

**PANAMA: AN INTRODUCTION
TO TROPICAL BIRDING**

“Through the Eyes of a Naturalist”

October 21- November 1, 2011

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River in the sky. What began as an introduction to tropical birds and birding (what better place than Panama?) took on an added dimension when we witnessed a major annual autumn migratory movement of North American breeding Turkey Vultures, Swainson’s Hawks, and Broad-winged Hawks through the Canal Zone area on our very first afternoon—a group estimated by raptor counters to total approximately 269,305 birds! We saw small migratory groups passing southeastward each day and a second fairly substantial flock while we were at the Summit Ponds area, but none as large as this first group.

For a trip designed to focus on the basics of identifying commoner tropical birds (and quite a few North American migrants too) we managed to see a lot of birds on this trip without much effort. Local guides had quite a few things located for groups—potoos, owls, and so on—but it seemed that birding was relatively effortless. Most species were relatively easy to see, and even if the dawn chorus seemed a bit weak at this time of year, birds were still foraging and visible. By the end of the trip everybody was beginning to get comfortable with the subtle differences between Great and Lesser kiskadees, and Rusty-margined and Social flycatchers; the silhouette of a Tropical Kingbird; and a host of colorful tanagers—and some that were not so colorful. And we enjoyed spending time watching a couple of different White-throated Crakes forage without distracting playback, and looking at the various plumages present within a group of Red-legged Honeycreepers. We studied species in which the sexes look different and also sing different songs (Dusky Antbird); looked at flight silhouettes and wing beat patterns of parrots and parakeets; learned to distinguish males and females of several species of trogons; struggled with hummingbirds and small flycatchers; and learned that in regards to taxonomy, not everything is as it might seem (at least with tanagers and a few other groups).

It would be difficult to visit the American Tropics without at least some time spent looking at ants and their marches and nests, and bugs and a few mammals and other critters too. We enjoyed some quality time with several primates, including some unhappy (or so it seemed) mantled howler monkeys, a bunch of sloths who still remember what a Harpy Eagle sounds like even if they or their ancestors haven’t actually seen or heard a real one in a half century or more, and enough ants and termites for a lifetime. Looking back, it seems to me that we managed to squeeze a lot of wildlife observation into five days, and quite a few buffet meals as well. Now I’m wishing there had been even more time. I’m ready to return.

Program:

- October 27 (Thurs). Morning birding the grounds of the Gamboa Rainforest Resort (GRR), some 130 ha of which almost 100 ha are some stage of moist to humid forest—followed by lunch and an afternoon trail walk and birding along the banks of the Río Chagres close to its mouth. Brief mid-afternoon rain shower.
- October 28 (Friday). Early morning transfer to the Canopy Tower for dawn birding, an early breakfast and a morning walk down Semaphore Hill. Hard rain mid-afternoon resulted in our using the time to visit the Miraflores Locks to watch two ships pass through the locks and view a short video concerning construction of the two locks. Late evening stop for a Great Potoo on our return to the Gamboa Rainforest Resort.
- October 29 (Saturday). Early morning departure for the famous (among birders) Pipeline Road where we spent the day and ended just above the big hill which marks the beginning of the oldest and least disturbed forest. Beautiful and productive day with late afternoon return to hotel. Mostly overcast today but no rain and near perfect birding conditions throughout day. Excellent bird activity all day.
- October 30 (Sunday). Pleasant morning in vicinity of Summit Ponds (opposite Summit Gardens which were very busy this Sunday morning), ending with a Spectacled Owl close to the end of the trail. Lunch at Canopy Tower followed by short siesta in the Canopy Tower lounge during an early afternoon rain shower. Mid-afternoon visit to the site known as Ammo Ponds. A productive day for kingfishers among many other things.
- October 31 (Monday). Full day on grounds of Gamboa Rainforest Resort (GRR) beginning with special early morning tram ride to the observation tower (30 m) on the GRR property. Spectacular sweeping views of the canal, town of Gamboa, Chagres Lake and river, and distant mountains to the northeast. Mid-morning walk downhill from tower to access road and activity area of GRR and back to hotel. Early afternoon rain shower (during lunch) followed by mid-afternoon birding in vicinity of the Gamboa Rainforest Lodge (hereafter GRR) activity area and the Chunga Trail (a bit wet and slippery) for a pleasant evening with a remarkable amount of bird activity following a second brief shower.

ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS: *(asterisks) denotes a species heard only; **boldface** indicates an uncommon/rare species or one in which we observed interesting behavior or enjoyed particularly good studies; **brackets []** indicate a bird seen only by S Hilty or occasionally just some additional information

TINAMIDAE, Tinamous

*Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major*, one heard while we rode the aerial tram on last morning; no other tinamou vocalizations heard during this trip

ANATIDAE, Ducks & waterfowl

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*, 2-7 observed on at least 3 occasions; mostly in flight

CRACIDAE, Guans & Chachalacas

Gray-headed Chachalaca, *Ortalis cinereiceps*, 2-3 seen in shrubbery at edge of Ammo ponds and nearly a dozen seen leaving a dense palm clump beside the swimming pool at GRR

PODICIPEDIDAE, Grebes

Pied-billed Grebe, *Podilymbus podiceps*, 2 distant on Río Chagres

FREGITIDAE, Frigatebirds

Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens*, a couple high over Miraflores locks; also over GRR

PHALACROCORIDAE, Cormorants

Neotropic Cormorant, *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*, a couple at Ammo Ponds

PELECANIDAE, Pelicans

Brown Pelican, *Pelecanus occidentalis*, several near Miraflores locks; also in Panama City on our departure (at least Nichole and I)

ARDEIDAE, Herons & Egrets

Rufescent Tiger-Heron, *Tigrisoma lineatus*, two at Ammo Ponds and another (or 2?) at the activity center at GRR; the first two were beautiful adults; the last a subadult showing the “tiger” pattern on rear half of plumage

Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*, one seen twice in Ammo Dump Pond was a youngish bird with brownish wash on neck

Great Egret, *Ardea alba*, scattered individuals at edge of Ammo Dump Ponds and around Río Chagres

