

PANAMA: EL VALLE'S CANOPY LODGE EXTENSION

FEBRUARY 5 – 10, 2011

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As always, the El Valle area treated us to some great birds, beautiful accommodations, and some unexpected surprises. Eclipsing everything, and the run-away winner for “Favorite Bird” of the trip, was the Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo that we saw on our day-trip to Rio Indio and Jordinal. We had just eaten our lunch in the shade of a picnic shelter next to the stream. Bird activity appeared to be almost non-existent in the midday heat. It had been a relatively slow day, with little flock activity, and the marañón trees that typically function as bird-magnets at this season were not fruiting. We had dipped on the stakeout Barred Puffbird pair at Jordinal, so finding that species was now #1 on my priority list. Leaving the drivers at the picnic site, we took a short hike down a sidetrack where Canopy Lodge guides had first discovered Barred Puffbirds two years ago. I trolled periodically with puffbird tape, as we occupied ourselves with a pair of Black-cheeked Woodpeckers and a distant perched White Hawk. And then, I heard it—the long, drawled “wolf whistle” which signaled the puffbird. It was distant, but a few more playbacks lured it closer, and a second bird, presumably the mate of the first, was now responding as well. I started scanning likely looking trees, and soon found our target, perched stolidly on a horizontal limb, and looking vaguely reptilian as it swayed ever so slightly in place.

We were still enjoying scope studies of the puffbird when Roderick, one of our drivers, appeared at our side, visibly winded from a hurried hike to find us. He was talking excitedly to Danilo, our Canopy Lodge guide, and although I couldn't hear all of the furtive conversation, I heard two things that immediately diverted me from the puffbird—“hormigas” (ants) and, in English, “ground-cuckoo!” “Donde?” I asked, to which Danilo responded, “He says it's where we ate lunch!” The poor Barred Puffbirds went from stars to yesterday's news in a heartbeat, as the stampede back to the picnic site was on. I could still hear their sad whistles receding in the distance behind us as we headed for the footbridge over the river. Arriving back at the picnic site, we immediately found the army ants, although as Roderick had said, there weren't that many. The ants were of the genus *Eciton*, the ones that birds love to follow, but here, at the forest edge, they were not swarming. Rather, there were several discrete columns of ants that appeared to form supply lines between the main swarm and the bivouac. Roderick indicated that he had seen the Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo darting around a treefall on the slope above us, just inside the forest from the clearing where we had eaten our lunch. There was no sign of it now, but I was hearing occasional “churrs” and “snarls” from Bicolored Antbirds, a species that is considered an “obligate” follower of army ants. I began broadcasting calls of the ground-cuckoo, seemingly with no response. But, after several minutes, Danilo said, “It's coming!” And sure enough, the ground-cuckoo was weaving its way through the dense undergrowth toward my speaker, which I had placed beside a small path just inside the forest. Before I could even raise my own binoculars, I saw the bird dart across the gap, the sunlight highlighting the purple iridescence of its tail. And then, there was nothing.

No one except Danilo and I had seen the bird, and our views had been little more than naked-eye glimpses. No vocal response or mandible clacking was heard, despite continued audio playback. Nothing. It did not look good. I decided to play some songs of Ocellated Antbird, a spectacular obligate ant-follower that we had not seen on the tour, in part, to lure out any Ocellateds that might be lurking around the swarm, but mainly in the desperate hope that we might trick the ground-cuckoo into thinking there was more going on at this swarm than there actually was. So there I was, with Ocellated Antbird songs and calls blasting from the speaker in my shirt pocket, peering intently into the forest for any sign of life, when I became aware that participants Sheila and Leigh were trying to get my attention. Turning around, I looked to where they were pointing, and was dumbfounded to see the ground-cuckoo, which had walked completely out of the forest, and seemed to be homing in on my speaker! We stood frozen as the cuckoo continued to walk towards us, its expressive crest rising and falling in synchrony with its long, iridescent tail. The cuckoo seemed perplexed—you could almost hear it thinking, “That is the biggest, strangest looking Ocellated Antbird I have ever seen!” Meanwhile, the rest of our group was standing in the shade of the picnic shelter, not 30 feet away, with binoculars riveted on the cuckoo. Someone moved, and the ground-cuckoo snapped to its senses and darted back inside the forest. We were all in a state of shock. All members of the genus *Neomorphus* are nearly mythical birds of lowland and foothill rainforest. The Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo is probably better known than any of its congeners, and yet, many birders, ornithologists, and professional birding guides with decades of experience in Panama and Costa Rica have yet to see one. This was only the fourth time I had seen the species in Central America, and never had I seen one outside of the forest interior—it simply defied belief.

