

TOUR REPORT  
PANAMA: CHRISTMAS AT EL VALLE PRE-TRIP  
December 23-27, 2005

By Tony Nunnery

Having recently completed a tour this fall at the new Canopy Lodge in Panama, I was pleasantly surprised to see the changes in the species that now visit the fruit feeders. On our previous trip, as well as this Christmas tour, Blue-gray Tanager, Palm Tanager, Crimson-backed Tanager, White-lined Tanager, Summer Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Clay-colored Robin, Tennessee Warbler, and Buff-throated Saltator all visited the fruit feeders; however, on this Christmas trip, Dusky-faced Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager, Rufous Motmot, and Orange-billed Sparrow had joined the list of those enjoying the bananas and papayas placed there for them. Since the Canopy Lodge only recently opened, I imagine the list will continue to grow as more birds discover the fruit tables.

Although the fruit tables were constantly active, we still managed to take time to view the numerous other species visiting the garden. We especially enjoyed the White-necked Jacobin, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Garden Emerald, and Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, as well as other hummers that were feeding on the various flowers planted on the grounds. Other noteworthy species seen in the garden were a White Hawk that flew over, Orange-chinned Parakeets that preened each other in a nearby tree, Squirrel Cuckoo, a Green Kingfisher feeding in the stream that runs through the garden, White-thighed Swallow, Bay Wren, and Chestnut-headed Oropendola.

Our morning birding up on "La Mesa" also proved to be very productive. There we watched Broad-winged Hawk and Short-tailed Hawk riding the morning thermals. Blue-headed Parrots sat in a nearby tree long enough for us to view them in the scope. Stripe-throated Hermit, Green Hermit, and Band-tailed Barbthroat fed in a patch of *Heliconia* flowers while we all happily looked on, and a Rufous-tailed Hummingbird sat on a nest nearby. A Blue-crowned Motmot graced us with its presence, while a Black-headed Saltator fed in a nearby tree. The highlight, however, was an Orange-bellied Trogon feeding on both sides of the road, as we watched while it sallied out to pick fruit from the trees. We spent the afternoon birding along the road at "Cara Iguana." There we saw Barred Antshrike feeding in the nearby shrubs, and a White-bellied Antbird in the thick brush just beside the road. A Panama Flycatcher hawked for insects as a pair of Thick-billed Euphonias gathered nesting material nearby.

The next morning we took a short day-trip up to the scenic "Alto de Maria" foothills. Here we had Brown-hooded Parrot perched in the scope. A White-tailed Emerald fed in flowers beside the road, as did a Purple-crowned Fairy. A Lineated Woodpecker worked an old dead tree for insects. On a trail just inside the forest we saw Rufous-and-white Wren, White-throated Thrush, and Rosy Thrush-Tanager. A flock came through with Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Spotted Woodcreeper, Eye-ringed Flatbill, Tawny-capped Euphonia, Silver-throated Tanager, and Plain-colored Tanager, as well as various others. Back along the road we saw Tufted Flycatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Rufous-capped Warbler, and Common Bush-Tanager. The various species of birds, along with the

spectacular views, made the morning most pleasant indeed. The afternoon was spent birding at Samia. Here in the forest we saw Black-throated Trogon, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Dusky Antbird, and White-bellied Antbird. We also watched a Black-faced Antthrush as it fed in the understory just meters away, as Black-chested Jays scolded overhead.

Our last morning was spent at Cerro Gaital National Park. Here we had the luck of seeing a Gray-necked Wood-Rail cross the path. Violet-crowned Woodnymph and Green-crowned Brilliant fed in the flowers along the path. White-ruffed Manakin, Golden-collared Manakin, and Thrush-like Schiffornis fed in the *Rubiaceae*, as Grey-breasted Wood-Wren, Ochraceous Wren, and Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch also made an appearance. These and many other species kept us busy as we enjoyed our last day of birding on the Christmas at El Valle Pre-Trip.

## PANAMA: CHRISTMAS AT EL VALLE PRE-TRIP DECEMBER 23 - 27, 2005

- 23 Dec. Arrival and transfer to Country Inn & Suites  
24 Dec. Early morning birding the grounds of Country Inn & Suites, then transfer to Canopy Lodge. Afternoon birding at Canopy Lodge  
25 Dec. A.M birding at La Mesa  
P.M birding at Cara Iguana  
26 Dec. A.M. birding at Alto de Maria  
P.M. birding at Samia  
27 Dec. A.M. birding at Cerro Gaital and Canopy Lodge  
P.M. transfer to Canopy Tower and birding from the Tower

### BIRDLIST

Pelicans	Pelecanidae
Brown Pelican	Pelecanus occidentalis
Cormorants	Phalacrocoracidae
Neotropic Cormorant	Phalacrocorax brasilianus
Frigatebirds	Fregatidae
Magnificent Frigatebird	Fregata magnificens
Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns	Ardeidae
Great Heron	Ardea alba
Tricolored Heron	Egretta tricolor
Little Blue Heron	Egretta caerulea
Cattle Egret	Bubulcus ibis