Green Heron, *Butorides striatus*, one or two seen at Summit Ponds and another at the Ammo dump ponds; one bird at Summit Pond was probably a first year bird showing narrow buff edges on wing coverts

Boat-billed Heron, *Cochlearius cochlearius*, two seen at roost in trees boarding one of the Summit Ponds; impressive eyes and bill on this nocturnal species

Threskiornithidae, Ibises

White-Ibis, *Eudocimus albus*, one bird seen flying toward mouth of Río Chagres late in afternoon then flying back upriver about ten minutes later; apparently scarce in inland portion of Canal Zone area

CATHARTIDAE, Vultures

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*, common bird seen daily; non-migratory and mainly numerous around settled areas and scarce in undisturbed areas

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*, A trip highlight because of the sheer numbers observed. Our most spectacular “River of Vultures” occurred between 13:00 and 14:55 hrs the first day when Jenny notices a large number of birds streaming overhead. We did not see this entire migratory flock, but a hawk-counting group on nearby Pipeline Road counted 269,305 birds with as much as 60-70 percent of

this number being Turkey Vultures and the remainder Swainson's Hawks and Broad-winged Hawks in descending order of abundance. On other days we observed small kettles and smaller "rivers" totaling a few hundred to a few thousand birds; then on next to last morning at Summit Pond, we observed another spectacular group assembling by spiraling upward as the air warmed and eventually sliding off warm thermals and moving eastward. We surely witnessed one of the major fall movements on October 27 with perhaps 5-7 percent of the entire raptor-vulture population passing overhead in a single two to two and a half hour span. [This is based on an estimated total population of ca. 1.25-1.5 million Turkey Vultures, 1.2+ million Broad-winged Hawks, and 750,000+ Swainson's Hawks or about 3.5 million birds with some estimates as high as 4 million birds.]

PANDIONIDAE, Osprey

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*, single birds seen on 3 separate days; mainly along Río Chagres

ACCIPITRIDAE, Hawks & Eagles

Gray-headed Hawk, *Leptodon cayanensis*, 2 adults seen perched (nice scope views); both sightings at GRR; svelte-looking raptor with notably small bill

*Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*, 1 bird calling loudly at Summit Ponds but did not respond to playback

Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*, pair following some White-faced Capuchins on Pipeline road where they were using the monkeys as "beaters." Using telescope we were able to observe the second "tooth" on cutting edge of maxilla (upper mandible)

[Not observed by us but we looked at short video taken by one of the Canopy Tower guides of a Tiny Hawk killing and eating a Broad-billed Motmot on Oct 30 (Sat)—an unusually large prey item; it is very possible that this was one of the two motmots we observed along the Semaphore Hill road two days earlier; bad day for the motmot]

Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*, numbers of these were observed with the Turkey Vulture migratory flocks although there were far fewer of this species than Swainson's Hawk; perhaps fewer than 10 percent of the birds in the big flock the first afternoon were of this specie

Gray Hawk, *Buteo nitidus*, 1 observed at beginning of Summit Ponds area (along RR tracks); this race shows fine barring which is typical of South American birds which are now sometimes regarded as a species distinct from the more northerly ones with no barring

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*, large numbers moving through with Turkey Vultures and numbering perhaps 15-25 percent of the individuals in these flocks; told by longer more pointed wings compared to Broad-winged Hawk; also by dark throat and chest; most individuals were of light or normal phase

Yellow-headed Caracara, *Milvago chimachima*, one seen almost daily around GRR

Bat Falcon, *Falco ruficularis*, one seen flying across the Ammo dump pond by road in late afternoon; whitish collar and overall black plumage distinctive as was pointed wings

Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, one seen flying up to tower at Miraflores locks; most likely a northern breeding bird

LARIDAE, Gulls & Terns

Royal Tern, *Thalasseus maxima*, 7-8 flying south over the canal in vicinity of Ammo dump pond by road; a coastal species but apparently regularly crosses the canal

Sandwich Tern, *Thalasseus sandvicensis*, 3-5 over Miraflores locks; not particularly close; identified by thin black bill (yellow tips not visible) and relatively short forked tail; and small size

COLUMBIDAE, Pigeons & Doves

Rock Dove, *Columba livia*, daily near towns and buildings

Pale-vented Pigeon, *Patagioenas cayennensis*, 4-6 seen on three separate day including a group near the marina at GRR; group in forest treetops observed from Canopy Tower; and group in forest trees near GRR tower

Scaled Pigeon, *Patagioenas speciosa*, one group of 4 in treetops that were observed in scope from top of Canopy Tower

Ruddy Ground-Dove, *Columbina talpacoti*, singles and pairs or groups of 4-5 in lawns and settled areas; several observed on grounds of GRR

Blue Ground-Dove, *Claravis pretiosa*, 1 female in partly bare tree at bottom of entrance road to Summit Ponds; seen in scope by SH but not by the group

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*, several in semi-open areas at Summit Ponds

Gray-chested Dove, *Leptotila cassini*, 2 flushed from low area inside forest on Pipeline road; unfortunately these seen only as they flushed

PSITTACIDAE, Parrots & Parakeets

Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis* small flocks daily around GRR and elsewhere; commonest parakeet in central Panama; note short pointed tails

Brown-hooded Parrot, *Pyrilia haematotis*, one observed in scope from atop Canopy Tower and a group of four seen twice as they flew overhead in activity area of GRR

[Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*, one or two calling and glimpsed in overhead flight along early section of Pipeline road; not a satisfactory experience and possible not even seen by the group]

Red-lore Parrot, *Amazona autumnalis*, heard or seen daily around GRR and Canopy Tower area but generally seen in flight or at a distance; descent scope views of this mainly Central American parrot on last day in vicinity of Activity area at GRR; flies with quick but shallow wing beats as do all members of this genus

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinose*, a pair or two seen the first afternoon along the Río Chagres but mostly in flight overhead; not a satisfactory observation of this interesting and widespread *Amazona* parrot.

