



A [Tropical Birding](#) CUSTOM tour

Panama: The Canal Zone & Foothills

2nd -11th February 2017

*Tropical Birding Tour Leader: Sam Woods
Assisted by Luis Paz throughout*

(Report and all photos by Sam Woods)



This **Rufous-crested Coquette** was a great start, on our first morning in the cool, foothill forests at Cerro Azul. We could not have asked for a better view of this immaculate male.

INTRODUCTION

The Isthmus of Panama links the great continents of North and South America, and this unique position bridging these two large landmasses, contributes to its extraordinarily high bird list (over 1000 species), which offers a flavor of not only North and Central American birds, but also South American ones too. Like its immediate neighbor, Costa Rica; Panama also offers good accommodations to be based in while birding the famous nearby hotspots. None of the drives on this tour extended beyond two hours either, providing proof of yet another incentive to go birding in Panama. The easy connections to North America and the official use of the US Dollar, also add to the obvious allure of the country, as a comfortable birding destination, open to those even dipping their toe into the tropics for the first time, or old hands looking for specialties. On this tour, however, were a number of veterans of birding the tropics, and also veterans from bird tours of old with Tropical Birding, making it easily accessible to all, and trouble-free. We stayed in modern, business-style hotels throughout, making it a very comfortable tour indeed.

The backdrop and centerpiece to our birding was the mighty Panama Canal, a mind-boggling feat of engineering just as impressive today as it ever was. To the east of the this man-made channel, lies some of the most revered areas for tropical birding in the World, namely the Gamboa/Pipeline Road area, which is the number one site for birding in the country, and therefore was an early shoe in on this customized itinerary. We combined the exciting lowland birding of the Canal Zone with the pleasantly cooler sites of Cerro Azul to the east, and El Valle de Anton and Altos del Maria to the west, all of which are located within the Panamanian foothills, and brought us a markedly different suite of birds. Finally, we also visited open country on the Pacific Coast where extra species were added on this varied itinerary for birds, bird habitats, and birding styles.



Two male **Black-and-yellow Tanagers** performed with distinction at Cerro Jefe

Panama is about sampling the considerable avian riches of the American tropics, and we of course did this, and yielded a long list of highlight birds and animals in the process: 4 species of puffbird (including Black-breasted Puffbird), 6 species of trogon (including, Orange-bellied Trogon), 5 species of motmot (including the scarce Tody Motmot); and a set of striking tanagers to stimulate our birding taste buds: Black-and-yellow, Rufous-winged, and Rosy Thrush Tanagers all featured. There was plenty of others to write home about to, like the gaudy Golden-collared Manakin, evergreen Keel-billed Toucan, a glowing male Blue Cotinga, and daytime Great Potoos to name a few, not to mention multiple sloth sightings, including a mother Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth with a baby clasped to her belly, while she gorged on treetops fruits. An outstanding, long look at a male Rufous-crested Coquette, with its crest "punked up", was also a worthy standout, and an incredibly close Black-crowned Antpitta was also very worthy of mention.



Day 1: Arrival in Panama City; and Chepo

The group descended into the distinctive skyline of **Panama City** by early afternoon, but were raring to get out there and see some Panamanian birds immediately, so could not resist the temptation of some birding straight off the bat. Once our bags were dropped at our nearby modern, business-style hotel (Panama is certainly flush with these!), we drove to **Chepo**, an open country site, east of the city. This quickly illustrated one of the joys of birding in Panama; it is bursting at the seams with quality sites in which to bird, *many of which are readily accessible from the capital*. Our main hope, in terms of birds we may not find later on the tour, was the *Pied Water-Tyrant*, a strikingly handsome terrestrial flycatcher. However, on reaching the site following a prolonged dry spell in this, the dry season, there was precious little wet areas available for it to forage, and we feared this might be tough to locate. However, being our very first foray for Panamanian birds, we were plenty busy with *everything* around us. Bernice H. kicked us off pretty quickly with a fantastic early find, a *nesting Pearl Kite*. A handful of **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** were not new for many among this Texan crowd (where they are regular vagrants), but were appreciated for what they are, undeniably stunning and striking birds! The skies overhead hosted two species of *caracara* at various times, with the familiar **Crested**

Caracara that also extends into the southern US, but also the distinctly less familiar **Yellow-headed Caracara** too. Our local guide and companion throughout, Luis Paz, was quick to find some other specialties of the area, the diminutive **Plain-breasted Ground-Dove**, (which were the only ones seen on the entire tour), and a typically vocal **Striped Cuckoo**. While the latter was definitely not one of these species, Panama is a tropical country, seemingly packed full of exotic and extremely colorful species, and this was revealed to us that afternoon, with **Red-breasted Meadowlark** (recently renamed from *blackbird* to *meadowlark*), **Yellow-crowned Euphonia**, **Red-lored Parrot**, and a handsome male **Ruddy-breasted Seedeater**. Eventually, as we traveled along the road, we managed to find a small remnant wet patch, which was a magnet for the few remaining wetland species in the area, and yielded **Bare-throated Tiger-Heron**, **Wattled Jacana**, and the hoped for **Pied Water-Tyrant**. A **Cocoi Heron** was also found close by, before we needed to head back west to our city hotel for the night.



An incredible set of private feeders in **Cerro Azul** were packed with birds like scintillating **Shining Honeycreepers**

Day 2: Cerro Azul and Cerro Jefe

Not far to the east of the considerable heat and humidity of *Panama City* lies the cool relief of **Cerro Azul and Cerro Jefe**, an area of forested foothills, with a different suite of birds to the warmer lowlands. This area is wonderfully quiet, and free of crowds, being part of a private housing development, which routinely allows access to the regular stream of birders that flock to there. On site, there is an odd juxtaposition between the native montane forest trees and shrubs, and the pinewoods that were presumably planted during the early stages of the property development. This scenic site was initially fairly quiet, before a pair of very confiding **Black-crowned Antshrikes** appeared beside the road, and a striking **Crimson-crested Woodpecker** was found clasped to a local tree trunk. However, our first overtures to *Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker*, one of

the key birds of the area – one of few country endemics in Panama, fell on deaf ears, with none seen or heard. With things largely quiet, and following some frustrating “heard only” experiences with both *Red-capped* and *White-ruffed Manakins*, we headed for the perfect solution and pick me up, an infamous set of local feeders at a private residence. These provided the perfect antidote to the previous slow spell, as they were simply jam-packed with birds. However, virtually the first animal we saw there was not a bird at all, but one of a small troop of monkeys - **Geoffroy's Tamarins** (photo below) - also taking advantage of the bounty at the feeders...



Besides these characters, the feeders were alive with birds; mostly **Shining Honeycreepers** (photo page 4) **Crimson-backed Tanagers**, and a constant stream of *hummingbirds* at the sugar water: **White-necked Jacobin**, **Rufous-tailed** and **Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds** (photo page 7) **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer**, and **Crowned Woodnymphs** were all quickly seen, which were part of a gathering of *nine hummingbird species recorded at the feeders that morning!* The other ones of this collection were a little slower to turn up, and only involved single individuals and so required a little more focus, to ensure we did not miss them as they nipped in and out: **White-vented Plumeleteer**, and a young male **Violet-capped Hummingbird** (the key target species at these feeders) were among them. However, the star turn from a hummingbird did not come to the feeders at all, but instead memorably snuck in and landed on the top of a small blooming *verbena* shrub alongside the patio. The owner of the property was well aware of its habit of

doing this, so was alert, and quickly indicated the male **Rufous-crested Coquette** (photo below) when it suddenly showed up, and luckily for us, remained on its fragile perch for some time. The fruit feeders were as active as the lively hummer feeders, and attracted **Bay-headed Tanager** and **Green Honeycreepers** (photos pages 7 and 3 respectively), too, in addition to the species mentioned earlier.



