

# **FALL AT PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER**

**OCTOBER 21-28, 2006**

**LEADERS: BARRY ZIMMER & JOSE SOTO**

**COMPILED BY: BARRY ZIMMER**

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I could hardly believe my eyes when a member of our group alerted me to the presence of an adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle perched almost directly over our heads. This stunning raptor (certainly one of the handsomest raptor species in the world) is a rarity in central Panama. To see one at all requires luck; seeing one at 30 feet is quite unbelievable! The bird remained on the bare snag directly above us for about a minute before launching off to the north and the vast forests of the Chagres National Park. We could hardly believe our luck.

While arguably the most exciting moment of the day, the Ornate Hawk-Eagle was but one highlight of our morning on Cerro Azul. That morning stands out among all others on our recent Fall at Panama's Canopy Tower tour. With access to property nearly 3,000 feet above sea level, it was the one opportunity on our trip to see some of the foothill species that are not found down in the Canal Zone. We spent much of the morning birding the yard of a private residence and letting the birds come to us. One fruiting vine on the side of the house yielded a parade of brilliant species including Emerald, Speckled, Crimson-backed, Golden-hooded, and Bay-headed tanagers; Scarlet-thighed and Blue dacnis; Green and Shining honeycreepers; and Fulvous-vented and Thick-billed euphonias—a virtual cornucopia of every color in the rainbow. A stunning Great Jacamar, not previously recorded from this location, sat in plain view for over five minutes, repeatedly uttering its shrill mournful whistle. A raucous duet from the nearby slopes revealed the presence of a small covey of rare Black-eared Wood-Quail, which were ultimately seen well (as close as five feet away for some) by everyone.

Hummingbird feeders lined up along the back patio produced another dazzling array of color with Bronze-tailed Plumeleteers; Rufous-tailed, Snowy-bellied, and Violet-capped hummingbirds; Purple-crowned Fairy; and Green Hermits darting about in a frenzy of activity. A tiny Violet-headed Hummingbird and a Stripe-throated Hermit foraged just feet away in some low flowering shrubs, while a stunning Violet-crowned Woodnymph defended a flowering tree.

By mid-morning the raptors had begun to move and we were treated to a brilliant pair of White Hawks right overhead, a rare Plumbeous Hawk (a lifer even for me!), two adult King Vultures, and the aforementioned Ornate Hawk-Eagle. Late in the morning most of the group took the short hike to a nearby lek of the rarely seen White-tipped Sicklebill. Prolonged scope views were had of this unusual hummingbird as it perched in a heliconia thicket, and it was voted the favorite bird of the tour! Other species drifted through the

property during the morning including Black-throated Trogon, Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled toucans, White-ruffed Manakin, Tawny-capped Euphonia, the regionally endemic Rufous-winged Tanager, Bananaquit, and Black-striped Sparrow. It was hard to drag ourselves away from this wonderful and productive area after lunch.

By early afternoon we were headed down to the flooded rice fields of Tocumen where we added an impressive number of water birds and open country species including Boat-billed Heron on a nest, Cooi Heron, over a thousand Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks in view at once, Pearl Kite, Bat Falcon, Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Pale-breasted Spinetail, and Amazon Kingfisher. Our total number of species for the day was an astounding 149—a rare combination of high quality and high quantity.

Of course this was but one day of our Panama tour. Other highlights included a Tiny Hawk in Metropolitan Park, four species of puffbirds, White-headed Wren and Spot-crowned Barbet in Achiote, roosting Spectacled Owl at 40 feet, an incredible male Rosy Thrush-Tanager that posed in the open for a minute, Green Shrike-Vireo and Slate-colored Grosbeak up close and personal from the Tower, and a magical experience with a Common Potoo on our night drive. I could go on and on if space allowed. In all we had 306 species of birds in six days, in addition to 15 species of mammals. Every trip to the Canopy Tower produces special memories and this one was no exception.

#### **Itinerary:**

October 21 - arrival at the Canopy Tower

October 22 - tower watch until 9:45 am, Semaphore Hill; Gamboa (115 species)

October 23 - Pipeline Road most of day; Ammo Dump briefly in afternoon, tower watch (116 species; 162 total)

October 24 - Achiote, Gatun Dam, train ride (157 species; 236 total)

October 25 - Cerro Azul, Tocumen Marsh (133 species; 276 total)

October 26 - tower watch, Old Gamboa Road, Police Academy Ponds, Summit Gardens; evening owling (123 species; 297 total)

October 27 - Metropolitan Park, Panama Viejo, tower watch, Miraflores locks (96 species; 314 total)

October 28 - departures for home (306 total species)

#### **Key:**

**bold-faced species** indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence  
underlined species indicate birds of very uncommon occurrence or species that occur regularly but in such low densities as to be easily missed

