

PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER

JANUARY 29 – FEBRUARY 5, 2011

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No two birding trips to a tropical country are ever the same. The combination of a highly diverse avifauna and the subtly intertwined complexities of ever-changing weather patterns (wet versus dry seasons and their duration and onset) and how that influences fruiting cycles, flowering cycles, and insect abundance makes for a lot of intangibles and unpredictability. However, regardless of the specifics, you know that you'll be treated to a lot of great birds and natural history. Our tour typified both the unpredictable and the predictable aspects of birding in the Neotropics.

Our first dawn vigil atop the tower failed to produce the typical great views of Green Shrike-Vireo, that persistent (some would say annoying) voice from the canopy. It did, however, net us fine views of a tree-full of outrageous Keel-billed Toucans, as well as close views of Blue Dacnis and Green Honeycreeper among others. After breakfast, we headed down Semaphore Hill, where we spent the rest of the morning enjoying a nice selection of typical Canal Zone birds, highlighted by a pair of Black-breasted Puffbirds excavating a nest in a termitarium; close views of gorgeous Rufous and Broad-billed motmots; nice studies of several species of antbirds (including Spotted Antbird and Checker-throated Antwren); and a particularly responsive Orange-billed Sparrow. Our afternoon excursion started with a visit to some feeders in Gamboa, where colorful tanagers and honeycreepers went bananas for bananas. The nearby Ammo Dump Ponds produced nicely, including Rufescent Tiger-Heron, up-close studies of a diminutive American Pygmy Kingfisher, the clown-like antics of a pair of Barred Antshrikes, Panama Flycatcher, and a nice variety of other open-country and marsh inhabiting species.

The next day started well before dawn because we had a lot of ground to cover. For only the second time, we were substituting a day-trip to the Bayano Valley in eastern Panama Province into the slot where we would normally visit Cerro Azul. My recent experience on January-February trips to Cerro Azul had been disappointing, with few trees in fruit at that elevation, and little or no flock activity. Accordingly, I had made the decision prior to our 2010 tour to spend the day exploring the Bayano Reservoir area. I had done some limited scouting and group birding there in the past, and I knew that there were several species that we might pick up whose ranges did not extend to the Canal Zone. Our success in 2010 prompted me to make the Bayano region a regular part of our itinerary, and once again, we were happy with the results. Foremost among our many prizes here was securing great close studies of both male and female Black Antshrike, a bird with a microscopic global range (limited to eastern Panama and western Colombia). We also enjoyed stellar views of multiple Orange-crowned Orioles and White-eared Conebills (the latter a lifer for Domi!), two essentially South American species of somewhat limited range, both of which here, are at the northwestern limit of their respective distributions. Rufous-winged Antwren is another bird that fits into that category, but we had to work a bit harder for our neck-straining views of that canopy dweller. I was particularly excited

to find a number of singing Slate-colored Seedeaters in the area, including a couple of males that gave us nice scope views. As I explained at the time, this enigmatic species is nomadic, tracking the seeding cycles of various species of bamboos. Bamboos typically go many years (sometimes 10 or more, depending on the species) between seeding events, but when they do seed, most of the bamboo of a given species in a given area seed simultaneously, producing a hyper abundance of food for birds that specialize in eating bamboo seeds. These specialists, the Slate-colored Seedeater among them, are highly nomadic, moving from one major seeding event to another. When they find such an event, they descend on an area en masse, and immediately begin breeding in order to exploit the temporary wealth of resources. Once the bamboo have seeded and died, the birds move on, and may not be seen in that area again for another decade or more! There was a major bamboo-seeding event in the Canal Zone in 2009, and our tour enjoyed multiple sightings of Slate-colored Seedeaters at places ranging from Pipeline Road to Metropolitan Park. But that was then, and this was now, and it was a definite treat to have nice looks at these birds. Other highlights on the day included close studies of Black-tailed Trogon, Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, Bicolored Antbird, Striped Cuckoo, and a pair of lovely Geoffroy's tamarins, the latter, appropriately enough, seen from a bridge over the Rio Mono.