Not easily forgotten: **Rufous-crested Coquette** *Cerro Azul*

While not exactly bustling with birds, the late morning/afternoon nevertheless produced some noteworthy sightings. Late in the morning, our various attempts for **Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker** finally met with success at the base of **Cerro Jefe**, when a vocal bird was located in the upper reaches of a tree, where it was scoped for a time. After burgers at a local café, we returned there, and were soon after surprised by a male **White-ruffed Manakin** (photo page 8) that responded very quickly to a short burst of playback by flying in and landing at very close range. Things fell a little quiet then, until we reached the low summit (950m/3115ft) of **Cerro Jefe**, where we hung out on the platform overlooking the stunted dwarf forest at the top, and enjoyed superb looks at a pair of male **Black-and-yellow Tanagers** (photo page 2), which appears somewhat like the tanager version of a *Prothonotary Warbler*! However, while most will remember this as the key moment of the afternoon, that actually happened a few minutes earlier when the first sign of this small feeding flock was a rather drab bird that emerged to forage in the open only for a short time, but sowed itself to be a very unexpected, and the very, very rarely seen and beady-eyed **Tacarcuna Chlorospingus** (formerly *Bush-Tanager*). This was so unanticipated that only a few people (DeDe certainly being one of them) were looking at the bird at the time, which, just after being identified as it finally came out in the open, quickly disappeared and was never seen again. This certainly constituted the rarest sighting of the entire tour; although I am sure that the male *Black-and-yellow Tanagers*, which appeared moments later were much more appreciated! Returning to nearby **Cerro Azul** in the late afternoon, we enjoyed another flurry of activity, with a significant bird among them there too; a few **Golden-hooded Tanagers**, a **Tawny-capped Euphonia**, and a **Blue Dacnis** preceded the undeniable star performer, a spectacular male **Blue Cotinga** that foraged in a fruiting *cecropia* for a time.



Page before: Upper photo – **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**, lower photo – **Bay-headed Tanager**, both *Cerro Azul*



White-ruffed Manakin, *Cerro Jefe*

Day 3: CANAL ZONE I - Summit Ponds and the Pipeline Road (Soberania NP)

This was our first foray into the World famous **Canal Zone**, one of the epicenters of Neotropical birding, with its myriad birding sites loaded with tropical birds. We started out in the morning by visiting the **Summit Ponds**, and then made an afternoon visit to the revered **Pipeline Road** in **Soberania National Park**. Our first hour at the **Summit Ponds** was everything first time visitors to the tropics would want; birds everywhere, and a clear feeling you are standing in one of the great biodiversity centers on Earth. So often though in the tropics it is not like this, so that we must treasure the moments that are. More typically, there are distinct peaks and troughs in bird activity, with long spells with very little at all, punctuated with sudden bursts of birds. Just after dawn, we were surveying the ponds on either side of the track for waterbirds, and soon found one of the main specialties standing on a fallen log at the lake edge: **Boat-billed Heron**. A **Ringed Kingfisher** landed on a dead snag at close quarters a little later, while a couple of **Lesser Kiskadees** perched typically low beside the water, a flycatcher species that is strongly associated with wetland habitats. A few **Wattled Jacanas** worked the muddy edges of the ponds too. However, it was not the ponds themselves that provided the most activity, but the surrounding forest edge that was simply alive with birds at this early hour, with the 'scope twisted this way and that as people locked on to different species in different directions; one moment we were staring at a couple of **Whooping Motmots** hawking insects from a fence line, then the next we were admiring a glossy green-and-red male **Slaty-tailed Trogon** not even attempting to hide, but instead using an open, roadside cable as a conspicuous perch. **Short-tailed Swifts** belted past overhead, and parrots perched in bare trees alongside us, **Red-lore Parrots** and **Orange-chinned Parakeets** being the guilty parties on this occasion. Inevitably, as the day warmed up, the forest edge cooled down, in terms of birds, and so we entered a nearby wide track leading into the forest. When entering into thicker forest the action is always quieter than at the forest edge, but there are interior species that rarely or never come to those more open areas, hence our need to go inside. The first part of the trail was, however, not thick forest but also edge habitat with tall grasses and secondary growth, notably with dense tangles engulfing the trunks; it was in this area that we found another target bird for the site: **Jet Antbird**. The nearby

calling *White-bellied Antbird* did not behave as we would have liked though, remaining well back in deep cover, and never actually coming close enough to see. The same area did yield our first look at a **Fasciated Antshrike** of the trip. Once we got into deeper fores, the action died off quickly and the birding was pretty tough for the most part. However, we did see a male **Golden-collared Manakin**, and better still Luis located a roosting juvenile **Spectacled Owl**, (photo below) one of the birds of the entire tour, which merely glared back at us, while bundled up in its odd-looking, cream-colored “fur coat” that identified it as a young bird. Emerging at the other end of the forest trail, we spent a little time birding forest edge again. While becoming brutally hot at this time, we took advantage by finding the small patches of shade along the road, and took in some birds in the process, like **Yellow-backed Oriole**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, and **Buff-breasted Wren**.



For lunch we visited a private property in **Gamboa**, where the hummingbird feeders kept us entertained over lunch, and even brought us some additional species for the trip, with **Black-throated Mango** and **Blue-chested and Violet-bellied Hummingbirds** all being new for us there, alongside repeats of **White-necked Jacobins** and **Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds**. **Red-legged Honeyeaters** and **Crimson-backed Tanagers** (photo next page) also occasionally dropped on to the banana feeders, which were

mostly dominated by **Clay-colored Thrushes**. **Gamboa** is within easy striking distance of the famed **Pipeline Road**, one of the most vaunted sites in Neotropical birding, and so we visited there after lunch. This took us past the most famous landscape feature in the region, the **Panama Canal** itself. On the way there, we encountered a pair of roadside **Common Black-Hawks** feeding on the deck. Once we reached the **Pipeline Road**, we experienced the highs and lows of tropical birding; the activity was generally at low levels with only small quantities of birds seen, but with some excellent sightings among the few seen. An easy score came with a calling **Cinnamon Woodpecker** that was tempted into a roadside tree shortly after our arrival there. Luis then got a significant call from another local guide **Guido**, who informed him that he had found a roosting **Great Potoo** earlier in the day along the same stretch of road we were standing on! After some initial confusion over which section of road we needed to focus on, and the type of tree we had to search for it in, we quickly found the bird slumbering in a large, open tree, where it was remarkably easy to lose. This was the classic case of a cryptic nightbird hiding in the open. Little else was seen later in the afternoon, with activity levels very low, and so we returned to our flashy hotel in **Summit**, complete with full 18-hole golf course and also bordered by rich lowland forest. On the way back to the hotel, we saw several **Southern Lapwings** hanging out by a small roadside pond.



The handsome **Crimson-backed Tanager** is easily found in Panama

Day 4: CANAL ZONE II – Rainforest Discovery Center and Pipeline Road (Soberania National Park)

The entire day was spent in the **Canal Zone** in the vicinity of the **Pipeline Road**. We started out early, by climbing up to the top of the 130ft/40m-high **Canopy Observation Tower at the Rainforest Discovery Center** just off of the **Pipeline Road**. This superbly built facility provided us with a view over the canopy of the lush surrounding lowland rainforest of **Soberania National Park**. Soon after emerging above the treetops, and taking in our extraordinary 360° view of the surrounding jungle, we started taking in a stream of new birds: **Scaled Pigeons** flew to and fro, a small party of **Black-chested Jays** were found by Bernice J., and a **Pied Puffbird** was whistled into the treetops. **Parrots** were on the move during the early hours too, with both **Mealy** and **Red-lored Parrots** seen. Multiple **Blue Dacnis** were also encountered up there, as well as **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**, **Collared Aracari**, **Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan**, and **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**. The activity was typically intense for the first hours after sunrise,

but as the sun's heat intensified, so the canopy activity slowed down noticeably. At this time, we descended the tower, and used the facilities at its base, beside the hummingbird feeders, which were being attended by **White-necked Jacobins**, and a **Blue-chested Hummingbird**. However, it was a hummingbird that *not* visiting the feeders that caught our attention; several **Long-billed Hermits** (photo below) were calling from near perches, and a few of them were located...Also near the tower we located a pair of calling **White-whiskered Puffbirds** and a couple of **Checker-throated Antwrens**.



Long-billed Hermits are territorial, feisty little birds; this was at the base of the 40-meter high *Observation Tower*

Following some recovery time at the base of the tower, we drove further along the *Pipeline Road* and made our second foray into this legendary birding area in the mid to late morning. During this time, we managed to find several **Bicolored** and **Spotted Antbirds**, a **Chestnut-backed Antbird**, and a small party of foraging **Song Wrens** too, and managed to call in a very popular **Golden-crowned Spadebill**, before we retired to *Gamboa* for lunch. On arrival at *Gamboa*, we were greeted by the odd site of an extremely tame juvenile **Great Black Hawk** (photo next page) feeding on kitchen scraps outside the window, which then later alighted on a few of the fruit feeders too, giving extraordinary views in the process! Lunch was taken at this private residence, where we had lunched the day before also. Again, the hummingbird feeders were active with **White-necked Jacobins**, **Black-throated Mangos**, and **Violet-bellied Hummingbirds**. Alongside them, the other feeders attracted **Red-legged** and **Green Honeycreepers**, **Red-crowned Woodpeckers**, and **Crimson-backed**, and **Plain-colored Tanagers** (photo page 13).

