

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

**OCTOBER 18 – 25, 2008**

**LEADERS: BARRY ZIMMER, VICTOR EMANUEL, & JOSE SOTO**

**COMPILED BY: BARRY ZIMMER**

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Every trip to the famed Canopy Tower is different, but each offers its share of excitement and wonderful tropical birding highlights. Our October trip this fall was certainly one of the best ever. We saw just over 300 species of birds and covered a wide variety of habitats, from the foothills of Cerro Azul to the Caribbean lowland forests of Achiote, to world-famous Pipeline Road.

Our morning on Cerro Azul was probably my favorite of the trip. At nearly 3,000 feet elevation, a number of foothill species can be found here that are not likely to be encountered elsewhere. We spent the entire morning birding the yard, gardens, and surrounding forests of a private residence where the bird activity seemed non-stop. A pair of the very localized and uncommon Spot-crowned Barbets greeted us in a fruiting tree shortly after our arrival. Soon they were joined by a pair of elegant, and equally localized, Yellow-eared Toucanets. Hummingbird feeders were abuzz with activity including Green Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, and Snowy-bellied Hummingbird among others. Green Honeycreepers, Scarlet-thighed and Blue dacnis, and Bay-headed, Speckled, Emerald, Hepatic, Blue-gray, and Crimson-backed tanagers joined in the mix, creating an incredible kaleidoscope of color. A pair of Stripe-cheeked Woodpeckers, a Panamanian endemic, appeared suddenly, and posed for prolonged scope views. Fulvous-vented and Thick-billed euphonias darted about some fruiting vines. A Black-faced Antthrush was surprisingly cooperative as it fed on the forest floor. Overhead, a rarely seen Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle soared majestically by, and was later followed by an equally magnificent White Hawk. Topping this list, perhaps, was the bizarre and rarely seen White-tipped Sickbill—a large member of the hummingbird family with an absurdly decurved bill. We ventured to a large *heliconia* patch which serves as a lekking area for this species and, with some patience, were rewarded with magnificent views of a sickbill about 15 feet away. Other visitors included the always impressive Broad-billed Motmot, Violet-headed and Violet-capped hummingbirds, a male Rufous-crested Coquette, a group of Collared Aracaries, and a Scaly-breasted Wren. All these amazing highlights were packed into one morning of birding!

Other areas we visited proved equally productive. At Achiote we enjoyed great views of White-tailed, Violaceous, and Slaty-tailed trogons, Pied Puffbird, Chestnut-mandibled and Keel-billed toucans, Blue-headed Parrot, Lineated and Cinnamon woodpeckers, Pacific Antwren, Cinnamon Becard, and White-headed Wren. An hour at Fort San Lorenzo was also productive with scope views of the rarely seen Green-and-rufous Kingfisher and a male Black-tailed Trogon.

Pipeline Road never fails to produce exciting finds. Highlights of our day along that famous birding road included Gray-necked Wood-Rail with babies; Black-breasted and White-whiskered puffbirds; Squirrel Cuckoo; Crimson-crested Woodpecker; Black-striped Woodcreeper; Streak-chested Antpitta; Spotted, Bicolored, Chestnut-backed, and Ocellated antbirds; and Purple-throated Fruitcrow among others. The hummingbird display at the newly-built Panama Rainforest Discovery Center was beyond description. Eight species of dazzling hummingbirds fed literally feet away from us, including Long-billed and Stripe-throated hermits, Violet-crowned Woodnymphs, and the incomparable Violet-bellied Hummingbird.

The open country and rice fields of Tocumen yielded an entirely different variety of birds including Cocoli Heron, Aplomado Falcon, Amazon Kingfisher, Pale-breasted Spinetail, Pied Water-Tyrant, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher.

Of course, we can't forget the area of the Canopy Tower itself. Our October tour is timed to coincide with the migration of raptors from the United States to South America. On our third day we watched a fantastic flight right over the tower with an estimated 9,000 Swainson's Hawks and 7,000 Turkey Vultures passing over late in the afternoon. This was surpassed on our final day when an estimated 20,000 Swainson's Hawks poured over Panama City as we watched, mesmerized, from the mudflats of Panama Viejo. Other tower area sightings included a perched adult Ornate Hawk-Eagle for over an hour (!), a family group of Hook-billed Kites, five King Vultures, a pair of White Hawks, a Bat Falcon right overhead, a fabulous study of the rarely seen Choco Screech-Owl, a family group of Spectacled Owls, a roosting Great Potoo, a show-stopping male Blue Cotinga, Green Shrike-Vireo, and Red-capped and Blue-crowned manakins. An ant swarm located just below the lodge one afternoon yielded close, leisurely views of Bicolored and Spotted antbirds, Blue-crowned and Rufous motmots, Orange-billed Sparrow, and Northern Barred and Plain-brown woodcreepers. Mammals included two-toed and three-toed sloths, mantled howler monkey, Geoffroy's tamarin, tamandua, and white-nosed coatimundi.

