

Naturalist Journeys, LLC Panama Species List 2013

January 15-23, 2013

www.naturalistjourneys.com 866.900.1146 info@naturalistjourneys.com

Bird, Mammal, and Herp Species List

Guides Peg Abbott of Naturalist Journeys and the Canopy team: Carlos Bethancourt of the Canopy Tower, and Danielo Rodriguez of the Canopy Lodge. Pat Owens of Naturalist Journeys came along to assist, sharing good times with 12 participants: Lynn, Rob, Julie, David, Jim, Margie, Fred, Linda, Janice, Lynda, Nancy and Alex.

Quick summary – We enjoyed a great winter getaway, with this year’s tour being scheduled in January. We had superb weather and saw so many fantastic species. Highlights included seeing twenty species of hummingbirds, of these perhaps the most memorable moment was seeing the Rufous-crested Coquette preening for several minutes early in the morning, before it revved up to feed on flowers, as we had scope views! We all got good looks at Streak-chested Antbird on the Pipeline Road, that pesky Green Shrike Vireo finally came out in plain view to show off its colors. On the boat ride we watched as an alert Striated Heron snatched up two dragonflies, we watched White-faced Capuchin Monkeys feeding on flowers, observed a dozen Snail Kites or more and a Limpkin. Will we ever forget the nearly foot-long walking stick – champion of our sightings in the insect realm?

Checklist order is that of the current Canopy Lodge / Canopy Tower checklist.

Birds

Great Tinamou – heard from the top deck of Canopy Tower at dawn, and again in the evenings, lovely!

Blue-winged Teal – A few individuals seen among the moorhens near Gamboa Resort, on the boat trip.

Lesser Scaup – The first year we’d seen this species, a small group near Gamboa Resort, in with the teal and moorhens.

Gray-headed Chachalaca – We first watched these gregarious birds from the water, finding a group very close to us while on the boat tour. We then saw them daily from the Lodge. They seemed to make an afternoon run through the place, at times squabbling and really carrying on, other times feeding quietly and staying well into cover. Fun!

Magnificent Frigatebird – We found this species in good number right away, seen over the bay and canal right from the Country Inn and Suites. We saw them every day while in the Canal region, and watched as they dipped into the rushing waters of the Gatun Locks, in the company of an Osprey. On our day at the beach we enjoyed swimming under them as they flew low over the water, giving the experience a mini “Galapagos” feel.

Neotropic Cormorant – Seen on the causeway close to our hotel, and on the tidal flats near Panama Viejo.

Anhinga – We had great close-up views of perched individuals while on the boat tour.

Brown Pelican – Panama City, Miraflores Locks, Panama Canal on the Jungle Boat trip and many at the beach at Santa Clara, in all seen on five days of the tour.

Great Blue Heron – Seen on three days of our tour, two from the Canal area in various wetlands, and then on at the rice fields near Juan Hombron.

Great Egret – Fairly common, seen numerous places along the Canal and at the rice fields of Juan Hombron.

Snowy Egret – Seen along the causeway of Panama City, in good number on the mud flats of Costa del Oeste, and in small wetlands and in good number at the rice fields.

Little Blue Heron – Seen on three days of the journey, with highest numbers being at the rice fields.

Tri-colored Heron – One individual, seen on tidal flats off of Panama Viejo.

Cattle Egret – Seen on most days, some getting bright plumage. On La Mesa they seemed quite content to follow the sheep rather than cattle, and in the rice fields they were numerous.

Green Heron – We saw our first one at Summit Ponds, then one kept us company in the pond at the Lodge.

Striated Heron – One individual seen at very close range from our boat tour, snapping up dragonflies in its focused stalking manner.

Boat-billed Heron – Fabulous scope views of several nesting at Summit Ponds, with nests closely spaced and hanging over the water. A few individuals flew, giving us a chance to see them in detail and at close range.

White Ibis – Present on the mud flats of Costa de Oeste, and also in the rice fields, both adult and juvenile plumage.

Glossy Ibis – Seen at the rice fields, a circling flock on the wing quite a sight.

Roseate Spoonbill – one on the tidal flats of Costa de Oeste.

Black Vulture – Abundant, seen daily

Turkey Vulture – Abundant, seen daily.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture – Seen on the day we visited the Pacific lowlands, at close range.

King Vulture – seen on the day Peg and Alex stayed back from Miraflores Locks to walk down Semaphore Hill, high on the wing.

Osprey – Seen on several days as we drove to and fro around the Canal, and great close views while on the Jungle Boat trip.

Hook-billed Kite – seen well, in the scope, on our day to the Colon side of the Canal at Achiotte Road.