Following a short break in the middle of the day, we returned to the *Pipeline Road* in the last half of the afternoon again, where we found the same **Great Potoo** in a slightly different position (but same tree), as the day before. The *Pipeline Road* is an excellent venue for birds from the *antbird* family, which was well

proven on this day, when we recorded **Fasciated, Barred, and Black-crowned Antshrikes**, **Dot-winged and White-flanked Antwrens**, **Plain Antvireo**, as well as two **Black-faced Anthrushes**, and **Red-throated Ant-Tanager** too. Other notable finds that day along the *Pipeline Road* included a *Tayra* (a large *mustelid* mammal), **White-tailed Trogon**, **Squirrel Cuckoo**, a couple of **Slate-headed Tody-Flycatchers**, and a pair of **Broad-billed Motmots**. On the way back to get dinner in *Gamboa*, Luis spotted a **Rufescent Tiger-Heron** hiding in the *Ammo Dump Ponds* alongside the *Panama Canal*. After taking dinner in *Gamboa*, we got back to our modern hotel in *Summit* after dark, when several **Common Parauques** were seen along the driveway, as well as a few **Lesser Capybaras**.



An extraordinarily tame juvenile **Great Black-Hawk** was a big surprise at the *Gamboa* feeders

Day 5: Altos del Maria

After sweating it out in the lowlands of the *Canal Zone* for a couple of days, we changed tack completely on this day, returning to the significantly cooler foothills of the mountains, although this time to *Altos del Maria*. This private estate 110km/70 miles from *Panama City*, provides easy access to foothill forest, up to 3600ft/1100m in elevation. Therefore, it offered us a choice selection of species, some of which were only possible on this single day of the tour. For this day, we were joined by a resident birder who lives on site, *Alfred Raab*, and were also joined by *Guido Berguido*, a *Gamboa*-based birder. This turned out to be a very enjoyable day, with pleasant weather, a wonderful lunch in the field by a tranquil lake, and some good birds found by the day's end. It started out inauspiciously, with low cloud and low bird activity not promising much

(although we did get some **Black Phoebes**, several **Red-faced Spinetails**, **Tufted Flycatcher**, **Ochraceous Wren**, and **Silver-throated Tanager** in the mist), but once we visited a deserted, paved trail within the forest, we started to pick up some great birds later in the morning. Highlights included a close **Dull-mantled Antbird**, a pair of **Orange-bellied Trogons** in a mixed feeding flock that also contained **Tawny-crested Tanager**, **Slaty Antwren**, **Spot-crowned Antvireo**, and a **Russet Antshrike**. Some migrants were also seen through the morning, like **Black-throated Green**, **Blackburnian** and **Black-and-white Warblers**. As we emerged out of the trail beside a serene lake (where we took a lunch of *spaghetti bolognese* in the field), we saw a few **Flame-rumped Tanagers**, **Green Heron**, and a **Belted Kingfisher**, before then enjoying a rich run of form on raptors; a **Bat Falcon** was seen both flying and perched beside there, and **Broad-winged** and **Gray-lined Hawks** both overflowed too. We also found some perched **Orange-chinned Parakeet** from our lunch stop. After lunch, we tried another spot for *Streak-chested Antpitta* that we'd heard in the morning but not seen, although did not even hear one on this occasion, although we managed to locate a flock of calling **Black-faced Grosbeaks**, and see **Emerald Toucanet** too; (sometimes split off as *Blue-throated Toucanet*). However, Luis produced the best bird of all as we were heading back to the vehicle near the end of our time there; when he declared he had a male **Snowcap** in his sights! Thankfully, this purple bird remained rooted to its perch for several more minutes, even allowing us to get the 'scope on it in the process. By late afternoon, we headed out of *Altos del Maria* and drove towards our destination for the next two nights, the quiet mountain town of *El Valle de Anton*. A shortstop en-route produced a vocal **Black-headed Saltator**, and a female **Tawny-capped Euphonia**; and then a short walk around the gardens near our hotel later produced the only **Streaked Saltator** of the trip.



Plain-colored Tanagers were seen at a number of sites on the tour, including *Gamboa* and *Cerro Azul*

Day 6: El Valle de Anton (Cerro Gaital and Cara Iguana)

Ask most of the group what day they remember most on this tour, and likely many would refer to this one. While it was not loaded with birds, it did produce excellent views of some key specialties of the area. However, there was no hint of this during our first stop, when we tried an area near **El Valle** town for the scarce *Tody Motmot*, but none were heard or seen. A **Yellow-billed Cacique** unusually perched in the open was a complete surprise though nearby. Making our way up the road towards **Cerro Gaital**, we encountered a **Gray-cowled Wood-Rail** (a recent split from *Gray-necked Wood-Rail*-[photo below](#)) casually feeding within the mountain road. **Dusky-faced Tanager** and some **Giant Cowbirds** were seen further up the road too. The short, easy section of trail at Gaital proved one of the highlights of the day, with **Gray-headed Chachalacas** being seen by all, a foraging **Pale-vented Thrush**, and a very brief **White-tailed Emerald** zipping by and being seen by very few. However, the star bird of the morning was encountered on our way *out*, when we noticed a small huddle of birders just off the trail, who casually informed us they had just seen a **Black-crowned Antpitta**! We gathered ourselves and quickly got into position, just off of the forest trail, and pressed play on the I-Pod. We were positioned by a narrow, but deep gully, and a bit of playback swiftly received a reply from the *antpitta* on the far side of this. We continued to play, and the bird called back ever closer, soon bringing a spine-tingling encounter with the bird with some patience, when it appeared right alongside us, under twenty feet away. Initially, not all could see it, but then it hopped onto an open branch in full view of all for an outstanding look at this marquee species.

After enjoying an excellent lunch, at a Peruvian-themed restaurant in town well suggested by Luis, we visited a private residence at **Cara Iguana**. This particular estate has become a bit of a birding Mecca, as the local gardener, has got to know the location of some key species on the property. Having tried to locate the caretaker in the morning, and found him *not* to be present (nor the owners of this holiday home), we returned with some nerves in the afternoon, knowing this was our only day in the area. However, this time the caretaker was present, and soon walked us straight up to a wonderful roosting **Spectacled Owl** (this time an adult bird-[photo next page](#)). Nearby, a **Panama Flycatcher** was also found, as was a confiding **Rufous-breasted Wren** before we located a calling **Lesson's Motmot** (a recent split from *Blue-crowned*). While we watched this



species, our local guide went off in search of yet another *motmot*, soon announcing that he had it in his sights. We rushed to the spot, and were quickly captivated by a **Tody Motmot** sitting quietly in the understorey, our fifth and final motmot of the tour! At the end of the afternoon, we returned again to **Cerro Gaital**. This was largely quiet, as the day had begun to cool down significantly, although Barbara and Sam had their third *motmot* of the afternoon, with a **Rufous Motmot** near the van, and most of the group also got looks at a **Northern Schiffornis** along the same trail visited in the morning. We closed the day staring at a **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** ([photo at report end](#)) curled up in a pine tree that Luis had found.



Day 7: Juan Hombron and Altos de Campana National Park

In complete contrast to the day before, this morning was spent in the hot, steamy Pacific lowlands, along the coast near **Juan Hombron**. This brought a swathe of new birds, as we spent time in an open country area, combined with dry woodland and coastal lagoons, quite unlike anything else visited on the tour. We mainly birded along a dirt road that led us straight to the coast, but made many stops as we did so. First of these yielded a spritely group of **Scrub Greenlets** and a **Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**, both new for us. As we made our way along the road, we also checked patches of secondary scrub and woodland, where we found **Barred Antshrike**, **Northern Scrub-Flycatcher**, **Rufous-browed Peppershrike**, **Isthmian Wren** (a recent split from *Plain Wren*), and a spanking male **Prothonotary Warbler**, here in Panama for the bleak boreal winter. The agricultural fields along the road hosted **Eastern Meadowlarks**, and were especially good for raptors too, with several **Savanna** and **Zone-tailed Hawks**, **Peregrine Falcon**, **Yellow-headed** and **Crested Caracaras**, and **American Kestrel**. Further on down the road, we also found a handful of **Lesser**

Yellow-headed Vultures (photo page 16), one of our key target birds in this area. We checked any blooming coral trees for *mangos*, but found none throughout the morning, although these were being attended by another new hummingbird for us, **Sapphire-throated Hummingbird**, which was regularly encountered at various spots along the road. As we neared the end of the morning, we reached the coast and checked some of the lagoons just in off the sea for waterbirds. A guy hanging about one of these, clearly intent on shooting some of the birds, was not helping our cause. However, we did still find **Little Blue** and **Tricolored Herons**, **White Ibis**, **Wattled Jacana**, **Southern Lapwing**, **Whimbrel**, **Black-bellied Plover**, and **Solitary Sandpipers**. **Common Black-Hawk** and a **White-tailed Kite** were also both seen in the same area, adding to our morning's considerable raptor tally. By this time, the intense heat of the Pacific lowlands was all too evident, but we still found time to check the *terns* foraging along the coast here, which had the expected **Royal Terns** among them, but also at least one **Elegant Tern**, a species that seemed to please *Happy* especially, as she was hoping for that one! A **Straight-billed Woodcreeper** was also located at a nearby mangrove area, when **American Oystercatcher** was also seen. In the late afternoon, we traveled back towards the **Canal Zone** for our final days in Panama, but stopped off at the scenically spectacular **Altos de Campana National Park**. We had been hoping to pluck a **Yellow-eared Toucanet** out of this visit, but found very little at all on a quiet afternoon's trail walk, but were very pleased with the dramatic scenery that makes this place an outstanding site to see...



