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PANAMA TRIP REPORT

March 25 – April 2, 2012

Peg Abbott and the Canopy team: Tower: Carlos Bethancourt & Alexis "Alex" Sanchez;
Lodge: Danielo Rodriguez and Harmodio "Moyo" Rodriguez, guides,
with 12 participants: Carla, Bud and Gingy, Lynn, Niki, Sharon and Park, Ed and Beth, Ed, Bill and Judie

All photos by tour participant Carla Bregman

Sun., Mar. 25, 2012 Panama City Arrivals / Canopy Tower

Several of our group came in early, so today six of them were met at their hotel at the mouth of the Panama Canal to transfer to Canopy Tower. They'd had a fun couple of days exploring the city and on Saturday, they transited the Panama Canal. The remaining six came in at various times, Peg being last as her first flight segment out of Lincoln, Nebraska was delayed waiting for a flight crew to come in to relieve a pilot who was ill. With it being spring break, rebooking took a near-miracle, but she finally arrived - and her luggage did so two days



later. Many of the group knew each other from previous trips so the welcome dinner took on a merry feeling of reunion. When Peg arrived, several of the group went up on the Observation deck to visit, watching ships go through the Panama Canal as stars filled the skies.

Beth says her first reaction to the Tower was "uff-da!" Bud says recycling at its best. Judy was amazed by what looked like a VERY small area, yet there were rooms, dining and observation spaces, just where were those suites? Lynn immediately photographed the earplug dispensers - metal

makes for little insulation. The food made a big hit, as did the happy hour. Everyone there was friendly, pointing out eagerly what we'd see on our various outings. The genius to make this place a nature lodge is that of Raul Arias de Para, and to see it in your mind, you must go their website to see it for yourself!

Mon., March 26, 2012 Semaphore Hill / Ammo Ponds near Pipeline Rd.



raucous Red-lored Parrots and Scaled Pigeons, which sport bright bills, spotted napes, and chestnut feathers on their backs. There were some outrageous flowers in bloom -- passion flower vines, epiphytic orchids. We started the walk after breakfast, spending the full morning in pursuit of trogons, puffbirds, antbirds and other jewels of the tropics. It was fairly quiet, but as it was our first day we found plenty to look at, and Carlos Bethancourt, our Canopy Tower guide, was quick with the scope and little escaped his eye. We watched Agoutis, large rodents that feed on fallen fruit and other rainforest foods, cross the road. Throughout the walk we listened to loud roaring from two troops of Howler Monkeys. Red-capped Manakins put on a quick show but were upstaged by a pair of Rufous Motmots, followed shortly by an incredibly tame Broad-billed Motmot. Black-throated Trogons were also quite tame, and we had a chance to photograph butterflies and dragonflies as well as these colorful birds.

We had a pickup arranged at the bottom of the road, a steep climb that Bud and Gingy had scaled the previous afternoon to get some exercise. Today we did not have much of a break, as we had planned a drive to the Atlantic side of the Isthmus,

After travel, to spend the first morning out of a vehicle seemed perfect, and we walked at a leisurely pace down Semaphore Hill, the rise that our ex-radar station, now hotel, sits upon. As the radar was hidden, few trees were cut, so as a nature lodge the trees are right out the windows, as are their inhabitants, a two-toed sloth, Howler Monkeys, Green Shrike-Vireos, soon-to-migrate Chestnut-sided Warblers, Scarlet-rumped Caciques and more.

We greeted the day atop the tower, watching as 11 Keel-billed Toucans assembled in a bare tree, tossing fruit and calling to each other. They were joined by



to see historic Fort San Lorenzo at the scenic mouth of the Chagras River.

About half way across, as billboards began to appear to announce the duty-free zone of Colon, it started to rain. It was coming down pretty hard by the time we got out of the bus at the Fort, so our enthusiasm for exploring was a bit curtailed. Some had not brought raingear, so our array of clothing was pretty comical. We persevered some, and a treat overhead was a kettle of some 200 Swallow-tailed Kites, winging their way northwards. We had great looks at Yellow-headed Caracaras, Streaked Flycatchers, Eastern Kingbirds and a Buff-bellied Wren. Bud described the place as one with a foreboding sense of



history, and to almost everyone it was defensible only from sea; indeed, it fell by attack from land. The signage at the Fort has not held up; we read what we could, and got a feel for the conflict of Britain and Spain; lawful and lawless, pirates and private citizens. Rock walls of the Fort are covered by lichens, plants grow through what is left of the mortar, and Magnificent Frigatebirds soar overhead.

