

PANAMA: CHIRIQUÍ HIGHLANDS

JANUARY 23 – 31, 2010

LEADERS: KEVIN ZIMMER & GENOVER “ITO” SANTAMARIA

COMPILED BY: KEVIN ZIMMER

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003
AUSTIN, TX 78746
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

PANAMA: CHIRIQUI HIGHLANDS

January 23– 31, 2010

(LEADERS: Kevin Zimmer & Genover “Ito” Santamaria)

Compiled by Kevin Zimmer

Once again, the highlands of Chiriquí, Panama dished up a wonderful mix of great birds, pleasant weather, lovely accommodations, and good food. We ended up with nearly 270 species in just one week of birding, and, more importantly, we encountered more than 40 species of regional endemics, the vast majority of which are found only in the highlands of Costa Rica and western Panama.

After a one-hour flight from Panama City to David, we hit the ground running, with a stop in the lower foothills near San Vicente. Although it was late morning on a sunny day, we still managed to dig out such prizes as Riverside Wren, Orange-collared Manakin, and Spot-crowned Euphonia, all of which were regional endemics. We arrived at the charming Los Quetzales Lodge (LQL), our base in the Cerro Punta region, in time for a late lunch. Once we were settled into our rooms, we headed out to Bajo Grande for our introduction to the highland avifauna. My secret hope was that we could score a Resplendent Quetzal, the iconic bird of these highlands, on the first afternoon, which would make life over the next several days much easier. Bajo Grande had been good to us the past few years as regards quetzals, and one particular aguacatillo tree had produced as many as 8–9 feeding quetzals at one time. Such was not the case this year, because, as Ito had told me upon our arrival in David, the aguacatillos were not yet fruiting this year. Sure enough, we arrived to find the big tree barren of both fruit and birds. Nonetheless, we did find a very responsive female quetzal, but she was sadly lacking in male company. No one was going to be really happy until we could find a male, a bird that many consider to be the most spectacularly plumaged bird in the New World.

The next morning saw us out at dawn, ready to begin our highland birding in earnest. We spent much of the morning at the upper LQL cabins above Los Quetzales, birding off the deck. Unlike the previous year, the weather was good, but the forest was oddly quiet, with little vocalization. In spite of this, birding from the cabin decks was most enjoyable, and the opportunity to duck inside for some coffee/hot chocolate or to warm our hands at the fire was also welcome—it may be Panama, but the mornings are chilly in those mountains! Yellow-thighed Finches, with their comical pantaloons, were frequent visitors to the deck, as were a pair of smart-looking Chestnut-capped Brush-Finches. Animated Collared Redstarts, restless bands of Black-cheeked Warblers, and noisy Sooty-capped Bush-Tanagers also made several passes, and a responsive Zeledon's (White-fronted) Tyrannulet was particularly noteworthy. Most of our attention was aimed at the constant parade of flashy hummingbirds at the feeders, which were dominated by hordes of Magnificent Hummingbirds, while even flashier Violet Sabrewings, White-throated Mountain-gems, Green-crowned Brilliants, Green Violetears, and Stripe-tailed

Hummingbirds were regular infiltrators. Best of all was a spectacular Fiery-throated Hummingbird, which came in multiple times, perching for extended periods within 10 feet of the deck. As good as that was, the show was stolen by the pair of elegant Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers that dropped down to near eye level in response to my playback, and then sat staring at us. Once activity off the deck slowed to a crawl, we walked farther up the road through the beautiful oak forest. Bird activity was much slower than usual, although we did hit on a responsive Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia*) that showed nicely. An afternoon excursion to Lagunas de Volcan netted fabulous studies of a perched Pearl Kite, along with such goodies as Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, Slaty Antwren, Black-chested Jay and others.