CUCULIDAE, Cuckoos & Anis

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*, single birds seen on at least 3 days of the trip; most notably at Pipeline road and Summit Ponds; not parasitic

Greater Ani, *Crotophaga major*, about 5 seen in small tree island near the GRR marina the first afternoon; pair seen last evening at the GRR activity area; much larger than other anis and with notably long tails white eyes, crooked bill and glossy plumage; resident here in Panama but migratory east of Andes in South America
Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*, seen first morning near GRR parking lot and several around Summit ponds; a species that generally favors more humid zones (compared to Groove-billed Ani)

STRIGIDAE, Owls

Spectacled Owl, *Pulsatrix perspicillata*, one “relocated” by Alexi at the Summit Ponds area; a pair has been in residence here for at least 8 years (probably as long 800,000 years if truth be known) but the owls move their day roosts frequently and often have to be relocated; a fairly large and beautiful owl
[our single “owling” trip around GRR grounds did not produce any owls or even a Pauraque all of which seems notably silent during our stay]

NYCTIBIIDAE, Potoos

Great Potoo, *Nyctibius grandis*, a single roosting/sleeping bird on day perch along road within 100 meters of the entrance road to the Canopy Tower ; apparently this bird has been roosting here for several years with but a single absence of about three months at one point—which indicates remarkable site fidelity to a day roost
Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*, one located at Summit Pond by Alexi who had been alerted to the bird’s presence but not to its exact location; smaller and a little darker (usually) than the previous species; this family has no close ancestors but the Asian “frogmouths” occupy a similar ecological niche; potoos mostly prey on large night-flying moths (most moths are active only at night but there are a few diurnal ones)

APODIDAE, Swifts

Chimney Swift, *Chaetura pelagica*, probably seen most days but definitely identified only near the Canopy Tower and both morning and afternoon on the last day at GRR where in the afternoon there appeared to be a fairly large migratory movement of this species with up to 100 or more weaving their way eastward and southward at about 5 in the evening; their exact wintering area in South America is still not well-defined

Short-tailed Swift, *Chaetura brachyura*, a few mostly distant birds seen from GRR during breakfast the last morning and again in late p.m.; one of the few of the genus that is easy to identify because of broad wings, short tail, pale rear-end and floppy flight

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, *Panyptila cayennensis*, one or possibly a pair circling the observation tower at the GRR on our visit the last morning; distinctive white throat and forked tail

TROCHILIDAE, Hummingbirds

Long-billed Hermit, *Phaethornis longirostris*, a large “hermit” with long white tail spikes and overall brownish appearance; sings from leks in forest interior; we saw two

nicely along Pipeline road; formerly called Long-tailed Hermit *P. superciliosus* before it was split

Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis*, like previous in general appearance and behavior but notably smaller and with blackish striped throat; we saw it along Pipeline and again along Summit Ponds

White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*, several at feeders around Canopy Tower and a two males fighting at a feeder suspended at the top of the 30 m tower at the GRR; a showy species that is normally found high up in forest except when it comes down to artificial feeders

Violet-crowned Woodnymph, *Thalurania colombica*, we saw a female along the entrance road to Summit Ponds (bird was in a flowering *Inga* sp. tree with white shaving-brush type flowers); a rather dingy-looking female hummer (like most of them) with easily-forgotten appearance

Violet-bellied Hummingbird, *Damophila Julie*, a common hummer in central Panama but we did not see it very well; one at flowers in tree along Pipeline road in morning; another seen the last morning at GRR; one brief bird at the feeders at Canopy Tower (where it is usually easy to see) was not seen by the group

Blue-chested Hummingbird, *Amazilia amabilis*, the commonest hummer in central Panama and also one of the least colorful; watch for blue wash on chest of male and note size and bill length which is pretty much average (true of all *Amazilia*) for the family

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl*, one briefly at Canopy Tower feeders and another along trail at Summit Garden Ponds; not seen very well by group

White-vented Plumleteer, *Chalybura buffonii*, regular at feeders at Canopy Tower; a common understory hummer in central Panama; large size and slightly decurved bill

Purple-crowned Fairy, *Heliathryx barroti*, one seen along forest trail at Summit Ponds; a high-energy forest species that spends much time searching for insects; we had only a quick look at this interesting species

TROGONIDAE, Trogons

Gartered Trogon, *Trogon Chionurus*, formerly called Violaceous Trogon *violacea* before split from Amazonian birds; we saw males (yellow eye rings) and gray females but always with yellow bellies; a small trogon

Black-throated Trogon, *Trogon rufus*, we saw one female very well along Pipeline road; another yellow-bellied species but females of this one are coffee-bean brown above

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*, we saw one male along Pipeline road; a red-bellied species with a yellow bill (compare next species)

Slaty-tailed Trogon, *Trogon massena*, commonest red-bellied species in central Panama and also the largest trogon; we saw them almost every day; told from previous species by reddish bill (among other things); sallies for fruit or insects (as do all trogons)

ALCEDINIDAE, Kingfishers

Ringed Kingfisher, *Megaceryle torquatus*, best seen in light rain at Ammo Dump Pond; large and pale blue

Amazon Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle amazona*, Summit Ponds where we saw 2; medium-sized with oily green upperparts (no white)

Green Kingfisher, *Chloroceryle Americana*, Summit Ponds where we saw 2

BUCCONIDAE, Puffbirds

White-necked Puffbird, *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*, 1 seen close on our aerial tram ride up to the 30 m tower at GRR; largest puffbird in Panama

Black-breasted Puffbird, *Notharchus pectoralis*, common forest puffbird in central Panama; smaller than previous species (same genus) and with all black crown etc; from the top of the Canopy Tower we watched one struggle for several minutes to subdue a large green preying mantis; puffbirds typically take large prey items

White-whiskered Puffbird, *Malacoptila panamensis*, a male (rufous) and a female (dusky) were seen along road at Semaphore Hill; another male seen along Pipeline road; puffbirds in this genus occur low inside forest (compare previous genus)

GALBULIDAE, Jacamars

Great Jacamar, *Jacamerops aureus*, one perched on open branch of small Cecropia tree in a little clearing along Pipeline road afforded us an unparalleled opportunity to observe this species as it sallied to the air once for a flying insect and then flew across the road; very active head movements