We heard Howlers near the bus, but by the time we got to them the heavens opened up and few wanted to stand in the rain. With luck it stopped almost as soon as it started, and we got another

chance at Howler's back at the Ranger Station. We had to pull away early to make sure we got past a possible closure of the road if a BIG ship came through Gatun Locks. Driving right beside the giant doors that hold water back in the locks, we continued through and stopped at a bridge from which we found our first Green Iguana, a Ringed Kingfisher, Crimson-backed Tanagers and in the open field across, brilliant Red-breasted Blackbirds and a Tropical Mockingbird. It's sad that Fort Sherman is in disarray; buildings seem to be melting into the Earth. The two sides of the Isthmus have very different grips on prosperity!

We ended our day with snacks and libations aboard the Panama Railroad, stepping back in time as we stepped into the red and yellow painted dome car. Brilliant blooms of Tabebuia trees lit up the landscape as we passed. We watched Snail Kites and Limpkins en route, passed the jail that houses Noriega now, and enjoyed each other's company after a full and eventful day.



Gingy described the ride as lubricated, and Bud said they explored the meaning of uff-da and Umlaut, which all made sense after three glasses of wine. It was great to ride along the Canal, watching ships, eating El Golpe -- chips, pork rinds and plantains, Panama's version of party mix.

Dinner was back at Canopy Tower, and a few of us stayed up to complete our bird list.

Tues., March 27, 2012 Discovery Tower / Pipeline Road

We got up in the dark, with hopes to reach the deck of the Discovery Tower, high above the rainforest canopy of Pipeline Road, at sunrise. After a very early breakfast, we headed out to Discovery Tower on the famed Pipeline Road, now in Soberania National Park.



We made it in time, and spent several amazing hours surrounded by sounds of Great Tinamou and Collared Forest Falcons, both elusive species. We got immediate looks at Purple-throated Fruit-Crows, Cinnamon Woodpeckers, and Blue-headed, Mealy and Red-lored Parrots. A male and female Blue Dacnis seemed like vibrant gems, quite close to the platform, but were soon outdone by a distant Blue Cotinga, at long range still an electric being. The male stayed perched for all to get scope views. As the bird chorus slowed down, the butterfly legions took over, floating silently and stunningly over this sea of green. Park found a gecko and several cool dragonflies.

We came down to forest level and enjoyed a break at the Visitor Center, where a lovely woman brewed fresh, strong coffee which we enjoyed with coffee cake that Carlos had packed from the Canopy Tower. Hummingbirds were also there to feast; they staged runs into several hanging feeders. We saw Long-tailed

Hermits, Black-throated Mangos, Violet-crowned Woodnymphs and the most common and bold -- White-necked Jacobin. People had fun trying to catch them "on film". There were displays on some of the signature birds of the area, and a chalk board listing recent sightings.

Carlos gathered us up to walk a trail to a small lake, en route introducing us to a duo of Night Monkeys that peeked out of a good-sized knothole in the tree. They had adorable faces, with huge eyes, and pinkish hands with perfect little fingers; fun! En route to the lake we came upon a mixed flock, seeing at close range Cinnamon Woodpeckers with their handsome tummy spots, now seen at eye-level. They traveled with noisy Dot-winged Antwrens, Check-throated Antwrens, and a pair of Plain Xenops. From the lakeshore we spied Wattled Jacanas, Common Moorhens, and several types of egrets.



We returned to the Discovery Center, packed up and no sooner were down the road when Carla signaled for a stop, as she'd seen a "Pileated-type" woodpecker fly through. We got out and found a pair of Crimson-crested Woodpeckers, indeed "Pileated-like," and we enjoyed watching them work for food on broad trunks of rainforest trees. Bud got some killer photos and thanked Carla profusely. We stopped for a few other sightings, heading gradually back to our base.