## **Birds:**

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) heard only as is often the case  
Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*)  
Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)  
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)  
Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)  
Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)  
Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)  
Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) four at Tocumen; uncommon  
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)  
Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*)  
Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)  
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)  
Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)  
Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)  
Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)  
Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) our first spotted by Phil  
Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) including a pair with young on a nest!  
Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) adult at Achioté  
Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)  
Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) an impressive sized flock of 100 at Tocumen  
White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*)  
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) a huge concentration of nearly 1000 birds at Tocumen  
Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) small flock at Tocumen  
Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)  
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)  
King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) one adult spotted by Lee from the tower and two more at Cerro Azul; very uncommon  
Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)  
Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) distant perched bird from the Tower; very uncommon  
Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) one at the Tocumen entrance was a real bonus!  
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)  
Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) about 30 from the train around Gatun Lake, although these were largely missed by the group  
Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) perched adult on Pipeline  
**Plumbeous Kite** (*Ictinia plumbea*) perched adult near Achioté was extremely late  
**Tiny Hawk** (*Accipiter superciliosus*) great scope views of perched rufous morph immature at Metropolitan Park; a first for this tour and a lifer even for me!!!!  
Crane Hawk (*Geranoospiza caerulescens*) Achioté; uncommon  
**Plumbeous Hawk** (*Leucopternis plumbeus*) adult over Cerro Azul was a real rarity  
White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) spotted by Douglass  
Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)  
Great Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) two on the Trogon Trail at Achioté  
Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) Gatun Dam  
Gray Hawk (*Asturina nitida*) spotted by Lee  
Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) one at Tocumen  
Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) a few small migrant groups  
Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) both light and dark morphs  
Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) our worst year for this species with only a few hundred seen  
Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) two from the tower  
Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizastur melanoleucus*) one over the Tower

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus ornatus*) incredible adult on Cerro Azul perched as close as 30 feet for some; a first for me in Panama; tied for second favorite bird of the tour  
 Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)  
 Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) scattered about open areas  
 Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur mirandollei*) heard only from the Tower  
 American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)  
 Merlin (*Falco columbarius*)  
 Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) one just outside Tocumen  
 Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) cooperative adult at Miraflores  
 Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) Gamboa  
**Black-eared Wood-Quail** (*Odontophorus melanotis*) very unexpected; good views for everyone on Cerro Azul; as close as ten feet away!!!  
 White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) seen by a few at Tocumen  
 Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*)  
 Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) great views  
 Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*)  
 Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) numerous in all marshy areas  
 Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)  
 Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) becoming very widespread in Panama  
 Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)  
 Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)  
 Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedora*) distant views at Panama Viejo  
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)  
 Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)  
 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)  
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*)  
 Willet (*Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*)  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)  
Surfbird (*Aphriza virgata*) very distant views at Panama Viejo; uncommon  
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) not seen by all  
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) the most common shorebird at PV  
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)  
 Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)  
 Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*)  
 Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)  
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) scope views!  
 Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) good views from the Tower & Pipeline  
 Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)  
 Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) Achioté  
 Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) daily  
 White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) less numerous than usual  
 Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) almost daily; stunning views in Gamboa  
 Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*) flock over Cerro Azul; uncommon  
 Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) in flight views only  
 Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*)  
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) a few from the tower  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) scope views along Old Gamboa Road  
 Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) this impressive species was seen daily  
 Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*)  
 Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*) widespread  
**Spectacled Owl** (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) fantastic views of roosting bird along Old Gamboa Road; rarely seen; tied for second favorite bird of the tour  
 Lesser Nighthawk (*Chordeiles acutipennis*)  
 Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) oddly only one seen

Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) excellent views near the Police Academy Ponds  
 White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) large flock over Achiote  
 Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) the most common swift seen  
 Vaux's Swift (*Chaetura vauxi*) two thought to be this species from the Tower  
 Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) several good views  
 Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) a couple of nice views from the tower  
**White-tipped Sicklebill** (*Eutoxeres aquila*) we were very fortunate to visit a recently discovered lek of this rarely seen species; it was a somewhat difficult hike but well worth it as we had great scope views in the heliconia thicket; voted the favorite bird of the tour!  
 Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) great views at Cerro Azul  
 Western Long-tailed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) a regular visitor to the CT feeders  
 Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) formerly Little Hermit  
 White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) stunning!  
Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) two at Cerro Azul  
Violet-capped Hummingbird (*Goldmania violiceps*) one male & a few females at Cerro Azul  
 Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) stunning male at Cerro Azul  
 Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Damophila julie*) a very stunning species which is common at the CT feeders  
Sapphire-throated Hummingbird (*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*) Tocumen  
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacati*) common in more open areas  
 Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Polyerata amabilis*) common at CT feeders  
 Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Saucerottia edward*) fairly common at CT feeders  
 White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffoni*) much scarcer than usual at CT feeders  
 Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysa*) common at Cerro Azul feeders  
 Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothrix barroti*) Cerro Azul  
 White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*) four At Achiote  
 Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) several great sightings  
 Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) only two seen  
 Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*)  
 Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*)  
 Amazon Kingfisher (*Chlooceryle amazona*)  
 Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)  
 American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) great views at Ammo Dump  
 Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) Pipeline & Metro  
 Rufous Motmot (*Barythengus martii*)  
 Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) several excellent views  
White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*) one near Fort Sherman with a giant locust!  
 Black-breasted Puffbird (*Notharchus pectoralis*) nice views of one along Pipeline thanks to Terry  
Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*) great views at Achiote thanks to Jose  
 White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) pair along Old Plantation Road  
Spot-crowned Barbet (*Capito maculicoronatus*) female at Achiote seen well  
 Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) many great views  
 Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) seen daily in numbers  
 Chestnut-mandibled Toucan (*Ramphastos swainsoni*) less numerous than Keel-billed but still several good views  
 Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*)  
 Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*)  
 Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) including fantastic scope views at Achiote  
 Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) scope views along Pipeline  
 Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucus*) Metro & the Tower  
 Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*) nice show at Tocumen  
 Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)  
Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) responsive pair on Pipeline  
 Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) great views at ant swarms  
Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) heard only; very uncommon

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) one at an ant swarm  
 Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*)  
 Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) stunning; thanks to Lee  
 Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) our first spotted by Lee  
 Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) heard only  
 Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) unheard of views of this comical species  
 Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) daily  
 Checker-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula fulviventris*)  
 White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)  
 Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhopias quixensis*) numerous  
 Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)  
Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*) great views of pair along Old Gamboa Road  
 White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) great study of this skulker  
 Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*)  
 Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnophithys leucaspis*) exceptional views  
 Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naeviodes*) several nice views of this striking species  
Ocellated Antbird (*Phaenostictus mcleannani*) heard only; very uncommon  
 Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) heard only, as is often the case  
**Black-crowned Antpitta** (*Pittasoma michleri*) heard only on Cerro Azul  
Streak-chested Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) superb views of this special bird  
 Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) wonderful displaying pair on Pipeline  
 Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*) female only  
 White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) male and female on Cerro Azul  
 Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) full adult male at Metro thanks to Cathy  
 Blue-crowned Manakin (*Pipra coronata*) stunning  
 Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) ditto  
 Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*) very good views of this tiny flycatcher at Achote  
 Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) heard only  
 Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*) heard only  
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)  
 Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)  
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant (*Myiornis atricapillus*) heard only along Pipeline  
 Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) Cerro Azul  
 Southern Bentbill (*Oncostoma olivaceum*) excellent views at Metro  
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) Ammo Dump  
 Brownish Flycatcher (Twistwing) (*Cnipodectes subbrunneus*) a very responsive individual along Pipeline  
 Olivaceous Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*)  
 Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)  
 Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terentotriccus erythrurus*) one seen by partial group  
Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*) one briefly along Old Gamboa  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)  
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) daily in numbers; a group favorite for sure!  
 Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virens*) oddly only three were seen  
Pied Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola pica*) Lee only at Tocumen; scarce  
 Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) nice studies  
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)  
Panama Flycatcher (*Myiarchus panamensis*) Tocumen  
 Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)  
 Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)  
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)  
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)  
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)  
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)  
 Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) only two seen

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) abundant  
 Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)  
 Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) Tocumen  
 Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)  
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*) male along Old Gamboa Road  
 Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*)  
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) one at Tocumen; uncommon  
 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) daily in numbers  
 Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*)  
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) nice scope studies  
 Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*)  
 Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)  
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
White-headed Wren (*Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*) good views for most at Achote; easily missed  
 Black-bellied Wren (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*) exceptional views of this skulker  
 Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) Metro Park, Old Gamboa  
 Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) best views ever of this shy species  
 Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) heard only  
 Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) seen best along Old Gamboa Road  
 Buff-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus leucotis*) Ammo Dump  
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
 White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) great views along tower road  
 Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*) superb views on Pipeline  
 Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)  
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*)  
 Clay-colored Robin (*Turdus grayi*) common  
 Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) elusive at times  
 Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*)  
 Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*)  
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)  
 Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*)  
 Golden-fronted Greenlet (*Hylophilus aurantifrons*) Tocumen, Metro Park  
 Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)  
 Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) fantastic views from the tower including the blue nape!!!  
 Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia lueicapilla*)  
 Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*)  
 Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*)  
Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anaeae*) Cerro Azul; uncommon  
 Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) thanks to Anne; uncommon  
 Tennessee Warbler (*Vermivora peregrina*)  
 Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*)  
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)  
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Dendroica fusca*)  
 Bay-breasted Warbler (*Dendroica castanea*)  
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) oddly only one seen  
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria vermivorus*) several around swampy areas  
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus novaboracensis*)  
 Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) Cerro Azul  
Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*) gorgeous male; tied for second favorite bird of the tour  
Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*)  
 White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) generally numerous  
 Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) a pair at Metro  
 Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*)

