

**PANAMA: FALL AT
EL VALLE'S CANOPY LODGE
EXTENSION**

OCTOBER 24 – 29, 2009

LEADERS: BARRY ZIMMER & DANILO RODRIGUEZ

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Leaders: Barry Zimmer & Danilo Rodriguez

Our Canopy Lodge extension provides the perfect complement to our Canopy Tower tour. Nestled in the caldera of an ancient volcano and sitting above 2,000 feet elevation, the Canopy Lodge yields an entirely different cluster of birds, not to mention cooler temperatures than the Canal Zone. This year's extension added an impressive 67 new species to the overall trip list (371 species in combination with the Canopy Tower) in just four days. Many of the foothills species found in this region are highly sought and difficult to locate elsewhere.

No discussion of the Canopy Lodge should start in any other way, however, than with the amazing birding right on the grounds of the lodge. We began with about an hour of feeder-watching before lunch. Tray feeders visible from the deck and dining room produced a stunning kaleidoscope of colors. Common species attending the feeders included Rufous Motmot (!); Red-crowned Woodpecker; Clay-colored Thrush; Crimson-backed, Flame-rumped, Blue-gray, Palm, and Dusky-faced tanagers; Red-crowned Ant-Tanager; Bananaquit; Red-legged Honeycreeper; Buff-throated Saltator; and Thick-billed Euphonia. Less frequent, but still daily visitors were Green Honeycreeper, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, and Black-striped and Orange-billed sparrows. Snowy-bellied and Rufous-tailed hummingbirds flitted about the garden. Black-chested Jays and a Squirrel Cuckoo were seen from the table while we were eating! A fabulous Purple-crowned Fairy danced in a nearby *Erythrina* tree, while a Lineated Woodpecker and a Keel-billed Toucan posed in the scope. The parade of birds right around the rooms was virtually nonstop!

Afternoon found us walking the road above the lodge. A Mottled Owl on a day roost, a male Garden Emerald, a flock of Tawny-crested Tanagers, quick looks at a Tody Motmot, and a sleeping three-toed sloth were among the highlights.

The next day we headed up to an area above the lodge known locally as "La Mesa." At our first stop we tallied an impressive list with Spotted Woodcreeper, Dull-mantled Antbird (from ten feet!), Chestnut-backed Antbird, Plain and Spot-crowned antvireos, Bay Wren, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, and Silvery-throated Tanager, among others. Southern Lapwing, Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Slaty and White-flanked antwrens, a rare Black-billed Cuckoo, and a group of Black-faced Grosbeaks rounded out the morning. In the afternoon we chose to visit a drier and lower forest near the edge of the town of El Valle. Here we had fantastic views of the highly sought Tody Motmot, in addition to a roosting Common Potoo, a male Long-billed Starthroat, and a group of Yellow-backed Orioles.

The third day found us heading even higher to Los Altos del Maria, topping out over 3,000 feet in elevation. After some effort we all had good views of one of the real prizes of this area, the Black-crowned Antpitta! Other good foothill species were recorded at a rapid pace: Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet, Ochraceous Wren, Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, Spotted Barbtail, Red-faced Spinetail, Orange-bellied Trogon, the always spectacular Black-and-yellow Tanager, and White-ruffed Manakin. A pair of Long-tailed Tyrants at a nest tree was a surprise, but not nearly so much as a flock of rarely seen Blue-fronted Parrotlets overhead (a lifer even for me!). However, the real star of the day was the amazing discovery of a silky anteater by our local guide Danilo. This rarely seen mammal was coiled up in a small ball about 15 feet off the ground and under a broad leaf. Occasionally he would lift up his head briefly to see what all the fuss was about. Few people have ever seen this species anywhere in the Tropics.

The next day we staked out a blooming *Inga* tree above El Campestre. After some waiting we had wonderful views of the truly spectacular Snowcap (adult male) and the equally impressive Green Thorntail (male and female). A return visit to the drier forest near town resulted in great views of a roosting Tropical Screech-Owl, a couple of Blue-crowned Motmots, and a cooperative Long-billed Gnatwren. In the afternoon, we just missed a pair of the mythical Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoos at an ant swarm above the lodge, but as consolation, we enjoyed wonderful studies of Plain-brown and Northern Barred woodcreepers attending the swarm.

On our last morning we headed down to the dry Pacific lowlands and were met by a different group of birds altogether. Savannah Hawk, Aplomado Falcon, Crested and Yellow-headed caracaras, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Brown-throated Parakeet, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Barred Antshrike, and Rufous-browed Peppershrike were all seen well. In all we tallied 214 species just on the extension, reveled in the comforts of the luxurious Canopy Lodge, and marveled at the amazing array of feeder birds present on the grounds.

