

Panama

Darién Extension III

1st to 7th April 2017 (7 Days)

Trip Report



A spectacular female Crested Eagle at a nest by George Armistead

Trip report compiled by Tour Leader, George Armistead



Tour Summary

Enigmatic, remote and rich with wildlife, the Darién has long intrigued birders as a tantalising, impenetrable wilderness. Brimming with regional specialities and endemics, until recently, access



Snowy-bellied Hummingbird by George L.

Armistead

here was possible only through fairly rigorous expedition-style travel. But as improvements have been made to the road, and new accommodations have sprouted up, suddenly, more of the Darién is within reach.

The Pan-American Highway stretches from Prudhoe Bay in Alaska all the way south to the tip of southern South America, where it ends at Ushuaia, Argentina. But between the town of Yaviza, in the Darién province of Panama, and Turbo, in Colombia, there is a gap known as "the Darién Gap". The sprawling wilderness in this zone encompasses lowlands, foothills and mountains on the Panamanian side and

expansive wetlands on the Colombian side. Though logging is a huge issue in Panama, as we saw during our week in the area, much of the land is protected, including within Darién National Park, and it was here where we set our sights.

Panama's National Bird, arguably the largest eagle on earth, and the most powerful raptor in the Americas, the Harpy Eagle, had been pretty reliable in the national park this year. I'm not sure any of us dared to admit it aloud, but this was surely *the* major target bird for all of us. Not only did we succeed with this exceptional eagle, but chance smiled upon us with another superb raptor as well, when just a few weeks prior to our visit, a Crested Eagle nest was located nearby. Harpy is surely the most majestic raptor around, but the Crested is one of the rarest and hardest to see. Few nests have ever been observed by birders. Not only did we get to see the gorgeous, regal female Crested at the nest, but we were also able to detect that there was a new-born chick!

Raptors were a fantastic feature on this tour. The big, the beautiful and the rare were all on display, and we bore witness to amazing migration spectacles too. Several days saw us gawking at huge concentrations of thousands of Swainson's and Broad-winged Hawks. It was humbling to see these, the most migratory of New World hawks, in such staggering numbers, winging their way north to

the U.S. and Canada, where they'll have but a few short months to complete breeding. *And how about those Mississippi Kites?!* Our final morning at breakfast, we looked up to see hundreds, just risen from their evening roost, climbing up into the morning sky. All in all, we encountered about two dozen species of raptors during our week. Of course, there were other sought-after species too. Hummingbirds, furnariids (ovenbirds), woodpeckers, and tyrant-flycatchers also made strong showings, and we enjoyed wonderful encounters with expected birds and some surprises too.



Rusty-margined Flycatcher by George L. Armistead

After our meet-up dinner in Panama City, we headed out the next morning for the Darién. We drove out from the city, stopping in the Nusagandi area to get our feet wet, literally. We had just missed rain here, and the trail had become quite muddy, but a rather rigorous hike allowed us to pick up a few birds, like Green Hermit, Green Honeycreeper, Stripe-throated Wren, Carmiol's Tanager,



Golden-collared Manakin by George L. Armistead

Rufous-winged Tanager and Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner; while the elusive Sapayoa called in the background. We arrived at Camp that afternoon, and were greeted by Spotcrowned Barbets, Blue-throated Goldentail (Sapphire), Golden-headed and Goldencollared Manakins, and we watched a Blackfaced Antthrush singing away under one of the cabins as the sun hung low and sank.

We spent the next morning birding around Camp, picking up birds like Olivaceous Piculet, Purple-crowned Fairy, a pair of Whitebellied Antbirds, and a most cooperative Gray-

cheeked Nunlet, before using the afternoon to work the Laja Blanca area. We crossed the Rio Chucunaque for the first time that afternoon, and though it was bone-dry where we were, Carlos pointed out some rain clouds in the distance and noted the high level of the river. This suggested they were getting some rain on the Caribbean side. After close sightings of Linneated Woodpecker, Squirrel Cuckoo, and a massive river of raptors overhead, we continued on in a safari-style 4x4 to access Laja Blanca. It was hot and humid, but as the sun got lower the bird activity rose, and soon, in rapid-fire succession, we were enjoying views of Spectacled Parrotlets, Bare-crowned Antbirds, Black Antshrike, and perhaps best of all: a splendid pair of Dusky-backed Jacamars. Dusk was upon us, and it was time for a Cerveza and some "bread", as Tony preferred to call it. The Pauraques ushered in the evening, as they would do every night at camp, and a Mottled Owl hollered from the woods, but we were in bed early because Day 4 was to be a big one.