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) Cerro Azul  
 Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) only one seen  
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)  
 Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) this stunning species was seen daily  
 Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) Gamboa & Achiote; uncommon  
 Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) common  
 Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) common  
 Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*)  
Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) stunning bird at Rosabel's on Cerro Azul  
Speckled Tanager (*Tangara guttata*) ditto; thanks to Lee  
 Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) seen daily  
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) Cerro Azul; stunning  
Rufous-winged Tanager (*Tangara lavinia*) regional specialty at Cerro Azul; not seen by all  
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) scope views  
 Scarlet-thighed Tanager (*Dacnis venusta*) incredible male on Cerro Azul  
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) many nice views of this beauty  
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) several excellent views  
 Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) Gamboa, Cerro Azul  
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) gorgeous males at Gamboa; 35 in view at once!  
 Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)  
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)  
Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) uncommon; one male near Gamboa  
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater (*Sporophila minuta*) Tocumen  
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) scope views at Achiote  
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) Cerro Azul  
 Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) Gatun Locks  
 Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*)  
 Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) Old Gamboa Road  
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)  
 Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) stunning pair from the Tower  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)  
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) incredible prolonged scope view of male  
 Red-breasted Blackbird (*Sturnella militaris*) Gatun Locks  
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)  
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)  
 cowbird species (*Molothrus species*) small flock of cowbirds flew by at Tocumen  
 Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*)  
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)  
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)  
 Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*)  
 Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)  
 Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*)  
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) Achiote; uncommon  
 Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) Pipeline

total species - **306**

**Leader only birds:**

Pectoral Sandpiper  
 Orange-billed Sparrow  
 Indigo Bunting

### **Mammals:**

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth---several seen very well including from the tower  
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth--- two on the night drive  
White-tailed Deer  
White-nosed Coati---numerous  
Central American Agouti  
Tamandua---nice views crossing the road near Achiote  
Mantled Howler Monkey---great views at Achiote  
White-faced Capuchin---seen very well near Achiote and on Pipeline  
Geoffrey's Tamarin---adorable; best views ever from the tower  
Red-tailed Squirrel  
Variegated Squirrel  
Forest Rabbit---not seen by all  
Central American Woolly Opossum---two on the night drive  
Greater Fishing Bat---nice views at Summit Ponds  
various bat species---some very large ones and some small ones

total species - 15+

### **Reptiles & Amphibians:**

Green Iguana  
Stream Anole  
Striped Basilisk  
Mediterranean (House) Gecko  
Yellow-headed Gecko  
Central American Whip-tailed Lizard  
Tungara Frog---heard only  
Talamanca Rocket Frog  
Giant (Cane) Toad  
Gulf Coast Toad  
Spectacled Caiman  
Common Slider

total species - 12

### **Butterflies:**

*Heliconius erato*---Crimson-patched Longwing  
*Heliconius species*---orange hindwing & orange/yellow/black forewing  
*Caligo eurilochus*---Owl-eyed Butterfly  
*Morpho amathonte*---Blue Morpho  
*Anartia fatima*---Fatima  
*Philaethria dido*---Malachite Mimic  
*Battus polydamus*---Polydamas Swallowtail  
*Papilio species* (cresphontes or thoas)---Giant or Thoas Swallowtail  
*Parides species*---large dark butterfly with red hind wing patch and buffy forewing patch  
*Adelpha species* (very possibly *lerna*)---"Panama Sister"  
*Thisbe irenea*  
*Myscelia species*---bluish cracker-like butterfly on Semaphore Hill  
checkered skipper species  
unidentified spreadwing skipper---large, mostly purplish with orange spots on tip of forewing above  
*Astraptes species*---skipper with aqua blue above and elongated hindwing tails

*Siderone marthesia*---red & black in canopy

*Zaretis itys*---orange leaf mimic

*Historius odus*---large orange & brown in canopy

large unidentified cloudless sulphur, possibly *Phoebis philea*

large unidentified white with black corners on forewing above and yellow, red, and black on hindwing below

several unidentified glasswings on Cerro Azul

*Dryas iulia*---Orange Julia

\*\*\*All butterfly identifications are somewhat speculative but were based on The Butterflies of Costa Rica. Many more that were seen were left unidentified (whites, sulphurs, skippers, glasswings, etc.). I have tried to include a common name when known.

total species - 22+

**Significant others:**

Giant Damselfly

huge walking stick---about 9 inches long

watching a ship go through the canal at Miraflores Locks