RAMPHASTIDAE, Toucans

Collared Aracari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*, several came to the edge of the parking lot at the GRR to eat the fruit of a small papaya tree which they did very well and certainly damaged the fruit in the process; also seen a couple other times around GRR and at Pipeline

Keel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos sulfuratus*, the commonest toucan in central Panama (at least in dry to moderately humid forests where we were); seen daily; a “croaker”

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, *Ramphastos swainsonii*, seen on Pipeline Road where we had to look almost straight overhead; larger than previous species and with yelping voice which we only heard distantly once

PICIDAE, Woodpeckers

Black-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pucherani*, several seen in forest canopy along Pipeline road

Red-crowned Woodpecker, *Melanerpes rubricapillus*, the common woodpecker in central Panama where it thrives in edge and disturbed habitats; looks much like Red-bellied Woodpecker and other “ladder-backed” species in North America

Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Ceelus loricatus*, one seen first morning at GRR and another on Pipeline Road; colorful and a distinctive genus all of which have yellowish to rufous plumage with hammer-head crests and yellow bills; take fruit and termites and ants etc

*Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*, a species we heard drumming at Summit Ponds (not seen)

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*, a female seen on Pipeline road and two males and a female on forested road descending from the 30m tower at GRR; same genus as Ivory-billed Woodpecker (which we did not see!!)

FURNARIIDAE, Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers (a family that has recently been enlarged to include the woodcreepers)

*Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, *Sclerurus guatemalensis*, heard in forest below the GRR 30 m tower but this bird was unresponsive to a playback of its song; forest understory or floor of forest

Plain Xenops, *Xenops minuta*, singles seen almost daily; observed pecking and prying at broken ends of small dead branches and twigs; mid to lower forest levels

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*, beautiful close study of a single bird late morning of last day; note tail feather structure

Cocoa Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*, formerly known as Buff-throated Woodcreeper before it was split away as the Amazonian form; common and seen almost daily; long bill and distinctly streaked on foreparts

Black-striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*, two or three seen on Pipeline road; distinct black and buff striping

THAMNOPHILIDAE, Typical Antbirds (there are no atypical antbirds)

*Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*, one calling in the GRR activity area the last evening but it seemed unresponsive to playback

Western Slaty-Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha*, individuals seen on Semaphore Hill road and Pipeline and near the GRR 30m tower forest; heavy shrike-like bill (sort-of) and nasal vocalizations

Spot-crowned Antwren, *Dysithamnus puncticeps*, nice views of a male on Pipeline road; another antbird that is supposed to look “vireo-like” hence name; has a fairly heavy bill and undistinguished plumage; lower levels inside older forest

Moustached Antwren, *Myrmotherula ignota*, cute and virtually tailless; stays in mid- to upper levels inside humid forest; we eventually saw this little bird fairly close; for small size it is edged out just barely by the Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant

Checker-throated Antwren, *Epinecrophylla fulviventris*, formerly placed in the genus *Myrmotherula* with almost all other antwrens (some taxonomic splitting going on here); one of a group of dull-colored antwrens that live in the understory and this one, also like many others in this new genus, like to forage by searching inside of curled hanging dead leaves, a specialization not possible year-round in temperate latitudes; seen on Semaphore Hill (a family) and Pipeline (another smaller family)

White-flanked Antwren, *Myrmotherula axillaries*, males are mostly black but flick their wings constantly exposing the white flank plumages; females are brown but show the same white; seen best on Pipeline road understory

Dot-winged Antwren, *Microhopias quixensis*, another small mostly black antwren but this one is larger than most and is often found in vines (just where we saw it); pipeline and in forest below the GRR 30 m tower; very cute couple

- Dusky Antbird, *Cercomacra tyrannina*, dull and not nearly as cute as previous species but couples sing an interesting duet with male starting song that descends and female joining or following with a completely different song that rises; mostly thickets and vines and not too high
- White-bellied Antbird, *Myrmotherula longipes*, pair seen along Summit Ponds entrance road—female came out within a few feet of us; another seen near the GRR activity center at bottom of tower forest road
- Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Myrmotherula exsul*, José Pérez (guide) whistled up a single and then a pair of this confiding species at GRR; bare blue ocular skin and a sometime army-ant follower but only if ants happen to pass through its territory
- Spotted Antbird, *Hylophylax naevioides*, heard on Semaphore Hill road; seen on Pipeline and again in forest below the GRR tower; “cutest antbird of them all” (at least that we saw); follows army ants but too small to compete with the bigger rougher crowd that is usually at the swarms so it gets chased away or stays at the back and is often far away from ants—and thus has basically a classic permanent territory
- *Bicolored Antbird, *Gymnopithys leucaspis*, we heard it once in forest below the GRR 30 m tower but it apparently moved away; this one is an obligate army-ant follower

GRALLARIDAE, Antpittas

- Streak-chested Antpitta, *Hylopezus perspicillatus*, one calling along Pipeline road that proved to be very close and singing from a sapling about 2 m up; later seen at length singing while standing on a log almost equally close; surprisingly bold and easy to see (a usual “antpitta” experience involves a lot more sweat and patience); expands and contracts belly feathers as sings (but didn’t swivel)

TYRANNIDAE, Flycatchers [a difficult group that is at least partly beyond the level of visitors and scientists new to the Neotropics—but we worked hard on some of the kiskadee look-alikes and by the end of the trip everybody was acing their identifications]

- Southern Beardless-Flycatcher, *Camptostoma obsoletum*, 1 seen last evening in GRR activity area
- Yellow Tyrannulet, *Capsiempis flaveola*, a pair seen last evening along road in GRR activity area; also 1 seen on Summit Road entrance by Hilty; relatively distinctive for a tyrannulet
- Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet, *Tyrannulus elatus*, small and in possession of one of the smallest bills of any little flycatcher; 1 seen in march and parklike area in GRR area late the last evening
- *Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*, heard in quite a few areas but we never managed to see it and that may be just as well; if you are new to Neotropical flycatchers this is not one that is easy to identify; forest mid-levels; and in forest but almost always has a bit of treefall or edge zone within its territory
- Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, *Myiornis atricapillus*, yes really it is regarded as the “shortest” passerine bird in the world just barely reaching 2.5 inches on tip toes (at least this and its cousin in the Amazon which was split away as a separate species and differs only in having a gray cap; we heard it high up in the forest and finally

saw it and although we had repeated views including some in the scope it never came close

Southern Bentbill, *Oncostoma olivaceum*, we found one along the Summit Ponds forest trail (in a thicket really) and then saw another the last afternoon at the GRR activity area; curiously thickened bill that seems a little large for the bird and the culmen (that ridge along the tip of the bill) does bend down a little near the tip; why does it have this kind of bill? One more little mystery.

Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*, pair at the GRR marina and another pair perched on razor wire in front of the Ammo Dump Ponds

Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*, one seen rather well on Pipeline road at the top of the big hill; an odd forest-based flycatcher with unusually wide flat bill that is used to scoop or snap insects from beneath leaves or to pluck them as bird hovers

Yellow-olive Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*, this bird is not part of Neotropical Birding 101; it belongs to a hard-to-identify group of mostly forest-based flycatchers that all look much alike; we saw a couple including one near the beginning of the Summit Ponds road; we also saw one of its black rhizome-fiber nests with a downward projecting entrance tube at the start of the aerial tram ride; once also called flatbills because this genus of flycatchers also has a wide flat bill

Yellow-margined Flycatcher, *Tolmomyias assimilis*, data here same as for previous species and this one in need of taxonomic revision to boot; interesting genus of flycatchers but hard to identify; feel good if you can recognize it to genus

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, *Terentriacus erythrurus*, tiny and aerobatic and fast-moving little flycatcher that chased (and actually catches) leafhoppers!; has unusually large eyes; we saw them almost daily (must be a lot of leafhoppers in Panama)

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, *Myiobius sulphureipygius*, another genus with difficult-to-identify species; we saw this fast-moving “fantail” and “drooping wing” species along Pipeline road; it has a tawny wash on its breast; fans tail and droops wings constantly as a technique to frighten and flush insects which it then chases

Black-tailed Flycatcher, *Myiobius atricaudus*, much like previous species but with very pale breast and a fondness for lighter and drier forest; we saw one along the beginning of the Summit Ponds road

Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*, this species breaks all records for the commonest North American breeding migrant in Panama; but do they all stay here all winter or do some continue to move southward (they are fairly common in Colombia too); we saw about 20-30 daily; one or two looked particularly dark below and might have been Western Wood-Pewees but we heard vocalizations only of the Eastern

*Acadian Flycatcher, *Empidonax virescens*, one of the notorious *Empidonax* flycatchers that tend to separate casual (or new) birders from serious birders in North America and separates just about all of us here in the tropics where they don't sing; on wintering grounds best told by its call note which it gives all day long; common

Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*, a sometimes rather aggressive bird that got its name from, yes, Attila the Hun although you wouldn't know it from the way most birders pronounce its name; we heard them often; then saw once remarkably close and at length as it came low to us near bottom of the road descending from the GRR 30 m tower; has a long and fairly strong bill with distal half of lower

- mandible beveled up (slight recurve) just a bit; red eyes and yellow rump; a memorable bird if seen well
- Rufous Mourner, *Rhytipterna holerythra*, all rufous forest bird; we saw a couple on Pipeline road; sometimes difficult to distinguish from larger and rounder Rufous Piha;
- Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*, a notorious *Myiarchus* but this one relatively easy to identify because it is small and dark-headed and thin-billed and has a sad call; we saw one the first morning at the GRR and again along Pipeline (somewhere)
- Great Crested Flycatcher, *Myiarchus crinitus*, another of those notorious *Myiarchus* flycatchers but this one also relatively easy to identify because of its bright coloration and mostly rufous tail; we saw one with a nice mixed-species flock the first morning on our walk down to the GRR activity center but it may not have been seen by everyone (or anyone?)
- Lesser Kiskadee, *Pitangus lictor*, smaller and with a proportionately longer and thinner bill than its better known cousin and this one is always near water; not always placed in the genus *Pitangus*
- Great Kiskadee, *Pitangus sulphuratus*, noisy and conspicuous around settled areas; we got pretty familiar with this bird and with four of its “look-alike” cousins
- Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*, one seen in light rain at the Ammo Dump Pond; some scope studies of this bird which looks remarkably like a Great Kiskadee but with wider and longer bill and brownish upperparts and tail (no rufous) and a very different and somewhat annoying voice
- Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*, smaller than Great Kiskadee but plumage quite similar; look for its small short bill, brownish tone to back, dusky cheeks and NO obvious wing bars all of which should distinguish it from Social Flycatcher and all of you got really good at identifying this bird; oh, and its voice is like someone that is melancholy and complaining (not the most cheerful call in other words)
- Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*, not as common in Panama as the Rusty-margined Flycatcher; we saw several on the chain-link fence by the bigger Ammo Dump Pond alongside Gamboa road; also in parking lot at GRR
- Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes maculates*, obviously well-named but it also looks a lot like the migrant Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (breeds north to Arizona); we saw one the first morning at GRR and another the last afternoon in the activity area also at GRR; an interesting species northern (Mexico) and southern (Austral) populations and resident tropical populations so lots of migrating and overlapping going on with this one
- Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*, probably the most conspicuous flycatcher in the American tropics; look at it carefully and learn it well. This is one of those foundation species that you just “got” to know if you are going to get past first base with tropical birding; perches up in open and is gay and yellow and has lots of obvious “angles” (as opposed to rounded corners)
- Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savanna*, one bird with only its two outer tail feathers perching on a sign by the Gamboa bridge signal light; likely a migrant but this one has a series of migrations as complex (or more so) as does the Streaked Flycatcher

GENERA INCERTAE SEDIS [taxonomists don't know where these belong so they toss out some nearly incomprehensible Latin to impress us; but this checklist taxonomy a little out-of-date because becards and tityras are now usually put in a new family Tityridae]

Cinnamon Becard, *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*, friendly little bird seen the last afternoon at the GRR activity center; at least two pairs