We arose dark and early, and after a shot of coffee and a quick breakfast, we were off to the end of the road, at Yaviza. Here, the Pan American Highway gives way to the region most birders think of when we hear the term: "the Darién." We hailed a dug-out canoe (~8000 bananas, give or take) and then settled in for a 45-minute ride up the Rio Chucunaque before arriving in El Real. At an outpost village, we got our first real glimpses of the Emberá people here, especially as we reached the forest and met with our local guides who would help us reach our destination for the day. A 1-year-and-8-month old Harpy Eagle fledgeling was being fed by its parents and our Emberá guides had been

keeping tabs on it for us. After about a 1.5-hour hike through some gorgeous forest, we found our quarry, and marvelled at it for a good hour. The immense young Harpy cried out, hungry for food, impatient for its parents, and jostled around in the big canopy tree where it was roosting, providing us several different viewpoints, and wonderful studies. Eventually, we left, supremely satisfied in seeing our big (!) target bird, and also having connected with others, too, like Red-throated Caracara, Black Oropendola, Stripe-throated Wren, Choco Sirvstes, some night monkeys, and much more.



Gray-cheeked Nunlet by George L. Armistead

Day 5, as we headed out from camp, we were shocked to spy a young Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth right at eye-level, just beside the road. We were beside ourselves. He was so close, and so unbearably cute, we were gobsmacked. He posed spectacularly, meandering slowly;) within the small tree he was in, smiling away, as curious about us as we were about him. It was nice to see him later that day in much the same place where we'd left him, enjoying a sunny day of leaf-munching.



Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth by George L.

Armistead

This sloth, just a few months on its own and no bigger than a basketball, seemed to bring us birds as well. A party of White-headed Wrens filed past, and a Barred Puffbird sounded off just overhead. Later that morning, a visit to a secluded oxbow yielded close encounters with 2 Royal Flycatchers (now in the Tityra family, so not a flycatcher at all), a gorgeous immature Rufescent Tiger-Heron, an American Pygmy Kingfisher and best of all: a stunning Green-and-rufous Kingfisher.

On our final full day at camp, we were to try and reach the Crested Eagle nest. This was our only chance for the bird. During the previous

days, the river had risen and washed away the temporary bridge we needed to cross in order to access the area. Despite some work on the bridge, when we arrived that morning, it was not passable... at least by car. There were some big beams in place, and there was no way to drive across, but we decided we could cross on foot. Carlos, who's always thinking outside-the-box, spied an avocado truck on the other side, and so a plan was hatched! We'd leave our vehicle behind, cross what there was of the bridge on foot, and as soon as the avocado truck was emptied of its avocados, we would jump in and head for the nest area. It worked superbly. We communed at length with this rare raptor, and its chick, and saw a good bunch of other birds too. We had all the black-and-white puffbirds together: Pied, Black-breasted and White-collared; and also connected with Great Jacamar (one tail-less!), Streaked Xenops, Double-banded Graytail and a lot more, too.

It was a wonderful week at the comfortable Canopy Camp, and Carlos and I enjoyed the privilege and opportunity to guide you all on a great Panama birding adventure. A big thanks to Nick, Moyo Carlos, of course, and the whole Canopy Family for helping to make our stay such a success. Thanks for travelling with us and we hope to see you on another Rockjumper birding adventure soon!



Immature Rufescent Tiger-Heron by George L.
Armistead



The intrepid group!

Annotated List of species recorded

Note: Number in brackets () indicate number of days on the tour the species was recorded. List powered through the report generator of our partner iGoTerra.

Birds (270 in total: 243 seen, 27 heard)

Nomenclature and taxonomy follows Gill, F and D Donsker (Eds). 2017. IOC World Bird List (v 7.1).

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, **EN** = Endangered, **VU** = Vulnerable, **EW** = Extinct in

the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Tinamous Tinamidae

Great Tinamou (NT)

Tinamus major

(4) Up to 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2-4.4 and 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4. Heard two different days.

Little Tinamou

Crypturellus soui

(6) Up to 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2-4.4, 1 Lajas Blancas 5.4, 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4 and 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 7.4.

As is often the case, mostly just heard but we did flush one off the road at Laja Blanca.

Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl Anatidae

Muscovy Duck

Cairina moschata



(2) en route 6.4 and 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 7.4.

A couple flybys seen.

Storks Ciconiidae

Wood Stork Mycteria americana

Observed 3 days in total.

Ibises and Spoonbills Threskiornithidae

American White Ibis Eudocimus albus ramobustorum

(1) en route 4.4.

Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns Ardeidae

Rufescent Tiger Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum lineatum*

(2) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Gorgeous young bird at Vigia. Kathy spotted another at San Francisco Reserve.

Yellow-crowned Night Heron Nyctanassa violacea caliginis

(1) en route 4.4.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens virescens*

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata striata*

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Western Cattle Egret Bubulcus ibis

Observed 6 days in total.

Great Blue Heron Ardea herodias

(2) 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Cocoi Heron Ardea cocoi

(1) 10 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.

Great Egret Ardea alba egretta

(1) 6 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.

Capped Heron Pilherodius pileatus

(1) 3 Lajas Blancas 3.4.