Itinerary:

October 24 – arrival in El Valle around 11:30 am; birding on grounds of Canopy Lodge and trails of Canopy Adventure (68 species)

October 25 – lodge feeders, La Mesa, Cariguana Trail in afternoon (123 specie; 139 total)

October 26 –Los Altos de Maria all day (77 species; 168 total)

October 27 – area above El Campestre, Cariguana Trail, Canopy Adventure, Las Minas Road (104 species; 187 total)

October 28– El Chiru, lodge area, drive to Panama City (73 species; 214 total)

October 29 – departures for home (214 total species)

Key:

Underlined species represent birds of very uncommon occurrence or species that occur regularly but in such low densities as to be easily missed

Bold-faced species indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence

Birds:

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) one seen briefly flying across trail at Cariguana
Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*)
Crested Bobwhite (*Colinus cristatus*) heard only near El Chiru
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) around Panama City
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)
Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) an immature at El Chorro Macho was a surprise
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) daily in numbers
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)
White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) one over the Canopy Lodge, another at Los Altos de Maria, and one at Cariguana
Savannah Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) along Pan-American Hwy
Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) nice views in El Valle
Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*)
Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*)
Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) kettle over 21 over the lodge one afternoon
Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotus*) nice flyover at Los Altos
Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) singles high over Los Altos & Cariguana
Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) El Chiru
Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) mostly along Pan-American Hwy
American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)
Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) scope views of pair at El Chiru
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) one briefly over La Mesa
Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) heard by some, but seen only by me
Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) La Mesa, El Chiru
Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) in puddle at El Chiru
Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maxima*) two at Panama City hotel
Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)
Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)
White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) daily
Brown-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga pertinax*) scope studies of pair around El Chiru

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*)
Blue-fronted Parrotlet (*Touit dilectissimus*) group of four flying right overhead at Los Altos; rare; a lifer for me!!!
Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*)
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)
Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) a rare find was one on La Mesa
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)
Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) several good views; seen daily
Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)
Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) El Chiru
Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) incredible daytime study at Cariguana
Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) scope views at El Chiru
Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) fantastic daytime study
Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) prolonged study on day roost
White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) flock over Los Altos
Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*)
Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsutus*) one briefly on two occasions on lodge grounds
Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*)
Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*)
Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*)
Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) male & female at blooming Inga tree above El Campestre; very uncommon to rare
Garden Emerald (*Chlorostilbon assimilis*) several; regular around the lodge
Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*)
Sapphire-throated Hummingbird (*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*) female at Rio Hato
Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*)
Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia Edward*) fairly common
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) common
Snowcap (*Microchera albocoronata*) stunning adult male & an immature male at blooming Inga tree above El Campestre; tied for favorite bird of the tour!
White-vented Plumleteer (*Chalybura buffonii*)
Bronze-tailed Plumleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*)
Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) by David only
Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliophryx barroti*) seen best in lodge garden during lunch!
Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*) gorgeous male at ginger flowers near Cariguana; very uncommon
Orange-bellied Trogon (*Trogon aurantiiventris*) scope views of three at Los Altos
Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) great looks at Cariguana; also seen poorly near the lodge; can be very hard to find; tied for favorite bird of the tour
Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) best at Cariguana
Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) a regular (and spectacular) visitor to the lodge feeders!
Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) two on La Mesa
Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) near Cariguana

Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) good views of three or four; a likely future split to be called Blue-throated Toucanet (would become *A. caeruleogularis*)

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) good views of one at Cariguana

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)

Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) seen daily; a regular feeder visitor at the lodge

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) several great views including right from the dining room

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythropis*) one at Los Altos

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) one at Los Altos; uncommon

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) many at ant swarm near lodge

Ruddy Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla homochroa*) seen by David at the ant swarm; rare

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) nice views on La Mesa

Northern Barred Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) two at the ant swarm

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*)

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) three total

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) great views near the lodge

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) heard only for most; possibly seen only by me

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) fantastic views of several

Plain Antvireo (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) three on La Mesa; uncommon

Spot-crowned Antvireo (*Dysithamnus puncticeps*) three at La Mesa; uncommon

Checker-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophylla fulviventris*) one at La Mesa

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaries*) pair on La Mesa

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) pair on La Mesa; very uncommon

White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) heard only

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) great views on La Mesa

Dull-mantled Antbird (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*) incredible close views of one on La Mesa; one of my personal favorites; very uncommon

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) heard only as is often the case

Streak-chested Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) heard only at Los Altos

Black-crowned Antpitta (*Pittasoma michleri*) finally good views of this prized species on Los Altos de Maria

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) Cariguana

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*)

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*)

Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) La Mesa & El Campestre; uncommon

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) La Mesa & Los Altos

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher (*Myiobius sulphureipygius*)

Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) a furtive bird coming back from Los Altos

Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) several good views on Los Altos
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) three or four scattered about
Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*)
Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)
Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) El Chiru
Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) pair at nesting tree on Los Altos
Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) heard only
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)
Panama Flycatcher (*Myiarchus panamensis*) El Chiru
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*)
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) widespread & common
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) abundant in open country
Thrushlike Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdina*) heard only
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) scope views above El
Campestre
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) heard only
Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*) female above the lodge
White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) nice looks at males and females on Los Altos
Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) one positively stunning male at
Cariguana; tied for favorite bird of the tour
Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*)
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)
Golden-fronted Greenlet (*Hylophilus aurantiifrons*) family group at El Chiru
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) scope views at El Chiru
Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*) up to 15 in a day
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne subis*)
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) in El Valle
White-thighed Swallow (*Neochelidon tibialis*) scope views above the lodge of this
forest swallow; uncommon
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)
Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) good views
Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) seen best at Cariguana
Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) this super skulker was heard only
Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) seen well but briefly at Cariguana
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) seen daily; this is the “Southern House Wren”, *T.*
musculus, of some authors
Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) nice study on Los Altos
White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) heard only
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) always tough to get good views
of this one
Scaly-breasted Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) heard only
Tawny-faced Gnatwren (*Microbates cinereiventris*) great studies on La Mesa
Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) after some effort seen quite well at
Cariguana

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) migrants every day
Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) one at the lodge; very uncommon
 Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) abundant
 Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) one in Panama City
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) three or four
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) seen daily
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) El Chiru
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) four total
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) nine total
 Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) two or three
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) two seen
 American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) two including one striking male
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)
 Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*) one near lodge and one on La Mesa
 Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*)
 Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) up to six in a day
 Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) seen daily
 Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) daily; common around feeders
 Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) Los Altos de Maria; the distinctive subspecies *punctulatus*
Black-and-yellow Tanager (*Chryothlypis chrysomelas*) Los Altos de Maria; stunning
 Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*) our nemesis bird; heard only
 Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) this furtive forest species has adapted to coming in to the lodge feeders; repeated great views
 White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)
 Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) several groups seen, including above the lodge, on La Mesa, and on Los Altos
 White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) a scruffy immature male frequented the lodge feeders and an adult male was seen elsewhere
 Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) seen daily, often visiting the feeders
 Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) the Panamanian race *testacea* which is almost certainly a different species than the one found in the United States
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) daily
 Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)
 Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) in numbers daily, especially at the feeders; spectacular!
 Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) like the preceding species, common at the lodge feeders and truly stunning
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) abundant (up to 35 at a time), especially at the feeders
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) regular at feeders
 Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*)
 Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) in the upper elevations
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) another beauty; La Mesa, Los Altos
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) several superb views of these gems
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) one by some

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) daily including male & female at the feeders
Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*)
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) fairly common at the lodge feeders (though no adult males)
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) El Chiru
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila Americana*)
Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) one male on La Mesa
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*)
 Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantillostris*) another stunner that made daily (albeit often brief) appearances at the lodge feeders; is that bill for real?
 Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) at the lodge feeders
 Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*)
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) common at lodge feeders
 Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) excellent views on Los Altos
Black-faced Grosbeak (*Caryothraustes poliogaster*) on La Mesa & Los Altos; uncommon
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) some migrants most days
 Red-breasted Blackbird (*Sturnella militaris*) El Chiru
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) El Chiru
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) abundant in open country
 Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) family group on Cariguana Trail
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)
 Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) one on La Mesa
 Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) heard only
 Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) occasionally at the lodge feeders
 Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) El Chiru
 Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) abundant at lodge feeders
 White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*) Los Altos
 Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anae*) several nice views on La Mesa & Los Altos
 Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*)

Total species – 214

Leader only birds:

Black-crowned Night-Heron---at Panama City hotel
 Bat Falcon
 Common Pauraque
 Band-tailed Barbthroat---Danilo only
 Collared Aracari
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher
 Pale-vented Thrush
 Dickcissel---heard only

Mammals:

Silky Anteater----an incredible find by Danilo; a lifer for me and a rarely seen mammal anywhere!!!

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth

Geoffroy's Tamarin---heard only

Red-tailed Squirrel---banana thief!

Variegated Squirrel

pygmy-squirrel species---apparently both Central American and Western both occur and are basically inseparable in the field

Central American Agouti

Total species – 7

Reptiles & Amphibians:

Central American Whip-tailed Lizard

Striped Basilisk

Marine (Cane) Toad

Total species – 3

Butterflies:

Cattleheart species (Parides sp.)

Cloudless sulphur species---possibly Large Orange (Phoebis agarithe?)

Mexican Cycadian (Eumaeus toxea)

Stripestreak species (Chiapas?) (Arawacus sp.)

Heliconian species (blue hindwing and white patch on forewing—maybe Blue-and-white Heliconian) (Heliconius sapho?)

Erato Heliconian (Heliconius erato)

Green Heliconian (Philaethria diatonica)

Crescent species (Phyciodes sp.)

Banded Peacock (Anartia fatima)

Rusty-tipped Page (Siproeta epaphus)

Malachite (Siproeta stelenes)

Guatemalan Catone (Catonphele mexicana)

Common Morpho (Morpho helenor)

Morpho species---white above but brownish orange below

Yellow-bordered Owl-eye (Caligo uranus)

White Satyr (Pareuptychia occurhoe)

Clearwing species

Two-barred Flasher (Astraptes fulgerator)

Brown Longtail (Urbanus procne)

Total species – 19 (plus many, many others left completely unidentified)

Significant others:

Leafcutter ants