

# **PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER**

**FEBRUARY 3 - 10, 2006**

**LEADERS:  
MARSHALL ILIFF  
JOSE SOTO**

**COMPILED BY:  
MARSHALL ILIFF**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.  
2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003  
AUSTIN, TX 78746  
WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

# PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER

3-10 February 2006

**Leaders: Marshall J. Iliff and Jose Soto**

**Compiled by: Marshall J. Iliff**

I always love to return to the Canopy Tower, and this year's trip touched nicely on all my favorite locales. Much has been written about the views from the Tower, and the many species that one can see while sipping coffee and taking in the majestic view. I'll instead reminisce about some of our special moments away from the Tower, although I continue to consider that first morning one of my favorites, with its rush of new birds and comical toucans.

Our day along Pipeline Road is always infused with excitement since it is our best chance for encountering a number of rare interior forest species, including both birds and mammals. This year's trip was slowed somewhat by a midday shower, but we ended up seeing many of the specialty birds of the road. Our first stop along a river was one of those places where new birds keep coming and coming. We initially stopped after detecting a bit of activity in the canopy. While we worked the small canopy flock, we were surprised to see two Crane Hawks fly in. Shortly thereafter a Great Jacamar sounded off and responded to our tape for great looks. Violaceous Trogon was added to the list, and then we had nice looks at a perched Purple-crowned Fairy. As we were getting ready to go, someone spotted a Blue-crowned Manakin, and then two Brown-hooded Parrots landed overhead. It would be another 45 minutes before we finally went to our next stop. And the next stop was just as birdy. There we saw our first Black-cheeked Woodpecker, followed by a raucous pair of Purple-throated Fruitcrows. We conversed with the local Song Wrens, but could not entice these showy forest-dwellers into the open. After lunch we would find some birds we had missed in the morning. Sandra spotted and called out a nice Cinnamon Woodpecker. An ant swarm off the edge of the road contained Bicolored and Ocellated antbirds. Black-tailed and Slaty-tailed trogons were seen just minutes apart, allowing for comparison of these two similar species. Some taping produced crippling scope views of a Streak-chested Antpitta, one of the secretive specialties of Pipeline. These antpittas can be very territorial, but very shy, and it takes cooperation from the entire group to get good views. It was a testament to our group that we did so well with this species.

At Achiotte Road, the Caribbean Slope produces an entirely new mix of birds. Waiting for the sun to kiss the *Cecropias* and *Ficus* trees around our favorite spot has proven a time-tested strategy. As the trees were lit we enjoyed Black-headed Saltators and oropendolas; aracaris and Spot-crowned Barbets; Thick-billed Seed-Finch and Flame-rumped Tanager; Cinnamon Becard and Barred Antshrike; White-tailed Trogon; and a soaring Gray-headed Kite. It seemed that every time we turned around something new would appear: Black-throated Mango, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Gray Hawk, Yellow Tyrannulet, Pied and Black-breasted puffbirds, etc. Our species total for the day (132) was the highest for any one day of the trip, and with such a hectic pace of new birds in the morning it is easy to understand why. As the day warmed we retreated into the forest, looking for shyer and more difficult species along a loop trail there. Song Wrens would cooperate this day, and we saw other highlights as well including Black-throated Trogon, White-winged Becard, and a curious White-faced Capuchin monkey. Our early afternoon included a trip to Fort San Lorenzo, where the views over the Caribbean from the high promontory were matched only by the additional new birds, with Crested Oropendola one of the highlights. As always, we wrapped up this day with a train transit of the Isthmus of Panama, where we enjoyed the air-conditioning and bar service along with the great viewing and Snail Kites.

Our greatest variety is perhaps on our Tocumen Marsh and Cerro Azul day, since we start off in the Pacific Lowlands with herons and shorebirds, and finish high on Cerro Azul, looking down on Panama City drifting in and out of the clouds. Tocumen this year was truly excellent, thanks in part to scouting of a new area by Jose Soto. Special highlights included Pale-breasted Spinetail, Pearl Kite, Savanna Hawk, Laughing Falcon, and Straight-billed Woodcreeper. The cryptic little Mouse-colored Tyrannulet turned out to be a lifer for both leaders. We finished our afternoon on Cerro Azul, where the home-cooked Panamanian lunch was periodically interrupted by such exciting birds as White Hawk, King Vulture, Rufous-crested Coquette, Swallow-tailed Kite, and Emerald Tanager. Our most exciting moment came when a large pale-breasted raptor was called out as it circled from below. A glance at its

stocky build, unique dark face patch, and clean white underparts identified it as a Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle—a most exciting bird. This species is rare to uncommon throughout its range and is rarely seen in Panama, though Cerro Azul has proven to be a good place for it.