I've barely scratched the surface of what was seen on our wonderful trip. The richness of the Canal Zone simply must be experienced by anyone interested in tropical birding, and no place provides a better base for doing so than the Canopy Tower.

### **Itinerary:**

October 18 - arrival at the Canopy Tower

October 19 - Tower watch until 9:30 am, Semaphore Hill; Gamboa & Ammo Dump (116 species)

October 20 - Cerro Azul, Tocumen Marsh (128 species; 192 total)

October 21 - Pipeline Road all day including the new Panama Rainforest Discovery Center (113 species; 229 total)

October 22 - Achiote, Gatun Dam area, Fort Sherman and Fort San Lorenzo, train ride along Panama Canal (137 species; 261 total)

October 23 - Tower watch, Old Gamboa Road, Police Academy Ponds, Semaphore Hill, Plantation Road; evening owling (103 species; 281 total)

October 24 - Metropolitan Park, Panama Viejo, Miraflores locks (106 species; 302 total)

October 25 - departures for home or on to Canopy Lodge extension (302 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 most days but never seen

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soul*) also heard only

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

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) seen by some at Cerro Azul

**Crested Guan** (*Penelope purpurascens*) heard only distantly at Cerro Azul

Black-eared Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus melanotis*) heard only at Cerro Azul

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) nice views at Tocumen

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

**Least Bittern** (*Ixobrychus exilis*) seen only by a few at Ammo Dump; rare

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) great views at Ammo Dump

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) nice views at Tocumen and Panama Viejo; uncommon

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*) oddly, only one flock the whole trip

Striated Heron (*Butorides striatus*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) scope views at the Police Academy ponds

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) seen very well at Tocumen

King Vulture (*Sarcoramphus papa*) three adults and two immatures from the tower; very uncommon

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) one immature from the tower

**Hook-billed Kite** (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) family group from the tower where I have never seen them before; actually a new Panama bird for me

Snail Kite (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*) about 50 from the train around Gatun Lake; also two near Ammo Dump where unusual

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) about 40 over the tower the first morning and another lone bird two days later

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) two from the tower and another at Cerro Azul; always stunning

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) one adult near Fort Sherman

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) very distantly at Tocumen

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) Tocumen; uncommon

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) scattered migrants with up to 100 in a day

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) both light and dark morphs

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) incredible flights with an estimated **9,000** the first afternoon and **20,000** the last day over Panama City; tied for third favorite bird of the tour

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) one from the tower and another at Tocumen

**Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus melanoleucus*) one over Rosabel's yard at Cerro Azul was a real surprise

**Ornate Hawk-Eagle** (*Spizaetus ornatus*) a full adult from the tower in the scope for over an hour!!!!; a first ever for the tower

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizastur melanoleucus*) over Achiote completing the hawk-eagle hat trick!

Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur mirandollei*) heard only from the tower

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) heard only from the tower

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) by some at Tocumen

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) scattered about open areas

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*) resident birds on Cerro Azul and a migrant (?) at Gatun

**Aplomado Falcon** (*Falco femoralis*) a surprise find by some at Tocumen

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) tower, Cerro Azul, Colon, and Metro Park

Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) Tocumen, Colon

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) heard only, as is generally the case

Gray-necked Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) adult with three fuzzy young along Pipeline thanks to Mahlon

Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) by a few from the train

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) becoming very widespread in Panama  
 Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)  
**American Golden-Plover** (*Pluvialis dominica*) by a few from the train; very uncommon  
Wilson's Plover (*Charadrius wilsonia*) uncommon; Panama Viejo  
 Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)  
 Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) by a few from the train  
 Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) numerous in all marshy areas  
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)  
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*)  
 Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)  
 Willet (*Tringa semipalmatus*)  
 Lesser Yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*)  
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)  
 Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*) very distantly at Panama Viejo  
Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) one winter bird at Panama Viejo  
 Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) the most common shorebird at Panama Viejo  
 Least Sandpiper (*Calidris minutilla*)  
Pectoral Sandpiper (*Calidris melanotos*) one from the train by some; uncommon  
 Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)  
 Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)  
 Gull-billed Tern (*Sterna nilotica*)  
 Royal Tern (*Sterna maxima*)  
Sandwich Tern (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) one at Panama Viejo; uncommon  
 Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)  
 Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)  
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*) by half the group at Tocumen  
 Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) daily  
 White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)  
 Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) exceptional views at Gamboa  
Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pionopsitta haematotis*) perched at Plantation Road; uncommon  
 Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*)  
 Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*)  
 Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) mostly heard  
 Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*)  
 Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) always impressive  
 Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) heard only  
 Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)  
Choco (Vermiculated) Screech-Owl (*Megascops chocoensis*) incredible views thanks to Jose; recently split off from *M. guatemalae*; very hard to see; tied for third favorite bird of the tour  
Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) fantastic views of roosting family  
 Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) heard only  
 Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) migrants  
 Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*)