We hated to go, but finished up in time for lunch, and after a restful break boarded the *Tinamou*, a vehicle also called the *Rainfomobile*, an open air contraption perfect for letting us see birds, blooms and scenery as we explored areas nearby. We went a short ways to a well-known birding spot, one that is always productive. Standing near a small pond and adjacent wet, open area backed by forest, we saw several dozen species, including cracking looks at Pygmy Kingfisher, Boat-billed Flycatcher, a pair of dueting Barred Antshirkes, and a pair of mating Rufescent Tiger Herons.

We kept both scopes, Peg's and Carlos', going both directions in rapid succession. Through one of these Lynn found us a prize -- right next to a Capybara, wading between it and a Wattled Jacana was a White-throated Crake, right out in the open! People lined up, being day one our scope speed system was not well-orchestrated, yet all managed to see this often-elusive bird. It ducked back into cover but we still had Black-bellied Whistling Ducks to admire.

Time passed quickly and to motivate us being back for the barbecue, Carlos called out "Cocktail Hour", at which time boarding went quickly! It was home

to a very fun dinner, served outside, and featuring grilled chicken with pico de gallo, sausages, several salads and dessert, with complimentary wine. We finished off a very full day with an optional night drive, which proved to be quiet this year (last year the group had Spectacled Owls!) but we did get good looks at Common Pauraque. We then headed home to bed and restful sleep.

Wed., March 28, 2012 Jungle Boat Ride / Miraflores Locks Museum / Summit Ponds

Seven o'clock breakfast seemed like a big sleep in, if one could sleep in past the sounds of Howler Monkeys, Great Tinamous, and parrots heralding the day. They had coffee waiting for us atop the viewing deck at dawn; like magnets we flocked that direction. Today we had pink puffy clouds making for some fine scenery, but fewer birds than the day before. A couple of bright, jaunty Chestnut-sided Warblers were in, along with Summer, Scarlet, Blue-gray and Palm tanagers. Alexis, another guide from Canopy Tower, spotted a dark phase Short-tailed Hawk perched a long ways away, though visible in the scope.

We descended for pancakes, eggs, bacon and little corn masa crispy tots, fresh fruits, yoghurts and juices. Once fortified, we boarded the *Tinamou*, our open air coach, heading to Gamboa and two small boats, with protective awnings, that we'd have WAY too much fun on exploring the Panama Canal and



Gatun Lake. We first explored some back waters of the Chagras River near Gamboa Rainforest lodge, finding various herons, Greater Anis, Spotted Sandpipers, Purple Gallinules in stunning light, coots and Common Gallinules. We then headed out into the Canal proper, revving up the engines to get by some HUGE container ships, several working dredges and a few pilot boats. We turned into some side channels, lined by lush forests of palms, flowering Tabebuias and myriad other trees. Soon we were spotting Osprey, Limpkins, Blue-winged Teal and Black-bellied Whistling Ducks, and one we were on a quest to find, having missed it at Ammo Dump Ponds, the Lesser Kiskadee. We found

several Amazon Kingfishers, both large reptiles - Crocodile and Spectacled Caimans, Rufescent Tiger-Herons, Yellow-rumped Caciques and others. It was great fun being on the water; a stunning, sunlit day and lots of species. Time passed quickly until we turned for home, racing back and passing a Panamax barge loaded to the hilt, with containers stacked wide and tall.



We had a delicious choice of two pasta dishes for lunch, and several returned for seconds; no weight loss on this adventure! After lunch several caught up on their bird list, and eight of the group ventured out to tour the Miraflores Locks museum. Sadly most of the exhibits were under repair, three of the floors closed for maintenance, so the main attractions were the movie and watching actual ships enter and exit the locks. Our "flock" collected again by 4PM but our nervous driver wanted us in so he could get to air, a tire in the bus going down quickly. Ed confessed that on his last trip to Ecuador their bus had had a flat, we teased him he

had not brought good luck!