These are highlights of just three of our six excellent days birding central Panama—I didn't even mention the fantastic Pheasant Cuckoo. Each trip holds its own special surprises, and the 302 species that we saw this year are still only a portion of those possible. The diversity and quality of birding here does not get old, and I hope some of you will consider a return trip in the future—it is sure to be different and equally exciting.

**Day 1, 3 February:** arrival at Canopy Tower (hereafter CT).

**Day 2, 4 February:** morning at the CT, including a post-breakfast walk on the CT road (down Semaphore Hill); afternoon visit to Ammo Dump Ponds (119 species)

**Day 3, 5 February:** all day at Pipeline Rd.; evening visit to Charges River boat ramp (99 species, 161 total).

**Day 4, 6 February:** morning at Gatún Locks and Achiote Rd area; picnic lunch; afternoon birding around Gatún Spillway and Ft Lorenzo; 5:00 p.m. ride across the Isthmus on the PanAm Train (132 species, 205 total).

**Day 5, 7 February:** morning walk at Tocumen Marsh, including Anew@ trail; lunch at Rosabel's Cerro Azul abode; afternoon walk along Cerro Jefe trail (124 species, 255 total).

**Day 6, 8 February:** morning walk along Old Gamboa Rd. to Summit Ponds; visit to Summit Gardens to see Harpy Eagle enclosure; afternoon walk on Plantation Trail and quick visit to Summit Ponds. Night drive from 8:30-10:30 p.m. (104 species, 278 total).

**Day 7, 9 February:** morning at Metro Park in Panama City; late morning stop at El Diablo mangrove swamp; afternoon visit to Miraflores Locks; late afternoon visit to Panama Viejo for shorebirds (115 species, 301 total).

**Day 8, 10 February:** departure for home, final morning at CT for some.

The below list includes all species seen by our group during the tour 3-10 Feb 2006. Locations are listed for as many species as was practical, and I give some general comments on the abundance of each species on the tour. Dates are listed only when the date seen is not clear from the location (e.g., all Achiote Rd sightings will be from 6 Feb). Special highlights are in ALL CAPS; rare or unusual species are underlined. References to the Panama book are of course Robert S. Ridgely and John A. Gwynn's 1989 A Guide to the Birds of Panama, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Nomenclature follows the J.F. Clements' 2000 Birds of the World: A Checklist, 5<sup>th</sup> edition and where the names differ from those used in Ridgely & Gwynn (1989), the name used in the latter is given in parentheses.

A=Achiote Rd area; CA=Cerro Azul; G=Gamboa area, including Canopy Tower, Summit/Old Gamboa Rd, and Ammo Dump Ponds; MP=Metro Park; P=Pipeline Rd; PV=Panama Viejo/Panama City; T=Tocumen; (h)=heard only