Several **Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture** were seen perched near *Juan Hombron*

Day 8: CANAL ZONE III: Campo Chagres NP (Madden Forest) and Pipeline Road (Soberania National Park)

We returned to the **Canal Zone** on this day, but instead of heading straight to the famous **Pipeline Road** first, we visited **Madden Forest**, where the nature of the forest is a little drier, thus making it a good site for *Rosy Thrush-Tanager*, *Lance-tailed Manakin*, and the endemic *Yellow-green Tyrannulet*, species that prefer drier forest than that found in areas of *Soberania National Park* closer to the *Pipeline Road*. Shortly after arriving near dawn, when the site is considerably cooler than it became by mid-morning; we had located the first of several male **Lance-tailed Manakins**. We had been taunted by the monotonous treetop sound of the **Green Shrike-Vireo** over recent days, and so were not pleased to hear that sound again! However, this time, the more open nature of the upper trees worked in our favor, and we managed not only to lure the bird into a near bare canopy, but also got it in our 'scope too. Several **Golden-fronted Greenlets** were also in the same area in which the *shrike-vireo* showed so well, but were less appreciated by the group! Soon after a **Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth** was noticed working its way up a tree, perhaps from a recent toilet break?! (They defecate on the ground every few weeks). Another good early find was a calling male **Black-tailed**

Trogon; while we had technically already seen this species at the *Summit Ponds* a few days earlier, the views were so brief this was a much needed, and much appreciated, upgrade to those looks. Moving into the denser forest, another target species, *Rosy Thrush-Tanager* responded loudly, as they often do, but only Luis was well positioned to see it when it appeared suddenly. It fell silent a short time later, and so we focused on other things. Reaching the main car park, Luis advised us to be on the lookout for **White-necked Puffbird** (photo below) in the area. A very short burst of playback proved his point well, when a pair of these sharp birds quickly appeared in a large dead tree bearing over the parking lot. A small feeding party inside the forest then yielded another major species for this site, **Yellow-green Tyrannulet**, one of only a handful of Panamanian country endemics. It was typically high up, but calling frequently and zipped around on to various perches overhead, which allowed us all to see it with some patience. A couple of **White-whiskered Puffbirds** were also seen along the trail. We also viewed the large lake at the trail end, where a flock of **Lesser Scaups** and an **Osprey** were present, but not much else. On the return walk through the forest to the car, we managed to pick up a **Russet-winged Schiffornis**, and better yet, got stunning views of a **White-bellied Antbird** (photo next page), a species that we had heard repeatedly but only glimpsed until then. We returned to *Gamboa* for another lunch alongside **White-necked Jacobins**, **Black-throated Mangos**, **Violet-bellied Hummingbirds** and **Red-legged Honeycreepers**.



After a short break, we hit the *Pipeline Road* for a third time, and this time it was at its majestic best; we stopped at the first sign of activity and barely moved from that spot, as bird after bird entertained us. It will be best remembered for the good run on trogons that occurred without us moving from this one spot: **White-tailed**, **Slaty-tailed** and **Black-throated Trogons** (photos page 19) were all seen right there alongside each other, to add to the fourth species also seen that morning. The same spot was also good for *woodcreepers*, with **Black-striped**, **Cocoa** and **Plain-brown Woodcreepers** all making an appearance. The boisterous call of a nearby **Black-bellied Wren** also drew our attention, and soon after we got to see it creeping around in the vine tangles, and emerging into the open regularly too. **Checker-**

throated and Dot-winged Antwrens were also found in this area, along with Dusky Antbird. Once this magnetic period of bird activity quietened down, we drove further along the *Pipeline Road* to the point where no further driving is permitted, and walked the start of the famous track beyond. Our minds were still very much on puffbirds, as we had scored both *White-necked* and *White-whiskered Puffbirds* that day, and got *Pied Puffbird* previously at the **Rainforest Discovery Center**, but were still missing the specialty species from that family in this area: *Black-breasted Puffbird*, (which we had heard on several occasions). So, we tried the call, but were instead replied to by a **Pied Puffbird** that was located sitting in trees overhead. However, soon after, the more distant sound of a **Black-breasted Puffbird** reached our ears, and this time the birds behaved themselves, continuing to call, and then flying into some trees above, where we could scope them for some time, capping off a *four-puffbird day*!



This **White-bellied Antbird** gave exceptional views at *Campo Chagres NP*;
however, it was about the fifth one we'd tried to see!

Photos next page: TOP **Black-throated Trogon**; BOTTOM **Slaty-tailed Trogon**



Day 9: Cerro Azul, Panama Canal, and Metropolitan Natural Park (Panama City)

Some flexibility was built into the plan for this day, so that we could revisit any of the previously visited sites, either side of a visit to *Miraflores Lock* to see the *Panama Canal* up close. After a group discussion the evening before, we decided to return to the eastern foothills and the site of *Cerro Azul* for the morning at least, before our afternoon visit to the *Canal*. Our main hope for Azul was to try and find a *Yellow-throated Toucanet*, in this, our third attempt. However, that bird eluded us all the way to the end. That's not to say that our time in *Cerro Azul* was wasted though, as we dug out some cool new birds. Shortly after getting there, having taken breakfast en-route, a **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** was seen creeping at snail's pace through the pine trees. This was beside a private residence with bird feeders that were attracting **Thick-billed Euphonias**, **Red-legged Honeycreepers**, **Hepatic and Plain-colored Tanagers**, **Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds**, **Crowned Woodnymphs** and **Bronze-tailed Plumeleteers**. **White-vented Plumeleteer** also turned up at the humming feeder at least once. A **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**, the only one recorded on the tour, was also noted shinning up a nearby trunk. Moving on from the feeders, we checked in at several spots, before walking a nearby trail for a short time in the late morning. The start of the trail produced a hyperactive flock of **Tawny-faced Gnatwrens**, but not much else, so, with the clock running down, we returned to the trailhead, where the sudden appearance of a mixed feeding flock got us numerous **Golden-hooded Tanagers** and another group of **Bay-headed Tanagers**, but this time with two **Rufous-winged Tanagers** among them, and a **Speckled Tanager** too, which provided a good late surge at the site and made our visit very worthwhile.

After grabbing lunch at a roadside café, we headed back into the heart of *Panama City* and to the country's most famous tourist attraction, the *Panama Canal at Miraflores Locks*. From the 4th floor we could see the extent of this marvel of engineering, as it spanned from either side of our position, and was framed by the forested hills behind. This 48-mile long canal formally opened in 1904, and since then, well over a million ships have passed through the canal (that milestone was reached back in 2010), which connects the Caribbean Sea with the Pacific Ocean; the canal serves 1700 ports in 160 countries making it one of the largest and most significant transportation hubs in the World. A few **Magnificent Frigatebirds** kept us company as we surveyed the extraordinary scale of this construction project from our lofty position above.