White-winged Becard, *Pachyramphus polychopterus*, a male at end of Summit Ponds trail and another at the GRR activity center the last afternoon but this last one wasn't seen well; beards have thickish bills and rather large blocky heads and fairly short legs and they are mostly found well up in trees or forest

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*, substantial black-and-white birds with red lipstick and red make-up; they are prone to be bullies and take over nest holes by force if necessary from other birds

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*, slightly smaller cousin of previous species with same bad habits but no red make up or lipstick; males have a black crown and females a brownish head

COTINGIDAE, Cotingas

Blue Cotinga, *Cotinga nattererii*, We won the jackpot with this one; a beautiful male perched for an extended period of time in a *Cecropia* tree right beside the canopy tower observation deck; ok we can't take credit for finding it because one of the local food service persons saw it while we were having lunch, but it certainly caused us to flee the dining room in a hurry

PIPRIDAE, Manakins

Blue-crowned Manakin, *Pipra (*Lepidothrix*) coronata*, we saw males behind the canopy tower and at the GRR activity center and several females especially at Pipeline road and Semaphore Hill; females are greenish and dumpy and sort of forgettable but the males are little "Wow" birds

Red-capped Manakin, *Pipra mentalis*, a lot like previous species but with a red cap (and some bright yellow "boxers" that he usually keeps hidden; we saw this at a small *Miconia* tree behind the Canopy Tower also and 2-3 on pipeline

VIREONIDAE, Vireos

Scrub Greenlet, *Hylophilus flavipes*, one singing in dry forest along the Summit Pond trail; yellowish below but not exactly a flashy bird

Golden-fronted Greenlet, *Hylophilus aurantiifrons*, a couple in Ammo Dump area and at GRR activity center last afternoon but another species that is easily forgotten

Lesser Greenlet, *Hylophilus decurtatus*, daily in just about all areas but like most greenlets it is difficult to come to grips with this species; small and with big white eye-ring but even its vocalizations aren't exactly memorable

Green Shrike-Vireo, *Vireolanius pulchellus*, One was seen the first morning at the GRR with a nice mixed species flock but unfortunately not everyone could find it (it is green just like about a million leaves that surrounded it in canopy); we heard others

CORVIDAE, Jays (no crows in the Neotropics)

Black-chested Jay *Cyanocorax affinis*, one group of half a dozen at beginning of Summit Ponds road roamed through canopy trees and returned to give us a second opportunity to see them before moving off; ours were high but this species can forage quite low sometimes

HIRUNDINIDAE, Swallows & Martins

Gray-breasted Martin, *Progne subis*, common and seen in numbers daily; 20-50 around GRR daily

Mangrove Swallow, *Tachycineta albilinea*, common little swallow along Chagres River and edges of Gatun Lake and the canal; white rump conspicuous

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*, common and seen daily; these southern ones which are found from central Costa Rica southward differ most obviously from northern birds in having pale rumps

Cliff Swallow, *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*, 1 perched on electric wire near the Ammo Dump Pond bordering the canal

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*, a few seen almost daily with up to 150+ seen flying low and trending southeastward in the vicinity of the Ammo Dump Pond by Gamboa Road; these were almost certainly migrating birds some of which may go as far as southern Brazil and Argentina

TROGLODYTIDAE, Wrens

Black-bellied Wren, *Thryothorus fasciatoventris* (now placed in new genus *Pheugopedius*), heard near upper end of Semaphore Hill road and seen near beginning of Summit Ponds road

Rufous-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus (Pheugopedius) rutilus*, one seen quite well near base of a large clump of Asian bamboo at beginning of Summit Pond road

Buff-breasted Wren, *Thryothorus (Cantorchilus) leucotis*, common voice in almost all sites we visited; pair seen nicely just beyond end of GRR parking lot and another pair seen at edge of marsh near the GRR activity center

*Plain Wren, *Thryothorus (Cantorchilus) modestus*, we heard it in a roadside thicket in front of the large Ammo Dump Pond but never saw it

House Wren, *Troglodytes aedon*, I noticed one near the GRR activity center but somehow this never got pointed out to the group; same species (presumably) as birds in North America

*White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticta*, we heard one in forest along Semaphore Hill road but it did not respond

Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*, This species was seen extremely well and close twice (which is amazing); both individuals came quickly to the whistled imitation of its song by Jose Pérez; vocalizations/song of this bird are unlike those in northern South America and southward through western Amazonia although all are currently regarded as the same species

*Song Wren, *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*, one bird was located along the early part of Pipeline road but was seen only by Hilty and eventually the bird moved off and would not respond to playback; deep forest near ground; named for its complex pot-boiling song

POLIOPTILIDAE, Gnatcatchers & Gnatwrens

*Tawny-faced Gnatwren, *Microbates cinereiventris*, we “cornered” a family close to where we turned around on Pipeline road but were never able to see them well although they chattered and whistled close by

*Long-billed Gnatwren, *Ramphocaenus melanurus*, one heard on Semaphore Hill Road but was, at best, only glimpsed by our group; a bird that is often found in high dry tangles

Tropical Gnatcatcher, *Polioptila plumbea*, several seen along Pipeline Road and last afternoon near the GRR activity center

TURDIDAE, Thrushes & Allies

[Gray-cheeked Thrush, *Catharus minimus*, one bird seen close to ground in lower part of Semaphore Hill road by SH but it flew before group members could see it; generally shy and quiet and easily overlooked on migration and wintering grounds (mostly in S America); never as numerous as allied Swainson’s Thrush]

Swainson’s Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*, we only saw one bird and this was on Semaphore Hill Road shortly before the Gray-cheeked Thrush was spotted

Clay-colored Thrush, *Turdus grayi*, one of the most conspicuous birds in settled areas in central Panama and certainly one of the first birds we learned once we arrive at the GRR; note its yellowish bill

MIMIDAE, Mockingbirds

Tropical Mockingbird, *Mimus gilvus*, a few daily at or near hotel and in other settled areas