Great Potoo (*Nyctibius grandis*) scope views of bird on day roost!  
Common Potoo (*Nyctibius griseus*) scope views on night drive  
White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) flock over Achiote  
Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) the most common swift seen  
Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) best from the tower  
Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicaudus*) a few from the tower  
Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) a couple of nice views from the tower  
Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) great views at Cerro Azul  
Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) formerly Western Long-tailed; great studies at the PRDC feeders  
Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) formerly Little Hermit  
**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 views in the heliconia thicket  
White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) absolutely stunning  
Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) two at Cerro Azul  
**Rufous-crested Coquette** (*Lophornis delattrei*) male spotted by Lang and Jeff on Cerro Azul; rare  
Violet-crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) stunning; seen from a few feet at the PRDC  
Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Damophila julie*) an incomparable species which is regular at the CT feeders and downright common at the PRDC  
Violet-capped Hummingbird (*Goldmania violiceps*) one male & a few females at Cerro Azul  
Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Polyerata amabilis*) common at CT & PRDC feeders  
Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Saucerottia edward*) Cerro Azul  
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) common in more open areas  
White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffoni*) regular at CT & PRDC feeders  
Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*) common at Cerro Azul feeders  
Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliathrix barroti*) Cerro Azul  
White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon viridis*) Pipeline & Achiote  
Violaceous Trogon (*Trogon violaceus*) scarcer than usual, but seen well at Achiote  
Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) Pipeline, Semaphore Hill; one male seen from ten feet!  
Black-tailed Trogon (*Trogon melanurus*) stunning male near San Lorenzo; a bonus  
Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) nice pair along the Trogon Trail at Achiote  
Blue-crowned Motmot (*Momotus momota*) Old Gamboa Road, Semaphore Hill  
Rufous Motmot (*Baryphengus martii*) heard often; one seen well at ant swarm on Semaphore Hill  
Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) several excellent views  
Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) Gatun Dam  
Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) three at Tocumen  
Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*)  
**Green-and-rufous Kingfisher** (*Chloroceryle inda*) prolonged scope views of this rarity; only my third ever!; voted the second favorite bird of the tour

Black-breasted Puffbird (*Notharchus pectoralis*) nice views from Semaphore Hill, Pipeline, and Achiote

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*) great views at Achiote thanks to Jose

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) exceptionally well at the ant swarm

Spot-crowned Barbet (*Capito maculicoronatus*) pair studied at leisure at Cerro Azul, where rarely seen, and another pair at Achiote

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) many great views

Yellow-eared Toucanet (*Selenidera spectabilis*) wonderful pair of these uncommon birds at Cerro Azul

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) seen daily (up to a dozen a day) 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*)

**Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker** (*Piculus callopterus*) fantastic view of a pair at Cerro Azul; a Panamanian endemic

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Ceelus loricatus*) great scope views

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) prolonged study of one at Achiote was, oddly, our only one of the trip

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucus*) magnificent

Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*) unsurpassed views at Tocumen

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*)

Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) heard only

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) at the ant swarm

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) uncommon

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) ditto; seen only by a few

Northern Barred Woodcreeper (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*) another ant swarm specialist

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) our most common woodcreeper

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) stunning

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) several good views

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) heard only at Achiote

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) great looks at Ammo Dump

Western Slaty-Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) daily

**Pacific Antwren** (*Myrmotherula pacifica*) female at Achiote was a very nice find

Checker-throated Antwren (*Myrmotherula fulviventris*)

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhoptias quixensis*) numerous

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)

Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*) nice views of male

White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) great views in Metro Park, also along Old Gamboa Road for some

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*)

Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naeviodes*) nice views of this striking species