The next day we ranged farther afield, to near the Costa Rican border, where Finca Hartmann provided us with a somewhat different assemblage of foothill birds, along with a fascinating glimpse into the behind-the-scenes operation of a shade-coffee plantation. The hospitality of Aliss and the rest of the Hartmann family, and their efforts to produce environmentally friendly coffee while retaining as much remnant foothill forest as possible were especially heartwarming. As always, the main clearing treated us to a continuous procession of new birds, from a tree full of Fiery-billed Aracaris to mixed-species flocks with colorful Bay-headed and Speckled tanagers, to familiar Neotropical migrants from home (although there were disturbingly fewer of these than on any of my previous visits), to flashy Blue-crowned Motmots and Cherrie's Tanagers snatching bananas from the feeder. A hike through the forest and into the coffee plantation beyond yielded White-ruffed Manakins, Olivaceous Piculet, a whacking big Pale-billed Woodpecker, and a perched Laughing Falcon. After lunch and our tour of the coffee operation, we moved up to the higher parts of the finca where we were treated to exceptional studies of perched Sulphur-winged Parakeets and an Emerald (=Blue-throated) Toucanet. But time was slipping away, and a persistent, droning chant of "CO-TINGA, CO-TINGA, CO-TINGA" from the back of the truck served as an unnecessary but dramatic reminder that we still had not seen our biggest target bird for the day, the Turquoise Cotinga. This rare and localized regional endemic, like others of its genus, is best found either early in the morning or late in the afternoon, when the electric-blue males tend to perch for brief periods on prominent branches in the tops of trees. Our morning cotinga vigil had netted nothing, and our hopes of seeing it for the trip rested on getting back to the main clearing before it was too late. Upon arriving at the clearing, we were met by Doña Hartmann, who informed us that the male cotinga had been perched in plain view for much of the last half-hour, and had just flown minutes before. The full horror of this was just starting to sink in when a male cotinga suddenly materialized back in the bare upper branches of the same tree. Over the next 30 minutes we all took turns drooling over the stunningly beautiful bird in the scope, until, as is human (and particularly birder) nature, our attention was co-opted by the next flashy bird to pop up, in this case, a Chestnut-mandibled Toucan. It was a tired, but happy busload on the drive back to Los Quetzales, and for those that could muster the energy after dinner, the long day ended with nice scope studies of a male Dusky Nightjar less than 300 m from our hotel.

The next morning, our last in the Cerro Punta region, saw us back in the highland cloud forest, searching desperately for a male quetzal. This time we tried Finca Pancho Rios, hoping that the aguacatillo trees, whose fruits the quetzal favors, might be fruiting there. But, once again, the trees were not in fruit. However, we did not leave the Finca empty-handed. I managed to tape in a Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl, which, in turn, attracted the attention of a huge group of angry passerines, among them, more than 30 Long-tailed Silky-flycatchers, numerous Mountain Elaenias, and a pair of Black-capped Flycatchers. A return to Bajo Grande also failed to yield any quetzals, although it did provide us with nice studies of a lovely male Volcano Hummingbird. Our last stop of the morning, at Finca Dracula, produced a Yellowish Flycatcher that was close enough to touch, as well as stellar views of Dark Pewee and Black-capped Flycatcher, and a tree full of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. After lunch, and a final check of the Los Quetzales feeders (replete with a male Scintillant Hummingbird), we bid a fond farewell to Carlos, Ana Maria, and the Los Quetzales staff, and headed for Boquete. Along the way, we made a surgical strike for the Torrent Tyrannulet, which netted us not only the resident pair, but also their just-fledged youngsters. The hot lowlands outside of David were something of a shock after our time in the mountains, but they did yield a number of new birds, among them, great views of Brown-throated Parakeets, Pale-vented Pigeons, Fork-tailed Flycatchers, a Peregrine Falcon, and a most unexpected Mangrove Cuckoo that appeared to be totally lost in the middle of an open pasture. We arrived at Finca Lerida, once more in the relative cool of the highlands, in time for dinner.

Our first day in the highlands of Boquete (on the east side of the volcano) allowed us to clean up some misses among the highland avifauna that we had not seen at Cerro Punta, and get some better views of other things that we had seen. But once again, the aguacatillo trees did not seem to be in fruit, and quetzals were still missing in action. On our second day in the region, we made a day-trip to the Fortuna Forest Reserve. This reserve was created to protect the forest surrounding a hydroelectric project, and the road that runs through the reserve provides a wonderful transect through cloud forest with many birds typical of the western highlands, down through middle elevation Caribbean Slope forest that is the best place in Panama for finding a number of special birds. Unfortunately, off-road access to the forest is limited, and one is always at the mercy of the generally fickle weather and its impact on flock activity. If the weather is bad (as it often is), you can't bird, and if it is *too* good (as it was for us), flock activity dies down early in the morning. Nonetheless, the potential payoffs of birding this road are huge, and you are almost always rewarded with some good birds. Such was the case for us, as we picked up treats like Green Thorntail, Snowcap, White-tailed Emerald, Golden-bellied Flycatcher, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Olive-crowned Yellowthroat, Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager, Emerald Tanager (bunches of them!), Tawny-capped Euphonia, and White-naped Brush-Finch.