Following our brief tenure at the canal, we visited nearby *Metropolitan Natural Park*. Here, we knew the humid dry forest was a key site for *Rosy Thrush-Tanager*, a bird that we had heard at both *Summit Ponds* and *Madden Forest*, but had still not been met by the gaze of anyone in the group besides Luis. It was hot and sweaty during our time there, so although we only needed to walk around 550yards/500m to get to the best area for the bird, the hill and heat made this feel considerably longer! While waiting for all to reach the spot, a pair of **Red-throated Ant-Tanagers** entertained the first arrivers, as did a low foraging **Rufous-breasted Wren**, and a **Southern Bentbill**. Soon after playing the call of a **Rosy Thrush-Tanager** the bird responded, seemingly far off, but then shocked us all by blasting in and landing at close range. We took in this beautiful bird, before it dropped back into the dense bamboo. It came back in once more and showed again well though typically briefly, and then left again. We were relieved to get this stunning and unique terrestrial tanager right at our final attempt with no wiggle room to spare. On the way back to the vehicle, we took our time, and found a **Lineated Woodpecker**, which was our only sighting of the tour. Then, just as we were readying to leave, a small feeding party appeared right beside the vehicle, which contained another **Yellow-green Tyrannulet**, **Golden-winged Warbler**, **White-shouldered Tanager**, and several **Golden-fronted Greenlets**. This distraction delayed us for a while, as we were planning to get in a final short session on the *Pipeline Road*. As it turned out, this could not happen anyway, as we found a security guard blocking access for some secret reason when we got there, and so spent a short final session birding the start of the *Plantation Trail*. By the roadside, a mother and baby **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** foraged on fruits in plain sight, and on the trail we just about managed to locate a tiny **Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant** before the darkening forest led us back out to the forest edge, where *Happy* found one of the final new birds of the tour, a male **Black-capped Tityra** standing sentry. At the end of the day we returned to the *Radisson Summit* for our final night's stay, before departures the next morning.

Day 10: Departure from Panama City

While others opted for a lie in and airport drop off, Sam and Luis visited two different shorebirding sites close to the airport. These are very conveniently located, and can rightly rank themselves as some of the best shorebirding areas in the Neotropics. A quick stop there, on the purpose-built viewing platform (in the shadow of the distinctive city skyline of Panama City) yielded a flurry of waterbirds: **Yellow-crowned Night-Herons**, **Little Blue Herons**, **Black-necked Stilts**, **Black-bellied Plovers**, **Whimbrels**, **Semipalmated Plovers**, **Least**, **Semipalmated** and **Western Sandpipers**, **Short-billed Dowitchers**, **Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs**, and **Willet** were all seen teaming around the platform.

Finally though, flights dictated we leave, after a fascinating tour of this outstanding birding nation.

Some other tour photos...



Rufous-capped Warbler *Cerro Azul*



Keel-billed Toucan *Radisson Summit Hotel*; and Thick-billed Euphonia *Cerro Azul*





Photos from page before: The Extraordinary landscapes of **Campana National Park**

BIRD, MAMMAL, AND OTHER ANIMAL LISTS

The taxonomy of the bird list follows: Clements, James F., White, Anthony W., and Fitzpatrick, John W. The Clements Checklist of Birds of the World. Cornell, 2007.

This list is up to date with the major changes published by Cornell up until August 2016.

Regional endemic bird species are indicated in **RED** and with a *.

(H) indicates a species that was HEARD only.

(GO) indicates a species recorded by the GUIDE ONLY.

BIRDS:

TINAMOUS: TINAMIDAE

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*: Sam and Luis got one during lunchtime at the Radisson Summit **(GO)**.

DUCKS, GEESE, AND WATERFOWL: ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: 15 birds were seen in the Canal Zone.

Lesser Scaup *Aythya affinis*: 20 birds were seen on the lake at Madden Forest.

GUANS, CHACHALACAS, AND CURASSOWS: CRACIDAE

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*: Recorded in both the Canal Zone and at El Valle.

FRIGATEBIRDS: FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*: Recorded 4 times in the Canal Zone.

CORMORANTS AND SHAGS: PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: 10 were seen in the Pacific lowlands.

ANHINGAS: ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*: A couple of singles were seen at the Ammo Dump Ponds by the Panama Canal.

PELICANS: PELECANIDAE

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour.

HERONS, EGRETS, AND BITTERNES: ARDEIDAE

Rufescent Tiger-heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*: Luis found one hiding at the Ammo Dump Ponds.

Bare-throated Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma mexicanum*: Just the one was seen at Chepo just east of Panama City.

Great Blue Heron *Ardea Herodias*: 2 were found near Juan Hombron.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoa*: 1 was seen in flight at Chepo, near Panama City.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*: Recorded on 6 days of the tour.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: A couple was seen at Chepo.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: 3 were found at the Summit Ponds, and another 4 at Juan Hombron.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor*: Just one single was seen during our one morning in the coastal Pacific lowlands.
Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: Recorded on half of the tour days.
Green Heron *Butorides virescens*: 3 were found at the Summit Ponds, and another at the Ammo Dump Ponds.
Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*: Just the one was seen during a journey out of the Canal Zone.
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*: A few were seen by Sam and Luis, near the airport.
Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*: 3 were seen resting in the open at Summit Ponds early one morning.

IBISES AND SPOONBILLS: THRESKIORNITHIDAE

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*: 2 birds were seen near the coast near Juan Hombron.

NEW WORLD VULTURES: CATHARTIDAE

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: Recorded daily at many sites.
Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Seen at numerous sites: recorded every day.
Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burr ovianus*: At least 5 birds were seen near Juan Hombron.

OSPREY: PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: 3 sightings in the Canal Zone.

HAWKS, EAGLES, AND KITES: ACCIPITRIDAE

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsonii*: Bernice H found a nesting bird on our first afternoon at Chepo.
White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*: 1 was seen flying over at Juan Hombron.
Gray-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*: Just one flew past – briefly – at Altos del Maria.
Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*: At least 10 birds were spotted in the Canal Zone.
Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*: A pair was seen in Gamboa; another showed at Juan Hombron.
Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*: 2 birds showed well at Juan Hombron.
Great Black-Hawk A juvenile bird gave exceptional views at a feeder in Gamboa!
Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*: 1 was seen at Chepo, and another 2 at Juan Hombron.
White Hawk *Pseudastur albicollis*: One was seen gliding in the distance at Cerro Azul.
Gray-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus*: 1 was seen in the foothills at Altos del Maria.
Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*: 2 singles were seen, at Altos del Maria and Campana.
Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*: One was seen in the Pacific lowlands.
Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*: 2 birds were seen at Juan Hombron, and another above the Pipeline Road.

RAILS, GALLINULES, AND COOTS: RALLIDAE

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis*: Heard at the Ammo Dump Ponds (H).
Gray-cowled Wood-Rail *Aramides cajaneus*: 1 bold bird was foraging on the road up to Cerro Gaital near El Valle.
(Please note: This species was recently described out of a 2-way split from *Gray-necked Wood-Rail*)

OYSTERCATCHERS: HAEMATOPODIDAE

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*: 2 were found in the coastal Pacific lowlands.

PLOVERS AND LAPWINGS: CHARADRIIDAE

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*: 4 birds were seen in the coastal lowlands, and others in Panama City.

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*: 6 in the Radisson Summit Hotel grounds. 3 more were found at Juan Hombron.

JACANAS: JACANIDAE

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*: Seen 4 times (Chepo, Ammo Dump Ponds and Juan Hombron).

SANDPIPERS AND ALLIES: SCOLOPACIDAE

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*: Recorded at Chepo and at the Radisson Summit Hotel.

Solitary Sandpiper *Tringa solitaria*: 3 were seen at Juan Hombron.

Willet *Tringa falpipes*: 10 birds were found on the beach at Juan Hombron.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: A few were seen on the sand at Juan Hombron.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: Decent numbers were found at a shorebird site in Panama City.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*: A few of these were identified at a Panama City shorebirding site.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris Calidris mauri*: Also seen close to the Panama City airport.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*: A few were identified (by voice) in Panama City.

GULLS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS: LARIDAE

Laughing Gull *Leucophaeus atricilla*: At least 30 were seen at Juan Hombron.

Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*: One was seen in our morning in the coastal lowlands of the Pacific.

Royal Tern *Thalasseus maximus*: Around 50 were cruising by offshore from Juan Hombron.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*: At least 2 birds were seen on the coast close to Juan Hombron.

PIGEONS AND DOVES: COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*: Scattered sightings on urban areas throughout.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*: A handful of birds was seen a couple of times in the Canal Zone.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*: 3 were seen from the Canopy Observation Tower (Rainforest Discovery Center).

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*: Heard along the Pipeline Road (H).

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta*: Luis put us on to a few of these at Chepo.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*: Seen in small numbers daily.

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa*: A brief female was seen by only a few at the Summit Ponds.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*: One or two were seen on most of the tour days.

Gray-chested Dove *Leptotila cassini*: Just a couple were seen (briefly only) on the Pipeline Road.

Mourning Dove *Zenaida macroura*: One was seen at Juan Hombron.

CUCKOOS: CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*: Seen in the Canal Zone and in the foothills too.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*: 1 was seen well on our opening afternoon in Chepo.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*: 4 birds seen in Chepo were the only ones of the tour.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Recorded in Chepo and Juan Hombron with the latter species.

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*: Fairly common around Juan Hombron.

OWLS: STRIGIDAE

Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*: 2 daytime birds were seen, a juvenile at Summit Ponds, and 1 at Cara Iguana. One of the birds of the tour.