**Great Tinamou** - G

**Little Tinamou** - CA; seen by Lynn only

**Brown Pelican** - PV; also seen along Canal at several points

**BROWN BOOBY** - PV; one adult scoped from Costa del Este was a rarely-seen species for this tour

**Neotropic Cormorant** - T, PV; also from the train

**Anhinga** - A (near Colon), T

**Magnificent Frigatebird** - G, A, PV, T

**Great Blue Heron** - G, A, T, PV; total of 6 birds

**COCOI HERON** - T; impressive total of five birds, great looks

**Great Egret** - G, A, T, PV

**Tricolored Heron** - T, PV

**Little Blue Heron** - G, A, T, PV; seen almost daily

**Snowy Egret** - G, A, T, PV  
**Cattle Egret** - G, A, T, PV  
**Striated Heron** - T; five seen  
**Green Heron** - G, T, PV  
**Black-crowned Night-Heron** - T  
**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** - T  
**BOAT-BILLED HERON** - T, G; good scope looks at Summit Ponds and Tocumen  
**BARE-THROATED TIGER-HERON** - T; single immature  
**RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON** - G; great looks at an adult at Ammo Dump Pond and Old Gamboa Rd  
**Wood Stork** - T; 8 at Tocumen  
**White Ibis** - T, PV  
**MUSCOVY DUCK** - G; one at Ammo Dumo Ponds was the first I have seen in Panama!  
**Black Vulture** - A, CA, G, P, PV, T; abundant; seen daily  
**Turkey Vulture** - A, CA, G, P, PV, T; the subspecies here, *ruficollis*, looks quite different from those in the United States  
**KING VULTURE** - CA, G; seen distantly from Cerro Azul and Plantation Trail, but seen well at Tower 9 Feb  
**Osprey** - G, A, T, MP; seen several times in the Canal Zone  
**GRAY-HEADED KITE** - A, P, G (h); good looks at a soaring bird at Achiotte Rd plus a pair and a perched juvenile on Pipeline Rd. Heard only from the Tower.  
**Swallow-tailed Kite** - CA; nice looks at migrants  
**PEARL KITE** - T; this unique, tiny raptor was seen well at Tocumen; it continues to expand its range  
**White-tailed Kite** - A (Colon), T  
**Snail Kite** - G; seen well at Ammo Dump Ponds, also a high count of 29 seen from the train  
**Plumbeous Kite** - P, A; single bird over Pipeline and 40+ over Achiotte; these are returning migrants  
**Crane Hawk** - P; great looks at a perched pair  
**White Hawk** - A; good looks at soaring bird  
**Common Black-Hawk** - A; seen from train by a few  
**Great Black-Hawk** - A, T; Amy spotted a distant bird circling over Achiotte and a nice pair over Tocumen  
**Savanna Hawk** - T; great looks  
**Gray Hawk** - A, T, G  
**Roadside Hawk** - T; seven seen  
**Broad-winged Hawk** - A; one perched adult at Ft. San Lorenzo  
**Short-tailed Hawk** - G, A, T  
**Zone-tailed Hawk** - T  
**BLACK-AND-WHITE HAWK-EAGLE** - CA; one over Rosabel's house was one of the tour highlights. Amazing looks and a life bird for me! This raptor is rare throughout its range.  
**Black Hawk-Eagle** - G; soaring over CT 3 Feb and heard over Old Gamboa Rd  
**Crested Caracara** - T  
**Yellow-headed Caracara** - A, G, T  
**Laughing Falcon** - T; nice looks at a perched bird  
(h) **Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon** - G (h); heard from Tower on first morning  
**Collared Forest-Falcon** - G; heard from Tower and seen twice on 8 Feb (Semaphore Hill, Plantation Trail)  
**American Kestrel** - one at Miraflores Locks seen by Amy and Judy; this was of the brighter South American subspecies *isabellinus*, which has been expanding its range into Panama in recent years.  
**BAT FALCON** - G, MP; from Tower and on crane at Metro Park  
**Gray-headed Chachalaca** - G, T  
(h) **White-throated Crane** - G, T  
**Gray-necked Wood-Rail** - G, A, T; really good looks at Ammo Dump Ponds  
**Purple Gallinule** - G, A  
**Common Moorhen** - G, A, T  
**Wattled Jacana** - G, A, T  
**Black-necked Stilt** - T, PV  
**Southern Lapwing** - T, PV  
**Black-bellied Plover** - PV