Despite a week of searching, our hopes of finding a male Resplendent Quetzal now rested on our last morning in the Boquete region. In over 20 years of leading tours to the highlands of Costa Rica and Panama, I had never failed to produce at least one spectacular male quetzal for a group. I really didn't want this to be the first. Ito and I decided to make our final stand at the Culebra Trail, and bank on an early start making

the difference. With the group incantation of “MALE QUETZAL, MALE QUETZAL, MALE QUETZAL...” providing an almost martial musical score for the bus ride to the trailhead, it was clearly now or never for this particular tour. We worked our way slowly along the trail, noting that overall bird activity and vocalization was markedly higher than on our previous visit. Although there were no fruiting aguacatillos in the vicinity, we did find another fruiting tree that was swarming with Mountain Thrushes. A large bird in the upper branches of that tree proved to be a Black Guan, a snazzy regional endemic, and a new bird for the trip. The guan got away before everyone could see it, but its presence did lift our hopes. Throughout the walk, I had periodically trolled with quetzal tape, but my efforts had been met with silence. Suddenly, the loud “CACK-AK-AK” of a quetzal snapped us to attention. At the same time, we were hearing a distant shout of “Black Guan!” from group members who had stayed behind in hopes of getting a look at the guan. Backtracking rapidly down the trail, we came around a bend only to have Ito stop dead in his tracks and urgently say, “I’ve got it—male quetzal!” The next several moments were a study in quiet pandemonium, as we attempted to get everyone on the bird. Unfortunately, it flew before everyone could get it, but a blast from my tape brought in a female quetzal, which, in turn, was followed by a second male. Ito relocated the first male, and we soon had a choice of a frontal view of one male versus a dorsal view of another! Unlike the Turquoise Cotinga of several days earlier, the male quetzals knew not to overstay their welcome, and soon flew off, leaving us fulfilled, yet wistfully wanting more. Everything that followed was simply frosting on the cake—we had met the Resplendent Quetzal, and he was ours!

All in all, it was a great week of highland birding—one that left me eagerly anticipating my return to the land of Resplendent Quetzals, great coffee, and loads of highland endemics.

Itinerary:

January 23 – arrival in Panama City

January 24 – fly from Panama City to David (arrival at 0935 hours), then on to Cerro Punta, with one major birding stop en route along a side road at San Vicente; arriving at the Los Quetzales Lodge (1950 m elevation) in Guadalupe in time for a late lunch.

Afternoon birding excursion to Bajo Grande (lower Respingo Road) from 1500–1800 hours.

January 25 – breakfast at 0530, with 0615 departure for the Los Quetzales highland cabins, where we birded off the decks of cabins #8 & 9 until ca. 1000 hours, then birded the road through the forest above the cabins for the remainder of the morning. Lunch back at Los Quetzales at 1300 hours, and break until 1500 hours; afternoon birding at Lagunas de Volcan until 1845 hours.

January 26 – 0430 breakfast and 0515 departure for Finca Hartmann (via Volcan and the Rio Serena road to Santa Clara), arriving at 0630. Birded the main clearing until ca. 0945 hours, before walking the trail for about 1 km until noon. Lunch and early afternoon tour of the coffee operation until about 1400 hours; then drove in 4X4 to Ojo de Agua, where we walked the forest track until 1600 hours. Departed Finca Hartmann

at 1830 hours; back to Los Quetzales by 1930 hours, with optional post-dinner search for Dusky Nightjar.

January 27 – breakfast at 0600, depart 0645 for Finca Pancho Rios and then to Bajo Grande (lower Respingo Road) and Finca Dracula (1030–1215 hours) before returning to Los Quetzales for lunch and check-out. We watched the Los Quetzales feeders until 1445 hours, then drove to Boquete, with a brief stop at the Hotel Bambito grounds and a birding drive along the Querevalo Road, arriving in Boquete at Finca Lerida at 1900 hours.