Summit Ponds could offer one hours and hours of birding; two of our keen ones had gone a bit earlier with Carlos, and we were happy to have at least some time to end the day watching birds come in to roost. A big attraction here is a colony of Boat-billed Herons, a nocturnal feeder that can be elusive; here we got scope views. They had big, homely-looking chicks that were large enough not to fit on the nest anymore so it was our luck that several family groups erupted from time to time, giving us a chance to see and photograph them. The pond was very active and we got super looks at Gray-necked Wood Rail,



Amazon and Green kingfishers, and a stunning look through the scope at a perched Capped Heron - what a beauty! Right at dusk, Carlos invited all to take a quick walk with him for a prize - excellent sighting of a Spectacled Owl - wow!

Thurs., March 29

Pipeline Road / El Valle and Sharon's birthday!

What fun, today was Sharon's birthday! By now we had the hang of things, early rising, breakfast, great birding, lunch, great birding, happy hour, last looks at birds from the tower, and dinner— life was good! Aira, our head cook, was keeping us all very content in the food department with a lot of fresh foods, wonderful sauces, and variety.

This morning Carlos was with a team from Leica and several birding magazines from the states, so we had an outing with Domiciano who was also a tremendous guide, explaining a lot about the behaviors of the animals we saw. It started out as a mammal morning, as Sharon spotted a troop of Geoffrey's Tamarins right in the parking lot. They were fast and agile, zipping through the trees, making a leap from one to another. Then Bud spotted some Howlers just inside Pipeline Road, posing for us in very good light. An Agouti feeding along the road margin made for a more natural looking shot than



those on the lawn of the Canopy B&B. The birding began with a bang, as Domiciano heard a Pheasant Cuckoo and came to a halt so we could see it. With a little encouragement the bird came in and sat for us! This is one species that's often very difficult to see; such is the magic of a day of birding on Pipeline Road. Several people got good photos, and only as it flew away did we set our eyes on other species. A few of the group got looks at a very high perched Black-breasted Puffbird, a couple found a feeding Purple-crowned Fairy and, wandering ahead, Park found a Tarantula and a Bird-eating Snake, marvelously hidden in debris on a palm frond, flicking its tongue and waiting for a mixed flock to come through. We could see every scale in the scope and we marveled at its cryptic pattern. We walked on, picking up views of Western Slaty and then Fasciated Antshirkes, and a Purple-throated Fruitcrow on a

nest. The morning passed all too quickly and we returned to the Canopy Tower, sad to say good-bye. But further adventures called -- on to the Lodge! Peg counted up our bird list which had 200 species recorded in 3.5 days of birding -- pretty fine!



The drive up to the lodge was smooth on good roads, and we experienced a rapid change in elevation as we entered the tropical dry forest, typical of Panama's Pacific Coast of the Canal. The Tabebuia trees were in brilliant bloom, standing as beacons of light in the otherwise arid-looking landscape. About an hour's drive west of the city

we turned up into the central mountains, returning to greenery as we climbed. El Valle is surrounded by peaks, volcanic in origin, dramatic in character and lush with montane forests we looked forward to exploring. We had a nice lunch, and gathered to gawk at the bird show taking place at the feeders, the star players being Red-legged Honeycreepers, Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, Blue-gray, Palm, Crimson-backed, and Lemon-rumped tanagers, along with Clay-colored Robins and, this year, a pair of Prothonotary Warblers. Sharon remarked she'd only seen the latter while standing on a boardwalk in a swampy realm - how amazing to see its electric colors here with such ease! Tino said it was the first year they'd had them, and the pair spent an easy winter dining on bananas.

We tore ourselves away with the announcement that Danielo had found an army ant swarm at the nearby waterfall/Canopy Adventure area, and we dashed off to find them, with hopes of spotting Rufous-vented Ground Cuckoo, a difficult to see species that often aligns itself with the bounty of insects put up by feeding ants. We found the ants but their path pressed down a formidable cliff. We tried for access from below, near the natural, creek-fed swimming pool, but did not encounter them. We birded the general area then, and on up to the road, where we found a mixed flock of tanagers, adding Bay-headed, Dusky-faced and a few others to our tally. The waterfall was lovely, tiered and flowing full and we felt enveloped by the surrounding peaks. A nice introduction, after which we were ready to return to some R and R with wine and snacks, followed by a nice dinner in their open-air central area, protected by high ceilings but otherwise open to nature.



