

Nils Navarro Pacheco

Brief Biography / Curriculum Vitae

Born in Holguín, Cuba, on June 8th, 1971. A graduate of the Academy of Fine Arts with a major in painting, he has a degree as a Fine Arts professor. Nils has a wide knowledge of Cuban and Caribbean fauna. He worked for ten years at the Carlos de la Torre Natural History Museum in Holguín, publishing a significant number of studies related to the fauna of eastern Cuba (birds, reptiles and amphibians, bats, moths and freshwater shrimps), considerably enlarging the museum's scientific collections in his capacity as curator of the museum's herpetological collection. He was Associate Professor in Biology at Holguín's *Instituto Superior Pedagógico*. His contributions to science include the description of several new reptile and amphibian species, with *Anolis ruibali*, *Anolis terueli* and *Chamaleolis agueroi* among the most significant ones. Several invertebrate species have been named in his honour. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, he visited numerous countries in Central America and the Caribbean, working as an expert monitoring birds at Honduras' El Cusuco National Park for the Operación Wallacea Project, followed by four years working on a project on threatened amphibians in the Dominican Republic, all of which has provided him with ample knowledge of the region's biodiversity.

Later on, he became an environment consultant for Proambient/ENIA in Holguín province, delivering over 40 environmental impact evaluations, most of them related to tourism development. For six years in a row, Nils lead environmentalist initiatives such as the Protecting Birds Community Festival in the town of Gibara, striving to reduce illegal capture and trafficking of birds in the region. He also took part on various expeditions around some Critically Endangered Cuban birds: Ivory-billed Woodpecker, Cuban Kite and Zapata Rail.

His artistic work as scientific illustrator is characterized by a refined watercolour technique combined with and accurate representation of details. He is not only the author of his books but also their illustrator. His published works have earned him various awards, including the *Premio Excelencias del Arte en Cuba* (2018) and the *Premio Florentino García Montaña*, awarded by the Cuban Zoology Society in recognition of his contributions to knowledge in the field of Cuban ornithology. He has been invited as a conference speaker at various respected universities in the United States such as Harvard, Wisconsin, Boston as well as other research institutions in that country.

His most representative works include: *Endemic Birds of Cuba, A Comprehensive Field Guide* (2015) and the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Cuba* series (2017- 2021), which is published yearly and constitutes the official list and most up-to-date information source about the birds of Cuba. He is currently working on a new *Comprehensive Field Guide to the Birds of Cuba*. He has also co-authored a significant number of scientific works, including el *Libro Rojo de los Vertebrados Cubanos (The Red List of Cuban Vertebrates)* in 2012. He is a member of the Cuban Zoology Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists and BirdsCaribbean, where he was Chair of the Caribbean Wildlife Art Working Group, fostering the training of scientific illustrators in the Caribbean. As a wildlife artist and illustrator, he has donated his author rights and proceedings to support the funding of conservation projects in the Caribbean (with Optics for the Tropics, BirdsCaribbean, Birders' Exchange). He is currently an eBird reviewer for Cuba.