PARULIDAE, New World Wood-Warblers

Tennessee Warbler, *Oreothlypis peregrina*, we saw along Summit Pond road and last afternoon at GRR activity center; a North American breeding migrant here on wintering grounds

Yellow Warbler, *Dendroica petechia*, a common North American breeding migrant that winters here and well across northern South America; there are some resident forms that breed in mangroves that are handled taxonomically in various ways but most of these differ in having chestnut on the head or all chestnut heads

Chestnut-sided Warbler, *Dendroica pensylvanica*, we saw several in the Summit Ponds area and also at the GRR activity center the last day; at this season they look nothing like they do when breeding in the north

Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*, we saw one female in the more forested part of Summit Ponds (beyond the ponds); a North American breeder that winters here and in the Andes of S America keeping mainly in the highlands; I suspect that they are relatively scarce in the lowlands and especially in a drier region where we saw it

Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*, we saw lots of these birds on our walk down Semaphore Hill (maybe 30+) and at Summit Ponds and at least one on Pipeline road; this North American breeder winters in lower C America and NW South America mainly in the lowlands and foothills

Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*, we saw one female at the top of the big hill on Pipeline road; she was with a small mixed species flock and spent her time hitching around and over fairly large limbs like a nuthatch

[Prothonotary Warbler, *Protonotaria citrea*, one seen twice by Hilty at edge of one of the Summit Ponds but not seen by the group; a North American transient and winter resident here]

Northern Water-Thrush, *Parkesia noveboracensis*, we saw one in a damp place along the side road near the Chagres River bridge and at least one other at the GRR activity center; forages by flipping leaves as it walks with rear end bobbing up and down

[Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis Philadelphia*, another species seen only by Hilty in the GRR activity center area the last p.m.; bird was in marsh near the site where we watched the crane forage but did not remain in view long and was not mentioned at the time; a North American breeder that is a transient and winter reside here]

Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia canadensis*, we saw 1 female and 1 male along the Semaphore Hill road; a North American breeder that is a transient and winter reside here]; stays fairly low inside shady forest

THRAUPIDAE, Tanagers & Allies [a family that is now undergoing a massive taxonomic overhaul with some of its most cherished members being jettisoned and a bunch of “closet tanagers” whom we never suspected are being transferred into this family; in the end the total number of species in this family will rise from around 284 (plus or minus) to in excess of 400 species; you can read more about it in the forthcoming and last volume of “Handbook of Birds of the World” and probably also find a considerable amount of relevant material on the internet]

Rosy Thrush-Tanager, *Rhodinocichla rosea*, after some effort we had spectacular views of a male of this unusual species near the GRR activity center; the Begonia red color of this bird is most unusual among birds; terrestrial when foraging but sings from low concealed perch or sometimes goes well up in trees but it generally somewhat “photophobic” (hates brightly lit places)

Gray-headed Tanager, *Eucometis penicillata*, we saw only one of these and it crossed the road in front of us and then perched low for a short period of time on Semaphore Hill

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*, males and a few females were seen along Pipeline road and at Summit Ponds and GRR forest below the tower

Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*, common and widespread and seen daily in central Panama lowlands; females considerably duller than males

Flame-rumped (Lemon-rumped) Tanager, *R. flammigerus icteronotus*, it is the “lemon” rumped form that one sees in Panama and the Pacific coast of Colombia and although the sexes differ they are both distinctive and easily identified; females are also lemon yellow below as well as having a lemon rump; common and conspicuous in settled areas but not inside tall forest

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis (Tangara) episcopus*, the familiar “Azulejo” is know to practically all Latin Americans because it is so numerous in settled areas and around homes and in gardens

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis (Tangara) palmarum*, duller and less familiar than the Blue-gray Tanager but also common in settled areas; look for the black on rear half of wings

Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*, common in settled areas and forest borders but rather dull compared to others in this genus; its rather undistinguished appearance makes it harder to recognize; a small bird with black wings, pale belly and gray body and its usually hangs around with a bunch of buddies

Golden-hooded Tanager, *Tangara larvata*, gaudy bird with dull gold head and black mask and mostly black body and shiny patches of color on shoulders and rump; we saw some of these in the fruiting *Miconia* trees at the Canopy Tower and then we saw them almost everywhere else including Pipeline road

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*, with so many interesting birds to see even the really colorful ones like the male of this species seem to get lost in the “mush” sometimes; we saw a pair at the Canopy Tower and a lovely male and female along the entrance road to Summit Pond

Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*, we saw a bossy male and then a more demure green female in the little fruiting *Miconia* tree by the Canopy Tower and we saw another pair along the Summit Pond area

Red-legged Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes cyaneus*, a gang of a dozen were pretty well monopolizing the feeders at the Orchideria at the GRR activity center the first morning with azure-capped males and greenish females and one or two eclipse-plumage males with green bodies and black wings all quite a dazzling sight

MORE GENUS INCERTAE SEDIS [these regarded as Tanagers by a lot of taxonomists now)

Streaked Saltator, *Saltator striatipectus*, we saw one the in the drier forest at back end of the Summit Ponds trail

Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*, a couple at the GRR the first morning and again at Summit Ponds

EMBERIZIDS, Buntings & Sparrows & Finches

[Blue-black Grassquit, *Volatinia jacarina*, one female perched on the chain-link fence opposite the Ammo Dump pond by the road but in flew before the group could see it in the scope; little brown bird with streaked underparts]

Variable Seedeater, *Sporophila Americana*, males very different than drab females; seen in almost all settled and grassy areas; not inside forest

Black-striped Sparrow, *Arremonops conirostris*, we saw one the last p.m. at GRR activity center when it came out and foraged at the edge of the little footbridge over the marsh; rather too large to be a “sparrow” at least in my mind

CARDINALIDAE, Cardinals & allies (including a bunch of new ones that used to be tanagers)

Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*, one or two to a half dozen daily in almost all areas; females recall female Scarlet Tanager but are larger and have pale (not black) wings; a transient and migrant from North America

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*, we saw females at GRR and Semaphore Hill and both males and females at Summit Ponds (total of 6 at Summit Ponds); a migrant from

N America; most winter in the northern part of Amazonia so just a passage migrant in Panama

Red-throated Ant-Tanager, *Habia fuscicauda*, we heard it once at Summit Ponds then saw a lovely male repeatedly in the late p.m. during a light rain at the GRR activity center area; lovely “cherry red” throat and dusky red head

ICTERIDAE, Blackbirds etc.