Mottled Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata*: Heard loudly along the Pipeline Road; we could not get it to budge! (H)

NIGHTJARS AND ALLIES: CAPRIMULGIDAE

Lesser/Common Nighthawk *Chordeiles sp.*: One was seen en route to Cerro Azul in the early morning.

Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: A handful was seen at night on the golf course at the Radisson Summit.

POTOOS: NYCTIBIIDAE

Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis*: 2 separate birds were seen at day roosts on the Pipeline Road.

SWIFTS: APODIDAE

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: Just seen the once, along the Pipeline Road.

Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*: 5 birds were seen near the Pipeline Road.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*: 4 were seen at the Summit Ponds.

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus*: 15 were seen gliding above the Summit Ponds.

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*: A single was seen with a swift flock above the Summit Ponds.

HUMMINGBIRDS: TROCHILIDAE

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*: Regularly seen at the feeders at both Cerro Azul and Gamboa.

Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*: A couple of singles were noted at Altos del Maria.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*: 2 of these bold hermits were seen at the Rainforest Discovery Centre.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*: 2 were seen at Cerro Gaital, above El Valle.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*: A few were seen at the feeders in Gamboa.

Rufous-crested Coquette *Lophornis delattrei*: A spanking male was seen at the Harrison's property in Cerro Azul.

Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis*: A single in Chepo was seen by some only.

Violet-headed Hummingbird *Klais guimeti*: 1 was observed on our second visit to Cerro Azul.

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*: 1 was found at Cerro Azul, and another at Madden Forest.

White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii*: Singles were seen on both of our visits to Cerro Azul.

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis*: Regular at the feeders in Cerro Azul, with around 3 birds there.

Crowned Woodnymph *Thalurania colombica*: Seen at both sets of feeders in Cerro Azul, and also at Cerro Gaital.

(Please note: Formerly split as *Violet-crowned Woodnymph*, but now lumped with *Green-crowned*).

Snowcap *Microchera albocoronata*: A superb perched male was showed to all present, by Luis at Altos del Maria.

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*: A few were seen at the Gamboa feeders.

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia Edward*: Recorded at Chepo, Cerro Azul, and the Summit Ponds.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*: The most frequently recorded hummingbird, on 5 tour days.

Violet-capped Hummingbird *Goldmania violiceps*: A young male visited the feeders at Cerro Azul.

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird *Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*: 6 were seen along the road at Juan Hombron.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Damophila Julie*: Small numbers graced the Gamboa feeders.

TROGONS: TROGONIDAE

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon Massena*: 2 males were seen, at the Summit Ponds and the Pipeline Road.

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus*: A pair was seen at the Summit Ponds and another was seen at Chagres.

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus*: Seen at least three times along the Pipeline Road.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*: A single bird showed up at Cerro Jefe.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*: A male showed very well along the Pipeline Road.

Orange-bellied Trogon *Trogon aurantiiventris*: A pair was found in the foothills at Altos del Maria.

MOTMOTS: MOMOTIDAE

Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula*: One was seen superbly in a private forest at Cara Iguana.

Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens*: Seen on at least three occasions in the Canal Zone.

Lesson's Motmot *Momotus lessonii*: One was seen at Cara Iguana, near El Valle.

Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*: Two singles featured; at Cerro Azul and Cerro Gaital.

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*: 1 turned up at Cerro Azul, and a pair was found at Pipeline Road.

KINGFISHERS: ALCEDINIDAE

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle torquata*: 1 bird was seen up close at the Summit Ponds.

Belted Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*: 1 was seen in the hills of Altos del Maria.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*: 2 singles were seen on the entire tour.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*: 1 at Cerro Azul; another at Altos del Maria.

PUFFBIRDS: BUCCONIDAE

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*: A pair gave prolonged views at Madden Forest.

Black-breasted Puffbird *Notharcus hyperrhynchus*: Gave us a hard time; finally, 2 seen on Pipeline Road.

Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*: 2 were seen on the Pipeline Road and one from the Observation Tower there.

White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*: 2 sightings, at Pipeline Road and Madden Forest.

TOUCANS: RAMPHASTIDAE

Emerald Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus prasinus*: 1 was found at Altos del Maria.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*: Just 4 birds were seen, in a single flock near the Pipeline Road.

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*: 1 was seen from the Canopy Observation Tower.

(Please note: Formerly known as *Chestnut-mandibled* or *Black-mandibled Toucan*).

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*: 2 at Cerro Azul, 1 at the Radisson Summit, 2 in El Valle, and 1 Pipeline Rd.

WOODPECKERS: PICIDAE

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*: 2 seen at Cerro Azul, and another on the Pipeline Rd.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*: Recorded on 6 days of the tour; commonly seen.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker *Sphyrapicus varius*: 1 was seen by the group at Cerro Azul.

Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker *Piculus collopterus*: 1 showed for a long period at Cerro Jefe.

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*: 1 showed on the Pipeline Road.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*: 1 was seen in Panama City's Metropolitan Natural Park.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*: 1 at Cerro Azul, and another at Pipeline Road.

FALCONS AND CARACARAS: FALCONIDAE

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*: Heard distantly at the Rainforest Discovery Center.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*: Seen in Chepo and Juan Hombron (i.e. 2 sites only).

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*: Recorded in Chepo, Summit Ponds, at the canal, and in Juan Hombron.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*: A pair was seen in Chepo, and a single showed up at Juan Hombron.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*: 1 was seen well, and perched, at the wonderful Altos del Maria.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*: Juan Hombron produced the only sighting.

NEW WORLD & AFRICAN PARROTS: PSITTACIDAE

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis*: Seen at Gamboa, Altos del Maria and beside the Radisson Summit.

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pyrilia haematotis*: 4 were seen in flight at Altos del Maria.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*: 10 birds were seen at El Valle and another pair was seen at Plantation Trail.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*: Recorded on 4 days, at Chepo and in the Canal Zone.

Yellow-crowned Parrot *Amazona ochrocephala*: Sam got a pair in Juan Hombron (**GO**).

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*: 5 were seen from the Canopy Observation Tower at the Rainforest Discovery Center.

Brown-throated Parakeet *Eupsittula pertinax*: One was found perched in the coastal Pacific lowlands.

TYPICAL ANTIBIRDS: THAMNOPHILIDAE

Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*: Seen on 4 occasions in the Canal Zone.

Great Antshrike *Taraba major*: Heard at the Summit Ponds (**H**).

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*: Seen on 3 days, at the Summit Ponds, the Pipeline Rd., and Juan Hombron.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*: Seen on 3 occasions in the Canal Zone, and also at Cerro Azul.

(Please note: Formerly known as *Western Slaty-Antshrike*.)

Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*: 1 was seen at Altos del Maria.

Plain Antvireo *Dysithamnus mentalis*: A male was encountered alongside the Pipeline Road.

Spot-crowned Antvireo *Dysithamnus puncticeps*: A male was seen along a quiet forest trail in Altos del Maria.

Checker-throated Antwren *Epinecrophylla fulviventris*: A pair was seen at the Rainforest Discovery Center.

Moustached Antwren *Myrmotherula ignota*: Heard repeatedly one afternoon along the Pipeline Road (**H**).

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*: 1 featured one afternoon at Pipeline Road.

Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*: At least 3 birds were seen in the foothills at Altos del Maria.

Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhopias quixensis*: Recorded a handful of times in the Canal Zone.

Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina*: Seen at both the Summit Ponds trail and also on the Pipeline Road.

Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans*: One of the tour specialties, seen at the Summit Ponds trail.

White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes*: Phenomenal looks were had at Madden Forest in Chagres NP.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul*: First seen at Cerro Azul, then on the Pipeline Road.

Dull-mantled Antbird *Myrmeciza laemosticta*: Great looks were had of a male along a forest trail at Altos del Maria.

Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys bicolor*: 4 birds featured late one morning in Soberania NP.

Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides*: A pair was seen on our first visit to the famous Pipeline Road.

GNATEATERS: CONOPOPHAGIDAE

Black-crowned Antpitta *Pittasoma michleri*: Unquestionably, one of the overall tour highlights was seeing this bird, and seeing this species so, so well at Cerro Gaital, above El Valle. By some quirk of fate, as we were leaving the trail there, we encountered an abandoned tripod by the trail with no one standing alongside. A quick glance inside the forest revealed a huddle of happy looking birders, who informed us that they had flushed an antpitta off of the trail, and then seen it in the forest. We needed to use playback to get our view, and the individual quickly responded, and steadily sounded closer, until Sam spotted the bird racing up the slope towards us. A nervy few minutes went by, and then the bird appeared just a few meters from one side of the group, then hopped on to an open perch in full view of the entire group, where it lingered for them to thoroughly examine at close range! We truly could not have asked for more from this bird, which behaved impeccably.