Our third day was spent on famed Pipeline Road, one of the premier birding tracts in the Neotropics. We had a particularly productive day here, highlighted by close views of a Collared Forest-Falcon perched low and close to the road in the late afternoon. Earlier in the day we had enjoyed excellent studies of a perched Double-toothed Kite, which seemed to be tracking a troop of monkeys. One of our primary targets was the Streak-chested Antpitta, which eluded us for much of the day until we eventually scored superb views of not one, but two of these endearing little "eggs with legs." We also enjoyed nice views of the world's smallest passerine, the diminutive Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, which looked more like a large beetle or bee floating from perch to perch in the midstory. Other highlights included nice studies of Black-striped Woodcreeper, Moustached Antwren, Bicolored Antbird, Brownish Twistwing, Gray Elaenia, Thrush-like Schiffornis, multiple White-whiskered Puffbirds, and a particularly oblivious Blue-black Grosbeak.

Day four once again found us up well before the dawn and headed to Colón on the Caribbean side of the Canal Zone. Our destination here was Achiote Road, which was typically birdy. From the moment that we stepped off the bus, birds were coming fast and furiously. One minute we were ogling Collared Aracaris and Black-cheeked Woodpeckers, and the next we were swinging our scopes from Flame-rumped Tanagers to Black-headed Saltators. Spot-crowned Barbet was less conspicuous than usual, although we did have nice studies of one individual, and the White-headed Wrens proved annoyingly unresponsive. After getting both Pied Puffbird and Pacific Antwren along a small sidetrack, we headed for Trogon Trail, where we split the group for forest-interior birding. Along with exceptional views of Spot-crowned Antvireo and Red-throated Ant-Tanager, this loop trail was noteworthy mostly for producing a fabulous Pheasant Cuckoo, a short video clip of which Carlos subsequently posted to FaceBook. Our last real birding event of the day entailed a visit to a lek of Golden-collared Manakins. The

floods of a few months earlier had clearly disturbed the forest floor in the vicinity of the lek, which may have been responsible for the general lack of activity on the part of the manakins. It also seemed as if the location of the lek had shifted by 100 m or so, because the few birds that were displaying were deeper into the forest than usual. Eventually, we caught up with one particularly nice male, which we were able to observe in full display at close range. All too soon, it was time to head to the train station in Colón for a relaxing ride back through the Canal Zone, highlighted by good numbers of Snail Kites seen en route.

The following day we returned to Pipeline Road, but this time we focused our attention on the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center. We arrived early for a vigil atop their canopy tower. Besides providing an awe-inspiring birds-eye view of the rainforest canopy, the tower gave us close, eye level views of a number of canopy dwellers including nice looks at Brown-capped Tyrannulet and Red-legged Honeycreeper, a perched Gray-headed Kite, Scaled Pigeons, and a White-necked Puffbird. The forest trail proved unusually quiet, so we spent much of the remainder of the morning staking out the hummingbird feeders at the Visitor Center, which attracted a steady stream of hummingbirds, including Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Black-throated Mango, and White-vented Plumeleteer among others. Our afternoon excursion found us once more in the Gamboa area, this time along the Chagres River. Here, we were treated to a singing male White-bellied Antbird at point-blank range, Jet Antbird, and an electric male Blue Cotinga.

Our final day found us exploring semi-deciduous forest at Metropolitan Park, which featured a number of special birds, among them, Whooping Motmot, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Rufous-and-white Wren, Lance-tailed Manakin, and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager. We capped our day with an afternoon visit to Miraflores Locks, where, in addition to the fine Canal Museum, we were able to enjoy the spectacle of some behemoth container ships passing through the locks.

After a farewell dinner and final checklist session, we finished with an optional night drive down Semaphore Hill. It proved to be one of the best night drives I've ever done, at least in terms of the number and diversity of mammals seen. We had barely started down the hill when my spotlight beam caught a round object on a limb that I nearly passed off as an arboreal termite nest. A quick double-take revealed that the "nest" had a head—it was a roosting Great Tinamou! It's always special when you see a tinamou, but finding a perched one at night was particularly cool. The tinamou was followed by a continuous procession of special mammals, ranging from gray four-eyed opossum to multiple kinkajous, both brown-throated three-toed sloth and Hoffmann's two-toed sloth, and a pair of northern tamanduas (lesser anteaters), which offered superb studies. It was a fitting end to a very good trip.