Tricolored Heron *Egretta tricolor ruficollis*

(1) 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

(1) 24 en route 4.4.

Snowy Egret Egretta thula

(1) 20 en route 4.4.

New World Vultures Cathartidae

Turkey Vulture Cathartes aura

Observed 6 days in total.

Black Vulture Coragyps atratus

Observed 6 days in total.

King Vulture Sarcoramphus papa

(1) 3 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Osprey Pandionidae

Western Osprey Pandion haliaetus carolinensis

Observed 4 days in total.

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites Accipitridae

Pearl Kite Gampsonyx swainsonii leonae

(1) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4.

Carlos spotted one sitting up that gave us great views.

Grey-headed Kite Leptodon cayanensis cayanensis

(1) 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4.

Hook-billed KiteChondrohierax uncinatus uncinatus

(1) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*

(1) 4 Nusagandi 2.4.

Crested Eagle (NT)

Morphnus guianensis

(1) 2 Sinai Town 6.4.

A major highlight was seeing the regal adult female on the nest. Seeing a youngster's head pop up was also a thrill. Lifer avocado truck ride for most!

Harpy Eagle (NT)

Harpia harpyja

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Our biggest target, and while we were pretty confident it was a major relief and also an enormous thrill to see this most majestic eagle.

Black Hawk-Eagle Spizaetus tyrannus serus

(4) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 4.4, en route 5.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Double-toothed KiteHarpagus bidentatus fasciatus

(1) 1 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Mississippi Kite Ictinia mississippiensis

(5) 90 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 5 Pijibasal 4.4, 100 Nuevo Progreso 5.4, en route 6.4 and 350 Canopy Camp, Darien 7.4.



Several impressive flights.

Plumbeous Kite

Ictinia plumbea

(4) 5 Nusagandi 2.4, 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4 and 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Crane Hawk

Geranospiza caerulescens

(1) 2 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Great Black Hawk

Buteogallus urubitinga

(1) 1 Aligandi 6.4.

Roadside Hawk

Rupornis magnirostris

Observed 6 days in total.

White Hawk

Pseudastur albicollis costaricensis

(1) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 4.4.

Cathy and Ricki had nice views of one over camp.

Grey-lined Hawk

Buteo nitidus blakei

(3) 1 Nuevo Progreso 5.4, en route 6.4 and en route 7.4.

Broad-winged Hawk

Buteo platypterus platypterus

Observed 6 days in total.

Large movements with Swainson's were most impressive.

Short-tailed Hawk

Buteo brachyurus fuliginosus

(3) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, en route 3.4 and 1 Aligandi 6.4.

Swainson's Hawk

Buteo swainsoni

Observed 3 days in total.

Rails, Gallinules, and Coots Rallidae

White-throated Crake

Laterallus albigularis

(1) 3 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Skulkers! We came close to seeing them, but heard them at close range.

Purple Gallinule

Porphyrio martinica

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Plovers and Lapwings Charadriidae

Southern Lapwing

Vanellus chilensis cayennensis

Observed 3 days in total.

Jacanas Jacanidae

Wattled Jacana

Jacana jacana hypomelaena

Observed 2 days in total.



Sandpipers and Allies Scolopacidae

Spotted Sandpiper

Actitis macularius

Observed 2 days in total.

Pigeons and Doves Columbidae

Rock Dove Columba livia var. domestica

Observed 2 days in total.

Scaled Pigeon Patagioenas speciosa

(1) 50 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Pale-vented Pigeon Patagioenas cayennensis pallidicrissa

Observed 4 days in total.

Short-billed Pigeon Patagioenas nigrirostris

(1) 2 heard Nusagandi 2.4.

Ruddy Ground Dove Columbina talpacoti rufipennis

(1) 2 Sinai Town 6.4.

Blue Ground DoveClaravis pretiosa
(2) 2 Sinai Town 6.4 and 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

White-tipped Dove

Leptotila verreauxi verreauxi

Observed 6 days in total.

Cuckoos Cuculidae

Greater Ani Crotophaga major

Observed 3 days in total.

Smooth-billed Ani Crotophaga ani

Observed 6 days in total.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*(2) 1 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4 and 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4.

Squirrel CuckooPiaya cayana thermophila

(3) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4, en route 4.4 and 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4. Great views of the first one, right near a Lineated Woodpecker.

Owls Strigidae

Mottled Owl Strix virgata

(1) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 4.4.

Black-and-white Owl Strix nigrolineata

(2) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 4.4 and 1 heard Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Potoos Nyctibiidae



Great Potoo

Nyctibius grandis grandis

(2) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 4.4 and 1 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Tony used his great eyes to spot one of these sitting up in the dusk sky.

Common Potoo

Nyctibius griseus panamensis

(1) 1 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Great to see one, even better to hear it.

Nightjars and Allies Caprimulgidae

Short-tailed Nighthawk

Lurocalis semitorquatus stonei

Nyctidromus albicollis

(1) 1 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

One flashed by us right at dusk.