Snail Kite – On the quiet waters of a cove off the Canal, we had many, juveniles and adults. We watched them fly and feed, and got quite close to several perching for photos. We found an Apple Snail, their preferred food, and found numerous snail eggs on the aquatic vegetation. With their food so abundant, this species seems very secure here.

Double-toothed Kite – seen over Pipeline Road

Tiny Hawk – one of the first birds seen as we got off the bus on Achiotte Road, it flew over the bus, then landed in a tree so we could get some nice long views in the scopes. Rare and local here, a nice find!

Common Black Hawk – First seen perched on a small tree on the ocean edge of Fort San Lorenzo, and then Nancy spotted one over Panama Viejo while we were having the historical tour.

Great Black Hawk – good views from our boats while on the Canal, in a quiet cove off the main Canal

Savanna Hawk – One individual seen in the rice fields, probing among vegetation, and in one view, successful at routing out a frog.

Roadside Hawk – Seen at very close range on the Pacific lowlands day, and then again by Peg and Alex when scouting out Altos Marias a final day after the main group left.

Broad-winged Hawk – Seen on several days, always good views in flight. Often calling.

Gray-lined (Gray) Hawk – A pair was seen in an open-crowned tree canopy, calling to each other. We were in our boat on the Canal and we paused to watch their behavior and admire their plumage.

Short-tailed Hawk – Seen on several afternoons from the Canopy Tower observation deck. A light-phase and dark-phase individual appeared to be courting, calling often and making some dramatic dives overhead.

Slaty-backed Forest Falcon – *heard only, from Canopy Tower, more than one individual and daily.*

Collared Forest Falcon – *heard only, one individual from Canopy Tower our second morning at dawn.*

Crested Caracara – A first individual was seen near Fort San Lorenzo, and then several were seen in lowlands of the Pacific Coast area, one quite close feeding next to a Black Vulture on a road off the rice fields.

Yellow-headed Caracara – We first encountered these on the grounds of the Country Inn on the Canal, where they would fly from palm to palm. They were common, seen on five days of the tour in total.

Bat Falcon – Carlos spotted a perched individual above the small equestrian arena we walked to in the vicinity of Summit Ponds, the same location we watched Chestnut-headed Oropendolas making their nests from. We got it in the scope that day, and then again when we found another at the rice fields.

Peregrine Falcon – One individual, spotted in a large, open-crowned tree as it scoped the rice fields for prey.

Gray-necked Wood Rail – We had a good view of two near Gamboa Resort, seen near the boat ramp of that facility as we passed by in our boat.

Sora – *heard only, in a small canal as we scoped for other species at the rice fields*

Purple Gallinule – What a bright beauty! We enjoyed their antics in the water hyacinth patches as we explored the Chagras River and Canal by boat.

Common Moorhen – Seen in good numbers at the junction of the Chagras River with Gatun Lake, and a couple of individuals were seen on our brief mid-day visit to the Ammo Ponds.

American Coot – Several individuals seen in with the Common Moorhens on the Chagras.

Limpkin – We first heard, and then had excellent looks at an individual in the same section of lake we found Snail Kites on during our boat ride.

Southern Lapwing – Seen best on the mud and tidal flats near Panama Viejo, but also seen in agricultural fields of La Mesa and again in the Pacific lowlands.

Black-bellied Plover – tidal flats of Costa de Oeste, a few individuals

Killdeer – one spotted by Jim and Marjory while walking on the causeway at Panama City.

Black-necked Stilt – one at a small pond at the rice fields

Wattled Jacana – Good views on our boat day, and again at the Ammo Dump pond, and a few individuals in a small pond that held the Black-necked Stilt at the rice fields.

Spotted Sandpiper – Seen on two days of the main tour, and in a small pond by Peg and Alex at Altos Maria.

Willet – Several individuals on the beach near Santa Clara, and on the mudflats by Panama City.

Lesser Yellowlegs – one individual in with a large roosting shorebird flock on the mudflats.

Whimbrel – One individual flew in for our inspection as we enjoyed lunch at the beach at Santa Clara, and we saw several others with good close views, on the mud flats of Panama City.

Marbled Godwit – a couple individuals in our scoping of the mudflats near Panama Viejo.

Ruddy Turnstone – Costa de Oeste, along the rocky section of tidal flats leading out to a small mangrove-clad island.

Red Knot – Peg found a small group of this species roosting near Willets, nice to compare in the scope.

Sanderling – one individual on the causeway in Panama City, and Rob spotted one at the beach.

Short-billed Dowitcher – very numerous at Costa de Oeste.