Bicolored Antbird (*Gymnopithys leucaspis*) along Pipeline and several at ant swarm  
Ocellated Antbird (*Phaenostictus mcleannani*) pair along Pipeline was a bonus  
Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) good views for most at Cerro Azul;  
generally this species is heard only  
Streak-chested Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) wonderful scope views of this  
special bird  
Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*) who will ever forget the views  
of this bird at Metro Park the last morning?  
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) pair from the tower  
Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*) Achiote  
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*) Achiote  
Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)  
Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)  
Lesser Elaenia (*Elaenia chiriquensis*)  
Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) seen well at Cerro Azul  
Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*)  
Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)  
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) by some on Cerro Azul  
Southern Bentbill (*Oncostoma olivaceum*) heard only  
Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)  
Olivaceous Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*)  
Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*) well from the tower  
Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*)  
Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) daily in numbers  
Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)  
Black Phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*) one on Cerro Azul  
Pied Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola pica*) pair at Tocumen; scarce  
Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) seen best at the ant swarm  
Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)  
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) oddly only one was seen the entire trip  
Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)  
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)  
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*)  
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)  
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)  
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) pair at Achiote; very uncommon  
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) good views of several  
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) two at Metro Park  
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) abundant  
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)  
Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) one at Tocumen  
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*)  
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) Achiote; uncommon  
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)  
Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) oddly scarce with only two seen  
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) male along Pipeline; uncommon

Blue Cotinga (*Cotinga nattererii*) incredible male from the tower on our second watch; stayed for over ten minutes and was voted the favorite bird of the tour  
 Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) seen best along Pipeline  
 Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*) only one male at the lek, but a few other sightings elsewhere  
 Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) female in Metro Park  
 Blue-crowned Manakin (*Pipra coronata*) stunning; almost always in fruiting bushes around tower  
 Red-capped Manakin (*Pipra mentalis*) ditto  
 Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*)  
 Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*) Metro Park  
 Golden-fronted Greenlet (*Hylophilus aurantifrons*) Metro Park  
 Lesser Greenlet (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)  
 Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) seen incredibly well from the tower (even the blue nape!)  
 Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) daily in numbers  
 Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*)  
 Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)  
 Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) two from the tower  
 Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*)  
 Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)  
White-headed Wren (*Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*) great views at Achiote; easily missed  
 Black-bellied Wren (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*) exceptional views of this skulker  
 Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) great views along Pipeline  
 Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) Metro Park, Old Gamboa  
 Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryothorus rufalbus*) mostly heard  
 Plain Wren (*Thryothorus modestus*) heard only  
 Buff-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus leucotis*) Old Gamboa Road  
 House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)  
 White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) stunning views along Plantation Road  
 Scaly-breasted Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) Cerro Azul  
 Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*) family group at Achiote  
 Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) seen well the first morning  
 Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) Cerro Azul  
 Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) seen daily  
Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) very uncommon migrant seen at Old Gamboa Road & Metro Park  
 Clay-colored (Robin) Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) common  
 Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)  
Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) thanks to Marilyn; very 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*)  
 Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus novaboracensis*)  
 Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*)  
 Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) Cerro Azul, Achiote  
Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*) scope views of males & females for most  
Gray-headed Tanager (*Eucometis penicillata*) several good views  
 White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) generally numerous  
 Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*)  
 Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) Cerro Azul  
 Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)  
 Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*)  
 Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) this stunning species was seen daily; "sangre del toro"  
 Flame-rumped (Lemon-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*) two at Rosabel's on Cerro Azul  
**Speckled Tanager** (*Tangara guttata*) three on Cerro Azul, one of which posed in the scope for a few minutes; stunning!  
 Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) Cerro Azul; equally stunning  
 Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) much scarcer than usual  
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis venusta*) Cerro Azul  
 Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) many nice views of this beauty  
 Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) several excellent views  
Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) females at Gamboa and Cerro Azul  
 Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) gorgeous males at Gamboa; 15 in view at once!  
 Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)  
 Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) by a few only along Old Gamboa Road  
 Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus funereus*) scope views at Achiote  
 Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) Cerro Azul  
 Saffron Finch (*Sicalis flaveola*) Gatun Locks  
 Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) seen best at the ant swarm; always skulky  
 Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) heard only  
 Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) Old Gamboa Road  
 Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*)  
 Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) heard very close, but only glimpsed by some  
 Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*)  
 Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) best at Metro Park

Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) Achiote and from the train  
Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) Gatun Dam  
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)  
Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*)  
Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) Pipeline & Metro Park  
Yellow-tailed Oriole (*Icterus mesomelas*) Achiote  
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)  
Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) heard only  
Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*)  
Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) fantastic studies from the tower  
Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) Pipeline & Plantation Road  
Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia lueicapilla*) heard more often than seen  
Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*)  
Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*)  
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) by some distantly from the train station

total species - **302**

### **Leader only birds:**

Black-throated Mango  
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher  
Mourning Warbler  
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater

### **Mammals:**

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth---a few seen very well  
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth--- two on the night drive  
White-nosed Coatimundi---relatively numerous  
Central American Agouti  
Tamandua---nice views for most of one along Semaphore Hill at about 6 am  
Mantled Howler Monkey---great views at from the tower and elsewhere  
White-faced Capuchin---very well along Pipeline  
Geoffrey's Tamarin---adorable; best views from the tower  
Central American Woolly Opossum---very close and cooperative on night drive  
Tayra---leader only near Fort San Lorenzo  
Red-tailed Squirrel  
Variegated Squirrel  
Forest Rabbit---a trip highlight for some!  
various unidentified bat species---some very large ones (possibly Spear-nosed Bat) and some small ones

total species - 15+

## Reptiles & Amphibians:

Green Iguana  
Slender Anole  
Striped Basilisk  
Mediterranean (House) Gecko  
Yellow-headed Gecko  
Central American Whip-tailed Lizard  
Tungara Frog---the "pleasant" sound by the tower at night  
Marine (Cane) Toad  
Leaf Litter Toad  
American Crocodile  
Spectacled Caiman

total species -11

## Butterflies:

*Battus polydamus*---Polydamas Swallowtail; from the tower  
*Papilio* species (cresphontes or thoas)---Giant or Thoas Swallowtail  
*Parides* species---"Cattleheart"; large dark butterfly with red hind wing patch and buffy forewing patch; maybe Pink-checked Cattleheart  
white species---possibly Painted White (*Pieriballia viardi*)  
*Colias eurytheme*---Orange Sulphur  
*Phoebis sennae*---Cloudless Sulphur  
*Phoebis agarithe*---Large Orange Sulphur  
*Arcas cypria*---**Wavy-lined Sunstreak**; absolutely incredible butterfly (lime green, black, and blue with tails) seen from the tower at midday  
hairstreak species that looked like **Chiapas Stripe-Streak** (*Arawacus togarna*) at Achote; may not even occur there, but something very closely related; striped white, black and orange below; stunning!  
*Strymon melinus*---Gray Hairstreak  
ministreak species---possibly Pale Ministreak (*Ministrymon una*); also at Achote  
metalmark species---seemingly two types at Achote, small dark brown ones and small blackish ones  
*Heliconius erato*---Crimson-patched Longwing or Erato Heliconian  
*Heliconius* species---either Five-spotted (*H. hecale*) or Heart-spotted (*H. hecalesia*)  
Heliconia  
*Dryas iulia*---Orange Julia or Julia Heliconian  
*Heliconius* species---orange hindwing & orange/yellow/black forewing  
*Chlosyne lacinia*---Bordered Patch; Achote; very different looking from the Bordered Patches in the states  
*Eresia clio*---Creamy Crescent; black and white above; Achote  
*Phyciodes* species---possibly Ardent Crescent (*Phyciodes ardys*) or something similar looking  
clearwing species---maybe in the genus *Pteronymia*

*Junonia genoveva*---Dark Tropical Buckeye; Achiote  
*Anartia fatima*---Fatima or Banded Peacock  
*Marpesia chiron*---Many-banded Daggerwing  
satyr species---possibly a ur-satyr or gemmed satyr; in leaf litter near antpitta  
*Adelpha* species (very possibly *lerna*)---"Panama Sister"  
*Catonephele* species---possibly Guatemalan Catone (*Catonephele mexicana*); pretty dark brown spotted with white above along Pipeline Road  
*Hamadryas* species---maybe Gray cracker (*Hamadryas februa*)  
*Morpho helenor*---Blue Morpho or Common Morpho  
*Danaus plexippus*---Monarch  
*Danaus gilippus*---Queen  
*Astrartes* species---skipper with aqua blue above  
*Urbanus* species---possibly Brown Longtail (*Urbanus procne*); Achiote; brown skipper with long tails  
*Pyrgus oileus*---Tropical Checkered Skipper

total species - 33

\*\*\*Many butterfly identifications were somewhat speculative, but were based on A Swift Guide to the Butterflies of Mexico and Central America (Glassberg). This book does not include ranges for Panama making identifications that much more difficult. In some cases I have listed a species which looks very similar not really knowing if it even occurs in Panama. Many more that were seen, were left unidentified (whites, sulphurs, skippers, glasswings, etc.). I have tried to include a common name when known.

### **Significant others:**

Giant (Helicopter) Damselfly  
Leafcutter ants  
Army ants  
watching a ship go through the canal at Miraflores Locks  
**the great banana throw-off**