We were still processing what had just happened, and I was still broadcasting calls of the Ocellated Antbird, when we looked up from our conversation to see that the ground-cuckoo had partly circled us, and had walked back out of the forest into the open, this time at our backs. And once again, it was headed right for my speaker! The bird seemed genuinely curious about the excited calls of Ocellated Antbirds, which normally would signal the presence of a very active swarm of foraging army ants. “Don’t anyone move,” I cautioned, as the cuckoo continued to walk haltingly towards me, pausing to raise and lower its crest and tail. It was now so close that I couldn’t fit the entire bird in the viewfinder of my camera! The situation was borderline ridiculous—one of the most elusive, forest-interior birds of Central and South America was standing in the sunlight, in the open, at minimum-focus distance from ten birders who could barely believe what we were seeing. Suddenly, a woodcreeper sounded an alarm call from inside the forest, and the cuckoo awoke from its apparent trance and darted back into the forest. We were still high-fiving and laughing when Danilo and Roderick, who had missed this entire crazy experience, emerged from a nearby trail into the forest. They had located the main ant swarm, which they said had lots of antbirds and woodcreepers, but no ground-cuckoo, in attendance. We gathered up one participant who sadly, had not been present during the ground-cuckoo experience, and headed into the forest to find the ants. Shortly after crossing a small stream, we arrived at the swarm, which was alive with attendant birds. Bicolored Antbirds were bouncing back and forth across the trail, and we soon picked up a colorful Spotted Antbird as well. Plain-brown Woodcreepers were also much in

evidence. And then, suddenly, the ground-cuckoo reappeared, hopping upon a large boulder on the right side of the trail! We spent over an hour with the ants, not moving more than 30 meters the entire time, and during our vigil, the ground-cuckoo was in view for perhaps 75% of the time. It alternated between darting back and forth, snapping up large insect prey flushed by the ants, and hopping up onto boulders or logs, from whence it could scan the swarm from above. At a couple of points, it made very aggressive moves at some of the antbirds, including what looked like a serious attempt at catching one of the Bicoloreds. When we finally tore ourselves away, the ground-cuckoo was still there, seemingly completely habituated to our presence, and still actively foraging away. It was truly a magical, once-in-a-lifetime sort of encounter, and exactly the sort of experience that makes tropical birding so exciting—you literally never know what might happen next, even on a “slow” day of birding.

After the ground-cuckoo, everything else seemed somewhat mundane. But we had already thrilled to the diversity of habitats, birds, and birding experiences that the El Valle area has to offer. It started upon our arrival at the Canopy Lodge, with the daily lodge feeder show. At peak times, it can be nearly impossible to tear a group away from the lodge feeders to go anywhere else! Not only is activity at the feeders frenetic, but the diversity of birds attracted is truly remarkable. To see such normally skulking birds as Rufous-capped Warbler, Dusky-faced Tanager, and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager attending feeders is a rare treat, and the spectacular Rufous Motmots are grand icing on the cake. Even Collared Aracaris and Tawny-capped Euphonias (seldom seen on the lodge grounds) got in on the act this year.

