, it is evident that the peculiarly-shaped tongue is used by the animal to lick out the pulpy contents of fruit. The food of the species of this group appears to consist of both fruit and insects, and the long tongue may be used for extracting the latter from the deep corollae of certain flowers. This bat is a flower visitor. It can be seen at various flowers in the Botanic Gardens. I have taken it on calabash flowers. It settles on the flowers.

Sleeping places. Caves.

Distribution. (L.W.—In 1934 one was shot on Long Circular Road and another at Caratal Road, Cumuto.)

Anoura geoffroyi

A rather uncommon bat of 280 mm. expanse. General colouration: brown on the back, a little brighter on the underside. It has a narrow snout with fine bristle round the lips.

Habits. Little known, but a likely flower visitor.

Sleeping places. Caves and hollow tree trunks.

Distribution. Tamana and Mt. St. Benedict.

Artibeus jamaicensis palmarum (*Artibeus lituratus palmarum*)

(L.W.—Three were shot in the belfry of the R.C. Cathedral on 14th March, 1934; one was very yellow. Five more were taken there on 7th April and these had young at the breast. Eight with six young were shot in a palm tree in front of the house on Trafford's Estate, Caura, on 13th April, 1934.)

DO BOAS LAY EGGS?

BY A. T. CARR

As a result of a photograph reproduced in the local press of a Boa constrictor which had laid eggs, a party of four members of the Trinidad Field Naturalists Club, including Mr. C. L. Williams (now President) and the writer visited the owner of the reptile to carry out investigations, and the following is the case history.

Mr. Nan Singh of B. Singh & Sons who kept a menagerie shop near to Major Knaggs' place on the Saddle Road at Santa Cruz, had become possessed of a Macajuel snake (*Boa constrictor*) some five months previously. The snake was confined in a cage which comprised 8 sheets of galvanized iron so arranged as to form an enclosure of 4 ft. by 6 ft. It was opened and subject to the direct rays of the tropic sun. When Mr. Singh found this constituted too much discomfort for the reptile, he would place two more sheets of galvanize on the top to provide shelter, but this increased the intensity of heat inside the enclosure. Realising this, he would occasion-