



ROCKJUMPER

Worldwide Birding Adventures

Panama

Darién Extension I

18th to 23rd March 2017 (6 Days)

Best of Birding Panama I

23rd March to 1st April 2017 (10 Days)

Chiriqui Highlands Extension

1st to 6th April 2017 (6 Days)



Swallow-tailed Kite by Stefan Obytz

Trip Report compiled by Tour Leader, Forrest Rowland



Tour Summary

With over 1,000 species recorded within its 28,640 mi², there is no doubt that Panama is the premier birding destination of Central America. While much of the country's avifauna is shared with neighbouring Costa Rica to the north and Colombia to the south, Panama is nevertheless unique. The



Harpy Eagle by Stefan Obytz

brilliant infrastructure, contemporary historical significance within Latin America, and blossoming individual culture of the country makes travel here very pleasant, and interesting. *And wild!* Panama boasts some of the largest contiguous tracts of untouched rainforest on Earth, much of which lies within the province of the Darién. Just the name Darién evokes a stirring emotion for most wildlife enthusiasts. This famous region is remote and untouched, which are two characteristics birders and nature-lovers long for in a destination, but find hard to encounter. Throw in Harpy and Crested Eagles – *both on nests* – and it's an irresistible dream for birders! Of course, that's just 30% of this biodiversity explosion. The rest includes everything from rich lowland rainforests to mountaintop oak groves, even white sand beaches. Over the course of our 20-day adventure through Panama, we were exposed to every habitat and climate accessible in the country, and it was amazing!

We began, as all adventures in Panama do, by arriving in Panama City. One impressive thing about the Metropolitan area of Panama (in a good way, unlike the impressive amount of traffic and impressive/imposing skyline) is that there are tonnes of birds right around the city! Our accommodations within the city upon arrival were at the Riande, which boasts some decent gardens and well-manicured grounds. For some, Sapphire-throated and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds were first birds of the tour; while Red-crowned Woodpecker, Clay-colored Thrush and Tropical Mockingbird were surely soon to follow. The brief time spent awaiting participants to congregate was enjoyable. The real journey began the following morning, as well pulled out en route to the Darién Province, and the promise of Eagles, Sloths and wilderness galore.

The first morning of our Darién Pre-Tour was a whirlwind! We had a limited amount of time at our main birding area, so wanted to be as efficient as possible in our stops in the Nusugandi area. Nusugandi has recently become known as THE place to see the appropriately-named *Sapayoa aenigma*, otherwise known simply as Sapayoa. Currently placed with African Broadbills (???), this unique species has a relatively broad range throughout the Choco and eastern Panama, though it is far from common anywhere. We had a great experience with this species on our very first morning of



Red-crowned Woodpecker by Adam Riley



the tour, after making our way down a winding trail to a known territory. We had both male and female posing wonderfully for several minutes' viewing! *That was just the beginning of an amazing morning in the humid foothill forests of the area.* Understorey flocks turned up Black-throated Trogon, Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner, Spot-crowned Antwreos, Black-striped Woodcreeper, White-flanked and



Sapayoa by Stefan Obytz

Checker-throated Antwrens and garrulous groups of Tawny-crested Tanagers. We moved from this dark forest trail out on the road to search out some mixed flocks and open-area birds before having to depart for Canopy Camp in Darién.

Another target species in the area, often missed, is the colourful endemic, Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker. While pulled over to check out an incredible mixed flock teeming around some fruiting trees, I played a recording to see if this scarce species might be in attendance. Within 30 seconds, we were looking at a gorgeous male, at

point blank range and eye-level! The birding was amazing all morning, with great species right up until the last stop. Pied Puffbird, Brown-hooded Parrot, Brown-capped Tyrannulet, Long-tailed Tyrant, Rufous Mourner (*stellar views of this colourful flycatcher!*), Red-capped Manakin, Flame-rumped, Rufous-winged, Sulphur-rumped (*great looks at a few*), Black-and-Yellow (*stunning*) Tanagers, Shining and Green Honeycreepers, Blue and Scarlet-thighed Dacnises, and four species of Euphonias, among other wonderful sightings. Our first morning out, and we had nearly 100 species by noon. *An amazing start to our tour!*

We continued east to The Canopy Family's newest installation – Canopy Camp. Designed and executed as a sort of remote “glamping” (glamorous/comfortable camping) facility, this stellar property affords guests very comfortable, natural, open-air accommodations, some great food, and incredible birding right on the grounds. Being situated towards the end of the Pan-American Highway in the Darién “Gap”, Canopy Camp is ideally located for accessing several wonderful birding areas, ranging from pristine rainforest habitat in nearby National Parks and Indigenous reserves to semi-disturbed areas. The array of habitats and species accessible from here is impressive, and our three full days in the area attested to that! Of course, our first evening there was a bit of an introduction to the birds right around the lodge itself. From the deck, one can enjoy the spectacle of dozens of Chestnut-headed Oropendolas and Yellow-rumped Caciques coming to nest in the trees right above the eatery, White-headed Wrens nesting in the shrubbery by the staff quarters, and nearly a dozen species of hummingbirds coming to visit the feeders and porterweed hedges, including the likes of White-



Blue Dacnis by Adam Riley



necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, White-vented Plumeleteer, Blue-chested Hummingbird, Blue-throated Goldentail, Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Pale-bellied Hermit, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, and the outstanding Rufous-crested Coquette!



Black-throated Mango by George L. Armistead

Over the course of the following three days in the Darién, we birded a number of nearby areas. We ventured into some of the most amazing Ceiba forests in a nearby indigenous reserve, in search of several key species, by travelling, *safari-style*, in open-air jeeps. We journeyed via boat and 4x4 into Darién National Park to view a fledgeling Harpy Eagle near its nest, taking meandering trails into untouched primary forest. There was a short visit to an active Crested Eagle nest for some participants, while others opted for more general birding and sloth-watching (*we had 17 during the tour!*). We also took a day to enjoy the birds right around our

lodgings, which has several trails, but some of the most enjoyable birding happens right along the entrance road. Highlights were many, and the total number of species we recorded on this section of the tour (270+) reflected just how successful we were. Some of the more memorable species we encountered were Grey-headed Kite, Harpy and Crested Eagles (!!!), Black Hawk-Eagle, Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle (*soaring low overhead!*), Tiny Hawk (*outstanding view*), Great Potoo, Band-tailed Barbthroat, Black-tailed, White-tailed, and Gartered Trogons, Green-and-rufous and Amazon Kingfishers, Whooping, Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots, Dusky-backed Jacamar (*spectacular and very range-restricted*), White-necked, Pied and Barred Puffbirds (*great scope views!*), a few confiding Grey-cheeked Nunlets, showy Spot-crowned Barbets, and more toucans than one would care to count.

Woodpeckers were wonderfully cooperative in the Darién. Spot-breasted, Golden-green, Cinnamon, and Crimson-crested were all great finds, but it was a pair of the uber-rare Crimson-bellied Woodpecker that we watched foraging for some 5 minutes in Darién National Park that was the most exceptional. Psittacids were a nearly constant sight, with Amazons flying all over the place and Parakeets everywhere. A group of 4 Great Green Macaws graced us with fantastic looks near the Harpy Eagle nest! Furnariids were at the height of their nesting season, so many were scarce and elusive during our time there, though we did manage great views of many species of Woodcreeper, both species of Xenops, one cooperative Red-billed Scythebill (*spectacular bird!*), and no fewer than 3 Double-banded Greytail nests were located, along with the attending adults.



Broad-billed Motmot by Ted Buerger



Antpittas were scarce in the Darién proper, but an obliging pair of loud, striking Bare-crowned Antbirds gave us the show of a lifetime, as participants had views of the male in full song! Ditto for an exceptionally bold White-bellied Antbird that popped up onto an exposed branch to sing in full view of our party. Moustached and Rufous-winged Antwrens took a bit of time to get scope views of, given



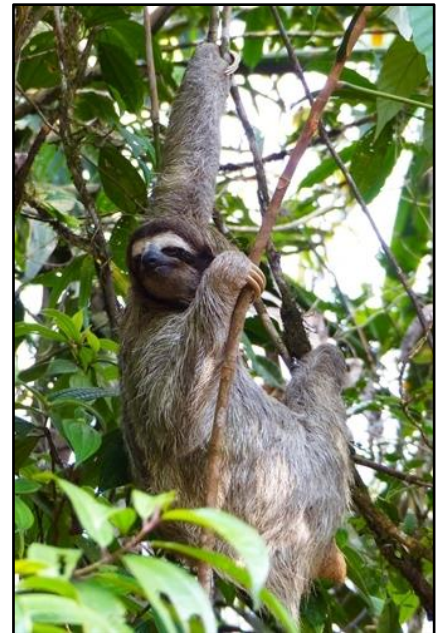
Blue Cotinga by Adam Riley

their active, canopy-dwelling nature. Flycatchers and their kin were too numerous to list here, though nest-building Choco Sirystes, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrants and Southern Bentbills come to mind, as do the displaying Brownish Twistwings we found! Blue Cotingas are simply stunning, and we found a couple near some teak plantations we passed. Little time was required in searching for a Russet-winged Schiffornis in Darién National Park, which attempted to land on the speaker hanging from my belt. This feisty individual happily settled for a sapling about 5 feet away from my hip, and sang for the whole

group! Speckled Mourner was a spectacular chance encounter at a fruiting tree inside dense forest; while the numerous, beautiful Black Oropendolas we came across were less chance. *Most were easily spotted and clearly heard from a great distance.* Orange-crowned and Yellow-backed Orioles, as well as Red-breasted Meadowlarks, were amongst the beautiful representatives of the Icterid family we enjoyed views of.

Understorey flocks, though few, yielded up some great stuff, as well. We didn't come across any army ants, but had several small carnivorous ant colonies on the move, with itinerant avifauna. Bright-rumped Attila, Spot-crowned Antwreio, Black-crowned Antshrike, and Northern Barred, Plain-brown, Olivaceous and Wedge-billed Woodcreepers moved through the mid-storey while White-flanked and Checker-throated Antwrens moved through a bit lower. Chestnut-backed and Bicolored Antbirds were fairly common. Black Antshrike is one of the most sought-after Darién specialties in the area. Naturally, the only non-birder of the group spotted a lovely male sneaking in to investigate my playback!

Mammals in the Darién weren't numerous, especially, save for Mantled Howler Monkeys, White-faced Capuchins and an astounding number of Sloths! More than just the odd sloth here or there, we found several Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths and a few Hoffman's Two-toed Sloths. These lethargic, yet somehow fascinatingly charismatic creatures must be in higher density in the Darién than anywhere else on Earth. No wonder there are so many large Eagles nesting the area: more than enough food to go around!



Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth by Ted Buerger



A spectacle we were able to witness to its full extent as we motored up the river one day was raptor migration. A mild enough sounding event, raptor migration in Panama is something truly phenomenal. In our case, birds that had migrated south into South America were making their return journey northward, to breeding grounds in the United States and Canada. All of the Swainson's Hawks in existence, as well as the large majority of Broad-winged Hawks and Northern Turkey Vultures winter in South America. The timing of our tour coincided with the peak dates of some huge northward



Broad-winged Hawk by Markus Lilje

pushes. In the relatively little time we spent in the open, peering up into the skies, we witnessed thousands and thousands of raptors on the move. It defies description to relay the awe of seeing these resilient creatures, capable of flying from one end of the hemisphere to the other, several times over in their lifetime, *en masse*.

After having a spectacular first four days, we were excited to see what was next! One more important stop in the area, en route back to Panama City where our Darién Pre-Tour would end, was the Reserva San Francisco. Originally

purchased by a retired priest from the US known for his humanitarian works, this huge ranch is a mosaic of established and experimental farmlands, and lowland and hilly forests, all managed by this remarkable individual. Once named Man-of-the-Year by the Panamanian President, there is as clear a commitment to conservation and land management as there is to humanity. Of course, we were there for the birds, and birds we found. Shortly after our arrival, we had great views of Bay Wren, Orange-billed Sparrow, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius building a nest and two lovely Northern Royal Flycatchers! One Black-faced Antthrush allowed looks for some, while a mixed flock afforded nice looks at Black Antshrike, Rufous-winged and Checker-throated Antwrens, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, White-winged Becard, White-eared Conebills, and a few Dusky-faced Tanagers. But the highlight of the morning, which became, perhaps, the highlight of the tour to date, involved a pair of Black-crowned Antpittas that came from the far slope across the creek, to confront our playback. Often enough, this enigmatic species doesn't respond at all. Frequently, a fleeting glimpse is the best an observer can hope for, even if the bird does respond. Somehow, in this case, the male came right up the slope directly at us, and, from a few different perches, sang beautifully! If jaw-dropping, expletive-inducing views of the male weren't enough, the female came up behind us, wing-popping, making gruff noises excitedly, to join the party. It was mind-blowing, and something none of us will forget.



Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher by Adam Riley

We would've been perfectly happy with what the morning had



surrendered to our efforts, but being greedy visiting birders, we decided to make one more stop, briefly, at Lake Bayano. Pied Water-Tyrant was our main target, and we found it quickly. Just before we were about to pull away, I noticed a singing Yellow-green Vireo, which then turned up two Red-legged Honeycreepers, Thick-billed Seed Finches and a Striped Cuckoo! We finally gave in to the extreme



Collared Aracari by Adam Riley

heat of the day, and high-tailed to the airport to pick up folks joining us for our Best of Panama main tour. We finished the day at our luxurious accommodations at the Gamboa Resort, opposite the amazing Panama Canal, on the shores of the Chagres River. There began the next stint of our Panamanian adventure.

Pipeline Road, Ammo Dump Ponds, Rainforest Discovery Center, and the Parque Metropolitano Panama are among the most famous birding sites in Panama, if not in all of Central America. The diversity and quality of birds and birding in the area very near to the Panamanian Capital makes this area perhaps the most convenient and fruitful birding anywhere in Latin America. Some 350 species can be found within a 30-mile radius of the city. We spent time at all the classic sites in the area, and visited a few lesser-visited sites in the region. Our first morning in the lush Gamboa area saw us atop the canopy tower at Rainforest Discovery Center, looking out over the vast forests of the various adjacent National Parks.

If we can recall anything from our productive visit to the Rainforest Discovery Center Tower, it would be the glowing, inexplicably bright Blue Cotingas that we saw. At least two males showed well for us, looking like Christmas Tree ornaments that can be plugged into a power source for illumination. Scaled and Short-billed Pigeons, Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans, Collared Aracarís, White-necked, Pied, and Black-breasted Puffbirds, Blue-headed Parrots, and numbers of both Red-lored and Mealy Parrots were seen, as well as Purple-throated Fruitcrows and 4 species of Swifts, before the day began to warm and we decided to hit the trails.

On the ground, the bird activity was non-stop, all morning. We finally decided to break for lunch after noon, knowing we could be there all day if we didn't forcibly pull ourselves away. Starting with Fasciated Antshrike, Panama Flycatcher, Great Potoo, and Long-tailed Hermit in the parking lot, we moved to the hummingbird feeders to enjoy views of Jacobins, Violet-bellied Hummingbird, and a few other species. Long-billed Gnatwrens sang close by, and responded wonderfully to playback. While taking stock of the various hummers arriving, we heard a nearby



Keel-billed Toucan by Ted Buerger



Pheasant Cuckoo begin to sing. With a bit of manoeuvring and patience, we had image-filled scope views of a singing Pheasant Cuckoo! Shortly thereafter, we had our first of many Green Shrike-Vireos feeding low overhead. Then the real action began: Cinnamon Woodpecker on a nest, Black-throated and Slaty-tailed Trogons feeding on low fruits, Great Tinamou walking in the open next to our trail



Black-throated Trogon by Ted Buerger

(!!!), an understory mixed flock held Black-crowned Antshrike, Spot-crowned Antwren, White-flanked, Checker-throated, and Dot-winged Antwrens, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher and Golden-crowned Spadebills. This was all within the first thirty minutes of walking the grounds. Then we had an antswarm. Unfortunately, no Ground-Cuckoos were present (*we looked hard enough and I played for it enough*), though everything else one could want was. The three Black-faced Antthrushes walking close to each other alerted us to the swarm. Spotted and Bicolored Antbirds churred over the ants and, as is the case when an antswarm is keeping their attention, allowed close approach for stellar viewing. Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Wood Thrush, Bay Wren, Black-bellied Wren, Wood Thrush and Gray-headed Tanager were all present, taking advantage of the situation. Nearby, a pair of Streak-chested Antpittas were foraging in the undergrowth, and were also seen by everyone in the group.

Wonderful sightings continued, with a fruiting tree attracting canopy species such as Green Shrike-Vireo, Golden-hooded, White-shouldered and Plain-colored Tanagers, Shining and Red-legged Honeycreepers, Scarlet-rumped Caciques, Brown-capped Tyrannulet, Moustached Antwren, Plain Xenops, Yellow-margined Flycatcher, and Yellow-backed Oriole, all associated with this massive flock. The final show-stopper of the morning was a family group of Song Wrens that came out into the open, roadside, to forage through the heavy litter-like submarines, periscoping from below the leaves on occasion, and fluttering from one spot to the next before plopping down again. This was certainly the most incredible encounter I've had with this species, ever. After lunch, we had a leisurely bit of birding around the Ammo Dump Ponds and Radisson golf course area. Grey-lined and Zone-tailed Hawks, Isthmian Wren, Scrub Greenlet, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Barred Antshrike, and Yellow-billed Cacique were a few of the many commoner open country birds we snagged before retiring for the day.

Our second full day in the area began on the famous Pipeline Road. A low-pressure system had moved in, so we expected rain. So did the birds and wildlife, which were relatively quiet compared to the day before. Nevertheless, we had a wonderful time watching the Monkeys, finding another sloth, and adding some fine new species



Spotted Antbird by George L. Armistead



to the bird count. Muscovy Duck, Gray-chested Dove, Stripe-throated Hermit, Plain-brown and Cocoa Woodcreepers, Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*brief views of a pair*), Crowned Woodnymph, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Whooping, Broad-billed and Rufous Motmots, Southern Bentbill, Dusky Antbird, Bright-



Crowned Woodnymph by Stefan Obytz

rumped Attila, Black-tailed Flycatcher, Blue-crowned and Red-capped Manakins, and several others, were new to the main tour. The rain set in relatively early, so we headed back to the resort after a brief stop at the Ammo Dump Ponds for Lesser Kiskadee and a few odds and ends. Much of the day was quite rainy, though we managed to get a bit of birding in late in the day.

On our final morning in the area, we focused mostly on the Summit Ponds area of the Old Gamboa Road. Having already spent a good amount of time in the more humid, primary forest

types, there were several species of interest that preferred more secondary, dense, and semi-deciduous growth that we had yet to see. Naturally, we stopped by the ponds themselves first. Boat-billed Heron, Grey-cowled Wood-Rail, Ringed, Amazon and Green Kingfishers, along with a gorgeous, very obliging American Pygmy Kingfisher, were the better sightings before we moved into the tangled secondary growth. A few steps past the ponds and we were in the midst of Lance-tailed Manakins! It took a while before these beauties allowed looks for everyone, but in the meantime, we had a responsive pair of Jet Antbirds to keep us well occupied. The next few minutes were devoted to wrens: Buff-breasted, Rufous-breasted and Rufous-and-White Wrens were all in the vicinity, and showed in turn. We attempted views at a singing Rosy Thrush-Tanager that just would not approach within view. We were well entertained by yet another mixed flock in the tangles, which yielded up a few species we'd not seen well, such as Golden-fronted Greenlet and Yellow-olive Flycatcher.

The clock ran out on us, as it often does, and it was time to make our way back towards Panama City. We had two nights on the northern outskirts of town at the Albrook Inn, which turned out to be convenient for the following day's birding at the higher elevations of Altos de Cerro Azul. It also turned out to have an absolutely fabulous marsh behind it, complete with White-throated Crakes that ran out in the open and a Masked Duck! It also allowed us a full afternoon to admire one of the marvels of modern engineering – The Panama Canal. From the Miraflores Locks viewing area, a visitor can watch the huge cargo ships move through the canal and witness the machinery at work. It was a very interesting, pleasant afternoon for everyone.



Ringed Kingfisher by Dušan Brinkhuizen

Our final day in Panama City area was devoted to finding mid-elevation specialities in the Altos de



Cerro Azul area. Just a short drive north-east of the city, this private residential subdivision allows visitor access if pre-arranged, and has a few nice forest trails and tracks left amongst the vacation and retirement homes there. We began at the highest elevation access at Cerro Jefe, but the wind was pretty fierce and bird activity very low. One surprise was a Northern Schiffornis there, and a couple



Blue-gray Tanager by Adam Riley

participants had views of the endemic Tarcarcuna Bush Tanager (*Chlorospingus*), which is very seldom seen! Emerald Tanager and another responsive Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker turned up as well before we moved down into the development itself.

We made our way to a pair of private residences in the lower part of the development with much anticipation. Recent reports from bird feeder setups have been astonishing, with hundreds of hummingbirds reported and several species of fruit-feeder attendees as well. Highest on the most-

wanted list was certainly the endemic Violet-capped Hummingbird. A near second: Rufous-crested Coquette. Within seconds of arriving on the scene, we knew we were in for a show. Dozens of White-necked Jacobins, and Snowy-bellied and Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds were zipping overhead before we even reached the feeders! It took no time at all to see our first of three Violet-capped Hummingbirds, then the Coquette came in to some nearby flowers! Green Hermit, Crowned Woodnymph, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Blue-chested Hummingbird, and both White-vented and Bronze-tailed Plumeleteers were also out in force. We reckoned more than 150 individual hummers were in attendance.

The other birds hitting the fruit and rice feeders were just as impressive! Rufous-capped Warbler, Black-cheeked Woodpecker, Blue-gray, Crimson-backed, Summer, Hepatic, Palm and Bay-headed Tanagers, alongside Shining, Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, and both Thick-billed and Yellow-crowned Euphonias. We enjoyed all this at leisure, as we ate our picnic lunch, soaking up this spectacle. Just when we thought it couldn't get better, cue Geoffrey's Tamarins. Not a troop...but a family. The male comes down with the 7 to 10-day-old youngster clinging to his haunches behind the female who makes her way confidently to the bananas set out. *If you're reading this and don't know what a Geoffrey's Tamarin looks like, google it. They are fabulous!* More than just the close encounter, the experience of watching the male transfer the baby to the female, so he could come forward to eat, was so...human...a gesture that we couldn't help but anthropomorphize and relate to these ornate creatures.



Geoffrey's Tamarin by Stefan Obytz



In the afternoon, we continued birding the area, hitting a couple different trails and picking up some more sought-after species of higher elevations, and a few we had simply missed lower down. White-whiskered Puffbird was one we had heard on two occasions previously but not seen. It sat out beautifully near a nest for us this time! White-ruffed Manakins were in good number, as were Scarlet-thighed Dacnises and Emerald Tanager. Spotted and Olivaceous Woodcreepers, Fulvous-vented and Tawny-capped Euphonias and Rufous-winged Tanager were all noted in small numbers, as well.



**White-whiskered Puffbird by
Adam Riley**

On our drive back down into Panama City, we were afforded another amazing insight into the volume of the ongoing raptor migration. As dusk set in, the thermals that these migrants ride cool and dissipate. Given the incredible distances these birds must travel, conservation of energy is of utmost importance. The birds ride the thermals, rising high into the sky, then glide as quickly and efficiently as possible to the next thermal. This allows them to travel without spending energy. There are certainly hours that pass without them even needing to flap. These raptors do this the entire journey north in Spring and south in Autumn, following the rising and falling air currents, in what hawk watchers have termed “kettles”. These kettles are simply tornadoes of migrating raptors. This evening, we watched as kettle after kettle dispersed in their descent, thousands of birds returning to ground as the air cooled, through the sunset skyline of the metropolis that is Panama City. *It was sublime.*

Our last morning in the capital area was spent at the Parque Metropolitano, in search of two species in particular. Though Rosy Thrush-Tanager and Panamanian (Yellow-green) Tyrannulet can be seen elsewhere in the Gamboa area (*we had indeed seen them to some capacity there*), Metropolitan Park is *THE* place to see both. This morning proved no different than times past. We had some great views of a pair of foraging Rosy Thrush-Tanagers in the company of foraging Red-crowned and Red-throated Ant-Tanagers. The day was going to be a scorcher and bird activity seemed to be dying down when we came across a huge mixed flock. I knew this was the flock we wanted when we noticed good numbers of both Lesser and Scrub Greenlets cavorting with migrant warblers in the canopy. Sure enough, we had crippling views of the distinctive Tyrannulet following along. Tail cocked up, bouncing through the sub-canopy, though not as colourful as many birds in the forest, it is one of Panama’s few endemic species. Other birds we enjoyed during our 70 minutes at the park included Slaty-tailed, White-tailed, and Gartered Trogons, Dusky and White-bellied Antbirds, Yellow-crowned and Brown-capped Tyrannulets, Greenish Elaenia, Yellow-olive, Panama and Streaked Flycatchers, 5 species of Wrens, and



Gartered Trogon by Ted Buerger



Black-and-White, Magnolia, Bay-breasted, Yellow and Chestnut-sided Warblers (*all in great plumage!*). It's a birdy park, indeed.