Pauraque

Observed 6 days in total.

Nightly at Camp.

Swifts Apodidae

Band-rumped Swift Chaetura spinicaudus aetherodroma

(1) 4 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Chimney Swift (NT) Chaetura pelagica

(2) en route 5.4 and en route 6.4.

Short-tailed Swift Chaetura brachyura brachyura

(4) 11 Pijibasal 4.4, en route 5.4 and en route 7.4.

Lesser Swallow-tailed SwiftPanyptila cayennensis

(1) 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.

Hummingbirds *Trochilidae*

Rufous-breasted HermitGlaucis hirsutus hirsutus

(2) 1 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Band-tailed BarbthroatThrenetes ruckeri

(1) 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Green Hermit Phaethornis guy coruscus

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Pale-bellied HermitPhaethornis anthophilus

Observed 6 days in total. Including 1 inside the van!

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird Phaeochroa cuvierii cuvierii

(2) en route 2.4 and en route 7.4.

White-necked Jacobin Florisuga mellivora mellivora



Observed 2 days in total.

Black-throated MangoAnthracothorax nigricollis

Observed 5 days in total.

Garden Emerald Chlorostilbon assimilis

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Crowned Woodnymph Thalurania colombica

(2) 1 Nusagandi 2.4 and 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird Juliamyia julie panamensis

(2) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 4.4.

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird Lepidopyga coeruleogularis coeruleogularis

(3) en route 2.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 7.4.

Our lunch stop en route to camp provided good views of a female. We added a male at Camp.

Blue-throated Sapphire *Hylocharis eliciae earina*

(3) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 7.4.

Great looks at one attending the Verbena.

Rufous-tailed HummingbirdAmazilia tzacatl

(5) en route 2.4.

Blue-chested HummingbirdAmazilia amabilis

Observed 2 days in total.

Snowy-bellied HummingbirdAmazilia edward

(3) en route 2.4.

White-vented PlumeleteerChalybura buffonii micans

Observed 1 day in total.

Bronze-tailed PlumeleteerChalybura urochrysia

(1) 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Purple-crowned Fairy Heliothryx barroti

(1) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

2 birds duking it out at tree-top level at camp was entertaining.

Trogons Trogonidae

Slaty-tailed Trogon Trogon massena hoffmanni

(1) 2 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Black-tailed Trogon melanurus macroura

(4) 1 Pijibasal 4.4, 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4 and 2 Sinai Town 6.4.

White-tailed Trogon Trogon chionurus

(2) 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Gartered Trogon Caligatus concinnus



(2) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Black-throated Trogon

Trogon rufus tenellus

(2) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 6.4.

Kingfishers Alcedinidae

American Pygmy Kingfisher

Chloroceryle aenea aenea

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher

Chloroceryle inda

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Pete F. was especially pleased to have such a great encounter with this, the toughest of the New World kingfishers.

Ringed Kingfisher

Megaceryle torquata torquata

(2) 4 en route 4.4 and 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Motmots *Momotidae*

Whooping Motmot Momotus subrufescens subrufescens

(5) Up to 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3-7.4.

Rufous MotmotBaryphthengus martii semirufus

(1) 1 heard Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Broad-billed MotmotElectron platyrhynchum minus

(1) 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4.

Jacamars Galbulidae

Dusky-backed Jacamar

Brachygalba salmoni

(1) 2 Lajas Blancas 3.4.

One of the regional specialities, it was super to have such great views of a duetting pari.

Rufous-tailed Jacamar

Galbula ruficauda melanogenia

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Great Jacamar Jacamerops aureus penardi

(1) 2 Sinai Town 6.4.

The tailless one looked sort of forlorn, sort of cute.

Puffbirds Bucconidae

White-necked Puffbird Notharchus hyperrhynchus hyperrhynchus

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Black-breasted Puffbird Notharchus pectoralis

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Pied Puffbird Notharchus tectus subtectus



(3) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Barred Puffbird

Nystalus radiatus

(1) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4.

Our visit with the cutest sloth on the planet eventually yielded a nice view of a pair of these birds.

Grey-cheeked Nunlet

Nonnula frontalis stulta

(2) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

The first morning at Camp we heard one calling and calling, after what seemed like forever we spotted it sitting just overhead. We enjoyed amazing views then and also later on.

New World Barbets Capitonidae

Spot-crowned Barbet

Capito maculicoronatus rubrilateralis

(2) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4 and 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Toucans Ramphastidae

Collared Aracari Pteroglossus torquatus torquatus

Observed 6 days in total.

Keel-billed ToucanRamphastos sulfuratus brevicarinatus

Observed 1 day in total.

Woodpeckers Picidae

Olivaceous Piculet Picumnus olivaceus flavotinctus

(3) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker

Melanerpes pucherani

Observed 3 days in total.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus rubricapillus*

Observed 6 days in total.