Fri., March 30, 2012

Las Minas Road / the Chicken Farms

Above El Valle is one of the largest and perhaps most scenic chicken farm operations known. It makes for some interesting background noise while birding! We boarded the van and truck just after breakfast,



making stops along the way. Most memorable was one by a colony of Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, which make three-foot long woven grass nests that hang from tall trees. This batch waved in the wind over a small pond. The area was hopping with birds, and we got good views of Buff-breasted Wrens, Squirrel Cuckoos, Rusty-margined Flycatchers, and Green Honeycreepers.

After lunch at this beautiful lodge, we carried on, driving up in elevation. We parked in an open plateau area for the walk up Las Minas. Here we spied Southern Lapwings in an open field, and enjoyed watching a male Giant Cowbird in full display, fanning his wings for the female. Walking up the



road we encountered Tawny-capped Tanagers, and a bright male Tawny-capped Euphonia. We passed through a line of forest, then into a more open pasture area, where a strong wind became prevalent. We had good looks at Yellow-faced Grassquits, but a singing Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch remained elusive until Peg found it in a sheltered swale. A few of our group got good looks at the Orange-bellied Trogon as we headed down, but by this time we were scattered. Mozo tried to rush those at the truck back up the hill, but the trogons had tucked into thick vegetation by then - another try later in the week!

In the afternoon we went to the small zoo in El Valle, which houses an impressive native frog breeding and conservation facility. The program director gave us a talk on the grave situation of chitid fungal infection in frogs, which hit Panama in 2006. He said that prior to that a night's outing might reveal 12 or 13 species; today one would be very lucky to find six. A team of experts had combed the entire El Valle area, the richest in Panama for frog biodiversity, just this past year and found no wild-breeding Golden Toads, a signature species of the region. Those at the facility are critical if these species are to continue, though until work advances on either helping frogs to become resistant, or the fungus to decline, wild release is not possible.

We were able to see these species, and marvel at their adaptations in a display area funded largely by the Houston Zoo. We hope the facility will capture people's interest and that their work will prosper; for now they face the challenges of many NGO's with inadequate funding, and small staffs to try to accomplish great tasks. We wandered about the rest of the zoo, marveling at close encounters with beautiful creatures like Jaguars, Tapirs, and a variety of macaws, but longed for them to be free. Gray-headed Chachalacas entertained us in the parking lot, and we got a super view of a perched Roadside Hawk before returning to the lodge.



Sat., March 31, 2012

**Pacific Lowlands: Juan Hombron / the Rice Fields /
Santa Clara and El Chiru**

Today, for a change of pace and habitats, we headed down the winding road to dry forests of the Pacific lowlands, to view some agricultural areas that turned out to be teeming with birds. We first walked a fairly busy road, which was not ideal due to traffic, but yielded some great birds, such as Mouse-colored Tyrannulets, Yellow-crowned Amazons, Brown-throated Parakeets, Rufous-browed Peppershrikes, Veraguan Mango (an endemic hummingbird), and Lesser Yellow-headed Vultures.



Not a one of us will ever forget the show of birds over the rice harvest going on. Ed cited it as one of his tour highlights. We had numerous raptors in close view: Savanna and Common Black-Hawks, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras, American Kestrels and a Peregrine Falcon. The Savannas stole the show, making repeated drops to capture frogs. They would swoop down, showing off their dazzling red and black wings, then land and lift their heads - with a full mouth of frog. When the combines came too close they'd lift up, again showing color among the hundreds of Great and Cattle egrets that dined on the bounty as well. The

egrets were bold, standing inches from the combine blades. Indeed, by evidence of a few bodies, some did not make it. We stood in the shade of one of the tractors, noting the harvest techniques and machinery. We spotted Purple Gallinules, Little Blue Herons and Wattled Jacanas in the wetter areas, and a small group of Wood Storks high overhead. We heard the distinctive rattle of a Belted Kingfisher and the call of Gray-necked Wood-Rail along the canals lining the fields.