All in all, a great group of birders enjoyed a wonderful introduction to the natural riches of the Canal Zone, and had a lot of fun doing it. Thank you all for your good humor and good companionship, and I hope to cross paths with each and every one of you on another trip to some birdy corner of the world!

Itinerary:

January 29 – arrival in Panama City; transfer to Canopy Tower

January 30 – 0630–0730 tower watch from atop the Canopy Tower; 0830–1200 birding along Semaphore Hill; 1500–1800 hours at Gamboa feeders and Ammo Dump Ponds.

January 31 – 0400 breakfast with 0430 departure for Bayano Reservoir, arriving at bridge at 0745. Birded road and trails within 13 kms of the bridge until 1430 hours (with picnic lunch); back to Canopy Tower by 1700 hours.

February 1 – 0530 breakfast and 0615 departure for Pipeline Road, where we spent the entire day, with lunch in the field. Return to Canopy Tower at 1700 hours.

February 2 – 0400 breakfast and 0430 departure for Colon, Gatún Locks, and Achote Road, where we birded until ca. 1530 hours; 1700 ride across the Isthmus on the PanAm Train.

February 3 – 0530 breakfast, with 0615 departure for Panama Rainforest Discovery Center (on Pipeline Road), where we birded until 1130. Returned to Canopy Tower for lunch and break, then birded Gamboa Resort area (Chagres River) from 1500–1730 hours.

February 4 – 0600 departure for Metropolitan Park, where we birded until about 1100 hours; then to Costa del Este to check shorebirds before return to Canopy Tower for lunch; 1400 hours departure for Miraflores Locks & Canal Museum until 1700 hours; night drive on Semaphore Hill after dinner.

February 5 – departure for home for many; or continue on to El Valle and the Canopy Lodge for others.

Key:

AR = Achote Road and vicinity, including the manakin lek road

BA = Bayano region: all birding within 13 km of the big bridge at Bayano Reservoir.

CE = Costa del Este

CT = Canopy Tower & Semaphore Hill

GA = Gamboa area, including Gamboa Rainforest Resort (Chagres River area), Gamboa feeders, and Ammo Dump Ponds.

GL = area around the Gatún Locks & Spillway area

ML = Miraflores Locks

MP = Metropolitan Park

PR = Pipeline Road & Panama Rainforest Discovery Center

* = 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.

5 Favorite Birds of the Trip (as voted on by the group):

- 1. Pheasant Cuckoo and Black-throated Trogon (tied)**
- 2. Collared Forest-Falcon, Great Tinamou & Blue Dacnis (tied)**

Birds:

TINAMIDAE:

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) - CT (The roosting bird that I spotlighted on our night-drive was particularly unforgettable!)

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*)* - BA*, AR*, PR*

CRACIDAE:

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) - GA

PELICANIDAE:

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) - GA, GL, CE

PHALACROCORACIDAE:

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - BA, GL, GA, CE

ANHINGIDAE:

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) - GL

FREGATIDAE:

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) - GA, GL, PR, CE, ML

ARDEIDAE:

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) - GA, AR

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) - GA

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) - BA (Also known as “White-necked Heron”)

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - BA, GA, GL, CE

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - GL

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - GL

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) - GA

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - widespread

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) - GA

CATHARTIDAE:

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - everywhere

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - everywhere

ACCIPITRIDAE:

Pandioninae

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - GA, GL

Accipitrinae

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) - PR (Scope views of a perched bird that later soared over the canopy tower at the Rainforest Discovery Center.)

Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) - AR

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) - BA

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) - GL, PR, and, especially, from the train ride through the Canal Zone.

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) - PR (Excellent scope studies of a perched, calling adult.)

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) - BA (leaders only)

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) - by a few of us from the train

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) - BA

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*)* - PR*

FALCONIDAE:

Micrasturinae

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) - PR (Fantastic studies of a perched adult!), CT*

Caracarinae

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - BA, AR

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - BA, AR, PR

Falconinae

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) - GL

RALLIDAE:

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*)* - GA* (They just didn't want to come out!)