Ibises & Spoonbills White Ibis	Threskiornithidae Eudocimus albus
New World Vultures Black Vulture Turkey Vulture	Cathartidae Coragyps atratus Cathartes aura
Hawks, Eagles & Kites White-tailed Kite White Hawk Roadside Hawk Broad-winged Hawk Short-tailed Hawk	Accipitridae Elanus leucurus Leucopternis albicollis Buteo magnirostris Buteo platypterus Buteo swainsoni
Caracaras & Falcons Crested Caracara Yellow-headed Caracara	Falconidae Caracara cheriway Milvago chimachima
Guans, Chachalacas & Allies Gray-headed Chachalaca	Cracidae Ortalis cinereiceps
Rails, Gallinules & Coots Gray-necked Wood-Rail	Rallidae Aramides cajanea
Sunbitterns Sunbittern	Europygidae Europyga helias
Plovers & Lapwings Southern Lapwing	Charadriidae Vanellus chilensis
Gulls Laughing Gull	Laridae Larus atricilla
Terns Sandwich Tern Royal Tern	Sternidae Sterna sandvicencis Sterna maxima
Pigeons & Doves Pale-vented Pigeon Ruddy Ground-Dove White-tipped Dove	Columbidae Patagioenas cayannensis Columbina talpacoti Leptotila verreauxi
Parrots, Macaws & Allies Orange-chinned Parakeet Brown-hooded Parrot Blue-headed Parrot	Psittacidae Brotogeris jugularis Pionopsitta haematotis Pionus menstruus
Cuckoos Squirrel Cuckoo	Cuculidae Piaya cayana

Smooth-billed Ani

*Crotophaga ani*

Hummingbirds

Trochilidae

Band-tailed Barbthroat

*Threnetes ruckeri*

Little Hermit

*Phaethornis longuemareus*

Stripe-throated Hermit

*Phaethornis striigularis*

White-necked Jacobin

*Florisuga mellivora*

Violet-headed Hummingbird

*Klais guimeti*

Garden Emerald

*Chlorostilbon assimilis*

White-tailed Emerald

*Elvira chionura*

Violet-crowned Woodnymph

*Thalurania colombica*

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird

*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird

*Amazilia tzacatl*

Blue-chested Hummingbird

*Polyerata amabilis*

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird

*Saucerottia edward*

White-vented Plumeteer

*Chalybura buffoni*

Green-crowned Brilliant

*Heliodoxa jacula*

Purple-crowned Fairy

*Heliathryx barroti*

Trogons

Trogonidae

Black-throated Trogon

*Trogon rufus*

Orange-bellied Trogon

*Trogon aurantiiventris*

Kingfishers

Alcedinidae

Green Kingfisher

*Chloroceryle americana*

Motmots

Momotidae

Blue-crowned Motmot

*Momotus momota*

Rufous Motmot

*Baryphtengus martii*

Toucans

Ramphastidae

Collared Araçari

*Pteroglossus torquatus*

Keel-billed Toucan

*Ramphastos sulfuratus*

Woodpeckers & Allies

Picidae

Red-crowned Woodpecker

*Melanerpes rubricapillus*

Lineated Woodpecker

*Dryocopus lineatus*

Woodcreepers

Dendrocolaptidae

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper

*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*

Cocoa Woodcreeper

*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*

Spotted Woodcreeper

*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*

Typical Antbirds

Thamnophilidae

Fasciated Antshrike

*Cymbilaimus lineatus*

Barred Antshrike

*Thamnophilus doliatus*

Dusky Antbird

*Cercomacra tyrannina*

White-bellied Antbird

*Myrmeciza longipes*

Dull-mantled Antbird

*Myrmeciza laemosticta*

(heard only)