Red-rumped Woodpecker Veniliornis kirkii cecilii

(1) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4.

Seemed to sit forever, allowing wonderful lengthy studies.

Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker Piculus callopterus

(1) 1 heard Nusagandi 2.4.

Rascal called a couple times during our hike at Nusagandi but never did show itself.

Golden-green Woodpecker Piculus chrysochloros xanthochlorus

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

One of the best sightings of the trip, a splendid male visited us, foraging leisurely, providing

fantastic views

Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula ujhelyii*

(1) 1 Aligandi 6.4.

Cinnamon Woodpecker Celeus loricatus mentalis



Observed 6 days in total.

A might nice bird to have as one of the more widespread species on the trip.

Lineated Woodpecker

Dryocopus lineatus lineatus

Observed 5 days in total.

Almost daily sightings of this handsome woodpecker.

Crimson-bellied Woodpecker

Campephilus haematogaster splendens

(1) 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker

Campephilus melanoleucos malherbii

(2) 1 heard Lajas Blancas 3.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Falcons and Caracaras Falconidae

Red-throated Caracara

Ibycter americanus

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Making a racket up in the forest canopy, we saw this bird spectacularly well.

Yellow-headed Caracara

Milvago chimachima cordata

(2) en route 2.4 and en route 5.4.

Laughing Falcon

Herpetotheres cachinnans

(4) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4, 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4, en route 6.4 and en route 7.4.

American Kestrel

Falco sparverius sparverius

Observed 3 days in total.

Bat Falcon

Falco rufigularis petoensis

(1) 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.

African & New World Parrots Psittacidae

Orange-chinned Parakeet

Brotogeris jugularis jugularis

Observed 6 days in total.

Abundant.

Brown-hooded Parrot

Pyrilia haematotis

(1) 3 heard Lajas Blancas 3.4.

Blue-headed Parrot

Pionus menstruus rubrigularis

Observed 4 days in total.

Red-lored Amazon

Amazona autumnalis salvini

Observed 5 days in total.

Northern Mealy Amazon (NT)

Amazona guatemalae virenticeps

Observed 5 days in total.

Spectacled Parrotlet

Forpus conspicillatus conspicillatus

(2) 6 Lajas Blancas 3.4 and 3 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Almost impossibly tiny parrots, we enjoyed several nice encounters.



Great Green Macaw (EN)

Ara ambiguus ambiguus

(1) 2 Aligandi 6.4.

A raucous pair flew right over us!

Broadbills Eurylaimidae

Sapayoa

Sapayoa aenigma

(1) 1 heard Nusagandi 2.4.

Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers Furnariidae

Double-banded Greytail

Xenerpestes minlosi umbraticus

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

A wonderful name for a bird, we were glad to connect with this bird in Sinai area.

Buff-fronted Foliage-gleaner

Philydor rufum panerythrum

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Plain Xenops

Xenops minutus littoralis

(3) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4, 1 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Streaked Xenops

Xenops rutilans incomptus

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Cocoa Woodcreeper

Xiphorhynchus susurrans

(4) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4, 1 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 6.4 and 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Black-striped Woodcreeper

Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus lachrymosus

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper

Lepidocolaptes soulevetii lineaticeps

(4) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 Pijibasal 4.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4.

Red-billed Scythebill

Campylorhamphus trochilirostris brevipennis

(1) 2 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Antbirds Thamnophilidae

Fasciated Antshrike

Cymbilaimus lineatus fasciatus

(1) 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Great Antshrike

Taraba major

(1) 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4.

Black Antshrike

Thamnophilus nigriceps

(4) 2 Lajas Blancas 3.4, 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4, 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Like so many antshrikes, with this one, the female may be even more attractively marked than the male.



Black-crowned Antshrike

Thamnophilus atrinucha atrinucha

Observed 4 days in total.

Spot-crowned Antvireo

Dysithamnus puncticeps

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Checker-throated Antwren

Epinecrophylla fulviventris

(2) 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4 and 3 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Moustached Antwren

Myrmotherula ignota ignota

(3) 2 heard Pijibasal 4.4, 1 Sinai Town 6.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4. Several really nice studies of this tiny, tailless wonder.

Pacific Antwren

Myrmotherula pacifica

(1) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Lucky to have one visit us so close! Really great views of what can be a tough bird.

White-flanked Antwren

Myrmotherula axillaris albigula

(2) 3 Nusagandi 2.4 and 2 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Rufous-winged Antwren

Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus exiguus

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Didn't perform as well as we might have hoped. While it was in view, and calling for quite some time, the light was not the best.

Dot-winged Antwren

Microrhopias quixensis consobrina

(4) 3 Pijibasal 4.4, 2 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4, 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4 and 3 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Dusky Antbird

Cercomacra tyrannina

(1) 1 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Bare-crowned Antbird

Gymnocichla nudiceps nudiceps

(2) 2 Lajas Blancas 3.4 and 2 heard Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Always a stunner, and tricky to see, we did well to see a pair so nicely at Laja Blanca.