January 28 – Finca Lerida (Boquete): breakfast at 0630, depart by 0715 for Los Quetzales Trail for remainder of morning. Lunch and break back at Finca Lerida, with afternoon excursion along the Culebra Trail of Volcan Baru NP (1530–1800 hours).

January 29 – breakfast at 0500, with 0530 departure for Fortuna Road (arriving ca. 0715), where we spent the entire day birding (with box lunch), returning to Finca Lerida for dinner,

January 30 – breakfast at 0530, depart 0600 for the Culebra Trail until 0830, returning to Finca Lerida to bird the grounds, pack up, and eat lunch. Checked out, then left at 1400 hours for David airport (1 hour drive), where we birded the area surrounding the airport for one hour prior to catching our 1855 flight to Panama City. Upon arrival, some folks headed home, and others transferred on to the Canopy Tower for the second leg of the tour.

January 31 – flights home

Key:

BH = Boquete Highlands, including the Culebra and Los Quetzales trails of Volcan Baru National Park.

DL = David loop; including the airport ponds and Querevalo.

FH = Finca Hartmann

FL = Finca Lerida grounds

FO = Fortuna Road and vicinity

CPH = Cerro Punta Highlands, including Los Quetzales and the upper cabins, Bajo Grande, Finca Dracula, and Finca Pancho Rios.

LV = Lagunas de Volcan and vicinity

SV = San Vicente side track

* = heard only

NOTE: The following list follows (for the most part) the taxonomy and nomenclature employed by Ridgely & Gwynne 1989 (*A guide to the birds of Panama*), as modified by the American Ornithologists Union Checklist Committee (7th edition and subsequent supplements). Any exceptions are clarified in the list.

Bird of the Trip (as voted by the group):

1. Resplendent Quetzal & Turquoise Cotinga (tied)
2. Pearl Kite
3. Three-way tie between Elegant Euphonia, Dusky Nightjar & Scintillant Hummingbird

Birds:

ANATIDAE:

Dendrocygninae

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) - DL

Anatinae

Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) - LV (10)

CRACIDAE:

Black Guan (*Chamaepetes unicolor*) (RE) - BH

ODONTOPHORIDAE:

Spotted Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus guttatus*)* - FH*, CPH*, FL*

PODICIPEDIDAE:

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) - LV, DL

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) - LV, DL

PHALOCROCORACIDAE:

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - LV

ANHINGIDAE:

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - DL

ARDEIDAE:

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - LV, DL

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - LV, DL

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - daily

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - LV, DL

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) - Panama City

THRESKIORNITHIDAE:

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) - DL

CICONIIDAE:

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) - DL

CATHARTIDAE:

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - every day

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - every day

ACCIPITRIDAE:

Pandioninae

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - David to Cerro Punta, DL

Accipitrinae

Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) - LV (Fabulous studies!)

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - David to Cerro Punta, DL

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) - en route to FO

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - daily

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - 1–5 birds seen all but the first and last days

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) - FO, DL

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) - CPH

FALCONIDAE:

Micrasturinae

Barred Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur ruficollis*)* - FH*

Caracarinae

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - SV, DL, FH, FO

Falconinae

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) - FH (Nice studies of a perched bird.)

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) - FL

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) - DL, FO

RALLIDAE:

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*)* - LV*

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) - DL

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) - LV

American Coot (*Fulica Americana*) - LV

RECURVIROSTRIDAE:

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) - DL

JACANIDAE:

Northern Jacana (*Jacana spinosa*) - LV, DL

SCOLOPACIDAE:

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) - LV, DL

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) - LV

Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*) - LV

COLUMBIDAE:

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - David, Panama City

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - DL

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) - FH

Band-tailed Pigeon (*Patagioenas fasciata*) - BH

Ruddy Pigeon (*Patagioenas subvinacea*)* - BH*

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) - DL

Mourning Dove (*Zenaida macroura*) - LV, CPH, DL

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*) - DL

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - FH, DL

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - daily

Chiriqui Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon chiriquensis*)* **(RE)** - CPH*

Buff-fronted Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon costaricensis*) - CPH (1 bird at Finca Dracula, seen only by Ito, as it flushed, smacked off a window and got away. The rest of us saw only the feather dust imprint on the glass, and a single feather.)