**Short-billed Dowitcher** - PV; 500+ total  
**Marbled Godwit** - PV; 3 total, scarce in Panama  
**Whimbrel** - PV; 20 total  
**LONG-BILLED CURLEW** - PV; Amy spotted this bird WAY far off; it is strictly accidental in Panama and one of our rarest sightings of the tour. One has been seen here for the past 4 winters or so.  
**Greater Yellowlegs** - PV; 8 total  
**Lesser Yellowlegs** - PV; one in direct comparison with a Greater  
**Solitary Sandpiper** - T; 8 total  
**Spotted Sandpiper** - G, T, PV  
**Willet** - PV; 250+ at Panama Viejo  
**Ruddy Turnstone** - PV; Sandra spotted two for us  
**Red Knot** - PV; 30 was a good total  
**Western Sandpiper** - PV; 1500+ total  
**Least Sandpiper** - PV; 25 total  
**Ring-billed Gull** - PV; four was a good total since this species is scarce in Panama  
**Laughing Gull** - G, PV; abundant; especially Panama Viejo  
**Franklin's Gull** - PV; two first-winters at Costa del Este; rare in Panama in winter  
**Gull-billed Tern** - PV  
**Sandwich Tern** - PV  
**Royal Tern** - A, PV  
**Rock Pigeon** - G, PV; seen commonly in larger towns  
**Scaled Pigeon** - G, P, A; excellent looks from CT  
**Pale-vented Pigeon** - G, A, T; seen almost daily  
**Short-billed Pigeon** - P, A; two seen well through scope at Achioté  
**Ruddy Ground-Dove** - seen daily  
**White-tipped Dove** - seen daily  
**Gray-chested Dove** - G; one seen by some on Semaphore Hill  
**Orange-chinned Parakeet** - G, A, MP, seen almost daily  
**Brown-hooded Parrot** - P; seen perched  
**Blue-headed Parrot** - G, A, P, MP  
**Red-lored Parrot** - G, A, P  
**Mealy Parrot** - A  
**Squirrel Cuckoo** - G, P, A  
**Greater Ani** - G, T  
**Smooth-billed Ani** - G, T  
**(h) Striped Cuckoo** - T; one heard  
**PHEASANT CUCKOO** - MP, G (h); one of the unquestionable tour highlights was having this responsive bird fly right in to our tape and pose for 10 minute scope views. A rarely seen bird, we also heard one from the tower on our first morning.  
**CHOCO SCREECH-OWL** - G; one on Semaphore Hill on the night of 8 Feb was a major highlight, as it is a very rarely seen species; this small *Megascops* should be split from the Vermiculated Screech-Owl complex and is poorly known in Panama  
**Mottled Owl** (h) - heard from the CT several nights  
**SPECTACLED OWL** - G; two seen well on day roost at Old Gamboa Rd  
**COMMON POTOO** - G; great view of a perched bird on our night drive, with two others heard  
**Pauraque** - P, G  
**Band-rumped Swift** - G, A, T, MP; abundant; seen almost daily  
**Short-tailed Swift** - G  
**Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift** - G  
**Rufous-breasted Hermit** - G; Old Gamboa Rd  
**Green Hermit** - CA; one at Cerro Azul  
**Western Long-tailed Hermit** - G, P; one had CT feeders on its trapline; others lekking at Pipeline  
**Stripe-throated (Little) Hermit** - P  
**White-necked Jacobin** - G, P, A; the most common species at CT feeders