Tody Motmot by Stefan Obytz

Our adventure continued west, to the Valle de Anton. This old volcanic crater straddles the continental divide, a mere 50 miles from the Pacific (south) coast. Given it's slightly higher elevation and specific location, a number of habitats can be accessed with little travel time at all. It's worth mentioning that the birding right around town is spectacular, too! In fact, we decided to devote our first full day to sites pretty close to our accommodations at the edge of the town of El Valle. This quaint, affluent, retirement/artisan village is populated in large part by residents preferring larger tracts of land, lush landscapes and

natural habitats on their properties, and those seeming to want to avoid subdivisions and cosmopolitan luxuries. Cara Iguana, right at the edge of town, is basically a series of private properties that can be birded from the dirt road, and a few properties that don't mind visitation for a small fee. Being 5 minutes from our Lodge, it was a perfect introduction to the area.

The habitat just to the south and west of town is semi-deciduous forest and secondary growth. Many birds typical of the pacific slope are present, some of which reach the southernmost terminus of their ranges right in this area. Cara Iguana is the perfect example of this habitat type, which is preferred by some of the most sought-after species on the tour. Before we even strolled into the forest, we had bagged the beautiful Garden Emerald – *including photo-ops!* Though we had seen Lance-tailed Manakin fairly well before, we ended up with stellar views of this colourful species this morning, shortly after encountering our main target for the site: Tody Motmot! Though this species has a relatively broad range, being seen from Belize to Colombia, it can be tough to find. A very obliging pair sat for us for image-filled scope views, which was the highlight of the day. Peaking early in the day can be tough, but we had much more on the agenda. Lesson's Motmot was another key species at the southern end of its range, which we found here, too. *This area was the only shot at the species on our main tour, and we had great views!*

Just north of town lies La Mesa. This fairly flat, table-top mountain sits at about 1,100m elevation, which is quite a bit higher, and thusly more humid, than the habitats right around town. The road up to the mesa, and sidetracks in the area, are incredibly productive and convenient. We spent the remainder of the morning in the lush forests and edges here. It was incredibly birdy all morning long! The hits included Ornate Hawk-Eagle, White Hawk, Plain Antvireo, Long-tailed Woodcreeper, Sepia-capped



Ornate Hawk-Eagle by Dušan Brinkhuizen



Flycatcher, Sulphur-rumped Myiobius (*insane encounter with the most confiding pair, allowing approach to within 20 feet as they foraged leisurely*), White-ruffed Manakin, Bay and Song Wrens, Tawny-faced and Long-billed Gnatwrens, and more. In the afternoon, we returned to the same area and ended up with great views of Slaty Antwren, Chestnut-backed and Spotted Antbirds, Black-faced Antthrush and White-breasted Wood-Wren.



Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet
by Ted Buerger

We devoted our second day to birding the highest elevations we could reach on the Caribbean slope, at the posh private community, Altos de Maria. The same owner of Altos de Cerro Azul (*which we visited near Panama City*) designed a high-end gated community on the mountaintops and hillsides just east of El Valle. We pre-arranged entry into the community for a full day in the field, and it was amazing! Though one of our targets, Yellow-eared Toucanet, was only heard at a distance, our other wanted species all showed wonderfully here, and we enjoyed very pleasant temperatures all day. Near the gated entry to the community, we began our morning's birding with great looks at Grey-headed Chachalaca, Tufted Flycatcher, Black Guan, Blue-throated (Emerald) Toucanet and the odd-looking Central Panamanian subspecies of Common Bush-Tanager (*Chloropsingus*). *Great start to the day!*

Our time in the community was mostly spent birding the small roads for edge species, and a short while later, a well-paved forest trail yielded up a tonne of mixed flock species and tough forest dwellers. Overhead, we had nice looks at Grey-lined and Short-tailed Hawks, and a small group of Chestnut-collared Swifts. Several species of parrots flew by, but one of the best birds of the day was a pair of Blue-fronted Parrotlets perched up by our picnic stop at a lake. This rare species of small parrot belongs to a difficult genus, *Touit*, all of the members of which occur in very low density in their respective ranges, and are seldom seen. Hummingbirds were relatively scarce, though a highlight of the day was watching a Green Hermit incubating on its nest! Black-throated and Orange-bellied Trogons both showed well along the forest trail, as did Broad-billed and Rufous Motmots. The mid-storey flocks and understorey birds were amazing today, with the following being seen well: Russet Antshrike, Plain and Spot-crowned Antvireos, White-flanked and Slaty Antwrens, Chestnut-backed, Dull-mantled (*most amazing views of a foraging pair Creekside!*) and Bicolored Antbirds, Spotted Woodcreeper, Spotted Barbtail, Red-faced Spinetail, Olive-striped and Dusky-capped Flycatchers, Scale-



Bicolored Antbird by Stefan Obytz



crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*at nest!*), White-breasted Wood Wren and Tawny-crested Tanagers.



Golden-crowned Tanager by Adam Riley

stunning Black-and-yellow Tanagers, several Black-faced Grosbeaks, and 4 species of Euphonia, among others. It was non-stop action, including a brief episode which found me stripping off the lower portion of my pants, my socks, and my shoes, because I was covered in an impressive number of seed ticks slowly advancing up my legs! Luckily for participants, it's always the leader that gets the lion's share of the ticks when the group walks through a recently-hatched nest. Luckily for me, there was a lake nearby that I could dunk in.

The final full day near El Valle was devoted to visiting the dry coastal environs of Juan Hombron, and cleanup for any species missed, in the afternoon. We started early for the coast, which can be terribly hot and humid, with bird activity dying down as early as 9am on some days. We lucked out hugely, as it was a cloudy day with very mild temperatures. Bird activity was hopping all morning long! The day started out with a Veraguan Mango being spotted almost immediately upon arrival, thus taking the pressure off of looking for our target bird of the day. What followed was one of the most productive mornings of the whole tour, in an area that can seem devoid of life when baking hot. We birded our way down to the coast, stopping as birds were spotted and focusing on remnant patches of native habitat amidst the fields. Some of the more exciting finds included a pair of ornate Crested Bobwhites feeding in the road in front of us, a gorgeous Bare-throated Tiger-Heron posing beautifully roadside, Flyby Yellow-crowned Parrots, flocks of Brown-throated Parakeets, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Mouse-colored and Yellow Tyrannulets, Northern Scrub Flycatcher, Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant, Mangrove Warbler, and the local race of Eastern Meadowlark. Seabirds, Gulls, and Terns boosted the trip list, and a couple of participants with scopes were able to pick out Brown and Nazca Boobies from shore! It was a great, productive, unexpectedly enjoyable morning. The afternoon was spent on clean-up duty in the La Mesa area,

The canopy flocks were just as common, and we found several fruiting trees which made viewing downright easy and enjoyable in many cases. Rufous-browed Tyrannulet was a great surprise, as this canopy dweller, though widespread, is rarely encountered. One turned up in the largest, most diverse flock of the day, which was practically a mind-numbing experience. Other fantastic participants taking advantage of the momentum of this mega flock included Smoky-brown Woodpecker, White-shouldered, White-lined, Golden-hooded, Bay-headed, Emerald, Silver-throated and the



Yellow-crowned Parrot by Stefan Obytz



which yielded Fasciated Tiger-Heron, Spot-crowned Barbet, Northern Schiffornis (*singing in the scope!*), and a couple more sloths for good measure.



Brown Booby by Glen Valentine

The following day, we made our way to Panama City, dropped off the few clients who would not be joining us on the Chiriqui Highlands Post-Tour extension at the International Airport, and continued on our flights to David, where the final leg of our tour would commence, at the foot of Volcan Baru. Thus ended the main tour of Panama. Today was mostly a travel day, as our flights to David, the capital of the Chiriqui province, didn't allow us to arrive at our accommodations in Vulcan until around 8pm. The bustling, ever-expanding city of David is now the second largest city in the country, and

home to all of the agricultural education and development of the country. This region, with habitats spanning from coast to coast, with the tallest mountain peaks in Panama between, grows every conceivable kind of fruit, vegetable and grain. Despite being far removed from the central government, infrastructure in the Chiriqui is fantastic. Recently, this area has become very popular with expats, and with local tourism within Panama. Our visit benefitted from the great infrastructure developed over the past 10-15 years, including wonderful accommodations, food and very decent roads.

We started out our post-tour extension at Sendero Los Quetzales, on the north-east flanks of the volcano. This trail offers great access to the heart of the bromeliad and moss-laden cloud forests and oak highlands habitat that is home to a huge number of range-restricted species found only in the highlands of nearby Costa Rica and Panama. Naturally, given that the name of the trail is "The Quetzals Trail", expectations were high. *And we were not disappointed in the least!* The morning started off with nice views of Purple-throated and White-throated Mountain Gems, Slaty Flowerpiercer and Yellow-winged Vireo. *All of which are endemics to the mountain forests here.*

The show continued apace as we walked further up the mountain. We spent the morning slowly birding our way up to nearly 8,000 feet elevation, finding the following prized species along the way: Black Guan (*great looks at a close pair!*), Band-tailed and Ruddy Pigeons, White-collared and Vaux's Swifts, Lesser Violetear, a family group of Prong-billed Barbets, Dark Pewee, Blue-throated Toucanet, Admirable, Scintillant and Volcano Hummingbirds, Resplendent Quetzal (*gorgeous, close-up looks at a pair!*), Silvery-fronted Tapaculos (*at a nest!*), Grey-



Resplendent Quetzal by Adam Riley



breasted Wood-Wren, Spot-crowned Woodcreeper, Lineated Foliage-Gleaner, Brown-capped Vireo, Acorn and Hairy Woodpeckers, Streak-breasted Treehunter (*insane, jaw-dropping encounter with a bird that flew out into the open to confront*), Buffy Tuftedcheek, Mountain Elaenia, Rough-legged Tyrannulet, Black-capped Flycatcher, White-naped Brushfinch, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Ochraceous Wren, Black-faced Solitaire (*several views of these songsters*), Black-billed, Ruddy-capped and Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrushes, Mountain and Sooty Thrush (*rarely this low, but a*



Black-throated Green Warbler by Adam Riley

pair found), briefest flyby of Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila, several gorgeous Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers, Flame-throated, Black-throated Green and Black-cheeked Warblers, Slate-throated and Collared Whitestart (*several of this beautiful, confiding species*), Sooty-capped and Common Chlorospingus, Large-footed and Yellow-thighed Finches, Flame-colored Tanager, Elegant Euphonia and Yellow-bellied Siskin. It was an incredible intro to the region, practically bagging us *ALL* of the wanted species at that elevation.

We made a few other short stops en route back to the Hotel for lunch and a bit of downtime. Some hummingbird feeder setups yielded the stunning Violet Sabrewing, Stripe-tailed Hummingbird, and more of the widespread Snowy-bellied Hummingbird. Gardens and some open-country birding turned up Melodious Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Swainson's and White-throated Thrushes, stunning Cherrie's Tanager, and great looks at Chestnut-capped Brushfinches. *A great morning, indeed.*

The afternoon was, unfortunately, rainy and pretty tame, with two exceptions. At Parque Nacional La Amistad, we quickly found an active Quetzal nest with an attending male and female that were wonderfully cooperative and jaw-dropping. Shortly thereafter, a Wrenthrush started to call nearby! I hit the playback once, and up popped an impressive, engaged male that allowed us to approach within 15 feet, singing all the while!!! This typically skulking, often elusive species has just been afforded a family designation of its own. The sole member of *Zeledonidae*, the Wrenthrush was previously lumped in with Warblers, after having been briefly with Wrens and other various families, before taxonomists decided to leave it as an unknown. Perhaps on the same day we were viewing the species, votes to assign it its own family were being tallied and judged. *Exciting to have such an amazing experience with this unique species.*

The following day was an early start, as we drove west towards the border with Costa Rica, and lower elevations. Descending from the flanks of the volcano into the pacific foothill forest allowed



Long-billed Starthroat by Adam Riley



us access to tropical lowland forest endemic to south Costa Rica and very far west Panama. Some of the species we were able to find this morning are at the very end of their ranges here, while others just barely sneak into Panama from Costa Rica, and are typically considered Costa Rican endemics. Among our exploits this morning, *which included some great views of flock species and some garden birds,*



Crested Guan by Adam Riley

Costa Rican Swift, Long-billed Starthroat, Lesson's Motmot, Fiery-billed Aracari (*stunning views as the morning sun shone off the bill!*), Olivaceous Piculet, White-fronted Parrot, Crimson-fronted Parakeet, Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush, Speckled Tanager and Yellow-throated Euphonia were certainly highlights. Yellow-bellied and Yellowish Flycatchers, and Philadelphia Vireo were also welcome additions!