Over our four days out of the lodge we visited a number of different habitats, from middle-elevation cloudforest to lush Caribbean lowlands, to dry Pacific lowlands. Highlights were many, and included a dazzling male Snowcap, multiple Brown Violetears, and dynamite views of an Orange-bellied Trogon at Los Altos del Maria; prolonged close views of a Tody Motmot at Cariguana Trail; a close-enough-to-touch Dull-mantled Antbird (you have to love those bright red eyes!) below La Mesa; nesting Spot-crowned Barbets at Jordinal; and crippling views of Mottled Owl and Tropical Screech-Owl near the lodge. I would also be remiss not to mention the optional excursion by several members of the group, who spent one evening at a local sports bar (I'm not making this up) watching the Green Bay Packers win the Super Bowl!

On our last morning, we visited the dry Pacific lowlands around El Chirú, which stood in stark contrast to the lushness of the Caribbean Slope and El Valle itself, and provided us with a completely different mix of birds, highlighted by great views of Crested Bobwhite, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture, the near-endemic Veraguan Mango, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Brown-throated Parakeets, Panama Flycatcher, Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant, Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (everyone's favorite, I know) and Lance-tailed Manakin. Unfortunately, the best bird of all was seen by only a couple of us: a roosting Striped Owl along the Juan Hombrón road, that flew just seconds after we backed up the bus to look at it. For those that got on it, the look was short but sweet, and it was a rare lifer for Danilo!

El Valle and the Canopy Lodge provided us with a perfect complement to our Canopy Tower tour of the Canal Zone, and a fascinating glimpse into the diverse foothill avifauna of both the Pacific and Caribbean slopes. This was a very fun group with which to share so many fabulous experiences, and I hope to see each of you again on future trips.

Itinerary:

February 4 – Arrival in Panama for participants just doing the El Valle Canopy Lodge tour (Kevin and the remainder of the group were spending this night at the Canopy Tower, at the conclusion of that tour).

February 5 – Transfer to El Valle (left the Amador Country Inn & Suites at ca. 1100 h) and the Canopy Lodge in time for late lunch (1330 h). After spending some time watching the show of birds coming into the lodge feeders, we then birded our way on foot along the road to the adjacent Canopy Adventure property and a few hundred meters beyond, where we spent the remainder of the afternoon (1500–1800 h).

February 6 – Breakfast at 0630 h, followed by feeder watch from 0700–0715, and then off to La Mesa (mostly on the Candelario Trail) returning to the lodge for lunch at 1200, followed by post-lunch break. Afternoon excursion to the Cariguana Trail from 1500–1730 h; back to lodge by 1800 h.

February 7 – Breakfast at 0600, followed by 0700 departure to Rio Indio and Jordinal, with picnic lunch; returning back to the lodge at 1800 h, with post-dinner owling near the lodge.

February 8 – Breakfast at 0600 h, depart 0645 for day trip to Los Altos del Maria (birded elevations from 900–1060 m, with Cerro la Gaita at 1055 m); back at lodge at 1700 h.

February 9 – Breakfast at 0500, with 0540 departure for El Chiru and the Juan Hombrón rice fields; back at the Lodge for late lunch, after which we packed up and transferred back to Panama City, for our final check-list session and farewell dinner.

February 10 – Flights home

Key:

AM = Altos del Maria area

CL = Canopy Lodge grounds (particularly the feeders) & adjacent Canopy Adventure

CT = Cariguana Trail

LM = La Mesa (including the Candelario Trail and forest patches along the main road above the lodge)

EC = lowlands in the El Chirú region (including the Juan Hombrón road through the rice fields)

PC = Panama City

RI = Rio Indio & Jordinal road

* = heard only

**Favorite Bird of the Trip
As voted by the group.**

- 1. Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo**
- 2. Tody Motmot**
- 3. Orange-bellied Trogon**
- 4. Barred Puffbird**
- 5. Rufous Motmot**

Birds:

ANATIDAE:

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

CRACIDAE:

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

ODONTOPHORIDAE:

Crested Bobwhite (*Colinus cristatus*) - EC (Nice looks at a small covey.)