**Black-throated Mango** - G, A; one or two seen most days  
**Violet-headed Hummingbird** - CA; a female at Cerro Azul  
**RUFIOUS-CRESTED COQUETTE** - CA; beautiful female seen at point-blank range  
**Violet-capped Hummingbird** - CA; female visiting feeder and flowers  
**Violet-crowned (Crowned) Woodnymph** - A, CA, MP; memorable female at nest on Achiote trail  
**Violet-bellied Hummingbird** - G, P, A, T; not at CT feeders this year  
**Sapphire-throated Hummingbird** - T  
**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** - G, A, T; seen most days, but never at CT  
**Blue-chested Hummingbird** - G; Sandra spotted one on Plantation Trail; not at CT feeders this year  
**Snowy-bellied Hummingbird** - CA, G; not at CT feeders this year  
**Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer** - CA  
**Purple-crowned Fairy** - P, MP  
**White-tailed Trogon** - A  
**Violaceous Trogon** - G, P  
**Black-throated Trogon** - G, A  
**BLACK-TAILED TROGON** - P  
**Slaty-tailed Trogon** - P, A, G  
**Ringed Kingfisher** - T, G  
**Amazon Kingfisher** - T, G  
**Green Kingfisher** - T, G  
**AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER** - T; two birds were seen exceptionally well  
**Blue-crowned Motmot** - G  
**Rufous Motmot** - G, P  
**Broad-billed Motmot** - G, P, A  
**GREAT JACAMAR** - P; we had incredible eye-level looks at these birds and a total of four for the day.  
**White-necked Puffbird** - G; one on Old Gamboa Rd  
**Black-breasted Puffbird** - G, P; Puffbird Peggy got us our first on Semaphore Hill; this species is restricted to Panama, and the Pacific Slope of Colombia and extreme northern Ecuador  
**PIED PUFFBIRD** - P, A; Puffbird Peggy got us our first on Pipeline  
**White-whiskered Puffbird** - G; one seen well on Semaphore Hill - our fourth puffbird!  
**SPOT-CROWNED BARBET** - A; excellent looks at Achiote; another regional specialty, this species is restricted to Panama and Colombia  
**Collared Aracari** - A  
**KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN** - G, P, A; common; seeing these almost daily from CT was certainly a tour highlights  
**CHESTNUT-MANDIBLED TOUCAN** - G, P; common; outnumbered by Keel-billed, but still seen or heard almost daily  
**Black-cheeked Woodpecker** - P, A  
**Red-crowned Woodpecker** - G, A, T; common; seen almost daily  
**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** - G; singles at Carmen's Gamboa feeders and Ammo Dump Pond; a rarity in Panama, these were my first!  
**Cinnamon Woodpecker** - P, A; it was a joy to hear Sandra call out this species with confidence on Pipeline  
**Lineated Woodpecker** - G, A  
 (h) **Crimson-crested Woodpecker** - G, P; Adistinctive drums were heard only; this is in the same genus (*Campephilus*) as Ivory-billed Woodpecker  
**Pale-breasted Spinetail** - T; great looks at this furtive little member of the Ovenbird family  
**Plain Xenops** - G, P, A  
**Plain-brown Woodcreeper** - G, A  
**Northern Barred-Woodcreeper** - G; good looks on Semaphore Hill  
**Cocoa (Buff-throated) Woodcreeper** - G; the common woodcreeper; seen and heard several days  
**STRAIGHT-BILLED WOODCREEPER** - T; this was a treat; this species is mostly restricted to mangrove habitat in Panama  
**Fasciated Antshrike** - G, P; fairly common; some great looks  
 (h) **Great Antshrike** - A (h)

**Barred Antshrike** - G, A; seen very well

**Western Slaty-Antshrike (Slaty Antshrike)** - G, P, A; common and seen almost daily, including a female attending a nest on Pipeline Rd

(h) **Spot-crowned Antwren** - P (h)

**Checker-throated Antwren** - G, P, A

**White-flanked Antwren** - G, A

**Dot-winged Antwren** - G, P, A, MP

**Dusky Antbird** - G, MP

**JET ANTBIRD** - G; excellent response from birds on Old Gamboa Rd

(h) **Bare-crowned Antbird** - A (h)

**White-bellied Antbird** - G, MP; not seen by all

**Chestnut-backed Antbird** - P

**Bicolored Antbird** - P; these birds are almost always found around army ants

**SPOTTED ANTBIRD** - G, P; a truly stunning antbird

**Ocellated Antbird** - P; a lucky few got to see this bird, which was not particularly cooperative

(h) **Black-faced Antthrush** - G; heard from Tower

**STREAK-CHESTED (SPECTACLED) ANTPITTA** - P; we had fantastic looks at a responsive juvenile on Pipeline Rd

**BLUE COTINGA** - P, G; females on Pipeline, distant male at Ammo Dump ponds

**Purple-throated Fruitcrow** - P, A; great looks, especially on Achiote

**White-ruffed Manakin** - CA; one female at Rosabel's

**LANCE-TAILED MANAKIN** - MP; this usually hard-to-see species was unusually cooperative at Metro Park. Repeated scope views were had by all.

**Blue-crowned Manakin** - G, P

**RED-CAPPED MANAKIN** - G, P; great male on Pipeline

**Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet** - G, A, MP

**MOUSE-COLORED TYRANNULET** - T; this nondescript flycatcher was a highlight for Marshall as it was one of his two lifers on the tour. It is scarce in central Panama but Tocumen has been a good area for it.