In the afternoon, we headed over to the Lagos de Volcan. This well-known site has some great native habitat surrounding a few old crater lakes. Forests, marshes and grasslands make this a fabulous birding site with a diverse array of great foothill and montane species. The water itself attracts little more than Coots, though we did find the only Northern Jacana of the tour in the marsh there. The star attraction here is the Chiriqui Yellowthroat, which is known from but very few sites anywhere on Earth. This endangered species put on a great show for us this afternoon, when a pair decided to sing and forage before us. Once again, we found our target bird early, so we were able to wander and enjoy

what else might turn up. The brief showers that passed through just after our arrival sparked some amazing bird activity. One Crested Guan that responded to playback (*quite a surprise*) flew low right over our heads for a thrill! Bronzy Hermit bathing in a pool at our feet, and a pair of White-tailed Emeralds feeding young were both new species for the tour. Scaly-throated and Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaners showed nicely, as did a pair of Pale-breasted Spinetails that came right out onto a fenceline. Ochre-bellied and Slaty-capped Flycatchers, and Yellow-throated Vireo were also new species for the tour – *but only a few of the over 80 species we found at this site!*

We had one full day to bird the area around Fortuna, and Boquete, on the Caribbean Slope and east slopes of Vulcan Baru, respectively. The Fortuna area encompasses forest from the continental divide at about 1,200masl, and one can bird down the road as far as the Caribbean coast, time permitting. Given our schedule, we focused on the mid-to-upper elevations. We had hoped to encounter Bare-necked Umbrellabird, but it was not to be. Nevertheless, we had spent no time on the Caribbean slope to date, so there were a good number of wonderful new birds possible here for us,



Green-crowned Brilliant by Clayton Burne



including some very special endemics. White-bellied Mountain Gem was only seen once, as was Green-crowned Brilliant – *both of which were new to the tour and this was our only shot!* We had a lot of similar examples, as a good part of the morning was relatively slow. Some of the star highlights from the mid-elevations near Willy Mazu were Barred Hawk (*a nice pair!*), Sulphur-winged Parakeet, Rufous Piha, Passerini's, Carmiol's and Dusky-faced Tanagers, and Montezuma Oropendola. We returned higher up to bird the pass, which ended up being the most productive areas. The clear highlights of the morning, and certainly one of the highlights of the entire suite of tours, was finding a



Golden-olive Woodpecker by Adam Riley

pair of Azure-hooded Jay building a nest right before our eyes. These subtly striking birds, featuring every conceivable shade of blue, were shy at first, then allowed us to watch them at leisure. Golden-olive Woodpecker, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Black-striped (Costa Rican) and Mourning Warblers, and a lovely pair of Spangle-cheeked Tanagers were all welcome additions, amongst the seventy-odd species we'd seen this morning.

Making our way back to Boquete via some backroads, we headed directly to the Finca Lerida

to try and catch up with Three-Wattled Bellbird. Alas, none were displaying there for the past couple weeks. With the benefit of a little local information, we headed over to the Sendero Los Quetzales trailhead at Bajo Toro. We birded the other end of this trail the first morning at its western terminus. Here, on the eastern end, was the best opportunity of the tour for us to find the iconic Bellbird, and our last shot for a couple other important species. *We lucked out again!* With a bit of patience, we had fine scope views of a singing Three-Wattled Bellbird. In the meantime, we worked with another Silvery-fronted Tapaculo for more views. This entertaining encounter was most memorable in that the individual scurried beneath, and through, a thick blanket of matted leafy vines. We could follow the bird's progress towards and around us as the leaves shook in a perfect line, tracing its movements. Our only Black-thighed Grosbeak, an often difficult Chiriqui endemic, showed beautifully and sang for us. A pair of Golden-browed Chlorophonias building a nest was undoubtedly another highlight of the extension. These glowingly-bright, little gems were low in some mistletoe, and were the final bird of the day. A perfect ending to another fabulous day, as a huge flock of Sulphur-winged Parakeets wheeled around, with the sun going low over the mountains amidst some spectacular scenery.

Our final day birding in Panama was nearly as momentous as the first. *Hard to believe!* We had a few very important species yet to find in the lower elevations, and I had some recent information on some new sites that we were excited to have the



Scaly-breasted Hummingbird by Adam Riley



opportunity to check. We spent the morning birding back towards David, just below the elevation of Lagos de Vulcan, and a bit drier. Despite the lower elevation and likelihood of a hot day with little activity, it was an exceptional morning. Birding a few forest patches, including an amazing private property with some of the best hummingbird feeders in the country, we managed to log more than a dozen new species for the tour, despite having seen over 530 species already. Fasciated Tiger-Heron,



Tropical Pewee by Markus Lilje

Plain-capped Starthroat (*1st record for Panama!*), Scaly-breasted and Charming Hummingbird, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Black-hooded Antshrike, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Tropical Pewee, Orange-collared Manakin, Riverside Wren, Costa Rican Brushfinch and Spot-crowned Euphonia were among the highlights. In the afternoon, we headed to a new highland site to see if we could turn up anything there. Ochraceous Pewee and Mottled Owl were the final two species added to the impressive total.

A big thanks to all of our wonderful participants. Once again, you came together beautifully as a group, were thoughtful and helpful with each other, and a pleasure to travel with. We look forward to facilitating your next adventure! I look forward to returning to Panama, and enjoying the amazing diversity once again.

Annotated List of Species Recorded

BIRDS 576 (551 seen, 25 heard)

Tinamous *Tinamidae*

Great Tinamou

ssp. brunneiventris

A highlight of the tour! Great views at Rainforest Discovery Park, Gamboa

*Little Tinamou

Tinamus major

Crypturellus soui

Ducks, Geese, Swans *Anatidae*

Black-bellied Whistling Duck

Numerous at the Albrook swamp

Dendrocygna autumnalis

Muscovy Duck

A couple wild birds near Gamboa

Cairina moschata

Blue-winged Teal

Numerous at the Albrook swamp

Anas discors

Masked Duck

Amazingly, one popped out briefly for some clients at the Albrook Swamp

Nomonyx dominicus

Chachalacas, Curassows & Guans *Cracidae*



Gray-headed Chachalaca

Seen nearly every day

Ortalis cinereiceps

Crested Guan

Glimpsed at Altos de Cerro Azul; seen well on the Chiriqui Extension

Penelope purpurascens

Black Guan – NE

One turned up at Altos de Maria on the main tour, but the best views were had on the Chiriqui Extension

Chamaepetes unicolor

New World Quail *Odontophoridae*

Crested Bobwhite

Wonderful scope views of a pair foraging in the road at Juan Hombron

Colinus cristatus

***Black-eared Wood Quail**

Odontophorus melanotis

***Black-breasted Wood-Quail – NE**

Odontophorus leucolaemus

***Marbled Wood-Quail**

Odontophorus gujanensis

Storks *Ciconiidae*

Wood Stork

Seen at a few different spots

Mycteria americana

Ibises, Spoonbills *Threskiornithidae*

American White Ibis

Numerous in the Darién

Eudocimus albus

Glossy Ibis

A few at Juan Hombron

Plegadis falcinellus

Hérons, Bitterns *Ardeidae*

Rufescent Tiger Heron

A few seen on the main tour and Darién

Tigrisoma lineatum

Bare-throated Tiger Heron

One beautiful, obliging bird at Juan Hombron

Tigrisoma mexicanum

Fasciated Tiger Heron

Great views on the Chiriqui Extension for all, while a few lucky participants had it on the main tour, as well

Tigrisoma fasciatum

Boat-billed Heron

Several at the Summit Ponds, Gamboa

Cochlearius cochlearius

Black-crowned Night Heron

A few on the tour

Nycticorax nycticorax

Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Two on the Darién extension

Nyctanassa violacea

Green Heron

Small numbers throughout

Butorides virescens



Striated Heron/Green Heron	<i>Butorides striata</i>
One individual in the Darién appeared to be a hybrid!	
[Western] Cattle Egret	<i>Bubulcus ibis</i>
Widespread and common	
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>
A few throughout the tour	
Cocoi Heron	<i>Ardea cocoi</i>
Several in the Darién seen well	
[Western] Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>
Fairly common throughout	
Tricolored Heron	<i>Egretta tricolor</i>
Just a few seen at Juan Hombron and elsewhere	
Little Blue Heron	<i>Egretta caerulea</i>
Fairly numerous in the Darién and main tour	
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Fairly numerous throughout	

Pelicans *Pelecanidae*

Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>
Seen around the Panama Canal area, and over the Pacific	

Frigatebirds *Fregatidae*

Magnificent Frigatebird	<i>Fregata magnificens</i>
Numerous at coastal sites, over the Canal, with several strays noted wandering over the central cordilleras from one coast to the other	

Boobies and Gannets *Sulidae*

Brown Booby	<i>Sula leucogaster</i>
Two seen by scope from shore	
Nazca Booby	<i>Sula granti</i>
Seen by one participant with scope from shore	

Cormorants, Shags *Phalacrocoracidae*

Neotropic Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax brasilianus</i>
Several seen	

Anhingas, Darters *Anhingidae*

Anhinga	<i>Anhinga anhinga</i>
A few on the main tour	

New World Vultures *Cathartidae*

Turkey Vulture	<i>Cathartes aura</i>
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Literally thousands were seen during the peak migration spectacle. Breathtaking kettles filled the skies for nearly two days!

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture*Cathartes burrovianus*

Several seen at Juan Hombron

Black Vulture*Coragyps atratus*

Abundant

King Vulture*Sarcoramphus papa*

A few soaring individuals seen well!

Osprey Pandionidae**Western Osprey***Pandion haliaetus*

Several seen at various sites

Kites, Hawks & Eagles Accipitridae**White-tailed Kite***Elanus leucurus*

Four seen on the tour, all en route through dry terrain

Pearl Kite*Gampsonyx swainsonii*

Two of these tiny beauties in the Darién

Grey-headed Kite*Leptodon cayanensis*

Wonderful looks in the Darién

Swallow-tailed Kite*Elanoides forficatus*

Numerous, especially at middle elevations

Crested Eagle - NT*Morphnus guianensis*

For participants who made the special visit to an active nest, the female was present feeding the youngster in the Darién!

Harpy Eagle – NT*Harpia harpyja*

We enjoyed watching a juvenile calling for its parents for 30 minutes or more in the Darién!

Black Hawk-Eagle*Spizaetus tyrannus*

Great views in the Darién

Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle*Spizaetus melanoleucus*

Spectacular looks at this scarce raptor when one came soaring low over our canoe in the Darién!

Ornate Hawk-Eagle – NT*Spizaetus ornatus*

An immature bird came cruising overhead near the Valle de Anton

Double-toothed Kite*Harpagus bidentatus*

Several seen, especially following monkey troops

Tiny Hawk*Accipiter superciliosus*

One perched right up on the roadside in the Darién!