PSITTACIDAE:

Sulphur-winged Parakeet (*Pyrrhura hoffmani*) **(RE)** - FH (Spectacular studies!), CPH*, BH*

Crimson-fronted Parakeet (*Aratinga finschi*) - FH
Olive-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga nana*) - FO
Brown-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga pertinax*) - DL {The subspecies found here, *ocularis*, has sometimes been treated as a separate species (Veraguan Parakeet), but taxonomy in the *pertinax* complex is, well, complex.}
Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - DL
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) - FH (Including nice looks at perched birds.)
White-crowned Parrot (*Pionus senilis*) - FH (Including nice looks at perched birds.)
Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - FH

CUCULIDAE:

Cuculinae

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - LV, FH, FO
Mangrove Cuckoo (*Coccyzus minor*) - DL (This one was a surprise, especially since it was sitting on a fence post in the middle of a wet pasture! I thought it was going to be a Tropical Mockingbird until we got it in the scope.)

Crotophaginae

Ani sp. (*Crotophaga sp.*) - DL (Seen from the bus, but not ID'd to species.)

STRIGIDAE:

Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium costaricanum*) (**RE**) - CPH (Excellent scope studies.)

CAPRIMULGIDAE:

Dusky Nightjar (*Caprimulgus saturatus*) (**RE**) - CPH (Nice scope views. Just like last year, it waited until the last minute to show up.)

APODIDAE:

Cypseloidinae

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) - FO

Chaeturinae

Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) - SV, LV, FH, FO

TROCHILIDAE:

Phaethornithinae

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) - LV, FH

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) - SV

Trochilinae

Violet Sabrewing (*Campylopterus hemileucurus*) - CPH, FH (Perhaps the most dazzling hummer of the whole lot.)

Green Violet-ear (*Colibri thalassinus*) - daily, except for FH

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - FO (a perched female)

Garden Emerald (*Chlorostilbon assimilis*) - SV, FO

Fiery-throated Hummingbird (*Panterpe insignis*) (**RE**) - CPH (A single male visiting the Los Quetzales cabin feeders was a huge treat.)

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia edward niveoventer*) (**RE**) - daily, except for FO (This subspecies has a greener, less coppery back, and a blue-black tail; fairly different in appearance from birds in the Canal Zone. The species is found only from sw. Costa Rica to e. Panama.)

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - daily

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird (*Eupherusa eximia*) - CPH

White-tailed Emerald (*Elvira chionura*) (**RE**) - FH, FO (males at both locations)

Snowcap (*Microchera albocoronata*) - FO

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura uruchrysia*) - FO

White-bellied Mountain-Gem (*Lampornis hemileucus*) (**RE**) - FO

White-throated Mountain-Gem (*Lampornis castaneiventris*) (**RE**) - CPH, FL, BH
{The taxonomy of the *castaneiventris* group is complex. Males of this, the nominate form, are white-throated and blue-tailed, and are found only in Panama. They are replaced to the north/west by *cinereicauda* of the Talamanca Range in Costa Rica; males of which are white-throated and gray-tailed. These, in turn, are replaced in the mountains of central/northern Costa Rica, and in isolated mountain areas of central Panama (e.g. at El Valle) by *calolaema*, males of which are purple-throated and blue-tailed. Females of the three forms are essentially indistinguishable. The three groups are semiisolated, and hybridize to a limited extent in the contact zones. Some authorities treat them as different subspecies of a single species ("Variable Mountain-Gem", *L. castaneiventris*), whereas others treat them as three separate allospecies (the treatment followed here).}

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - CPH

Magnificent Hummingbird (*Eugenes fulgens*) - CPH, BH {The subspecies here is *spectabilis*, which is restricted to the highlands of Costa Rica & w. Panama. It differs from nominate *fulgens* (which occurs from Nicaragua north to the sw. United States) in that the males are bronzy-green (rather than blackish) above.}

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) - FO

Magenta-throated Woodstar (*Calliphlox bryantae*) (**RE**) - CPH

Volcano Hummingbird (*Selasphorus flammula*) (RE) - CPH (Particularly nice views of a perched male.)