**Yellow Tyrannulet** - A; a difficult bird to get looks at

**Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet** - MP

**Forest Elaenia** - P, G

**Yellow-bellied Elaenia** - G, A, T, MP

**YELLOW-GREEN TYRANNULET** - MP; this is the only Panama endemic that we saw on this tour (most Panama species sneak into Costa Rica or Colombia). This nondescript little canopy flycatcher could have been more cooperative for us, but some people had good looks.

**Paltry Tyrannulet** - G, CA; seen or heard most days

**Northern Scrub-Flycatcher** - T; rarely seen on this tour, but apparently common at the new trail at Tocumen

(h) **Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant** - G (h), A (h)

**Common Tody-Flycatcher** - A, MP

**Olivaceous Flatbill** - G

**Yellow-margined Flycatcher** - G, P

**Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher** - G, MP; seen best at Metro Park

**Black-tailed Flycatcher** - G

**Tropical Pewee** - G; in Gamboa town

(h) **Acadian Flycatcher** - P

**Willow Flycatcher** - T; seen and heard singing at Tocumen Marsh

**Black Phoebe** - CA; the eastern Panamanian subspecies *angustirostris* (and western Panama's *annicola*) are much more extensively dark below than North American birds.

**PIED WATER-TYRANT** - T; great looks at this cute little flycatcher at Tocumen; rare and local in Panama

**BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTILA** - G, P; heard several times, but most memorable was seeing a bird building a nest along Old Gamboa Rd and seeing one devour a frog on Plantation Trail!

**Dusky-capped Flycatcher** - G; this is subspecies *nigricapillus*, different from the subspecies *olivaceous* which reaches the U.S.A. in Arizona

**Panama Flycatcher** - T; six seen

**Great Crested Flycatcher** - P, A, G  
**Lesser Kiskadee** - G, A  
**Great Kiskadee** - seen daily  
**Boat-billed Flycatcher** - A, T  
**Rusty-margined Flycatcher** - G, T  
**Social Flycatcher** - seen daily  
**Gray-capped Flycatcher** - A  
**Streaked Flycatcher** - G, MP  
**Piratic Flycatcher** - G  
**Tropical Kingbird** - abundant; seen daily  
**Gray Kingbird** - T; three birds at the only area where they occur regularly near the Pacific Ocean  
**Fork-tailed Flycatcher** - G, A  
**Cinnamon Becard** - A  
**White-winged Becard** - A; Joyce spotted this bird in a canopy flock  
**Masked Tityra** - G, A, MP  
**Gray-breasted Martin** - abundant; seen daily  
**Mangrove Swallow** - common, especially along the Canal  
**Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - G; two at Charges River  
**Southern Rough-winged Swallow** - abundant; seen almost daily  
(h) **Black-bellied Wren** - G (h)  
(h) **Rufous-breasted Wren** - G (h) , MP (h)  
(h) **Bay Wren** - P (h), A (h)  
(h) **Rufous-and-white Wren** - G (h), MP (h)  
**Plain Wren** - G, A, T, MP; heard widely, but for most people our only views were at Tocumen  
**Buff-breasted Wren** - G; one at Ammo Dump  
**House Wren** - G, A, CA, MP; seen most days; this subspecies *inquietus* is somewhat different from U.S.A. House Wrens, both in song and appearance. Some authors split birds south of southern Mexico as Southern House Wren (*T. musculus*), though the AOU has not adopted this.  
**White-breasted Wood-Wren** - G; Sandra spotted this one on Plantation Trail  
(h) **Scaly-breasted (Nightingale) Wren** - P  
**Song Wren** - P (h), A; great looks for (almost) all at Achiote  
**Tropical Mockingbird** - G, A, T; interestingly, the Panama population of this species was introduced  
**Clay-colored Robin (Thrush)** - common; seen daily  
**Long-billed Gnatwren** - G, P (h), MP  
**Tropical Gnatcatcher** - G, P, MP (h)  
**Black-chested Jay** - A  
**House Sparrow** - A; seen by a few at Colon and elsewhere  
**Yellow-throated Vireo** - G  
**Philadelphia Vireo** - G; one from the Tower on our first morning; scarce here in winter  
**Scrub Greenlet** - A, MP  
**Golden-fronted Greenlet** - G  
**Lesser Greenlet** - abundant, seen or heard almost daily  
**Green Shrike-Vireo** - G, P (h), MP (h); seen by only a lucky few  
**Golden-winged Warbler** - MP  
**Tennessee Warbler** - common; seen almost daily  
**Yellow Warbler** - fairly common, seen daily  
**Chestnut-sided Warbler** - G, P, MP  
**Yellow-rumped Warbler** - A; one (Myrtle subspecies) at Ft. San Lorenzo was one of our rarer birds of the tour. A few occur in Panama each winter, and the Caribbean side around Colon may be one of the more consistent areas.