Sharp-shinned Hawk*Accipiter striatus*

One seen briefly in highlands near Panama City

Plumbeous Kite*Ictinia plumbea*

A few seen on the main tour and Darién



Snail Kite Just one seen near Gamboa	<i>Rostrhamus sociabilis</i>
Crane Hawk Several of these graceful raptors seen	<i>Geranospiza caerulescens</i>
Common Black Hawk A few seen in the Darién and around Gamboa	<i>Buteogallus anthracinus</i>
Savannah Hawk Several seen in the Darién, and a couple at Juan Hombron	<i>Buteogallus meridionalis</i>
Barred Hawk A pair of soaring birds near Fortuna put on a show for us	<i>Morphnarchus princeps</i>
Roadside Hawk Fairly widespread	<i>Rupornis magnirostris</i>
White Hawk Four individuals seen at various sites, great looks enjoyed each time!	<i>Pseudastur albicollis</i>
*Semiplumbeous Hawk	<i>Leucopternis semiplumbeus</i>
Grey-lined Hawk Seen in small numbers frequently	
Broad-winged Hawk Thousands seen during a peak migration event!	<i>Buteo platypterus</i>
Short-tailed Hawk Widespread in small numbers	<i>Buteo brachyurus</i>
Swainson's Hawk Thousands tallied during a peak migration event, mixed with Broad-winged Hawks and Turkey Vultures. Incredible numbers!!!	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>
Zone-tailed Hawk One seen near Gamboa	<i>Buteo albonotatus</i>
Red-tailed Hawk A couple seen in the highlands	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>

Rails, Crakes & Coots *Rallidae*

White-throated Crake Great looks of several birds at Albrook Swamp!	<i>Laterallus albigularis</i>
Gray-cowled Wood Rail Spectacular views of a few of this recently-split species	<i>Aramides cajaneus</i>
Purple Gallinule Several in appropriate habitat	<i>Porphyrio martinica</i>
Common Gallinule Numerous	<i>Gallinula galeata</i>
American Coot A few at Lagos de Vulcan	<i>Fulica americana</i>



Plovers Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing Fairly widespread	<i>Vanellus chilensis</i>
Killdeer One flyby at Juan Hombron	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>

Jacanas Jacanidae

Northern Jacana A pair on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Jacana spinosa</i>
Wattled Jacana <i>ssp. hypomelaena</i> These graceful beauties were numerous throughout	<i>Jacana jacana</i>

Sandpipers, Snipes Scolopacidae

Whimbrel Juan Hombron	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>
Lesser Yellowlegs Albrook Swamp	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>
Solitary Sandpiper Albrook Swamp	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>
Willet (“Western”) Juan Hombron	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>
Spotted Sandpiper A few at various sites	<i>Actitis macularius</i>
Least Sandpiper A small flock in the Darién migrating	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>

Terns, Skimmers Laridae

Laughing Gull Any coastal site and the Canal Zone	<i>Leucophaeus atricilla</i>
Royal Tern Juan Hombron	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>

Pigeons, Doves Columbidae

Common (Rock) Pigeon All urban areas	<i>Columba livia</i>
Scaled Pigeon Relatively common, attractive bird	<i>Patagioenas speciosa</i>
Band-tailed Pigeon Highlands of Chiriqui Extension	<i>Patagioenas fasciata</i>
Pale-vented Pigeon	<i>Patagioenas cayennensis</i>



Common throughout

Red-billed Pigeon*Patagioenas flavirostris***Ruddy Pigeon***Patagioenas subvinacea**ssp. subvinacea*

Highlands on Chiriqui Extension

Short-billed Pigeon*Patagioenas nigrirostris*

A few seen in the Darién and at the Rainforest Discovery Center, Gamboa

Plain-breasted Ground Dove*Columbina minuta*

Seen well at Juan Hombron

Ruddy Ground Dove*Columbina talpacoti*

Abundant

Blue Ground Dove*Claravis pretiosa*

Great views in Darién

Ruddy Quail-Dove*Geotrygon montana*

Two lucky participants got to see one near Valle de Anton

White-tipped Dove*Leptotila verreauxi*

Widespread

Gray-chested Dove*Leptotila cassinii*

Several good views during the main tour

Mourning Dove*Zenaida macroura*

A few on the Chiriqui Extension

Cuckoos Cuculidae**Greater Ani***Crotophaga major*

Several in the Darién and around Gamboa

Smooth-billed Ani*Crotophaga ani*

Fairly common throughout

Groove-billed Ani*Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Several around Juan Hombron and Fortuna

Striped Cuckoo*Tapera naevia*

Spectacular views on the Darién extension

Pheasant Cuckoo*Dromococcyx phasianellus*

Amazing views of a bird singing in the scope! A highlight of the main tour

Squirrel Cuckoo*Piaya cayana*

Numerous

Yellow-billed Cuckoo*Coccyzus americanus*

One at La Selva

Owls Strigidae**Mottled Owl***Strix virgata**ssp. centralis*

The only owl seen on the tour, as all species were nesting. A responsive male was lured out on the Chiriqui Extension, the juvenile and female were nearby!

*Black-and-White Owl	<i>Strix nigrolineata</i>
*Crested Owl	<i>Lophotrix cristata</i>
*Central American Pygmy Owl	<i>Glaucidium griseiceps</i>

Potoos Nyctibiidae

Great Potoo	<i>Nyctibius grandis</i>
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Two individuals found on day roosts during the tour!

Nightjars Caprimulgidae

Common Nighthawk A couple seen briefly	<i>Chordeiles minor</i>
Pauraque Widespread	<i>Nyctidromus albicollis</i>
*Dusky Nightjar	<i>Antrostomus saturatus</i>

Swifts Apodidae

Chestnut-collared Swift Flocks on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Streptoprocne rutila</i>
White-collared Swift Widespread	<i>Streptoprocne zonaris</i>
Band-rumped Swift Common and Widespread	<i>Chaetura spinicaudus</i>
Costa Rican Swift - NE A few on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Chaetura fumosa</i>
Grey-rumped Swift Several on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Chaetura cinereiventris</i>
Vaux's Swift <i>ssp. richmondi</i> Numerous over the highland forests on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Chaetura vauxi</i>
Chimney Swift Several migratory birds around Gamboa	<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift Not uncommon on this tour!	<i>Panyptila cayennensis</i>

Hummingbirds Trochilidae

Bronzy Hermit Great views of a bathing bird on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Glaucis aeneus</i>
Band-tailed Barbthroat Perched right above us on the Darién Extension	<i>Threnetes ruckeri</i>



Green Hermit Great views, including an active nest on the main tour	<i>Phaethornis guy</i>
Stripe-throated Hermit Relatively numerous and widespread	<i>Phaethornis striigularis</i>
Long-billed Hermit Seen lekking near Gamboa	<i>Phaethornis longirostris</i>
Pale-bellied Hermit Several fine looks in the Darién	<i>Phaethornis anthophilus</i>
Scaly-breasted Hummingbird A few seen in arid lowlands	<i>Phaeochroa cuvierii</i>
Violet Sabrewing Highlands on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Campylopterus hemileucurus</i>
White-necked Jacobin Fairly widespread	<i>Florisuga mellivora</i>
Brown Violetear One on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Colibri delphinae</i>
Lesser (Green) Violetear Highlands on Chiriqui Extension	<i>Colibri cyanotus</i>
Black-throated Mango Common in the Darién	<i>Anthracothorax nigricollis</i>
Veraguan Mango – E Great views at Juan Hombron!	<i>Anthracothorax veraguensis</i>
Violet-headed Hummingbird A few at mid-elevations feeders	<i>Klais guimeti</i>
Rufous-crested Coquette Spectacular views at Altos de Cerro Azul!	<i>Lophornis delattrei</i>
Garden Emerald - NE Several seen on the main tour and Chiriqui	<i>Chlorostilbon assimilis</i>
White-tailed Emerald – NE Some nice views at Lagos del Vulcan on the Chiriqui Extension of a male and female attending young!	<i>Elvira chionura</i>
Stripe-tailed Hummingbird – NE Several seen on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Eupherusa eximia</i>
Violet-capped Hummingbird – E This range-restricted endemic was seen well on the Main Tour at feeders and in the forest at Altos de Cerro Azul	<i>Goldmania violiceps</i>
Crowned Woodnymph <i>ssp. venusta</i> Fairly common and widespread in forest	<i>Thalurania colombica</i>
Violet-bellied Hummingbird This little jewel turned up at several locations!	<i>Juliamyia julie</i>
Sapphire-throated Hummingbird – NE	<i>Lepidopyga coeruleogularis</i>



Fairly common, including adults feeding young right at the Hotel in Panama City!

Blue-throated (Goldentail) Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae*

Coming to porterweed on both extensions

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*

Ubiquitous

Charming Hummingbird – NE *Amazilia decora*

Coming to feeders on the Chiriqui Extension

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*

Common in Darién and the canal zone

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird – NE *Amazilia edward*

Fairly numerous and widespread

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer *Chalybura urochrysis*

Only a few encountered at mid-elevations

White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii*

Widespread

White-bellied Mountain Gem – NE *Lampornis hemileucus*

A few at Fortuna

Purple-throated Mountain Gem – NE *Lampornis calolaemus*

ssp. homogenes

Several on the Chiriqui Extension

White-throated Mountain Gem – E *Lampornis castaneiventris*

A few at high elevations in the Chiriqui

Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*

One on the Chiriqui Extension

Admirable (Magnificent) Hummingbird *Eugenes spectabilis*

Just a few noted on the Chiriqui Extension

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*

Seen at a few locations, best encounters on the Chiriqui Extension

Plain-capped Starthroat *Heliomaster constantii*

First confirmed record for Panama!

Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae*

Turned up on the last day of birding in the Chiriqui!

Volcano Hummingbird – NE *Selasphorus flammula*

ssp. torridus

Two females at higher elevations in the Chiriqui

Scintillant Hummingbird – NE *Selasphorus scintilla*

Numerous on the Chiriqui Extension!

Trogon *Trogonidae*

Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*

Great views of two pairs, one at a nest on the Chiriquí Extension. Always a highlight of any visit to the



neotropics!!!

Slaty-tailed Trogon

Numerous in humid lowlands

Trogon massena

Black-tailed Trogon

Splendid views in the Darién

Trogon melanurus

White-tailed Trogon

A few seen at various locations

Trogon chionurus

Gartered Trogon

Great looks on a few occasions

Trogon caligatus

Black-throated Trogon

A few seen at scattered locations

Trogon rufus

Collared “Orange-bellied” Trogon – NE

ssp. aurantiiventris

Often considered full species

Trogon collaris

Kingfishers Alcedinidae**American Pygmy Kingfisher**

Great views of a male near Gamboa!

Chloroceryle aenea

Green-and-Rufous Kingfisher

Flyby views in the Darién

Chloroceryle inda

Green Kingfisher

A few seen at various locations

Chloroceryle americana

Amazon Kingfisher

Two pairs found on the main tour and Darién

Chloroceryle amazona

Belted Kingfisher

Flyby at Juan Hombron

Megaceryle alcyon

Ringed Kingfisher

A few seen at scattered locations

Megaceryle torquata

Motmots Momotidae**Tody Motmot**

Wonderful scope and bin views of a confiding pair on the main tour was a highlight of the trip!

Hylomanes momotula

Lesson’s Motmot

One seen near Valle del Anton

Momotus lessonii

Whooping Motmot

Numerous around Gamboa and the Darién

Momotus subrufescens

Rufous Motmot

Numerous!

Baryphthengus martii

Broad-billed Motmot

A few seen well around Gamboa

Electron platyrhynchum



Jacamars *Galbulidae***Dusky-backed Jacamar – NE***Brachygalba salmoni*

Spectacular little birds seen well in the Darién!

Puffbirds *Bucconidae***White-necked Puffbird***Notharchus hyperrhynchus*

Spectacular views on several occasions!

Black-breasted Puffbird*Notharchus pectoralis*

A responsive pair came right in to the canopy tower at Rainforest Discovery Center for fabulous scope looks

Pied Puffbird*Notharchus tectus**ssp. subtectus*

Fairly numerous and widespread

Barred Puffbird*Nystalus radiatus*

Took a while, but finally spotted in the Darién

White-whiskered Puffbird*Malacoptila panamensis*

Wonderful, close, encounter at Altos de Cerro Azul

Grey-cheeked Nunlet – NE*Nonnula frontalis*

Unbelievable experiences with two pairs in the Darién!