ANTPITTAS: GRALLARIIDAE

Streak-chested Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus*: We got close but no cigar; heard at Altos del Maria and the Pipeline Road, but to no avail sadly (H).

ANTTHRUSHES: FORMICARIIDAE

Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*: 2 were seen one morning on the legendary Pipeline Road.

OVENBIRDS AND WOODCREEPERS: FURNARIIDAE

Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*: A single seen on both of our visits to the foothills of Cerro Azul.

Straight-billed Woodcreeper *Dendroplex picus*: Luis took us to a spot on the coast, which then produced.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*: Sighted on 4 days in both the foothills and Canal Zone.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*: Observed on 5 days, in the Canal Zone, Panama City, and foothills.

Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*: A smashing bird was seen in a lively spell at Pipeline Rd.

Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*: Singles were seen in at both Cerro Jefe and Altos del Maria.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*: Recorded in the Canal Zone and Altos del Maria.

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunnescens*: A single was noted at Altos del Maria in the foothills.

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops*: One of the specialties of Altos del Maria, where 4 were seen.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS: TYRANNIDAE

Brown-capped Tyrannulet *Ornithion brunneicapillus*: Only 1 was seen, at Cerro Azul; also heard in the Canal Zone.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*: Seen once, on our first visit to Cerro Azul.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet *Phaeomyias murina*: A specialty of coastal lowlands; 1 was found near Juan Hombron.

Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii*: Heard regularly, and eventually seen in the Canal Zone.

Gray Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps*: Seen by Sam at the Radisson Summit; heard elsewhere in the Canal area (GO).

Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*: 2 were encountered at Madden Forest.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*: Seen twice, at Chepo, and near Juan Hombron.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis*: One was seen in the foothills, at El Valle de Anton.

Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*: 1 was seen at Cerro Gaital near El Valle.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes olieaginus*: Observed just the once, at Cerro Gaital.

Yellow-green Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes flavovirens*: This Panamanian endemic was seen at Madden Forest, and then the Metropolitan Natural Park in Panama City.

Paltry Tyrannulet *Zimmerius vilissimus*: Recorded on seven days, in both the foothills and Canal Zone.

Northern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum*: One showed briefly in a wooded patch near Juan Hombron.

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis atricapillus*: One of the smallest birds in the World; seen at Plantation Trail.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*: A couple of singles were found at Cerro Azul.

Southern Bentbill *Oncostoma olivaceum*: Seen at Summit Ponds, Pipeline Rd., and Metropolitan Natural Park.

Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Poecilatriccus sylvia*: A pair was found at Madden Forest.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*: Strangely, seen just the once, at Chepo.

Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*: A few of the group encountered a single at Altos del Maria.

Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*: Two singles were found on the Pipeline Road.

Yellow-olive Flycatcher *Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*: 1 was found at a roadside stop en-route to El Valle.

Yellow-margined Flycatcher *Tolmomyias assimilis flavotectus*: 2 were seen in the Canal Zone.

Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus*: A late morning highlight along the Pipeline Road.

Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus*: An individual called just once at Summit Ponds (H).

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*: One showed up along the Pipeline Road.

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius*: A few people one in a mixed flock at Altos del Maria.

Black-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius atricaudus*: Heard at both the Summit Ponds and Metropolitan Natural Park (H).

Tufted Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*: 5 or so birds were encountered in the hills at Altos del Maria.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*: Seen twice in the foothills; 2 at Cerro Azul, and 5 at Altos del Maria.

Pied Water-Tyrant *Fluvicola pica*: 1 was seen along the road at Chepo, a specialty of the site.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus*: Heard repeatedly at several sites, and seen briefly at Cerro Gaital.

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*: A few people saw one in a mixed feeding flock on the Pipeline Road.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*: Recorded 5 times on the tour.

Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*: 1 was seen during an amazing spell (with Tody Motmot) at Cara Iguana.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*: 2 were seen near Juan Hombron in the coastal lowlands of the Pacific.

Lesser Kiskadee *Pitangus lector*: 2 were seen typically sitting low over the water, at the Summit Ponds.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*: Recorded on 3 days of the tour in the lowlands, including at Madden Forest.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*: At least 4 observations were made in the Canal Zone and foothills.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*: Just seen at the one site; Chepo, where 3 were seen.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*: Regularly encountered, (recorded on at least 6 days).

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*: Observed on at least 5 days of the tour, at various sites.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*: 1 was seen at the Summit Ponds.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*: The most regularly encountered flycatcher, on all but one day.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savanna*: 5 of were seen at Chepo, and a few were also found at Juan Hombron.

COTINGAS: COTINGIDAE

Blue Cotinga *Cotinga natterii*: A gorgeous male was watched extensively, while feeding in a cecropia in Cerro Azul.

MANAKINS: PIPRIDAE

Lance-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia lanceolata*: A pair was seen at Juan Hombron; 4 were also found at Madden.

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera*: A male was photographed at Cerro Jefe; another was seen at Cerro Gaital.

Golden-collared Manakin *Manacus vitellinus*: Observed on 3 days of the tour (all in the Canal Zone).

Red-capped Manakin *Ceratopipra mentalis*: Two females were seen on the Pipeline Road.

TITYRAS AND ALLIES: TITYRIDAE

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*: A male was found by Happy at the Plantation Trail.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*: Just 2 birds were found, at Cerro Azul.

Northern Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis*: A calling bird was located at Cerro Gaital.

Russet-winged Schiffornis *Schiffornis stenoryncha*: 1 was seen well at Chagres National Park.

Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*: Heard at Cerro Azul (H).

White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus*: Heard at both Altos del Maria and Cerro Gaital (H).

VIREOS, SHRIKE-BABLERS & ERPORNIS: VIREONIDAE

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*: 1 was seen by some of the group at Cerro Azul.

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*: Heard on 4 different days in the foothills and Canal Zone (H).

Scrub Greenlet *Hylophilus flavipes*: One of the specialties we targeted at Juan Hombron, where 3 were seen.

Golden-fronted Greenlet *Pachysylvia aurantiifrons*: 4 were seen at Chagres NP, and 3 at Metropolitan Natural Park.

Lesser Greenlet *Pachysylvia decurtata*: 2 calling birds were observed on the Pipeline Road.

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanius pulchellus*: Prolonged 'scope views were had of this elusive fellow in Madden Forest.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*: 1 was found during our morning near the Pacific coast.

CROWS, JAYS, AND MAGPIES: CORVIDAE

Black-chested Jay *Cyanocorax affinis*: Bernice J found our first from the Canopy Observation Tower; others were seen at El Valle and Juan Hombron.

SWALLOWS: HIRUNDINIDAE

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*: Up to ten birds were seen around El Valle.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Seen at both Cerro Azul and in the Canal Zone.

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Regularly encountered, on at least 7 days.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*: Regularly seen in the Canal Zone, particularly at the Canal itself.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: Just one confirmed sighting, by the Panama Canal.

WRENS: TROGLODYTIDAE

Scaly-breasted Wren *Microcerculus marginatus*: Heard at Cerro Azul, Cerro Gaital, and Madden Forest (H).

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: Recorded on 5 different days of the tour.

Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus*: 2 birds were seen at Altos del Maria, one of the specialties there.

Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*: Great looks were had of a single at Pipeline Road.

Rufous-breasted Wren *Pheugopedius rutilus*: Seen well at Cara Iguana and in the Metropolitan Park in Panama City.

Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryophilus rufalbus*: A single was seen during our morning near Juan Hombron.

Isthmian Wren *Cantorchilus elutus*: This recently split species was found twice, at Summit Ponds and Juan Hombron.

(Please note: This species is a recent split from the *Plain Wren* complex, which is now split into 3 species).

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*: Cerro Azul produced our first, and then another was seen at Cerro Gaital.

Buff-breasted Wren *Cantorchilus leucotis*: 3 were seen at Summit Ponds.

White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticte*: Just the one was seen by Sam and Luis at Cerro Jefe (GO).

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*: A single bird was found in the foothills at Altos del Maria.

Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*: A party of 3 birds were seen by all on the Pipeline Road.

GNATCATCHERS: POLIOPTILIDAE

Tawny-crested Gnatwren *Microbates cinereiventris*: 3 were found on our second visit to Cerro Azul.

Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*: 1 showed at Pipeline Road, and another at Madden Forest.

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*: Turned up on 4 days of the tour, in the Canal Zone and foothills.

THRUSHES AND ALLIES: TURDIDAE

Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus*: 1 was found foraging in a fruiting tree at Cerro Gaital, near El Valle.

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*: Costa Rica's drab national bird was seen daily.

White-throated Thrush *Turdus assimilis*: One was seen in the foothills of El Valle.