**CAPE MAY WARBLER** - MP; one dull immature female at Metro Park 9 Feb was big news for Panama. There are only a few prior records from the Canal Zone and it is a rarity anywhere in Panama!

**Bay-breasted Warbler** - very common; seen most days

**Black-and-white Warbler** - P, MP  
**American Redstart** - G; one on Old Gamboa Rd  
**Prothonotary Warbler** - G, T, PV  
**Northern Waterthrush** - G, T (h), PV (h)  
**Louisiana Waterthrush** - G, MP; singles at Plantation Trail and Metro Park; scarce in Canal Zone  
**Common Yellowthroat** - T; about 4 seen and heard, fairly scarce in Panama  
**Bananaquit** - A, CA  
**ROSY THRUSH-TANAGER** - G, MP (h)  
**White-shouldered Tanager** - G, P  
**Red-throated Ant-Tanager** - G  
**Summer Tanager** - G, A  
**Crimson-backed Tanager** - G, A, T, MP; fairly common, seen almost daily; a really striking bird, much more so than the picture in the Panama book  
**Flame-rumped Tanager** - A; this subspecies (*icteronotus*) differs from the nominate (*flammigerus*) in having a yellow, instead of flame scarlet rump  
**Blue-gray Tanager** - G, A, T, MP; common; seen daily, mostly in lowlands, not seen from Tower  
**Palm Tanager** - G, A, T, MP; common; seen daily  
**Yellow-crowned Euphonia** - T, MP  
**Thick-billed Euphonia** - G, A, MP  
**Fulvous-vented Euphonia** - G, A  
**White-vented Euphonia** - A; a pair on the Achiote trail was a surprise  
**Plain-colored Tanager** - G, A, T  
**EMERALD TANAGER** - CA; three at Rosabel's were truly stunning  
**BAY-HEADED TANAGER** - P, CA  
**GOLDEN-HOODED TANAGER** - P, CA; gaudy  
**Blue Dacnis** - G, P, MP  
**Green Honeycreeper** - G, P; common, but spectacular  
**Shining Honeycreeper** - G, P; two at Carmen's feeders, three on Pipeline  
**Red-legged Honeycreeper** - G; 20+ coming to the feeders in Gamboa were a memorable sight on our first day  
**Blue-black Grassquit** - T  
**Variable Seedeater** - G, T, MP; common; seen almost daily. The subspecies in the Canal Zone is *hicksii*  
**Ruddy-breasted Seedeater** - T  
**Thick-billed (Lesser) Seed-Finch** - A, MP  
**Yellow-faced Grassquit** - CA; one at feeders  
**Orange-billed Sparrow** - G  
**Black-striped Sparrow** - G, A, T  
**Streaked Saltator** - G, MP  
**Buff-throated Saltator** - G, A, MP; common; seen most days  
**Black-headed Saltator** - A  
**Blue-black Grosbeak** - MP  
**RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD** - A; in the same genus as our meadowlarks (*Sturnella*)  
**Great-tailed Grackle** - abundant; seen daily  
**Shiny Cowbird** - G  
**Giant Cowbird** - A; Ft. San Lorenzo  
**Yellow-backed Oriole** - A, MP  
**Yellow-tailed Oriole** - G, A  
**Baltimore Oriole** - G; male at Carmen's house  
**Orchard Oriole** - T  
**Yellow-rumped Caciue** - A  
**Scarlet-rumped Caciue** - G, P, A, MP; common; seen almost daily  
  
**Crested Oropendola** - A; active colony at Ft. San Lorenzo was adjacent to a colony of Chestnut-headed in the next tree over  
**Chestnut-headed Oropendola** - G, A, MP; active colony in Gamboa town