Antthrushes & Antpittas	Formicariidae	
Black-headed Antthrush	Formicarius nigricapillus	(heard only)
Black-faced Antthrush	Formicarius analis	
Black-crowned Antpitta	Pittasoma michleri	(heard only)
Manakins	Pipridae	
Golden-collared Manakin	Manacus vitellinus	
White-ruffed Manakin	Corapipo altera	
Lance-tailed Manakin	Chiroxiphia lanceolata	
Thrush-like Schiffornis	Schiffornis turdinus	
Tyrant Flycatchers	Tyrannidae	
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet	Camptostoma obsoletum	
Yellow-bellied Elaenia	Elaenia flavogaster	
Paltry Tyrannulet	Zimmerius vilissimus	
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant	Lophotriccus pileatus	
Common Tody-Flycatcher	Todirostrum cinereum	
Eye-ringed Flatbill	Rhynchocyclus brevirostris	
Olivaceous Flatbill	Rhynchocyclus olivaceus	
White-throated Spadebill	Platyrinchus mystaceus	(heard only)
Bran-colored Flycatcher	Myiophobus fasciatus	
Tufted Flycatcher	Mitrephanes phaeocercus	
Dusky-capped Flycatcher	Myiarchus tuberculifer	
Panama Flycatcher	Myiarchus panamensis	
Boat-billed Flycatcher	Megarynchus pitangua	
Social Flycatcher	Myiozetetes similis	
Tropical Kingbird	Tyrannus melancholicus	
Swallows	Hirundinidae	
Gray-breasted Martin	Progne chalybea	
White-thighed Swallow	Neochelidon tibialis	
Southern Rough-winged Swallow	Stelgidopteryx ruficollis	
Wrens	Troglodytidae	
Rufous-breasted Wren	Thryothorus rutilus	
Bay Wren	Thryothorus nigricapillus	
Rufous-and-white Wren	Thryothorus rufalbus	
Plain Wren	Thryothorus modestus	(heard only)
House Wren	Troglodytes aedon	
Ochraceous Wren	Troglodytes ochraceus	
White-breasted Wood-Wren	Henicorhina leucosticta	
Gray-breasted Wood-Wren	Henicorhina leucophrys	
Scaly-breasted Wren	Microcerculus marginatus	(heard only)
Thrushes & Allies	Turdidae	
Clay-colored Robin	Turdus grayi	
White-throated Thrush	Turdus assimilis	
Gnatcatchers	Poliptilidae	

Long-billed Gnatwren	Ramphocaenus melanurus	
Tropical Gnatcatcher	Polioptila plumbea	
Crows, Jays & Magpies	Corvidae	
Black-chested Jay	Cyanocorax affinis	
Vireos & Allies	Vireonidae	
Red-eyed Vireo	Vireo olivaceus	(heard only)
Lesser Greenlet	Hylophilus decurtatus	
Siskins, Crossbills & Allies	Fringillidae	
Lesser Goldfinch	Carduelis psaltria	
New World Warblers	Parulidae	
Golden-winged Warbler	Vermivora chrysoptera	
Tennessee Warbler	Vermivora peregrina	
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	
Chestnut-sided Warbler	Dendroica pensylvanica	
Black-throated Green Warbler	Dendroica virens	
Blackburnian Warbler	Denroica fusca	
Northern Waterthrush	Seiurus noveboracensis	
Mourning Warbler	Oporornis Philadelphia	
Canada Warbler	Wilsonia Canadensis	
Rufous-capped Warbler	Basileuterus rufifrons	
Bananaquit	Coerebidae	
Bananaquit	Coereba flaveola	
Tanagers & Allies	Thraupidae	
Common Bush-Tanager	Chlorospingus ophthalmicus	
Rosy Thrush-Tanager	Rhodinocichla rosea	
Dusky-faced Tanager	Mitrospingus cassinii	
Tawny-crested Tanager	Tachyphonus delatrii	
White-lined Tanager	Tachyphonus rufus	
Red-crowned Ant-Tanager	Habia rubica	
Hepatic Tanager	Piranga flava	
Summer Tanager	Piranga rubra	
Crimson-backed Tanager	Ramphocelus dimidiatus	
Flame-rumped Tanager	Ramphocelus flammigerus	
Blue-gray Tanager	Thraupis episcopus	
Palm Tanager	Thraupis palmarum	
Yellow-crowned Euphonia	Euphonia luteicapilla	
Thick-billed Euphonia	Euphonia laniirostris	
Tawny-capped Euphonia	Euphonia annae	
Plain-colored Tanager	Tangara inornata	
Silver-throated Tanager	Tangara icterocephala	
Bay-headed Tanager	Tangara gyrola	
Golden-hooded Tanager	Tangara larvata	
Green Honeycreeper	Chlorophanes spiza	
Red-legged Honeycreeper	Cyanerpes cyaneus	

Buntings, Sparrows & Seedeaters	Emberizidae
Blue-black Grassquit	<i>Volatinia jacarina</i>
Variable Seedeater	<i>Sporophila corvina</i>
Yellow-faced Grassquit	<i>Tiaris olivacea</i>
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch	<i>Buarremon brunneinucha</i>
Orange-billed Sparrow	<i>Arremon aurantiirostris</i>
Black-striped Sparrow	<i>Arremonops conirostris</i>

Saltators, Cardinals & Allies	Cardinalidae
Streaked Saltator	<i>Saltator striatipectus</i>
Buff-throated Saltator	<i>Saltator maximus</i>
Black-headed Saltator	<i>Saltator atriceps</i>
Blue-black Grosbeak	<i>Cyanocompsa cyanooides</i>

Troupials & Allies (Icterids)	Icteridae
Great-tailed Grackle	<i>Quiscalus mexicanus</i>
Orchard Oriole	<i>Icterus spurius</i>
Chestnut-headed Oropendula	<i>Psarocolis wagleri</i>

## MAMMAL LIST

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth with baby  
 White-nosed Coatimundi  
 Red-tailed Squirrel  
 Varigated Squirrel  
 Central American Dwarf Squirrel

## REPTILE LIST

Green Iguana  
 Central American Whiptail