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)* - PR*

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) - GA

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) - G, PR (This one is about to revert to being called "Common Gallinule", a change already made by the AOU's South American Checklist Committee, and, I suspect, soon to be followed by the North American Committee, given that a recently published paper presents molecular evidence showing that Old World *G. chloropus* [= Common Moorhen] is not the same species as the New World *G. galeata* [= Common Gallinule].)

CHARADRIIDAE:

Vanellinae

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) - Colon, GA, CE

Charadriinae

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*) - CE

RECURVIROSTRIDAE:

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

JACANIDAE:

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) - GA, PR, CE

SCOLOPACIDAE:

Willet (*Tringa semipalmatus*) - CE

Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) - CE

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) - CE

LARIDAE:

Larinae

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*) - CE, GA

Sterninae

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) - CE

COLUMBIDAE:

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - widespread in towns, particularly Panama City

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) - GA, GL

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) - CT, PR (Particularly nice scope views from the tower at the Rainforest Discovery Center.)

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) - PR*, AR

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - daily

Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) - BA

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

Gray-chested Dove (*Leptotila cassini*) - PR, CT

PTITTACIDAE:

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - daily

Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilia haematotis*) - G (Scope views from the tower of 4 perched birds were our only ones this trip.)

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) - BV, A, PR

Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) - daily

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) - G, PR

CUCULIDAE:

Cuculinae

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - PR, AR, MP

Neomorhinae

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) - BA (Great views!)

Pheasant Cuckoo (*Dromococcyx phasianellus*) - AR (Excellent studies of this often-elusive species.)

Crotophaginae

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) - GA

NYCTIBIIDAE:

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*) - CT (A day-roosting bird.)

APODIDAE:

Chaeturinae

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) - GA, PR

Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicauda*) - PR, AR

TROCHILIDAE:

Phaethornithinae

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) - CT, PR (Also known as “Western Long-tailed Hermit”.)

Trochilinae

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CT, PR, MP

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*) - GA, PR

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - BA, PR

Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Damophila julie*) - CT

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) - CT, PR (And the incessantly singing ones near the tower parking area were hard to miss!)

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia edward*) - MP (Nearly a Panama endemic.)

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - GA, AR

White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffonii*) - PR, MP

TROGONIDAE:

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*) - PR, AR

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) - CT, PR*, AR* {This is a split from what used to be called “Violaceous Trogon”. Populations east of the Andes in South America are now treated as separate species.}

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) - PR, AR*, MP {Particularly nice studies of a stunning male.}

Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*) - BA, PR*, AR*

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) - CT*, PR, AR, MP

MOMOTIDAE:

Whooping Motmot (*Momotus subrufescens*) - PR, MP {This is a recent split from what was called “Blue-crowned Motmot”. That former species has been split into five separate species. Birds of eastern Panama (west to the Canal Zone), which give a single-note, drawn-out “*whoop*” call are now called “Whooping Motmot”, whereas those from western Panama that give a shorter, double-noted “*woop woop*” are going by the new name of “Blue-diademed Motmot”.}

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) - CT, PR

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) - CT, PR, AR

ALCEDINIDAE:

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquatus*) - BA, GL

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)* - GA*

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) - GA

BUCCONIDAE:

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*) - CT, PR

Black-breasted Puffbird (*Notharchus pectoralis*) - CT (A pair excavating a nest in a termitarium.), PR*, AR*

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*) - AR

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) - PR, AR*

RAMPHASTIDAE:

Capitonidae

Spot-crowned Barbet (*Capito maculicoronatus*) - AR

Ramphastinae

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossis torquatus*) - GA, PR*, MP, AR

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - daily

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) - GA*, PR

PICIDAE:

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) - AR

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

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) - BA, PR, AR, GA*

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - PR, AR*

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucos*) - PR, AR*

FURNARIIDAE:

Furnariinae

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) - CT, MP

Dendrocolaptinae

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) - CT, BA*

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) - BA {Split from “Barred Woodcreeper” *D. certhia*.}

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CT, BA*, PR, AR, MP (Split from “Buff-throated Woodcreeper”, although you should expect more changes in the species-limits in this group.)