Black-eared Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus melanotis*) - AM (A pair of birds that taped in almost to our feet, but were seen by most people only when they burst into flight.)

PELECANIDAE:

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) - PC

PHALACROCORACIDAE:

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) - PC

FREGATIDAE:

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificans*) - PC

ARDEIDAE:

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*) - El Valle, EC

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*) - EC

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*) - EC

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) - daily

CATHARTIDAE:

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) - daily

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) - daily

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) - EC

ACCIPITRIDAE:

Pandioninae

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) - PC

Accipitrinae

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

Plumbeous Kite (*Ictinia plumbea*) - AM

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) - RI

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) - EC

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) - CT, EC

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) - LM, CT

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

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) - AM (Nice looks at a soaring bird.)

FALCONIDAE:

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) - PC to El Valle

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) - PC, RI, EC

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) - PC to El Valle

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) - CT

CHARADRIIDAE:

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) - LM, EC

Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) - LM

SCOLOPACIDAE:

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) - EC

LARIDAE:

Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*) - PC

COLUMBIDAE:

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) - PC, El Valle

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) - PC to El Valle, CT, EC

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) - CL, LM, CT, EC

Ruddy Quail-Dove (*Geotrygon montana*) - CT

PSITTACIDAE:

Brown-throated Parakeet (*Aratinga pertinax*) - EC

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) - CL*, CT*, RI

Blue-fronted Parrotlet (*Touit dilectissimus*)* - AM*

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) - CL, LM, RI

Yellow-crowned Parrot (*Amazona ochrocephala*) - EC

CUCULIDAE:

Cuculinae

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) - CT*, RI

Neomorphinae

Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo (*Neomorphus geoffroyi*) - RI (Extended point-blank, crippling views of the “Grail Bird” of Panama. It really doesn’t get any better than this!)

Crotophaginae

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) - EC

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) - EC

STRIGIDAE:

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) - CL (This one took less than 5 minutes to secure great views.)

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) - EC (Nice scope studies.)

Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) - CL (Taped in nicely for close views.)

Striped Owl (*Pseudoscops clamator*) - EC (Finding one in the daytime was a surprise, and a lifer for Danilo!)

APODIDAE:

Chaeturinae

Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicaudus*) - RI

TROCHILIDAE:

Phaethornithinae

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis hirsutus*) - CL

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) - LM

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) - CL, LM, RI

Trochilinae

Brown Violetear (*Colibri delphinae*) - AM (Nice studies of at least 3 individuals. This is an uncommon and localized bird anywhere in Central America.)

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) - CL, RI

Veraguan Mango (*Anthracothorax veraguensis*) - EC (This species is a near-endemic of Panama, having only recently been found just across the border into Costa Rica.)

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) - CL

Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) - AM

Garden Emerald (*Chlorostilbon assimilis*) - EC

Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) - CL, LM

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird (*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*) - EC

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) - LM, RI

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia edward*) - CL, EC

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) - daily (This is the most commonly seen hummer around the Lodge.)

Snowcap (*Microchera albocoronata*) - AM (Prolonged close studies of a dazzling male.)

White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffoni*) - CL

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*) - LM, RI

Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) - AM (Scope views of a perched male.)

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliophryx barroti*) - CL

Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliomaster longirostris*) - CL (Hawking insects over the stream in the late afternoons.), CT (Scope views of a perched male.)

Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) - EC

TROGONIDAE:

Orange-bellied Trogon (*Trogon aurantiiventris*) - AM (Exceptional studies!)

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*)* - LM*

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon Massena*)* - RI*

MOMOTIDAE:

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) - CT (It took some searching, but we eventually scored nicely with an individual that came in very close.)

Blue-diademed Motmot (*Momotus momota*) - CT

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) - CL, LM, RI (Seen almost daily at the Lodge feeders – what a feeder bird!)