MOCKINGBIRDS AND THRASHERS: MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*: Encountered on 5 days of the tour.

NEW WORLD WARBLERS: PARULIDAE

Northern Waterthrush *Parkesia noveboracensis*: 1 was found at Cerro Azul.

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*: 2 males were encountered, at Cerro Gaital and Metropolitan Park.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*: Seen in the foothills at both Cerro Azul and Altos del Maria.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*: The Summit Ponds hosted our first and Juan Hombron our second.

Tennessee Warbler *Oreothlypis peregrine*: This migrant species was seen on 4 occasions, including in Panama City.

Mourning Warbler *Geothlypis Philadelphia*: Seen at Altos del Maria, Cerro Gaital, and Juan Hombron.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: A young male was encountered at Cerro Azul.

Magnolia Warbler *Setophaga magnolia*: Some of the group found a single bird at Cerro Azul.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Setophaga castanea*: One of the regular wintering warbler species, recorded on 4 days.

Blackburnian Warbler *Setophaga fusca*: 2 birds were found during our day at Altos del Maria.

Yellow Warbler *Setophaga petechial*: Recorded on 5 different days of the tour.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Setophaga pensylvanica*: Seen at Cerro Azul, Pipeline Road, and the Metropolitan Park.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*: A few birds were seen in the Panamanian foothills.

Rufous-capped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*: A few were recorded at Altos del Maria, El Valle, and Cerro Azul.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Myiothlypis fulvicauda*: Unfortunately, only heard at El Valle de Anton (H).

Canada Warbler *Cardellina Canadensis*: 3 were seen at Altos del Maria, and 2 at Cerro Gaital.

Slate-throated Redstart *Myioborus miniatus*: Unfortunately, only Sam got to see this bird, at Altos del Maria (GO).

TANAGERS AND ALLIES: THRAUPIDAE

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis pencillata*: 1 was seen on the Pipeline Road.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*: Recorded in the Canal Zone, and at Metropolitan Park.

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii*: A goodly number were seen in a single flock at Altos del Maria.

White-lined Tanager *Tachyphonus rufus*: A male was seen at Summit Ponds, where it is an uncommon species.

Flame-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus*: 3 birds were seen at Altos del Maria, and another 2 at El Valle.

Crimson-backed Tanager *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*: This handsome tanager was seen on all but one day.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*: Encountered daily.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*: Recorded on at least 6 days.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*: This dashing tanager was seen on 5 days, in foothills and lowlands.

Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata*: Bernice found this one, "at the death", at Cerro Azul.

Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inornata*: Encountered on at least 5 tour days, (e.g. at Cerro Azul/Gamboa feeders).

Rufous-winged Tanager *Tangara lavinia*: Two of these very scarce (and handsome) birds were located at Cerro Azul.

Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: A handful was seen on both of visits to the foothills of Cerro Azul.

Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*: Ten or so birds were seen at Altos del Maria.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*: Another gorgeous tanager, encountered on 5 days (in foothills and Canal Zone).

Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus*: A dozen or so birds were visiting the Harrison's feeders at Cerro Azul.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*: A common tanager, seen on 6 days. Visited feeders in Gamboa.

Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*: Recorded on 5 days of the trip.

Black-and-yellow Tanager *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*: 2 breathtaking males were seen very well at Cerro Jefe.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*: 1 was seen at Chepo on our first afternoon near Panama City.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta*: A handsome male was found at Chepo, near Panama City.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvine*: Found on 6 days of the tour.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis*: Just a couple was seen on a fence beside the Panama Canal.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Just a few were observed, all at Cerro Azul.

Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*: Two birds were found along the road above El Valle.

Rosy Thrush-Tanager *Rhodinocichla rosea*: This gorgeous bird was seen at the Metropolitan Natural Park, in Panama City. *One of the birds of the trip.*

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*: Three singles were found in the Canal Zone.

Black-headed Saltator *Saltator atriceps*: A very vocal, and elusive, bird was seen with some effort, close to El Valle.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*: A single bird was seen around El Valle late one afternoon.

BUNTINGS AND NEW WORLD SPARROWS: EMBERIZIDAE

Common Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus flavopectus*: At least 15 birds were seen up at Altos del Maria.

Tacarcuna Chlorospingus *Chlorospingus tacarcunae*: One of the shocks of the trip was an individual of this species popping up at the top of Cerro Jefe. Sadly, it did not remain for all but Sam and a few others to see. This is a very rare species largely confined to Panama, which is only very, very rarely seen at this site.

Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*: A single was found on Cerro Gaital, near El Valle.

CARDINALS AND ALLIES: CARDINALIDAE

Hepatic Tanager *Piranga flava*: A handful of birds were encountered in the foothills at Cerro Azul.

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*: This boreal migrant was found on 5 days of the trip.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*: 2 were seen up on Cerro Gaital above El Valle.

Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*: Found at Summit Ponds, Pipeline Road, and Metropolitan Park.

Carmioli's Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli*: Seen in the foothills, at Cerro Azul, Altos del Maria, and Cerro Gaital.

Black-faced Grosbeak *Caryothraustes poliogaster*: A single flock of 8 birds were observed at Altos del Maria.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak *Pheucticus ludovicianus*: 1 bird was seen at El Valle de Anton.

Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanoides*: Heard up in the hills at Cerro Jefe.

TROUPIALS AND ALLIES: ICTERIDAE

Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*: 3 were seen near Juan Hombron.

Red-breasted Meadowlark *Sturnella militaris*: A beautiful male was found by Luis at Chepo.

(Please note: This was formerly named *Red-breasted BLACKBIRD*).

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Commonly encountered daily.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*: Two birds were seen in the hills above El Valle.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*: 5 were seen at Cerro Gaital.

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*: This yellow beacon was found at Summit Ponds and Pipeline Road.

Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*: Seen first at Chepo, then again at El Valle and Juan Hombron.

Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*: This skulking cacique was seen in the open at Cara Iguana.

Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus uropygialis*: 2 couples were observed; at Summit and just off of the Pipeline Rd.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*: 10 were during an early morning at the Summit Ponds.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*: A common Panamanian bird, recorded on 7 out of 9 days.

FINCHES, EUPHONIAS & ALLIES: FRINGILLIDAE

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*: Two sightings, at Chepo and Juan Hombron.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia lanirostris*: 6 were seen at feeders in Cerro Azul, and a single at Gamboa.

Fulvous-vented Euphonia *Euphonia fulvicrissa*: Just one female was seen in Cerro Azul.

Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia anae*: We watched a pair in Cerro Azul, and also found a female near El Valle.

Lesser Goldfinch *Spinus psaltria*: Observed on our first day in Chepo, near Panama City.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS: PASSERIDA

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: Just recorded in one day, in El Valle.

MAMMALS:

Virginia Opossum *Didelphis virginiana*: Sam saw one on the way to Cerro Azul (GO).

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*: Luis found 2 obliging animals, (Cerro Gaital/Plantation Trail).

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*: An active animal was seen at Madden Forest.

Geoffroy's Tamarin *Saguinus geoffroyi*: This handsome primate was coming to feeders at Cerro Azul.

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capucinus*: 3 were foraging beside the Pipeline Road one afternoon.

Mantled Howler *Alouatta palliata*: Encountered twice on the Pipeline Road and once at the nearby Plantation Trail.

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*: Recorded at least twice in the Canal Zone.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis*: Seen on both the Canal Zone and foothills.

Western Pygmy Squirrel *Microsciurus mimulus*: One was seen in the forested hills above El Valle.

Lesser Capybara *Hydrochoerus isthmus*: About 5 animals were seen on the golf course at our Summit hotel.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*: Encountered at close range by the feeders in Gamboa. Also seen in Cerro Azul and along the Pipeline Road.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*: 2 animals were seen, both in the Canal Zone.

Tayra *Eira barbata*: A single animal crossed the Pipeline Road twice, one time slowly.

OTHERS:

Marine Toad *Rhinella (Bufo) marina*: Seen in El Valle and on the Pipeline Road.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*: These huge reptiles were seen twice in the Canal Zone.

Black Ctenosaur *Ctenisaura similis*: One of these beasts was lounging alongside the Panama Canal.

Common Basilisk *Basiliscus basiliscus*: Seen at the Radisson Summit Hotel and El Valle.

Central American Ameiva *Ameiva festiva*: AKA *Central American Whiptail*. 1 was seen at Altos del Maria.

Giant Helicopter Damselfly *Megaloprerus coerulatus*: This impressive beast was seen at Summit & Altos del Maria.

American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus*: 1 was seen at the Summit Ponds and another near Juan Hombron.



This damp **Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** was found in the forested hills above *El Valle de Anton*