White-bellied Antbird

Myrmeciza longipes panamensis

(5) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Chestnut-backed Antbird

Myrmeciza exsul niglarus

(1) 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

We enjoyed a pair of this regional subspecies during the hike to the Harpy Eagle near Pijibasal.

Spotted Antbird

Hylophylax naevioides

(2) 2 heard Pijibasal 4.4 and 2 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Ocellated Antbird

Phaenostictus mcleannani mcleannani

(1) 1 heard Nusagandi 2.4.

Antthrushes Formicariidae

Black-faced Antthrush

Formicarius analis



(6) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4.

The one that stood in view for about 10 minutes while singing from below the cabin was amazing.

Tyrant Flycatchers *Tyrannidae*

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet

Tyrannulus elatus

(5) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4, 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4, 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4 and 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4. Like several of these tropical tyrannids, always calling and seldom in view.

Forest Elaenia

Myiopagis gaimardii macilvainii

(6) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4 and 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia

Elaenia flavogaster

(3) 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4, 1 Aligandi 6.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Brown-capped Tyrannulet

Ornithion brunneicapillus

(3) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4, 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 7.4 and 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet

Camptostoma obsoletum

(1) 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher

Mionectes oleagineus

(2) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4 and 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Black-capped Pygmy Tyrant

Myiornis atricapillus

(2) 2 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4. So cool to see this, the smallest passerine in the world!

Southern Bentbill

Oncostoma olivaceum

(1) 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher

Todirostrum nigriceps

(5) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 heard El Real de Santa Maria 4.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Nest being built at Sinai was nice.

Olivaceous Flatbill

Rhynchocyclus olivaceus bardus

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Ochre-lored Flatbill

Tolmomyias flaviventris aurulentus

(1) 3 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

As flatbills go, this one really is nice-looking.

Golden-crowned Spadebill

Platyrinchus coronatus superciliaris

(1) 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

Good views of a pair on our Harpy hike.

Olive-sided Flycatcher (NT)

Contopus cooperi



(2) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Eastern Wood-Pewee

Contopus virens

(4) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4.

Acadian Flycatcher Empidonax virescens

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.

Long-tailed Tyrant Colonia colonus leuconota

Observed 5 days in total.

Piratic Flycatcher Legatus leucophaius

Observed 6 days in total.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis hellmayri*

Observed 2 days in total.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis columbianus*

(1) en route 2.4.

Great Kiskadee Pitangus sulphuratus guatimalensis

(1) 2 Sinai Town 6.4.

Lesser Kiskadee Philohydor lictor panamensis

(1) 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

White-ringed Flycatcher Conopias albovittatus albovittatus

(1) 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

Nice views of a pair, at the same spot where we had to Sirystes and the Red-throated Caracara.

Streaked Flycatcher Myiodynastes maculatus

Observed 6 days in total.

Seemed there was always one around.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua mexicanus*

(1) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus satrapa*

Observed 6 days in total.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher Tyrannus savana monachus

(3) 4 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, en route 4.4 and 4 Aligandi 6.4.

Eastern Kingbird Tyrannus tyrannus

(2) 120 en route 4.4 and 40 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

Choco Sirystes Sirystes albogriseus

(1) 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

Observed 2 days in total.

Panamanian Flycatcher Myiarchus panamensis panamensis



(1) 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*

Observed 4 days in total.

Bright-rumped Attila Attila spadiceus

Observed 5 days in total.

Cotingas Cotingidae

Blue Cotinga nattererii Cotinga nattererii

(1) 2 Sinai Town 6.4.

Two females just off the Chucunaque.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow Querula purpurata

Observed 5 days in total.

The displaying males were spectacular.

Manakins Pipridae

Blue-crowned Manakin Lepidothrix coronata

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Golden-collared Manakin *Manacus vitellinus*

(4) 11 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4, 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4 and 5 Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4.

The lek at camp was otherworldly!

Red-capped ManakinCeratopipra mentalis

(2) 1 heard Nusagandi 2.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Golden-headed Manakin Ceratopipra erythrocephala erythrocephala

(3) 3 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 1 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4.

The trails around camp were super for these birds.

Tityras, Becards Tityridae

Northern Royal Flycatcher Onychorhynchus mexicanus mexicanus

(1) 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Black-tailed Myiobius *Myiobius atricaudus atricaudus*

(2) 2 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Black-crowned TityraTityra inquisitor

(4) 6 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 6 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 2 Nuevo Progreso 5.4 and 2 Sinai

Town 6.4.

Masked Tityra Tityra semifasciata

(3) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 2 Nuevo Progreso 5.4 and en route 6.4.

Russet-winged SchiffornisSchiffornis stenorhyncha panamensis

(1) 1 Pijibasal 4.4.