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*)* - AM*

ALCEDINIDAE:

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) - CL, RI

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) - CL

BUCCONIDAE:

Barred Puffbird (*Nystalus radiatus*) - RI (A territorial pair, just recently discovered in this region, represented a range extension for this species.)

RAMPHASTIDAE:

Capitoninae

Spot-crowned Barbet (*Capito maculicoronatus*) - RI (A pair at an active nest.)

Ramphastinae

Emerald Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus caeruleogularis*) - AM {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 check-list 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*) - CL (Coming to the Lodge feeders!)

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) - LM*, RI

PICIDAE:

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

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

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

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) - RI

FURNARIIDAE:

Furnariinae

Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythroptera*) - AM

Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) - AM (Exceptional studies!)

Dendrocolaptinae

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) - RI (At the army ant swarm.)

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) - RI

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) - CL, LM

Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) - AM

THAMNOPHILIDAE:

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) - CL

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) - CT, EC

Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) - AM (Nice studies of a bird that captured and ate a katydid.)

Plain Antvireo (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) - LM

Spot-crowned Antvireo (*Dysithamnus puncticeps*) - LM

Slaty Antwren (*Myrmotherula schisticolor*) - AM (leaders only)

Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*) - RI

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) - LM, RI

Dull-mantled Antbird (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*) - LM (Point-blank studies!)

Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naevioides*) - RI (A gorgeous male at the ant swarm.)

Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis bicolor*) - RI

FORMICARIIDAE:

Formicariinae

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) - LM

Grallarinae

Streak-chested Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*)* - AM*

TYRANNIDAE:

Elaeniinae

Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*)* - RI*

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) - EC (A pair building a nest about 3' off the ground in a brushy field.)
Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murinus*) - EC (The dark horse for “favorite bird of the trip”!)
Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)* - RI*
Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) - LM, CT*, EC
Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*) - EC (Nice comparisons with the previous species.)
Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) - AM
Sepia-capped Flycatcher (*Leptopogon amaurocephalus*) - LM
Rufous-browed Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes superciliaris*) - AM (Nice studies of a pair of these canopy dwellers, although we couldn't lure them very low.)
Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) - CL*, LM, RI*

Platyrrhinae

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) - LM (Nice looks.)
Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pilaris*) - EC
Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) - LM, EC
Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) - CL*, RI
White-throated Spadebill (*Platyrrinchus mystaceus*) - AM

Fluvicolinae

Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) - AM
Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) - RI
Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) - RI

Tyranninae

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) - RI
Panama Flycatcher (*Myiarchus panamensis*) - EC
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) - PC, EC
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) - EC
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) - RI
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) - CL, LM, CT, RI, EC
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) - daily
Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) - EC
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) - EC

Genera *Incertae Sedis* (TYRANNIDAE/TITYRIDAE)

Thrush-like Schiffornis (*Schiffornis turdina*) - LM, AM*
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) - RI

PIPRIDAE:

White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) - AM (Nice studies of a male.)

Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) - CT*, EC

VIREONIDAE:

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) - EC

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) - EC

Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*)* - EC*

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) - EC (Heard by all, seen only by Kevin, just seconds before the Striped Owl, and subsequently lost in the ensuing chaos!)

CORVIDAE:

Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*) - CL, LM*, CT, RI

HIRUNDINIDAE:

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) - PC, EC

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) - daily

TROGLODYTIDAE:

Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) - CL, RI*

Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*)* - CL*, LM*

Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) - LM, RI*

Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) - CT, RI

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) - daily

Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) - AM (Heard by all, seen only by Kevin.)