White-fronted Nunbird*Monasa morphoeus**ssp. pallescens*

Two showed nicely in the Darién

Typical Barbets *Capitonidae***Spot-crowned Barbet***Capito maculicoronatus*

Seen right in camp in Darién, and another pair near Valle de Anton for a few participants on the main tour

Red-headed BarbetEubucco bourcierii***Toucan Barbets *Semnornithidae*****Prong-billed Barbet - E***Semnornis frantzii*

Stellar views of two pairs on the Chiriqui Extension

Toucans *Ramphastidae***Blue-throated Toucanet - NE***Aulacorhynchus caeruleogularis*

Highlands on the Chiriqui Extension

Collared Aracari*Pteroglossus torquatus*

Fairly common throughout

Fiery-billed Aracari - NE*Pteroglossus frantzii*

A beautiful bird, seen in the Chiriqui

Yellow-eared ToucanetSelenidera spectabilis*

Keel-billed Toucan	<i>Ramphastos sulfuratus</i>
Numerous and Widespread	
Yellow-throated Toucan	<i>Ramphastos ambiguus</i>
ssp. swainsonii	
Fairly common throughout	

Woodpeckers *Picidae*

Olivaceous Piculet	<i>Picumnus olivaceus</i>
Numerous in Darién, with a few elsewhere	
Acorn Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes formicivorus</i>
ssp. striatipectus	
Always a pleasure! Chiriqui Extension	
Black-cheeked Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes pucherani</i>
Relatively widespread	
Red-crowned Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes rubricapillus</i>
Ubiquitous	
Hairy Woodpecker	<i>Leuconotopicus villosus</i>
ssp. extimus	
Several nice views of the distinctive “ashy-breasted” form in the Chiriqui Highlands	
Smoky-brown Woodpecker	<i>Picoides fumigatus</i>
A few seen well from mid-to-high elevations	
Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker - E	<i>Piculus collopheus</i>
Spectacular views on the Darién Extension and the main tour at Altos de Cerro Azul	
Golden-green Woodpecker	<i>Piculus chrysoclorus</i>
ssp. aurosus	
Great views of a pair in the Darién	
Golden-olive Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes rubiginosus</i>
A pair of this handsome species on the Chiriqui Extension	
Spot-breasted Woodpecker	<i>Colaptes punctigula</i>
One showed wonderfully in the Darién!	
Cinnamon Woodpecker	<i>Celeus loricatus</i>
Gorgeous! Nice views in the Darién plus a nesting pair at the Rainforest Discovery Center	
Lineated Woodpecker	<i>Dryocopus lineatus</i>
Several individuals seen throughout	
Crimson-bellied Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus haematogaster</i>
ssp. splendens	
We had a magical experience with this rare, colourful woodpecker in the Darién, when a confiding pair was spotted and watched at leisure	
Crimson-crested Woodpecker	<i>Campephilus melanoleucos</i>
Several in the Darién, a few elsewhere	

Caracaras, Falcons *Falconidae*



Red-throated Caracara Several seen well in the Darién	<i>Ibycter americanus</i>
Northern Crested Caracara Only in arid habitats	<i>Caracara cheriway</i>
Yellow-headed Caracara Fairly common and widespread	<i>Milvago chimachima</i>
*Laughing Falcon	<i>Herpetotheres cachinnans</i>
*Barred Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur ruficollis</i>
*Slaty-backed Forest Falcon	<i>Micrastur mirandollei</i>
American Kestrel A few only	<i>Falco sparverius</i>
Bat Falcon A few well-seen individuals	<i>Falco rufigularis</i>
Aplomado Falcon Gorgeous views of a low-soaring individual in the Darién	<i>Falco femoralis</i>
Peregrine Falcon A few seen at various locations	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>

Parrots Psittacidae

Blue-fronted Parrotlet A mega bird! Spotted during our lunch stop at Altos de Maria	<i>Touit dilectissimus</i>
Orange-chinned Parakeet Common throughout	<i>Brotogeris jugularis</i>
Brown-hooded Parrot Nice views in the Darién	<i>Pyrilia haematotis</i>
Blue-headed Parrot Seen often in small numbers	<i>Pionus menstruus</i>
White-crowned Parrot Great views of this species in the Chiriqui, at the southernmost end of its range	<i>Pionus senilis</i>
Red-lored Amazon Ubiquitous	<i>Amazona autumnalis</i>
Yellow-crowned Amazon In the arid hábitats of the pacific lowlands	<i>Amazona ochrocephala</i>
Northern Mealy Amazon <i>ssp. guatemalae</i> Recently Split	<i>Amazona guatemalae</i>
Southern Mealy Amazon Uncommon, but seen in small numbers in the Darién and around Gamboa	<i>Amazona farinosa</i>
Sulphur-winged Parakeet Two separate flocks encountered in the Chiriqui highlands	<i>Pyrrhura hoffmanni</i>
Brown-throated Parakeet	<i>Eupsittula pertinax</i>



A small flock at Juan Hombron, encountered in good numbers on the Chiriqui Extension, as well

Great Green Macaw - En *Ara ambiguus*

Fabulous scope views in the Darién!

Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severus*

Good, close, flybys in the Darién

***Blue-and-Yellow Macaw** *Ara ararauna*

Finsch's (Crimson-fronted) Parakeet *Psittacara finschi*

A few perched flocks in the Chiriqui lowlands

Broadbills *Eurylaimidae*

Sapayoa *Sapayoa aenigma*

Amazing!!! A confiding pair sat beautifully for photos and fine views the first morning of the Darién extension

Ovenbirds *Furnariidae*

Pale-breasted Spinetail *Synallaxis albescens*

Showed well on the Chiriqui Extension

Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*

Great views of this skulker with some effort on the Chiriqui Extension

Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops*

Mid-elevation forests

Double-banded Greytail *Xenerpestes minlosi*

We found 3 separate nests, all being attended, in the Darién!

Spotted Barbtail *Premnoplex brunescens*

Wonderful views of this furtive species at a few sites

Ruddy Treerunner - NE *Margarornis rubiginosus*

Only one seen in the Chiriqui Highlands

Buffy Tuftedcheek - NE *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*

Fine views of an inquisitive pair in the Chiriqui

Scaly-throated Foliage Gleaner *Anabacerthia variegaticeps*

One seen on the Chiriqui Extension

Lineated Foliage Gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*

Awesome views of this sometimes tricky species in the Chiriqui

***Western Woodhaunter** *Hyloctistes virgatus*

Streak-breasted Treehunter – NE *Thripadectes rufobrunneus*

Stunning views of an impossibly curious individual that sat out in the open, eyeing us, made for a most memorable encounter!

Buff-throated Foliage Gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus*

ssp. *exertus* & *pallidigularis*

A few seen well in the Darién, another in the Chiriqui

***Ruddy Foliage Gleaner** *Automolus rubiginosus*



*Scaly-throated Leaf Tosser	<i>Sclerurus guatemalensis</i>
Plain Xenops Many seen very well!	<i>Xenops minutus</i>
Streaked Xenops <i>ssp. incomptus</i> A few in the Darién	<i>Xenops rutilans</i>
Plain-brown Woodcreeper <i>ssp. ridgewayi</i> Numerous on this tour, though normally scarce	<i>Dendrocincla fuliginosa</i>
Long-tailed Woodcreeper – NT <i>ssp. typical</i> Two encountered at mid-elevations	<i>Deconychura longicauda</i>
Olivaceous Woodcreeper <i>ssp. levis & veraguensis</i> Seen in a variety of habitats throughout	<i>Sittasomus griseicapillus</i>
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper Seen on the Darién Extension	<i>Glyphorhynchus spirurus</i>
Northern Barred Woodcreeper Great looks at an ant swarm near Gamboa!	<i>Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae</i>
Straight-billed Woodcreeper A beautiful pair at Juan Hombron	<i>Dendroplex picus</i>
Cocoa Woodcreeper Common and widespread	<i>Xiphorhynchus susurrans</i>
Black-striped Woodcreeper A few seen in the Darién	<i>Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus</i>
Spotted Woodcreeper Common in mid-elevation flocks	<i>Xiphorhynchus erythropygius</i>
Streak-headed Woodcreeper Not uncommon in lowlands	<i>Lepidocolaptes souleyetii</i>
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper Highland flocks in the Chiriqui	<i>Lepidocolaptes affinis</i>
Red-billed Scythebill <i>ssp. brevipennis</i> Awesome bird! Seen in the Darién	<i>Campylorhamphus trochilirostris</i>
*Brown-billed Scythebill	<i>Campylorhamphus pusillus</i>

Antbirds *Thamnophilidae*

Fasciated Antshrike Several seen well	<i>Cymbilaimus lineatus</i>
Barred Antshrike Numerous on the main tour	<i>Thamnophilus doliatus</i>



Black-hooded Antshrike – NE Nice views on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Thamnophilus bridgesi</i>
Black Antshrike – NE Awesome looks in the Darién	<i>Thamnophilus nigriceps</i>
Black-crowned Antshrike Widespread	<i>Thamnophilus atrinucha</i>
Russet Antshrike A few seen in mixed flocks	<i>Thamnistes anabatinus</i>
Plain Antvireo Common mid-to-high elevations	<i>Dysithamnus mentalis</i>
Spot-crowned Antvireo In small numbers in every lowland mixed flock	<i>Dysithamnus puncticeps</i>
Checker-throated Antwren Good looks and encountered frequently	<i>Epinecrophylla fulviventrís</i>
Moustached Antwren <i>ssp. ignota</i> We managed to call a cooperative pair down out of the high canopy they normally inhabit near Gamboa	<i>Myrmotherula ignota</i>
White-flanked Antwren Encountered on many occasions in forest flocks	<i>Myrmotherula axillaris</i>
Slaty Antwren Several at mid-elevation sites in flocks	<i>Myrmotherula schisticolor</i>
Rufous-winged Antwren <i>ssp. exiguus</i> With some great effort, we ended up with scope views (?!?! – how does one scope an antwren, you might ask?) in the Darién	<i>Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus</i>
Dusky Antbird <i>ssp. rufiventris</i> Cooperative pair near Gamboa	<i>Cercomacra tyrannina</i>
Jet Antbird <i>ssp. nigricans</i> This often skulking, tricky species put on a show for us near Gamboa	<i>Cercomacra nigricans</i>
Bare-crowned Antbird A pair of these striking, feisty, birds defended their territory well in the Darién!	<i>Gymnocichla nudiceps</i>
White-bellied Antbird <i>ssp. panamensis</i> Ridiculous response when a male popped up onto an exposed branch to sing in full view, including image-filling scope views in the Darién!	<i>Myrmeciza longipes</i>
Dull-mantled Antbird Jaw-dropping experience with a pair at Altos de Maria, including the male distending the signature snow-white mantle plumes which are typically concealed	<i>Myrmeciza laemosticta</i>
Chestnut-backed Antbird	<i>Myrmeciza exsul</i>



Common and widespread

***Zeledon's Antbird**

Myrmeciza zeledoni

Bicolored Antbird

Gymnopithys bicolor

Smashing views at different antswarms

Spotted Antbird

Hylophylax naevioides

Brilliant looks at this ornate little gem attending antswarms

Antthrushes Formicariidae

Black-faced Antthrush

Formicarius analis

ssp. panamensis

Unobstructed views at the Rainforest Discovery of at an antswarm involving 9 different species!

Antpittas Grallaridae

Streak-chested Antpitta

Hylopezus perspicillatus

Fine views near Gamboa

***Thicket Antpitta**

Hylopezus dives

Gnatpittas & Gnateaters Conopophagidae

Black-crowned Antpitta – NE

Pittasoma michleri

Breath-taking, intensely exciting experience with a responsive pair on the Darién extensions that left us all giddily stunned!!!

Tapaculos Rhinocryptidae

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo - NE

Scytalopus argentifrons

Views of a couple of these mousy skulkers on the Chiriqui Extension

Tyrant Flycatchers Tyrannidae

White-fronted (Rough-legged) Tyrannulet

Phyllomyias zeledoni

Nice looks in the Chiriqui Highlands!

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet

Phyllomyias griseiceps

A few in the Darién

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet

Tyrannulus elatus

Several seen well

Forest Elaenia

Myiopagis gaimardii

Relative common East of the canal

***Grey Elaenia**

Myiopagis caniceps

Greenish Elaenia

Myiopagis viridicata

A few seen around Valle de Anton and Gamboa

Yellow-bellied Elaenia

Elaenia flavogaster

Ubiquitous

Mountain Elaenia

Elaenia frantzii



Highland of the Chiriqui	
Brown-capped Tyrannulet	<i>Ornithion brunneicapillus</i>
Several nice views had	
Southern Beardless Tyrannulet	<i>Camptostoma obsoletum</i>
Widespread	
Torrent Tyrannulet	<i>Serpophaga cinerea</i>
One in the Chiriqui highlands	
Mouse-colored Tyrannulet	<i>Phaeomyias murina</i>
A few at Juan Hombron	
Yellow Tyrannulet	<i>Capsiempis flaveola</i>
Nice pair at Juan Hombron	
Mistletoe (Paltry) Tyrannulet	<i>Zimmerius parvus</i>
Almost ubiquitous	
Panamanian (Yellow-green) Tyrannulet - E	<i>Phylloscartes flavovirens</i>
One near Gamboa, but the best views in the Parque Metropolitano in the city.	
Rufous-browed Tyrannulet	<i>Phylloscartes superciliaris</i>
One turned up in a huge flock at Altos de Maria	
Olive-striped Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes olivaceus</i>
Several around Valle de Anton	
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher	<i>Mionectes oleagineus</i>
A few at scattered locations	
Slaty-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon superciliaris</i>
Nice looks in the Chiriqui highlands	
Sepia-capped Flycatcher	<i>Leptopogon amaurocephalus</i>
Only one seen at Altos de Maria	
Northern Scrub Flycatcher	<i>Sublegatus arenarum</i>
Quick looks at Juan Hombron	
Bran-colored Flycatcher	<i>Myiophobus fasciatus</i>
Nice looks at Gamboa	
Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Myiornis atricapillus</i>
Wonderful views of a nest-building pair in the Darién	
Southern Bentbill	<i>Oncostoma olivaceum</i>
Great looks in the Darién!	
Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Lophotriccus pileatus</i>
Several seen, with best views of a pair building a nest below eye-level at Altos de Maria	
Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant	<i>Atalotriccus pilaris</i>
Good looks at a pair at Juan Hombron	
Slaty-headed Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Poecilotriccus sylvia</i>
Obliging pair on the Chiriqui Extension	
Common Tody-Flycatcher	<i>Todirostrum cinereum</i>
Common and widespread	



Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher Several encountered and seen well!	<i>Todirostrum nigriceps</i>
Brownish Twistwing Displaying birds found on lek in the Darién	<i>Cnipodectes subbrunneus</i>
Eye-ringed Flatbill Point blank, close views in the Chiriqui	<i>Rhynchocyclus brevirostris</i>
Olivaceous Flatbill Nice views in the Darién, and on the main tour	<i>Rhynchocyclus olivaceus</i>
Yellow-olive Flatbill Several seen well	<i>Tolmomyias sulphurescens</i>
Yellow-margined Flatbill Several seen well	<i>Tolmomyias flavotectus</i>
Ochre-lore (Yellow-breasted) Flatbill Several in the Darién	<i>Tolmomyias flaviventris</i>
*White-throated Spadebill	<i>Platyrinchus mystaceus</i>
Golden-crowned Spadebill Great experience as we watched confiding birds at close range near Gamboa	<i>Platyrinchus coronatus</i>
Black Phoebe A few seen at bridges and streams	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Northern Tufted Flycatcher Beautiful, numerous, in highlands	<i>Mitrephanes phaeocercus</i>
Dark Pewee - NE A few in the Chiriqui highlands	<i>Contopus lugubris</i>
Ochraceous Pewee – NE Chiriqui; fine looks at this rare species!	<i>Contopus ochraceus</i>
Western Wood-Pewee A few seen well	<i>Contopus sordidulus</i>
Eastern Wood-Pewee One in the Darién	<i>Contopus virens</i>
Tropical Pewee A few at various locations	<i>Contopus cinereus</i>
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Great views of one in the Chiriqui	<i>Empidonax flaviventris</i>
Acadian Flycatcher A couple seen	<i>Empidonax virescens</i>
Yellowish Flycatcher A few in the Chiriqui highlands	<i>Empidonax flavescens</i>
Black-capped Flycatcher – NE A few, including a pair in mating display, in the Chiriqui	<i>Empidonax atriceps</i>
Pied Water Tyrant At a stakeout on the Darién extension	<i>Fluvicola pica</i>



Long-tailed Tyrant Seen in a few places of mid-elevations	<i>Colonia colonus</i>
Piratic Flycatcher Fairly common and widespread	<i>Legatus leucophaeus</i>
Social Flycatcher Common and widespread	<i>Myiozetetes similis</i>
Rusty-margined Flycatcher Common and widespread	<i>Myiozetetes cayanensis</i>
Grey-capped Flycatcher A few around Fortuna	<i>Myiozetetes granadensis</i>
Great Kiskadee Everywhere but the Darién	<i>Pitangus sulphuratus</i>
Lesser Kiskadee A few at scattered wetland sites	<i>Philohydor lictor</i>
Golden-bellied Flycatcher - NE A few on the Chiriqui highlands	<i>Myiodynastes hemichrysus</i>
Streaked Flycatcher Fairly common and widespread	<i>Myiodynastes maculatus</i>
Boat-billed Flycatcher Several seen at various locations	<i>Megarynchus pitangua</i>
Tropical Kingbird Ubiquitous	<i>Tyrannus melancholicus</i>
Fork-tailed Flycatcher Several of these elegant birds seen well	<i>Tyrannus savana</i>
Eastern Kingbird Amazing, huge migrating flocks!	<i>Tyrannus tyrannus</i>
Rufous Mourner Just seen well, and very well, on the Darién extension	<i>Rhytipterna holerythra</i>
Choco Sirystes Responsive pair in the Darién put on a show for us!	<i>Sirystes albogriseus</i>
Dusky-capped Flycatcher Widespread	<i>Myiarchus tuberculifer</i>
Panamanian Flycatcher Fairly widespread in small numbers	<i>Myiarchus panamensis</i>
Great-crested Flycatcher A few seen in the Darién	<i>Myiarchus crinitus</i>
Bright-rumped Attila Several seen well	<i>Attila spadiceus</i>

Cotingas Cotingidae

Blue Cotinga – NE, Vu	<i>Cotinga nattererii</i>
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A stunner! Seen on the Darién extension, and again from the canopy tower at Rainforest Discovery Center

Three-wattled Bellbird

Procnias tricarunculatus

Scope views of this raucous, iconic species!

Rufous Piha

Lipaugus unirufus

One was down, in the middle of the road, at Fortuna, for some strange reason...

Purple-throated Fruitcrow

Querula purpurata

Great looks at this flashy, fun, species in the Darién and around Gamboa

Manakins *Pipridae*

Lance-tailed Manakin

Chiroxiphia lanceolata

Stunner! A few seen around Gamboa

White-ruffed Manakin

Corapipo altera

Several seen at mid-elevation sites

Blue-crowned Manakin

Lepidothrix coronata

ssp. miniscula

A few seen around Gamboa

Golden-collared Manakin

Manacus vitellinus

Seen in the Darién and around Gamboa

Orange-collared Manakin - NE

Manacus aurantiacus

At a lek on the Chiriqui Extension

Red-capped Manakin

Ceratopipra mentalis

A few of these beauties seen at scattered sites

Golden-headed Manakin

Ceratopipra erythrocephala

ssp. erythrocephala

Nice looks at displaying birds in the Darién

Tityras, Becards *Tityridae*

Northern Royal Flycatcher

Onychorhynchus mexicanus

Stellar encounter with two individuals in the Darién

Black-tailed Myiobius

Myiobius atricaudus

A few seen in mixed flocks

Sulphur-rumped Myiobius

Myiobius sulphureipygius

Amazing, confiding, nesting pairs at a few locations!

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher

Terenotriccus erythrurus

Several seen well in Darién and on the main tour

Black-crowned Tityra

Tityra inquisitor

Not uncommon throughout

Masked Tityra

Tityra semifasciata

Many seen well

Northern Schiffornis

Schiffornis veraepacis



Great looks on the main tour, including image-filled scope views of a singing bird!

Russet-winged Schiffornis

Schiffornis stenorhyncha

Incredibly, a singing male responded to playback by attempting to land on me! At last second it diverted to a slim branch not 5 feet from my knees, and sat there inquisitively. We were all stunned!!!

Speckled Mourner

Laniocera rufescens

One sitting perfectly, digesting fruits from the tree it was perched in, at Darién, was a great find.

Barred Becard

Pachyramphus versicolor

Nesting pair on the Chiriqui Extension

***Cinereous Becard**

Pachyramphus rufus

Cinnamon Becard

Pachyramphus cinnamomeus

Several seen well, widespread

White-winged Becard

Pachyramphus polychopterus

ssp. similis

But a few seen at scattered locations

One-colored Becard

Pachyramphus homochrous

Nesting pair put on a great show in the Darién

Vireos, Greenlets Vireonidae

Rufous-browed Peppershrike

Cyclarhis gujanensis

ssp. subflavescens

Nice looks on Chiriqui Extension of a few

Green Shrike-Vireo

Vireolanius pulchellus

Killer views of this canopy dweller at the Rainforest Discovery Center, including four in one fruiting tree!

Yellow-throated Vireo

Vireo flavifrons

A few on the Chiriqui Extension

Yellow-winged Vireo – NE

Vireo carmioli

Several obliging, singing, individuals

Brown-capped Vireo

Vireo leucophrys

Great views, including one down at eye-level at Amistad NP

Philadelphia Vireo

Vireo philadelphicus

Surprisingly, we saw more than one!

Red-eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus

A few late migrants

Yellow-green Vireo

Vireo flavoviridis

Numerous and widespread

Golden-fronted Greenlet

Hylophilus aurantiifrons

A few seen in the Darién and on the main tour in semi-deciduous habitats

Scrub Greenlet

Hylophilus flavipes

Not uncommon in open, disturbed, areas

Lesser Greenlet

Hylophilus decurtatus



Numerous, with most forest flocks

Crows, Jays *Corvidae*

Azure-hooded Jay

Cyanolyca cucullata

ssp. *cucullata*

Surely one of the tour highlights, we had a pair of these stunning birds nest-building on the Chiriqui Extension!

Black-chested Jay

Cyanocorax affinis

Seen on most days of the tour

Silky Flycatchers *Ptiligonatidae*

Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher - NE

Ptiliogonys caudatus

Several of these indescribably beautiful birds seen exceptionally well on the Chiriqui Extension

Black-and-Yellow Phainoptila - NE

Phainoptila melanoxantha

Quick flyby only, unfortunately

Swallows, Martins *Hirundinidae*

Sand Martin/Bank Swallow

Riparia riparia

Huge migrant flocks in the Darién

Mangrove Swallow

Tachycineta albilinea

Widespread and fairly common

Grey-breasted Martin

Progne chalybea

Widespread and common

Blue-and-white Swallow

Notiochelidon cyanoleuca

Common in highlands

Northern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx serripennis

A few in the canal zone

Southern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis

Common and widespread

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica

Numerous migrants

Wrens *Troglodytidae*

White-headed Wren

Campylorhynchus albobrunneus

Fun bird seen well in the Darién

Black-bellied Wren

Pheugopedius fasciatoventris

Great views in Darién, and on the main tour

Rufous-breasted Wren

Pheugopedius rutilus

ssp. *hyperythrus*

Fairly common and widespread

Rufous-and-White Wren

Thryophilus rufalbus

ssp. *castanonotus*



Fairly common and widespread

Isthmian Wren*Cantorchilus elutus*

Newly split from Plain Wren; several seen

Buff-breasted Wren*Cantorchilus leucotis***ssp. galbraithii**

A few seen at various locations

Riverside Wren - NE*Cantorchilus semibadius*

Stellar views of this ornate species on the Chiriqui Extension

Bay Wren*Cantorchilus nigricapillus*

Several seen at scattered locations

Stripe-throated WrenCantorchilus leucopogon***(Southern) House Wren***Troglodytes aedon*

Ubiquitous

Ochraceous Wren – NE*Troglodytes ochraceus*

Seen well on the Chiriqui Extension

White-breasted Wood Wren*Henicorhina leucosticta***ssp. pittieri & darienensis**

Widespread and seen a few times

Grey-breasted Wood Wren*Henicorhina leucophrys***ssp. collina**

Seen well in highlands

Southern Nightingale-WrenMicrocerculus marginatus***Song Wren***Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*

Unforgettable encounter with a family group of 5 foraging in heavy leaf litter, in clear view, for several minutes

Gnatcatchers Polioptilidae**Tawny-faced Gnatwren***Microbates cinereiventris*

Looks near Valle de Anton

Long-billed Gnatwren*Ramphocaenus melanurus***ssp. rufiventris**

Fairly common and widespread

Tropical Gnatcatcher*Polioptila plumbea*

Fairly common and widespread

Mockingbirds, Thrashers Mimidae**Tropical Mockingbird***Mimus gilvus*

Common and widespread

Thrushes Turdidae**Black-faced Solitaire***Myadestes melanops*

A singing bird not 4 meters from us, amongst others on the Chiriqui Extension



Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush - NE A few showing well in the Chiriqui	<i>Catharus gracilirostris</i>
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush Uncommonly great looks at a couple on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Catharus aurantiirostris</i>
*Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus fuscater</i>
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush Fairly common on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Catharus frantzii</i>
*Black-headed Nightingale-Thrush	<i>Catharus mexicanus</i>
Swainson's Thrush Impressive concentrations seen on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Catharus ustulatus</i>
Wood Thrush A couple seen around Gamboa	<i>Hylocichla mustelina</i>
Sooty Thrush – NE Only a few at high elevations on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Turdus nigrescens</i>
Mountain Thrush Common on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Turdus plebejus</i>
Pale-vented Thrush Several seen well around Valle de Anton	<i>Turdus obsoletus</i>
Clay-colored Thrush Ubiquitous	<i>Turdus grayi</i>
White-throated Thrush <i>ssp. nephosus</i> A few on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Turdus assimilis</i>

Old World Sparrows *Passeridae*

House Sparrow <i>Passer domesticus</i>	<i>Passer domesticus</i>
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Finches *Fringillidae*