Scintillant Hummingbird (*Selasphorus scintilla*) (RE) - CPH, FL, BH

TROGONIDAE:

Collared Trogon (*Trogon collaris*) - CPH, FH

Resplendent Quetzal (*Pharomachrus mocinno*) - CPH, BH (Despite scoring a female the first afternoon, we didn't get a stunning male until the last morning, when we got two. That was closer than I'd like to cut it!)

MOMOTIDAE:

Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) - FH

ALCEDINIDAE:

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - en route to FO

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - SV

RAMPHASTIDAE:

Semnornithidae

Prong-billed Barbet (*Semnornis frantzii*) (RE) - CPH, BH, FO

Ramphastinae

Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus caeruleogularis*) - FH {This wide-ranging species has been split by some taxonomists into as many as 7 species. Under this treatment, the Central American forms sort out as follows: Wagler's Toucanet (highlands of sw. Mexico), Emerald Toucanet (e. Mexico to El Salvador), Blue-throated Toucanet (Costa Rica & w. Panama), and Violet-throated Toucanet (e. Panama to Colombia). The birds we saw were "Blue-throated Toucanets". The AOU checklist committees remain unconvinced, and are still recognizing a single, polytypic species for the time being, but this is likely to change.}

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)* - FO*

Fiery-billed Aracari (*Pteroglossis frantzii*) (RE) - LV*, FH (Fabulous views!)

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) - FH

PICIDAE:

Picuminae

Olivaceous Piculet (*Picumnus olivaceus*) - LV*, FH

Picinae

Acorn Woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*) - CPH, FO

Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) - daily

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus varius*) - CPH

Hairy Woodpecker (*Picoides villosus extimus/sanctorum*) - CPH, BH (This subspecies is very different from our North American birds {which, are themselves geographically variable}, having brown underparts, with almost no white spotting above. They are also smaller, and have a different voice than our Hairies.)

Smoky-brown Woodpecker (*Veniliornis fumigatus*) - LV

Golden-olive Woodpecker (*Piculus rubiginosus*) - FH

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - FO

Pale-billed Woodpecker (*Campephilus guatemalensis*) - FH (Nice looks.)

FURNARIIDAE:

Furnariinae

Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*)* - LV*

Slaty Spinetail (*Synallaxis brachyura*) - LV

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythropis*) - LV, BH

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*)* - CPH*

Ruddy Treerunner (*Margarornis rubiginosus*) (RE) - CPH, BH

Buffy Tuftedcheek (*Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*) (RE) - CPH, BH

Lineated Foliage-gleaner (*Syndactyla subalaris*) - FO

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner (*Automolus ochrolaemus exsertus*) - LV

Streak-breasted Treehunter (*Thripadectes rufobrunneus*) (RE) - BH

Streaked Xenops (*Xenops rutilans*) - FH

Dendrocolaptinae

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus sylvioides*)* - LV*

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*)* - FO*

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - SV, LV, FH

Spot-crowned Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes affinis*) - CPH, BH

THAMNOPHILIDAE:

Black-hooded Antshrike (*Thamnophilus bridgesi*) (RE) - DL (A surprise send-off bird at the last minute!)

Plain Antwren (*Dysithamnus mentalis*)* - LV*

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) - LV, FH

Rufous-rumped Antwren (*Terenura callinota*)* - FO*

FORMICARIIDAE:

Rufous-breasted Antthrush (*Formicarius rufipectus*)* - FO*

RHINOCRYPTIDAE:

Silvery-fronted Tapaculo (*Scytalopus argentifrons*) (RE) - CPH (seen nicely), BH*, FO*

TYRANNIDAE:

Elaeniinae

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) - DL

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)* - FH*

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - DL

Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*) - DL

Mountain Elaenia (*Elaenia frantzii*) - CPH, BH

Torrent Tyrannulet (*Serpophaga cinerea*) - CPH (family group), BH

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) - BH, FO

Slaty-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon superciliaris*) - FH

Zeledon's Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias zeledoni*) (RE) - CPH (Outstanding studies!)