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) - PR, AR (Spectacular views of this very attractive woodcreeper.)

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) - BA

THAMNOPHILIDAE:

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CT, BA*, PR, AR*

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*)* - AR*

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) - GA (These clowns are always crowd-pleasers!)

Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) - daily

Black Antshrike (*Thamnophilus nigriceps*) - BA (This seldom-seen species has a tiny range – localized in e Panama and w Colombia – and hence, is not often found by birders. We saw it at the extreme western/northern end of its range. Excellent studies of a pair.)

Spot-crowned Antwren (*Dysithamnus puncticeps*) - PR, AR

Moustached Antwren (*Myrmotherula ignota*) - PR, AR*

Pacific Antwren (*Myrmotherula pacifica*) - AR (Nice looks at a male and female.)

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaries*) - PR, AR

Checker-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophylia fulviventris*) - CT, PR, AR

Rufous-winged Antwren (*Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*) - BA (This is yet another species at the western edge of its range, that does not quite make it to the Canal Zone.)

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhophias quixensis*) - CT, PR, AR, MP

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) - CT, PR, AR*, MP

Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*) - GA

White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) - GA (Spectacular looks!)

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - CT, PR*, AR

Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naevioides*) - CT, PR, AR*

Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*) - CT, BA, PR

FORMICARIIDAE:

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) - PR (Nice views.), AR*

GRALLARIDAE:

Streak-chested Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) - PR (This one took some work, but we were rewarded with terrific views. Antpittas rock!) {Also known as “Spectacled Antpitta”.}

TYRANNIDAE:

Elaeniinae

Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*) - CT, BA*, PR, AR*, MP* (This little canopy-dweller was seen nicely from the tower at the Rainforest Discovery Center.)

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) - GA

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*)* - MP*

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*) - GA, AR*, MP*

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*) - CT, BA*, PR*, AR*, MP*

Gray Elaenia (*Myiopagis caniceps*) - PR (Nice views of a pair.)

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) - MP

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

Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) - PR*, AR*, GA*, MP

Platyrynchinae

Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) - PR (Nice studies of this little sprite!)

Southern Bentbill (*Oncostoma olivaceum*) - CT*, BA*, PR (Nice views!), AR, MP

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - GA, AR*

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) - CT, BA (Excellent views!)

Brownish Twistwing (*Cnipodectes subbrunneus*) - PR (Formerly known as “Brownish Flycatcher”.)

Olivaceous Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*) - BA, PR

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)* - BA*

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) - CT (Seen nicely along Semaphore Hill.)

Golden-crowned Spadebill (*Platyrinchus coronatus*) - MP

Fluvicolinae

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*) - CT, PR

Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*) - MP
Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*)* - AR*

Tyranninae

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) - heard daily, but seen only at BA
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)* - PR*, MP*
Panama Flycatcher (*Myiarchus panamensis*) - GA, BA
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)* - PR*, AR*
Lesser Kiskadee (*Pitangus lictor*) - GL, PR
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - daily
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - AR, GA, MP
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) - GA, BA*, AR, MP
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - GA, AR, MP
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) - GA
Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophaeus*) - GA
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - everywhere
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) - BA, GA, AR

Genera *Incertae sedis* (Tyrannidae/Tityridae)

Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdinus*) - PR (Look for this widely distributed “species” to be split multiple ways before long. We saw the subspecies *S. t. panamensis*.)
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - GA, BA, AR*
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) - PR, AR
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) - AR*

COTINGIDAE:

Blue Cotinga (*Cotinga nattererii*) - AR, GA (The male is a stunner!)
Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) - PR, AR

PIPRIDAE:

Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*) - CT*, BA, PR
Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) - MP
Blue-crowned Manakin (*Pipra coronata*) - CT
Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) - CT, BA*

VIREONIDAE:

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) - BA
Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*) - MP
Golden-fronted Greenlet (*Hylophilus aurantiifrons*) - MP
Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*) - CT, GA, PR, AR*

Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanus pulchellus*) - heard daily and at all locations, but seen only from the tower.