Great-tailed Grackle, *Quiscalus mexicanus*, seen more or less daily; largest numbers were around the Miraflores locks

Yellow-backed Oriole, *Icterus chrysater*, pair seen in treetops on Pipeline Road; simple yellow and black pattern with all black tail

Yellow-tailed Oriole, *Icterus mesomelas*, plumage rather like previous species but with yellow bar on shoulder and yellow under tail (formed by yellow outer tail feathers); we saw these at Summit Ponds and at the GRR activity area

Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*, one lovely adult male was in trees along Summit Ponds entrance road; North American breeding species that winters here (a few reach northern Colombia and Venezuela)

Yellow-billed Caciue, *Amblycercus holosericeus*, we saw a pair (1 flying across road) near the Summit Ponds and then enjoyed watching one individual at close range as it foraged in a brushy ditch at the GRR activities area; note that this species is not in the same genus as other caciques in Panama because its bill is heavier and skull morphology differs as does its solitary (or in pairs) habitats and habit of foraging in dense undergrowth (not up in canopy)

Yellow-rumped Caciue, *Cacicus cela*, we saw one or two near the GRR lodge area and others along Pipeline road and elsewhere but it was not particularly numerous

Scarlet-rumped Caciue, *Cacicus uropygialis*, the commonest caciue and one that we saw almost daily even though the red rump was often not visible

FRINDILLIDAE, Euphonias & Siskins

Thick-billed Euphonia, *Euphonia laniirostris*, one female in the Summit Ponds area was the only one we saw and is virtually identical to the female of Yellow-crowned Euphonia except for its slightly thicker bill

[Fulvous-vented Euphonia, *Euphonia fulvicrissa*, Alexi saw one at the top of the big hill at the far end of Pipeline Road but it was not seen by anyone else]

MAMMALS

Sloths

Hoffman’s Two-toed Sloth, *Choloepus hoffmanni*, one spotted by Jose Pérez on the Sendero (trail) La Laguna at GRR the first afternoon; larger and darker and more uniform in color than next species

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, *Bradypus variegates*, we one from atop the Canopy Tower and another at Pipeline Road and finally another male distantly (seen in

scope) from atop the GRR 30 m tower; these last two were males showing the orangish patch on their backs

CALLITRICHIDAE, Tamarins

Geoffroy's Tamarin, *Saguinus geoffroyi*, a family of perhaps 5 or more animals were observed at length along the Semaphore Hill road

CEBIDAE, New World Monkeys

White-throated Capuchin, *Cebus capuchinus*, we saw at least 6-8 of these pretty monkeys on the Pipeline Road and they were being shadowed by a pair of Double-toothed Kites

Mantled Howler Monkey, *Alouatta palliata*, heard and seen at virtually all sites; the ones around the Canopy Tower looked a bit pitiful with their massive loads of bot fly larva around the underside of their necks; one very small newborn Howler hanging beneath its mother looked particularly listless; apparently all the Howlers here in central Panama are heavily parasitized by bot flies but this is something I have not seen elsewhere; the voice of the male remains as impressive as ever

SCIURIDAE, Squirrels

Variegated Squirrel, *Sciurus variegatoides*, a bicolored brown or tan individual was seen at the GRR

Red-tailed Squirrel, *Sciurus granatensis*, seen at Canopy Tower and near Summit Ponds and probably also at GRR the last morning

DASYPROCTIDAE, Agoutis

Central American Agouti, *Dasyprocta punctata*, numerous almost everywhere we went and obviously lacking predator control from larger cats

PROCYONIDAE, Coatis & Raccoons

South American Coati, *Nasua nasua*, large group of perhaps 15 animals on Semaphore Hill road and a second group seen on Pipeline Road; forage with head and nose buried in leaf litter and rear end up and long tail held straight up as if a signal to other members of the group (which it doubtless is); may help group members remain in contact visually

CERVIDAE, Deer

White-tailed Deer, *Odocoileus virginianus*, we saw some tracks of this species along the Summit Pond trail

CAVIIDAE, Capybaras & Cavies

Lesser Capybara, *Hydrochoerus isthimus*, we saw at least five at the GRR; a relatively recent split from the larger and more widespread *Hydrochoerus hydrochaeris* of east of the Andes and Amazonia; the Lesser Capybara is found only in Panama and Colombia and just reaches western Venezuela; an old mammalian lineage with many fossil forms including some far larger than those extant today

OTHER STUFF WE SAW

American Crocodile, *Crocodylus acutus*, several including a couple really big ones in the Río Chagres near the GRR marina; this species can reach 6 m in length (about 20 feet) and should be treated with great respect by people swimming or walking near areas where they occur; also occurs on several Caribbean islands and locally in south Florida; occur in fresh water but also perhaps more commonly (at least now) in salt water environments

Spectacled Caiman, *Caiman crocodiles*, also known as White Caiman; widespread species from southern Mexico to Brazil; smaller than American Crocodile and generally about 1.5 to 3 m in length; fresh water

Common Basilisk, *Basiliscus basiliscus*, a lizard found in Central and South American rainforests near rivers and streams. Part of the Corytophanid family. Also known as the Jesus Lizard, Jesus Christ Lizard, or Lagarto de Jesus Cristo for its ability to run on the surface of water. We saw a lot of these including several around and even IN the swimming pools at the GRR.

Iguana, *Iguana iguana*, we saw large gray and orangish adults and one beautiful green young one. All iguanas have a fringe on their neck and back

Also a brown “leaf-mimic” frog and lots of *Atta* leaf-cutter ants and termite nests (rough pebblelike surface) and *Azteca* ant nests (shingled surface); these ants sting fiercely to defend their nests; note that one species of *Azteca* ant *A. andreae* lives in the internodal spaces in limbs and trunks of *Cecropia* trees but we did not see these