Lesser Goldfinch <i>ssp. colombiana</i> A couple on the main tour, mostly seen in the Chiriqui	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>
Yellow-bellied Siskin Nice looks on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Spinus xanthogastrus</i>
Yellow-crowned Euphonia Widespread and fairly common	<i>Euphonia luteicapilla</i>
Yellow-throated Euphonia Good views at a pair nest-building on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Euphonia hirundinacea</i>
Thick-billed Euphonia Common and Widespread	<i>Euphonia lanirostris</i>
Elegant Euphonia	<i>Euphonia elegantissima</i>



Gorgeous species seen in the Chiriqui

Fulvous-vented Euphonia

Euphonia fulvicrissa

A few pairs seen well at scattered locations

Spot-crowned Euphonia – NE

Euphonia imitans

Nice looks at two pairs on the Chiriqui extension

White-vented Euphonia

Euphonia minuta

Several seen at mid-elevation sites

Orange-bellied Euphonia

Euphonia xanthogaster

Rare in the Darién, one pair was spotted by our local guide

Tawny-capped Euphonia

Euphonia anneae

Not uncommon at mid-elevation sites

Golden-browed Chlorophonia – NE

Chlorophonia callophrys

Spectacularly lovely species seen well on the Chiriqui Extension

New World Warblers *Parulidae*

Northern Waterthrush

Parkesia noveboracensis

A few individuals turned up

Golden-winged Warbler – Vu

Vermivora chrysoptera

Several gorgeous individuals enjoyed

Black-and-White Warbler

Mniotilta varia

A few found at mid-elevation sites

Prothonotary Warbler

Protonotaria citrea

Two turned up in the Darién

Flame-throated Warbler – NE

Oreothlypis gutturalis

Uncommon in the Chiriqui

Tennessee Warbler

Leiothlypis peregrina

Numerous and widespread

Grey-crowned Yellowthroat

Geothlypis poliocephala

One turned up near Valle de Anton

Chiriqui (Masked) Yellowthroat – E, Vu

Geothlypis chiriquensis

An obliging pair showed nicely on the Chiriqui Extension

Mourning Warbler

Geothlypis philadelphia

Male seen on the Chiriqui Extension!

American Redstart

Setophaga ruticilla

Just one turned up on the main tour

Tropical Parula

Setophaga pitayumi

Heard often, seen well on the Chiriqui Extension

Magnolia Warbler

Setophaga magnolia

One seen near Panama City

Bay-breasted Warbler

Setophaga castanea

Fairly common and widespread



Blackburnian Warbler Mostly on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Setophaga fusca</i>
American Yellow Warbler Widespread	<i>Setophaga aestiva</i>
Chestnut-sided Warbler Fairly common	<i>Setophaga pensylvanica</i>
Blackpoll Warbler Two turned up near Valle de Anton	<i>Setophaga striata</i>
Black-throated Green Warbler Several on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Setophaga virens</i>
Buff-rumped Warbler Uncommon but widespread	<i>Myiothlypis fulvicauda</i>
Rufous-capped Warbler <i>ssp. mesochrysus</i> Seen on both the main tour and in the Chiriqui Highlands	<i>Basileuterus rufifrons</i>
Black-cheeked Warbler – NE Several in mixed flocks in the Chiriqui	<i>Basileuterus melanogenys</i>
Golden-crowned Warbler <i>ssp. godmani</i> But a few seen, mostly on Chiriqui Extension	<i>Basileuterus culicivorus</i>
Black-eared (Costa Rican) Warbler – NE Several on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Basileuterus melanotis</i>
Canada Warbler A few seen at mid-elevation sites	<i>Cardellina canadensis</i>
Wilson's' Warbler Common on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Cardellina pusilla</i>
Slate-throated Whitestart Several on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Myioborus miniatus</i>
Collared Whitestart – NE A common delight in the highlands of the Chiriqui!	<i>Myioborus torquatus</i>

Family Uncertain *Incertae Sedis*

Wrenthrush – E A most cooperative male allowed us to approach within 15 feet, and stayed put, singing beautifully in full view!	<i>Zeledonia coronata</i>
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Oropendolas, Orioles & Blackbirds *Icteridae*

Eastern Meadowlark <i>ssp. subulata</i> Common in the Chiriqui	<i>Sturnella magna</i>
Yellow-billed Cacique We ended up, with some effort, seeing a few of these odd, skulking, icters	<i>Amblycercus holosericeus</i>



Chestnut-headed Oropendola Common and Widespread	<i>Psarocolius wagleri</i>
Crested Oropendola Uncommon, though seen at a few sites	<i>Psarocolius decumanus</i>
Montezuma Oropendola Many at nests near Fortuna on the Chiriqui Extension	<i>Psarocolius montezuma</i>
Black Oropendola – NE Impressive species seen exceptionally well, and often, in the Darién	<i>Psarocolius guatimozinus</i>
Yellow-rumped Cacique Common and widespread	<i>Cacicus cela</i>
Scarlet-rumped Cacique Several around Gamboa	<i>Cacicus microrhynchus</i>
Yellow-backed Oriole Several in the Darién and around Gamboa	<i>Icterus chrysater</i>
Baltimore Oriole A few at scattered locations	<i>Icterus galbula</i>
Yellow-tailed Oriole A few around Gamboa	<i>Icterus mesomelas</i>
Orange-crowned Oriole A few in the Darién showed well	<i>Icterus auricapillus</i>
Melodious Blackbird Ever expanding their range, seen in the Chiriqui	<i>Dives dives</i>
Giant Cowbird Not uncommon where there are Oropendola nests to parasitize	<i>Molothrus oryzivorus</i>
Shiny Cowbird Many seen in open, or disturbed, areas	<i>Molothrus bonariensis</i>
Bronzed Cowbird A few encountered only	<i>Molothrus aeneus</i>
Great-tailed Grackle Ubiquitous	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>

Bananaquit *Coerebidae*

Bananaquit Not uncommon	<i>Coereba flaveola</i>
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New World Sparrows & Allies *Emberizidae*

Rufous-collared Sparrow Common in the Chiriqui highlands	<i>Zonotrichia capensis</i>
Black-striped Sparrow Several run-ins with this songster	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantirostris</i>



Great looks on a few occasions

Chestnut-capped Brushfinch

Arremon brunneinucha

Numerous on the Chiriqui Extension

Costa Rican Brushfinch – NE, Vu

Arremon costaricensis

Nice experiences with this extremely range-restricted species on the Chiriqui Extension

***Sooty-faced Finch – NE**

Arremon crassirostris

Large-footed Finch – NE

Pezopetes capitalis

Awesome, huge, finch of which a pair showed wonderfully on the Chiriqui Extension

White-naped Brush Finch

Atlapietes albinucha

Several in the Chiriqui

Yellow-thighed Finch – NE

Pselliophorus tibialis

Common in the Chiriqui highlands

Common Bush Tanager

Chlorospingus flavopectus

Numerous at mid-to-high elevations

Tacarcuna Bush Tanager – E

Chlorospingus tacarcunae

One seen briefly at Cerro Jefe by the guide and two participants. A rare species seldom encountered out of the Pirre/Darién region.

Sooty-capped Bush Tanager - NE

Chlorospingus pileatus

Highlands

Tanagers and Allies *Thraupidae*

Dusky-faced Tanager

Mitrospingus cassinii

A few seen in foothill forests

Grey-headed Tanager

Eucometis penicillata

Beautiful views around Gamboa

White-shouldered Tanager

Tachyphonus luctuosus

Relatively common

Tawny-crested Tanager

Tachyphonus delatrii

Great views in Mid-elevation forests

White-lined Tanager

Tachyphonus rufus

Only one pair seen near El Valle

Crimson-backed Tanager

Ramphocelus dimidiatus

Widespread and common

Passerini's Tanager

Ramphocelus passerinii

Only seen near Willy Mazu on the Chiriqui extension

Cherrie's Tanager

Ramphocelus costaricensis

A few seen well on the Chiriqui extension

Lemon(Bright)-rumped Tanager

Ramphocelus icteronotus

Fairly common at a few sites

Blue-grey Tanager

Thraupis episcopus

Ubiquitous



Palm Tanager Ubiquitous	<i>Thraupis palmarum</i>
*Blue-and-Gold Tanager	<i>Bangsia arcae</i>
Plain-colored Tanager Numerous from the canal zone east	<i>Tangara inornata</i>
Emerald Tanager A few pairs of this absolute stunner seen at mid-elevation sites	<i>Tangara florida</i>
Silver-throated Tanager Common from mid-elevation sites, higher	<i>Tangara icterocephala</i>
Speckled Tanager Several seen well on the Chiriqui extension	<i>Tangara guttata</i>
Bay-headed Tanager Numerous around El Valle	<i>Tangara gyrola</i>
Rufous-winged Tanager Scarce; a few seen at mid-elevation sites	<i>Tangara lavinia</i>
Golden-hooded Tanager Common and widespread	<i>Tangara larvata</i>
Spangle-cheeked Tanager – NE Great looks at a pair near Fortuna on the Chiriqui extension!	<i>Tangara dowii</i>
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis Several of these beauties seen	<i>Dacnis venusta</i>
Blue Dacnis Fairly common in humid lowland forests	<i>Dacnis cayana</i>
Shining Honeycreeper Great views in the Darién and around Gamboa	<i>Cyanerpes lucidus</i>
Red-legged Honeycreeper Spectacular show of this, and the other two honeycreeper species, at feeding stations and elsewhere!	<i>Cyanerpes cyaneus</i>
Green Honeycreeper Several amazing views	<i>Chlorophanes spiza</i>
Sulphur-rumped Tanager – NE A few seen at Nusugandi!	<i>Heterospingus rubrifrons</i>
Black-and-Yellow Tanager – NE Fine views at a couple mid-elevation sites	<i>Chrysothlypis chrysomelas</i>
White-eared Conebill Only seen in the Darién	<i>Conirostrum leucogenys</i>
Slaty Flowerpiercer – NE Numerous on the Chiriqui extension	<i>Diglossa plumbea</i>
Saffron Finch Just one flock seen near Gamboa	<i>Sicalis flaveola</i>
*Slate-colored Grosbeak	<i>Saltator grossus</i>
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>



Only a couple seen near Willy Mazu on the Chiriqui extension

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*

Common and Widespread

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*

ssp. furax & isthmicus

Uncommon in drier habitats

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*

Seen most days

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*

Common and Widespread

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis*

A flock seen near El Valle

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta*

One pair near Gamboa

Thick-billed Seed Finch *Oryzoborus funereus*

Several seen at various sites

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivaceus*

Common at higher elevation

Rosy Thrush-Tanager *Rhodinocichla rosea*

Always a highlight of any tour when encountered, this gorgeous species radiates color through the understory!

Grosbeaks, Saltators & Allies *Cardinalidae*

Flame-colored Tanager *Piranga bidentata*

Several in highlands of the Chiriqui area

Tooth-billed Tanager *Piranga lutea*

Just a few seen at mid-elevation sites

Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*

Numerous during the tour

Scarlet Tanager *Piranga olivacea*

A few seen in the Darién region

Western Tanager *Piranga ludoviciana*

One found in the Chiriqui!

White-winged Tanager *Piranga leucoptera*

Stellar views of this exceptionally attractive species on the Chiriqui extension

Red-crowned Ant Tanager *Habia rubica*

Fairly common and widespread

Red-throated Ant Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*

But a few seen in the Gamboa area and Darién

Carmioli's Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli*

Several nice views of this species in understory mixed flocks



Black-thighed Grosbeak - NE	<i>Pheucticus tibialis</i>
Lovely singing individual showed well for us in the Chiriqui highlands	
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>
Several seen at various locations	
Black-faced Grosbeak	<i>Caryothraustes poliogaster</i>
Several of these beauties seen near El Valle	
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanoides</i>
Several run-ins with these lovely birds, only one of which was finally seen on the Chiriqui extension	
Indigo Bunting	<i>Passerina cyanea</i>
A surprise on the Darién extension	

Mammals

Black-eared Possum	<i>Didelphis marsupialis</i>
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth	<i>Choloepus hoffmanni</i>
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth	<i>Bradypus variegatus</i>
Geoffrey's Tamarin	<i>Saguinus geoffreyi</i>
Mantled Howler Monkey	<i>Alouatta palliata</i>
White-throated Capuchin	<i>Cebus capucinus</i>
White-nosed Coati	<i>Nasua narica</i>
Eastern Cottontail	<i>Sylvilagus floridanus</i>
Capybara	<i>Capybara capybara</i>
Central American Agouti	<i>Dasyprocta punctata</i>
Central American Dwarf Squirrel	<i>microsciurus alfar</i>
Red-tailed Squirrel	<i>Sciurus granatensis</i>
Variegated Squirrel	<i>Sciurus variegatoides</i>

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