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) - AM

Scaly-breasted Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*)* - AM* {The taxonomy in this group is a mess. Stiles & Skutch, in *A Guide to the Birds of Costa Rica*, treat this population as a separate species, *M. luscinia* (= Whistling Wren) from both northern Middle American populations (*M. philomela*, Nightingale Wren) and from South American populations (true *M. marginatus* group, known variously as Scaly-breasted Wren or Southern Nightingale-Wren). All three groups differ from one another morphologically and, especially, vocally, and I think that Stile's approach is the correct one. The English name of "Scaly-breasted Wren" is particularly unfortunate, given that of the entire complex, only the north Andean races are truly scaly-breasted. The AOU is still treating Panamanian *luscinia* as conspecific with *marginatus*, but don't be surprised if they are ultimately split.}

TURDIDAE:

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush (*Catharus aurantiirostris*)* - CL*
Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*) - AM
Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) - daily

MIMIDAE:

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) - PC

PARULIDAE:

Note: In general, I found the numbers of Neotropical migrants (wintering birds that breed in North America) to be the lowest that I have ever encountered on a Panama/Costa Rica tour. This was true of all warbler species, and particularly, of Baltimore and Orchard orioles. This was apparent not only in El Valle, but also on the Chiriqui Highlands and Canopy Tower trips that preceded this Extension. This has been a disturbing trend in recent years, with numbers of migrants seemingly spiraling downward. This year, migrants were almost a non-presence.

Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*) - CL, LM, EC (High count of 10+ at EC.)

Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) - EC (< 5)

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*) - CL, RI

Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*) - 1 at AM

Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*) - 1 at AM

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) - singles at LM and AM were the only ones seen.

Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*) - CL (Seen by Leigh and Bill on the lodge grounds.)

Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) - 2 at LM on our first morning were the only ones seen.

Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) - LM, CT, EC

Buff-rumped Warbler (*Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*) - RI (leader only)

Genus *Incertae sedis*

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) - daily

THRAUPIDAE:

Common Bush-Tanager (*Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*) - AM

Black-and-yellow Tanager (*Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*) - AM

Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) - CL, LM, RI*

Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) - LM

White-lined Tanager (*Tachyphonus rufus*) - CL, RI

Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) - CL, PC, LM, CT, RI

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) - CL, LM, RI
Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) - daily
Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) - daily
Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) - RI, AM
Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) - LM
Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) - CL, LM, RI
Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) - RI
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) - LM
Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) - CL
Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) - RI
Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) - RI, EC

Genus *Incertae sedis*

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) - CL
Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) - CL, LM, RI
Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) - RI

EMBERIZIDAE:

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) - RI, CL
Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*) - PC, RI, EC
White-collared Seedeater (*Sporophila torqueola*) - EC (A rarity this far east. It is not uncommon in the lowlands around David in Chiriqui province, so not a big surprise to show up here.)
Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*) - LM, CT, RI
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) - LM
Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) - CL
Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) - RI

CARDINALIDAE:

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava testacea*) - AM {Panama birds are of the subspecies *testacea*, which is part of the *lutea* subspecies group found in the highlands of Costa Rica/Panama and extending down to the Andes in South America [= “Highland Hepatic-Tanager”]. They differ vocally and morphologically from the *hepatica* group of northern Middle America to the sw United States [= “Northern Hepatic-Tanager”], as well as from the lowland *flava* group found east of the Andes in South America [= “Lowland Hepatic-Tanager”]. A three-way split seems likely, but for now, the AOU treats them all as a single species.}
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*) - CT*, RI*, CL
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) - CL (At the feeders!)
Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*)* - RI*
Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanooides*)* - AM*

ICTERIDAE:

Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) - EC

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) - EC, drives to and from Panama City

Shiny Cowbird (*Molothrus bonariensis*) - LM

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) - RI, EC (Single birds at each locale.)

Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) - CL, RI, LM, CT

FRINGILLIDAE:

Euphoniinae

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) - CT, EC*

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) - daily at the lodge, also LM

Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*)* - RI*

Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia annae*) - CL, RI

Mammals:

Red-tailed Squirrel (*Sciurus granatensis*) - daily

Variiegated Squirrel (*Sciurus variegatoides*) - EC

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (*Bradypus variegatus*) - RI, CL, LM

Central American Agouti (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - CL