We lucked out with a nice cool breeze at the beach house, where we enjoyed a picnic lunch with Magnificent Frigatebirds and Brown Pelicans flying overhead. Niki and Sharon enjoyed a swim, others a walk, and a few just relaxed in the shade, looking at the jade and turquoise sea.



The day passed quickly and seemed quite full, so only four intrepid ones opted to carry on. As with every outing, they found some new species for the trip. In a residential area it was Streaked Saltator. The real finds were along a quiet road back by a ranch, where we found Long-billed Starthroats, Southern Beardless Tyrannulets, heard Crested Bobwhites, and had more time to admire feeding Brown-throated Parakeets.

A blustery wind came in by nightfall, but we stayed cozy in the dining area, enjoying sea bass cooked in a parmesan crust, a pumpkin soufflé, and fresh vegetables -- yum!

Sun., April 1, 2012 Cara Iguana / Sunday Market / A Horse Show as a Surprise Addition / Afternoon to Relax or Explore La Mesa

We had breakfast at 6:30 and then headed into town, walking a lovely winding road up through a residential area. The road was lined with bougainvillea in every shade imaginable and above that flower show, trees at canopy level displayed their own blooms. We had scores of Crimson-backed Tanagers, a bright Baltimore Oriole, a group of Collared Aracaris and a pair of hopelessly cute "jailbirds", the Barred Antshrikes. Further up the road, past the lovely homes, the road turns to dirt, and Danielo tried in vain to find us what seemed like very-silent Tody Motmots. Perhaps they get quiet for nesting, as this is normally a species they find. Our consolation prizes included Black-striped Sparrows and Cocoa Woodcreepers.



Mid-morning, we headed into the local market, where everyone had fun looking at the rows of vegetables and flowers for sale, and then searching out treasures among the local handicrafts. Several of our group came out sporting snappy new Panama hats, Judy found brightly painted Christmas ornaments adorned with toucans, motmots and parrots, Lynn, Park and Sharon enjoyed talking with a local jeweler, Niki found a booth with what seemed like fine lace - made of recycled plastic bags!

We all had fun, and while shopping, Peg overheard some locals talking about going to the horse show.

With a bit of networking we found the place, a grass-ring show grounds at one of the local hotels. It was in full swing, a show for Paso Finos and Peruvian Pasos, with riders in traditional costume and horses trained to a tee. It was fun for all to see their smooth, paddling gaits and to admire the tack and the horses' fine conformation. We made it back to the lodge just in time for lunch.

Petroglyphs had been on our itinerary, and though we knew little about the site, we wanted to sample it as so many of us had spent time in Utah and Arizona, hiking to canyons that held rock art panels. Bud and Gingy did a little quick Internet research with their iPads to give us some details, and Ed followed up with more searching on our return. There was just one rock, a large and prominent one that stood out dramatically along a trail that wound between waterfalls. A young man used a long stick to point out features of the

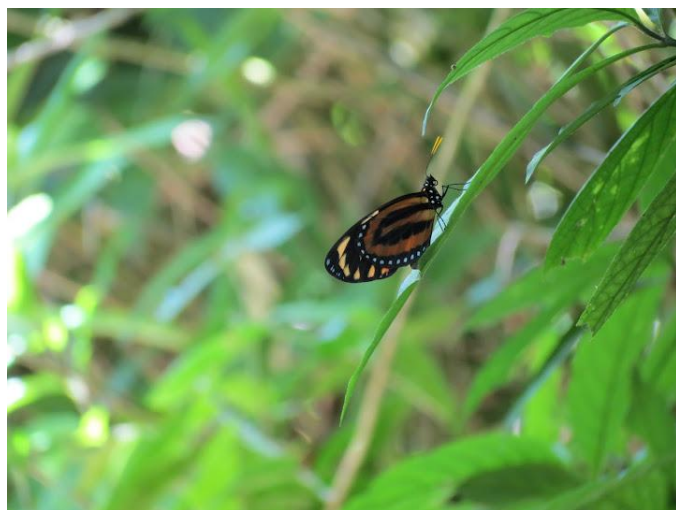


panel, which he interpreted as a map of the region. Some of the figures did show the shapes of prominent mountains and lakes, between them were stick figures, spirals - a treasure trove to admire. We were distressed that someone had tried to amplify them with black color in the lines, and that graffiti marred part of the panel, but it was still an interesting, short outing.