**TRICOLORED MUNIA** - G; This was our last new bird of the trip, seen near Summit Ponds. That evening we referred to it as Chestnut Munia (munias are also known as mannikins, not to be confused with manakins such as Red-capped or Lance-tailed). After delving into my library back at home, here is what I have learned. It is now known as Tricolored Munia (*Lonchura malacca*) following a split from Chestnut Munia (*Lonchura atricapilla*) in 2000. According to accounts in *North American Birds* (NAB), this species was introduced in Puerto Rico and has recently spread throughout the Caribbean Islands. It is feared that this species may become a major grain pest (NAB 58:157). The first report in Central America was in Costa Rica in 2000, with records following in Honduras (Jul 2003; NAB 57:555), Belize (Aug 2003; NAB 57:555; Jan 2004; NAB 58:292), and Campeche, Mexico (Jun 2003; NAB 57:553). I am not aware of a previous record for Panama, but given the species' history in Central America to date, I think it is tentatively safe to count this species, since it probably hails from an established population in the Caribbean and seems to follow a larger pattern of spread throughout Central America (a la European Starling and Eurasian Collared-Dove); it is counted on the official Costa Rica list.

## LEADER-ONLY BIRDS

**Double-toothed Kite** - A; **Semipalmated Sandpiper** - PV; (h) **Thrushlike Schiffornis**; (h) **Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant** - T; (h) **Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant** - CA; (h) **Southern Bentbill** - G, P; (h) **Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher** - G; (h) **Yellow-green Vireo** - MP; **Cliff Swallow** - G; from Tower; (h) **Hooded Warbler** - G  
**Gray-headed Tanager** - G; (h) **Slate-colored Grosbeak** - G; (h) **Dickcissel** - T

**Total - 302** (+ 13 leader only)

\*\*\*\*\*

## MAMMALS (12+ species)

**Central American Woolly Opossum** - G; one seen on night drive  
**Common Opossum** - G; two seen on night drive, seeking flowers  
**Forest Rabbit** (*Sylvilagus brasiliensis*) - G  
**Mantled Howler Monkey** (*Alouatta palmata*) - G; great looks from tower  
**White-faced Capuchin** (*Cebus capuchinus*) - G, A  
**Geoffrey=s Tamarin** (*Saguinos geoffreyi*) - 3 on Semaphore Hill  
**Red-tailed Squirrel** (*Sciurus granatensis*) - G, A  
**Variagated Squirrel** - G  
**Central American Agouti** (*Dasyprocta punctata*) - G, MP  
**Hoffman=s Two-toed Sloth** - two seen from Semaphore Hill on our first morning  
**Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth** - leader only; rarely missed!  
**White-nosed Coatimundi** (*Nasua narica*) - G  
**Common Tent-making Bat** (*Uroderma bilobatum*) - A; Jose showed us these fascinating bats at Achiotte and Ft. San Lorenzo. They nibble the centers of the palm fronds to make them fold over into a tent, where they roost in groups of 15-30 animals.  
**bat sp.** - 3+ additional species seen

## HERPS etc.

**Spectacled Caiman** - G; several at Summit Ponds  
**Green Iguana** - G  
**HELMETED IGUANA** (*Corytophanes cristatus*) - G; Amy found this little guy in the road at Semaphore Hill on 4 Feb. One of the most interesting non-birds of the trip, Jose had only seen it about 3 times before.  
**Mediterranean Gecko** - G; the cute barking lizards on the CT walls  
**Yellow-headed Gecko** (*Gonatodes albigularis*) - G; one on Plantation Trail at first bridge  
**Striped Basilisk** - A; several seen along creeks at Achiotte  
**Giant Green Anole** (*Dactylon frenata*) - P; this large green anole was photographed on Pipeline  
**Anolis lizard sp.** - several anoles seen, may have involved several species  
**Brown Wood Turtle** (*Rhinoclemmys annulate*) - P; caught and photographed on Pipeline

**Central American Slider** - G; water turtles seen at Ammo Dump and Police Academy Ponds and elsewhere; currently lumped under *Trachemys scripta*, which includes the familiar Red-eared Slider of the central U.S.A.

**amphibians** - several frogs and toads heard, but never seen

**butterflies** - Blue Morphos (two species), Malachites, Fatimas, White Peacocks, White Morphos, swallowtails, and many others. See separate butterfly list.