Superb studies of one during the Harpy hike out of Pijibasal.

Speckled Mourner

Laniocera rufescens rufescens

(1) 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Another scarce bird we enjoyed amazing studies of, and our last new bird of the trip.

Cinnamon Becard

Pachyramphus cinnamomeus

(4) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4.

One-colored Becard

Pachyramphus homochrous homochrous

(3) 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4, 2 Sinai Town 6.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4. The nest being built along the Chucunaque was really cool.

<u>Vireos Vireonidae</u>

Red-eyed Vireo

Vireo olivaceus olivaceus

Observed 2 days in total.

Lesser Greenlet

Hylophilus decurtatus

Observed 3 days in total.

Crows, Jays, and Magpies Corvidae

Black-chested Jay

Cyanocorax affinis zeledoni

(4) en route 3.4, 4 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4, en route 6.4 and 4 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4. The "cho cho" is always popular.

Swallows Hirundinidae

Mangrove Swallow

Tachycineta albilinea

Observed 2 days in total.

Grey-breasted Martin

Progne chalybea chalybea

Observed 4 days in total.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow

Stelgidopteryx ruficollis

Observed 4 days in total.

Barn Swallow

Hirundo rustica erythrogaster

Observed 1 day in total.

Donacobius Donacobiidae

Black-capped Donacobius

Donacobius atricapilla brachypterus

(1) 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Great to see a pair of these odd songbirds along the river.

Wrens Troglodytidae

White-headed Wren

Campylorhynchus albobrunneus

(2) 3 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4 and 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4.



Black-bellied Wren

Pheugopedius fasciatoventris albigularis

(3) 2 Lajas Blancas 3.4, 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4 and 2 heard Sinai Town 6.4.

Buff-breasted Wren

Cantorchilus leucotis

(3) 1 Lajas Blancas 3.4, 1 heard Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4 and 1 heard Sinai Town 6.4.

Bay Wren

Cantorchilus nigricapillus castaneus

(1) 2 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Stripe-throated Wren

Cantorchilus leucopogon

(2) 1 Nusagandi 2.4 and 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

Often a tough bird to see well, owing to its arboreal habits, we did well to see a couple quite well.

House Wren

Troglodytes aedon

Observed 6 days in total.

White-breasted Wood Wren

Henicorhina leucosticta darienensis

(2) 1 Nusagandi 2.4 and 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4.

Southern Nightingale-Wren

Microcerculus marginatus luscinia

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Spooked one up off the trail that a few of us saw, and later all of us heard.

Song Wren

Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus

(1) 2 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Gnatcatchers Polioptilidae

Tropical Gnatcatcher

Polioptila plumbea

Observed 1 day in total.

Mockingbirds and Thrashers Mimidae

Tropical Mockingbird

Mimus gilvus tolimensis

Observed 2 days in total.

Thrushes and Allies Turdidae

Clay-colored Thrush

Turdus grayi casius

Observed 2 days in total.

Old World Sparrows Passeridae

House Sparrow

Passer domesticus domesticus

Observed 2 days in total.

Ricki was really pumped up to get these;)

Finches, Euphonias Fringillidae

Yellow-crowned Euphonia

Euphonia luteicapilla

(2) 2 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and 2 heard El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.



Thick-billed Euphonia

Euphonia laniirostris crassirostris

(5) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4, 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4 and up to 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 5-7.4.

Constants around camp.

Fulvous-vented Euphonia

Euphonia fulvicrissa fulvicrissa

(1) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4.

New World Warblers Parulidae

Northern Waterthrush Parkesia noveboracensis

Observed 1 day in total.

Tennessee Warbler Leiothlypis peregrina

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

American Redstart Setophaga ruticilla

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Bay-breasted Warbler Setophaga castanea

Observed 6 days in total.

Blackburnian Warbler Setophaga fusca

(1) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4.

Chestnut-sided Warbler Setophaga pensylvanica

(1) 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Buff-rumped Warbler Myiothlypis fulvicauda

(2) 1 heard Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Nice views of a pair our final morning.

Troupials and Allies Icteridae

Red-breasted BlackbirdSturnella militaris

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola Psarocolius wagleri ridgwayi

(5) 9 Canopy Camp, Darien 2.4.

Constants at camp.

Crested Oropendola Psarocolius decumanus melanterus

(3) 4 Pijibasal 4.4.

Black Oropendola Psarocolius guatimozinus

(1) 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

The colony that had been active just before our arrival had fallen silent, but we enjoyed one bird in the canopy during our Harpy hike, and another flyby.

Yellow-rumped Cacique Cacicus cela vitellinus

Observed 4 days in total.



Scarlet-rumped Cacique

Cacicus microrhynchus

(1) 3 Nusagandi 2.4.

Yellow-backed Oriole

Icterus chrysater giraudii

(1) 2 Aligandi 6.4.