After this we dropped many of the group off at the hotel as they wished to spend their last afternoon there, relaxing, watching birds from their patios, soaking in the beauty close at hand. Peg, Sharon, Lynn, and Carla ventured on with Danielo, eager to try for a few more species atop La Mesa.

We tried again for Tody Motmot (still silent) and then continued up past the chicken farms, finding en route a Bran-colored Flycatcher, Lineated Woodpecker, Dusky Flycatchers, and a pair of amazingly tame Orange-bellied Trogons, both intent on feeding. They perched in their characteristic way, cocking heads side to side, and then flitting off for the next morsel, and we all got good photos. Danielo has a quick ear and eye, and with his help we had good looks at Dusky-faced Antbirds, glimpses at Chestnut-backed Antbirds, and finally great looks at Blue-throated (Emerald) Toucanets. We walked a beautiful trail on which trees towered above us. In the mid-canopy we found a Plain Antvireo pair, and in dark undergrowth we found a Stripe-throated Hermit. It became too dark in the woods to bring out the singing Thrushlike Schiffornis, but was still light on road going home to get great looks at a Spotted Antbird, which perched long enough for us to point our lenses into the maze of vegetation and score! We'd packed this day pretty full, and all wanted to join the others back at the lodge enjoying happy hour so we headed down the mountain to "home."



After dinner we gathered to discuss some of the trip highlights, prodding each other with some jokes, remembering special moments, special species, and talking about what surprised us about Panama. All were surprised at the vibrant, modern skyline of Panama City with its skyscrapers and good roads. Most were equally surprised that we could be made so comfortable in an ex-military radar tower, where upon first glance one says, "We're staying here?" And all expressed gratitude to have found such a warm-hearted, dedicated staff and guides with such expertise.

Mon., April 2, 2012 Departures

We gathered for an early breakfast and coffee by the feeders, watching as a troop of Gray-headed Chachalacas came through, Collared Aracaris and Orange-chinned Parakeets passed overhead, and the colorful array of "regulars" showed up to dine. The staff had been so attentive and gracious to our



needs, including providing staggered departures in smaller vehicles so we could all enjoy the place until we had to leave to catch planes. The route to the airport took us through Panama City and past the shore and wading birds on the mudflats. While we did not have time to get out the scopes and scan, we added Neotropical Cormorants and Black-bellied Plovers - ever watchful to the bitter end for another avian gem! Carla opted for another full morning's outing in search of Mottled Owl and other species; Lynn, Park and Sharon to just relax ahead of travel, photograph in the gardens and soak in the beauty of tropical nature ahead of the plane. Park found us all a real prize as we crossed

the bridge to leave - a five-inch, finely patterned longhorn beetle that made for a fine, grand finale.

A happy time for a most compatible group of travelers, thanks to all for contributing to a great trip!



Photos: (all by tour participant Carla Bregman)

In order:

Two-toed Sloth
Canopy Tower
Black-throated Trogon
Keel-billed Toucan
Howler Monkey
Ship on the Panama Canal
Tabebuia Tree in Bloom
Pheasant Cuckoo
Night Monkey
Crimson-crested Woodpecker
Rufescent Tiger-Heron
Red-legged Honeycreeper
Spectacled Owl
Geoffrey's Tamarin
Modern Bridge
Canopy Lodge Rooms
Violaceous Trogon
Wedge-tailed Grasswren
Savannah Hawk
Raptor Action at the Rice Fields
Beach House
Canopy Lodge
El Valle Market



Show Horses
 Our Petroglyph Guide
 Tiger-mimic Queen Butterfly
 River by Canopy Lodge
 Broad-billed Motmot
 Violet-bellied Hummingbird
 Migrant Chestnut-sided Warbler, male
 Collared Aracari
 Neotropical Bird Snake
 El Valle Market Scene