HIRUNDINIDAE:

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - daily

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) - PR, GA

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - GA, GL, PR

TROGLODYTIDAE:

White-headed Wren (*Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*)* - AR*

Black-bellied Wren (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*) - AR, PR

Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) - PR, AR*

Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*)* - BA*, MP*

Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) - MP

Buff-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus leucotis*) - GA, AR

Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) - GA*, AR

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - GA, BA, AR

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) - CT

Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*) - PR, AR

SYLVIIDAE:

Polioptilinae

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) - CT, BA*, PR*, AR*, MP

Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) - CT, BA, PR, AR*, MP

TURDIDAE:

Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) - everywhere (Formerly known as “Clay-colored Robin”.)

MIMIDAE:

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) - daily

PARULIDAE:

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) - CT, PR

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - MP

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - GA, MP (These are migrants that breed in the U.S. and Canada.)

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - CT, BA, PR, MP
Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*) - CT
Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - MP
Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus noveboracensis*) - GA
Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) - GA

Genus *Incertae sedis*

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*)* - GA*

THRAUPIDAE:

White-eared Conebill (*Conirostrum leucogenys*) - BA (Another “Bayano Specialty”. The range of this bird extends east into the Llanos of n Venezuela, but we saw it at the western limit of its range.)

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

Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*) - CT, BA, PR

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) - CT, PR, AR, MP

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

Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) - GA, BA, AR, MP

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) - GA, AR (Subspecies *icteronotus*, the form found from Panama to southwest Ecuador, is often treated as a distinct species, “Lemon-rumped Tanager”. There is apparently some intergradation between it and nominate *flammigerus* where the ranges of the two forms meet in Colombia. The AOU still treats them as conspecific on this basis, but this one seems ripe for a potential split.)

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

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - daily

Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - GA, BA, AR

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - AR, GA

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CT, BA, PR, MP

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - CT

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - GA, PR

Genus *Incertae sedis*:

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) - GA

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - GA, AR

Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - AR

Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*)* - CT*

EMBERIZIDAE:

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - GA

Slate-colored Seedeater (*Sporophila schistacea*) - BA, MP* (As we discussed on the tour, this is a nomadic species whose presence seems to be closely tied to wide scale bamboo-seeding events, which, in any given region, may occur only once per decade. When this happens, these seedeaters move in and breed explosively, and then move on to somewhere else when the bamboo has finished seeding. We were lucky to hit a time when there were a number of these enigmatic birds present and singing at Bayano. By my count, we recorded at least 10 individuals in the Bayano region, including one really nice adult male that we had in the scope.)

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*) - GA, BA, AR, MP

Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) - GL

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*) - CT (Stellar views!), MP

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - GA

CARDINALIDAE:

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - GA, MP

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) - MP

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) - PR, AR, MP

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*) - BA*, PR (Mike's "Bloody Hell!" bird!), MP*

ICTERIDAE:

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - everywhere

Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) - AR, MP*

Orange-crowned Oriole (*Icterus auricapillus*) - BA (Another "Bayano specialty".)

Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) - GA

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - PR

Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*) - BA, AR, GA

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) - daily

Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) - AR

Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - AR, GA, MP*

FRINGILLIDAE:

Euphoniinae

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*)* - GA*, MP*

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*) - GA, BA

Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*) - CT, AR

PASSERIDAE:

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) - BA, GL, Panama City

Mammals:

Common Opossum (*Didelphus marsupialis*) - CT
Gray Four-eyed Opossum (*Philander opossum*) - CT
Northern Tamandua (= Lesser Anteater) (*Tamandua mexicana*) - CT
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) - CT
Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth (*Cholepus hoffmanni*) - CT
Geoffroy's (Red-naped) Tamarin (*Saguinus geoffroyi*) - BA
White-throated Capuchin (*Cebus capucinus*) - AR
Mantled Howler Monkey (*Alouatta pallidata*) - daily
Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*) - CT, PR
Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - GA
White-nosed Coatimundi (*Nasua narica*) - near daily
Kinkajou (*Potos flavus*) - CT
Jaguarundi (*Felis yagouaroundi*) - BA
Free-tailed Bat sp.

Significant Others:

Slender Anole
Basilisk lizard
Spectacled Caiman
Iguana
Poison dart frog (*Dendrobates* sp. - one of the green-and-black types)
Common Slider
And various butterflies, including several morpho species