Baltimore Oriole

Icterus galbula

Observed 6 days in total.

Orange-crowned Oriole

Icterus auricapillus

(1) 3 Nuevo Progreso 5.4.

A really gorgeous oriole, and another speciality we were eager to connect with.

Giant Cowbird Molothrus oryzivorus

Observed 4 days in total.

Shiny Cowbird Molothrus bonariensis cabanisii

Observed 3 days in total.

Great-tailed Grackle

Quiscalus mexicanus peruvianus

Observed 3 days in total.

Bananaquit Coerebidae

Bananaquit Coereba flaveola

Observed 3 days in total.

Tanagers and Allies Thraupidae

White-shouldered Tanager

Tachyphonus luctuosus

(2) 2 Lajas Blancas 3.4 and 2 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Tawny-crested TanagerTachyphonus delatrii

(1) 5 Nusagandi 2.4.

Crimson-backed Tanager Ramphocelus dimidiatus

Observed 3 days in total.

Lemon-rumped TanagerRamphocelus icteronotus

(2) 1 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4 and 1 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

Blue-grey Tanager Thraupis episcopus

Observed 6 days in total.

Palm Tanager Thraupis palmarum atripennis

Observed 6 days in total.

Plain-colored Tanager Tangara inornata

Observed 3 days in total.

Emerald Tanager Tangara florida

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

One at Nusagandi was high up, but stayed in view for some time.



Bay-headed Tanager

Tangara gyrola

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

Rufous-winged Tanager

Tangara lavinia

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

One at Nusagandi was a real score for our more intrepid hikers.

Golden-hooded Tanager

Tangara larvata

Observed 4 days in total.

Blue Dacnis Dacnis cayana

Observed 1 day in total.

Red-legged HoneycreeperCyanerpes cyaneus carneipes

(1) 2 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Green Honeycreeper Chlorophanes spiza argutus

(1) 1 Nusagandi 2.4.

White-eared Conebill Conirostrum leucogenys panamense

(1) 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Slate-colored Grosbeak Saltator grossus saturatus

(1) 1 Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Buff-throated SaltatorSaltator maximus

(2) 3 Lajas Blancas 3.4 and 2 Aligandi 6.4.

Blue-black Grassquit Volatinia jacarina splendens

Observed 5 days in total.

Variable Seedeater Sporophila corvina

Observed 1 day in total.

Thick-billed Seed Finch Oryzoborus funereus ochrogyne

(1) 2 Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4.

Cardinals and Allies Cardinalidae

Summer Tanager Piranga rubra rubra

Observed 3 days in total.

Scarlet Tanager Piranga olivacea

Observed 1 day in total.

Carmiol's Tanager Chlorothraupis carmioli

(1) 4 Nusagandi 2.4. Pete F's favourite;)

Rose-breasted Grosbeak Pheucticus ludovicianus

Observed 2 days in total.

Blue-black Grosbeak Cyanocompsa cyanoides



(1) 1 heard Saint Francis Reserve, Wacuco 7.4.

Mammals (8 in total: 8 seen)

Status codes: E = Endemic, NE = Near-endemic, I = Introduced

IUCN codes: CR = Critically endangered, EN = Endangered, VU = Vulnerable, EW = Extinct in the

Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Three-toed Sloths Bradypodidae

Brown-throated Sloth

Bradypus variegatus

(2) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4 and 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Absurdly cute. This basketball-sized youngster provided us an experience none of us shall ever forget.

Callitrichidae

Geoffroy's Tamarin

Saguinus geoffroyi

Observed 2 days in total. Almost daily at camp.

Night Monkeys Aotidae

Panamanian Night Monkey

Aotus zonalis

(1) 2 Pijibasal 4.4.

Another great encounter was a hollow-out tree providing a good day-roost for these curious critters.

Howler, Spider, and Woolly Monkeys Atelidae

Mantled Howler Monkey

Alouatta palliata

(3) 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 3.4, 3 Pijibasal 4.4 and 1 heard Canopy Camp, Darien 6.4.

Rabbits, Hares Leporidae

Tapeti

Sylvilagus brasiliensis

(1) 1 Canopy Camp, Darien 5.4.

Squirrels Sciuridae

Red-tailed Squirrel

Sciurus granatensis

Observed 3 days in total.

Raccoons and relatives Procyonidae

White-nosed Coati

Nasua narica

(1) 1 Sinai Town 6.4.

Sac-winged or Sheath-tailed Bats Emballonuridae

Lesser Sac-winged Bat

Saccopteryx leptura



(1) 3 Pijibasal 4.4.

Reptiles (2 in total: 2 seen)

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the Wild, NT = Near Threatened, DD = Data Deficient

Crocodiles and relatives *Crocodylidae*

Common Caiman

Caiman crocodilus

(1) 2 Nuevo Vigia Embera 5.4.

American Crocodile

Crocodylus acutus

(1) 2 El Real de Santa Maria 4.4.

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