{Here recognized as a distinct species from "White-fronted Tyrannulet" (*P. leucogonys*) of the Andes, and Rough-legged Tyrannulet (*P. burmeisteri*) of se. South America. Our treatment follows that of Stiles & Skutch (*Birds of Costa Rica*), Ridgely & Tudor (*Birds of South America*), Ridgely & Greenfield (*Birds of Ecuador*) and others, and is predicated upon vocal, morphological, and ecological differences between the three taxa. Lacking a published, quantified analysis of these differences, other authorities have chosen to treat all three forms as conspecific (= Rough-legged Tyrannulet) for the time being. The form that we saw nicely is endemic to Costa Rica and w. Panama, and is very different from the true Rough-legged Tyrannulet of se. South America.}

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) - SV*, CPH*, FH, FO, BH

Platyrrhinae

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) - FO (Nice looks at this sprite.)

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*)* - FH*, BH*, FO*

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - LV, FH

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens cinereiceps*) - SV (Keep track of where you see your "Yellow-olive Flycatchers". This group will soon be split into multiple species.)

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)* - FO*

Fluvicolinae

- Bran-colored Flycatcher** (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) - LV
Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) - CPH, BH, FO*
Dark Pewee (*Contopus lugubris*) (RE) - CPH, BH
Ochraceous Pewee (*Contopus ochraceus*)* - BH*
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher (*Empidonax flaviventris*) - FH
Yellowish Flycatcher (*Empidonax flavescens*) - CPH, BH (Incredibly obliging!)
Black-capped Flycatcher (*Empidonax atriceps*) (RE) - CPH
Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) - CPH

Tyranninae

- Bright-rumped Attila** (*Attila spadiceus*) - LV
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - FH, CPH*, FO*
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - daily
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - FH
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - LV, FH, DL
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) - LV
Golden-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes hemichrysus*) - FO
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) - FH
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - daily
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) - SV, DL

Genera Incertae Sedis (Tyrannidae/Tityridae)

- Barred Becard** (*Pachyramphus versicolor*) - CPH, BH* (Mostly zipping back and forth through the canopy in response to playback.)
Rose-throated Becard (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) - LV
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - FO

COTINGIDAE:

- Turquoise Cotinga** (*Cotinga ridgwayi*) (RE) - FH (“CO TINGA, CO TINGA, CO TINGA” – I’m still hearing the chant in my sleep!)
Three-wattled Bellbird (*Procnias tricarunculatus*)* - BH*

PIPRIDAE:

- Orange-collared Manakin** (*Manacus aurantiacus*) (RE) - SV (Dazzling male.)
White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) - FH, FO

VIREONIDAE:

- Yellow-throated Vireo** (*Vireo flavifrons*) - FH (only 1 this year)

Yellow-winged Vireo (*Vireo carmioli*) **(RE)** - CPH
Brown-capped Vireo (*Vireo leucophrys*) - FH*, CPH, BH, FO
Philadelphia Vireo (*Vireo philadelphicus*) - FH (only 1 this year)
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - SV, LV, FH
Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*)* - CPH*, LV*, BH*

CORVIDAE:

Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*) - LV, FO

HIRUNDINIDAE:

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - LV
Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) - daily
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - SV, FO
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) - DL

TROGLODYTIDAE:

Riverside Wren (*Thryothorus semibadius*) **(RE)** - SV
Stripe-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus thoracicus*) **(RE)*** - FO* (fairly far down the Caribbean slope)
Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) - LV
Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*)* - LV*, FH*, FO*
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - daily
Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) **(RE)** - CPH, BH (Incredible views!), FO*
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - CPH, LV*, BH*, FO*

CINCLIDAE:

American Dipper (*Cinclus mexicanus*) - BH

SYLVIIDAE:

Polioptilinae

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - SV, FH

TURDIDAE:

Black-faced Solitaire (*Myadestes melanops*) **(RE)** - CPH, BH
Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus aurantiirostris*) - SV, LV*, FH*
Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus fuscater*) - BH
Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus frantzii*) - CPH

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) - FH
Mountain Thrush (*Turdus plebejus*) - CPH, BH
Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) - daily
White-throated Thrush (*Turdus assimilis*) - FH

MIMIDAE:

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) - CPH, DL

PTILOGONATIDAE:

Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher (*Phainoptila melanoxantha*) (RE) - CPH
Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher (*Ptilogonys caudatus*) (RE) - CPH (Hard to know which was more impressive, the pair in our faces off the LQL cabin deck, or the 30+ that were mobbing the Costa Rican Pygmy-Owl!), BH

PARULIDAE:

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - FH, FO
"Brewster's Warbler" - FO (Perhaps seen only by Jeff and KJZ)
Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - SV, CPH, FH, FL
Flame-throated Warbler (*Parula gutturalis*) (RE) - CPH
Tropical Parula (*Parula pitayumi*) - FH, FO
Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - SV, LV, FH, FO
Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - CPH, FH, FO (fewer than normal)
Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) - CPH (only 1), FH (Only 1, after seeing 5 last year and 20+ each year before!), FO
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - SV, CPH, FH
American Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) - SV, CPH, FO
Olive-crowned Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis semiflava*) - FO
Masked Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis aequinoctialis*) - BH {The form found here, *chiriquensis*, has been considered a separate species by some authors (= Chiriqui Yellowthroat).}
Wilson's Warbler (*Wilsonia pusilla*) - daily (The only migrant warbler present in anything close to normal numbers, and even these were below normal.)
Slate-throated Redstart (*Myioborus miniatus*) - daily
Collared Redstart (*Myioborus torquatus*) (RE) - daily, except for FH (These beauties have way too much personality!)
Golden-crowned Warbler (*Basileuterus culicivorus*) - LV*, FH
Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) - LV
Black-cheeked Warbler (*Basileuterus melanogenys*) (RE) - CPH, BH
Three-striped Warbler (*Basileuterus tristriatus*) - BH
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*) - SV, FH*, FO*
Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia coronata*) (RE) - CPH (Nice looks.)

Genus *Incertae Sedis*

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - FH, FO

THRAUPIDAE:

Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) - LV, CPH, BH, FO

Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus pileatus*) (RE) - CPH

Yellow-throated Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus flavigularis*) - FO

Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*)* - FL*

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) - FO

Passerini's Tanager (*Ramphocelus passerinii*) - FO

Cherrie's Tanager (*Ramphocelus costaricensis*) - LV, FH

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - daily

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - FH, FO, FL

Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) - FH

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - LV, FH

Spangle-cheeked Tanager (*Tangara dowii*) (RE) - BH, FO

Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - FO

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) - LV, FH

Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) - FO (20+)

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) - SV, LV, FH, CPH, FO

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) - FH

Genus *Incertae Sedis*

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) - DL

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - SV, LV, FH, FO

EMBERIZIDAE:

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*) - LV, FH, FO

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*) - CPH, FH, BH

Slaty Flowerpiercer (*Diglossa plumbea*) (RE) - CPH, BH, FL

Yellow-thighed Finch (*Pselliophorus tibialis*) (RE) - CPH, BH, FL

Large-footed Finch (*Pezopetes capitalis*) (RE) - FL (aka. "Sasquatch Finch")

White-naped Brush-Finch (*Atlapetes albinucha*) - LV, FO

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) - CPH, BH

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*) - SV

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - SV*, FO

Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*) - daily

CARDINALIDAE:

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - FH, FO

Flame-colored Tanager (*Piranga bidentata*) - daily
White-winged Tanager (*Piranga leucoptera*) - FH
Black-thighed Grosbeak (*Pheucticus tibialis*)* **(RE)** - FO*
Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) - CPH, FH
Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) - FH

ICTERIDAE:

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) - LV, en route to FO
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - daily
Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*) - SV
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - SV, FH, DL, FL
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) - SV, FH

FRINGILLIDAE:

Euphoniinae

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*) - SV, FH
Elegant Euphonia (*Euphonia elegantissima*) - SV
Spot-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia imitans*) **(RE)** - SV
Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia annae*) - FO
Golden-browed Chlorophonia (*Chlorophonia callophrys*) **(RE)** - SV*, CPH, FH

Carduelinae

Yellow-bellied Siskin (*Carduelis xanthogastra*) - CPH, FH, BH
Lesser Goldfinch (*Carduelis psaltria*) - LV, FH, DL

Total = 266 species

Mammals:

Variegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*)
Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*)
Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*)
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth (*Choloepus hoffmanni*)
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*)