Laughing Gull – Seen at the beach at Santa Clara, and again near Panama City.

Franklin's Gull – Carlos spotted one individual among the Laughing Gulls in the flock on the beach at Santa Clara.

Caspian Tern – One individual roosting among Royal and Sandwich Terns at Costa de Oeste.

Royal Tern – We saw these fishing off the causeway in Panama City, had a few at the locks of the Canal, and several on the beach.

Sandwich Tern – Costa de Oeste, and numerous at the beach, roosting at the wave edge as we swam.

Rock Pigeon – Noted on four days, passing through the city and in other urban areas.

Pale-vented Pigeon – Seen on three days of the tour, while at the Tower.

Scaled Pigeon – One individual seen very well in the scope from the Discovery Towers, others seen in flight or heard.

Short-billed Pigeon – Achiote Road.

Ruddy Ground Dove – Seen well our first morning at Metro Park, then on several other days, always pretty tame and easy to observe. Numerous in the Pacific lowlands while around the farms.

White-tipped Dove – Far less common than while on other Panama trips, but we saw a few on the grounds of the lodge, and a couple at the beach.

Brown-throated Parakeet – Three flew over as we were birding around Juan Hombron. These and the Fork-tailed Flycatchers seen that same day are signatures of that area.

Orange-chinned Parakeet – We had this little cutie in the scope from the Discovery Tower, and we saw it on three days of the tour, heard it several others.

Brown-hooded Parrot – Best looks were from the Discovery Tower of Pipeline Road, Soberania National Park. We had big flocks pass overhead while walking from the Lodge. Heard on one, and seen on three days of the tour.

Blue-headed Parrot – Seen on four days of the tour, a few chances for scope views, seen well from the Tower, and from Achiote Road.

Red-lored Parrot (Amazon) – We first found these loud, large parrots on the grounds of the Country Inn and Suites on the Canal, then had frequent encounters with them from the Canopy Tower, where they would perch often at dawn and dusk.

Mealy Parrot (Amazon) – Seen from the Canopy Tower and Discovery Tower.

Yellow-crowned Parrot (Amazon) – We had a quick flyby of two individuals as we birded at Juan Hombron.

Squirrel Cuckoo – This is one impressive bird, and we saw it often, first at Metropolitan Park and then on subsequent days. We had the opportunity to photograph it while on Achiote Road, near the small bridge where we found the hummingbird nest.

Greater Ani – Seen right away in dense vegetation of the Chagras River, then many back in the cove we saw Snail Kites in all on our boat tour.

Smooth-billed Ani –Fort San Lorenzo area and while driving to and from various areas along the Canal.

Groove-billed Ani – Seen on our day in the drier forests near Juan Hombron and the rice fields.

Tropical Screech Owl – We were so fortunate to see one roosting on a the grounds of a private vacation home above El Valle.

Choco Screech Owl – *We found this on the night drive from the Tower, but it would not come in, heard only.*

Spectacled Owl – We watched two individuals in the same area we found the roosting screech owl, and all agreed they really liked this “owling” by day!

Ferruginous Pygmy Owl – *Heard only this year, in a residential area near Santa Clara. These little rascals can hide so well in the dark leaves of large mango trees, Carlos got a peek as it only moved farther in.*

Mottled Owl – *heard only from the Lodge – one morning at quite close range*

Common Potoo – *What an eerie, melancholy call! We all admired this, and though we recorded it as a “heard-only”, the call was memorable for all.*

White-collared Swift – Two seen off the Achiote Road, high against the canopy. Seen again at Altos Marias, above the pond, seen by Alex and Peg on the tour there only.

Chimney Swift – large numbers seen on our day to Achiote Road.

Short-tailed Swift – Seen often and heard chattering as we enjoyed morning coffee from the Tower, especially numerous in the late-afternoon.

Band-rumped Swift – Less common than the Short-tailed Swifts seen from the Tower, but seen on our first mornings there as well.

Rufous-breasted Hermit – Carlos spotted two individuals repeating visits to the right side of a small creek as we stood on a bridge on Achiote Road. We scoped the spot and found them working on a small, hanging nest – wow!

Band-tailed Barbthroat – We first got good looks at this stunning hummingbird as it fed on a large Heleconia flower just below the line of feeders at the Discovery Center of Pipeline Road. We saw it again on one of our walks from the Lodge.

Green Hermit – Good views of this beauty, on the La Mesa day, its jewel-green plumage quite striking as it fed on Heleconia flowers on the small path where we also found Orange-bellied Trogon. This species was fairly common at Altos Marias, where Peg and Alex scouted after the tour.

Long-billed Hermit – Seen on three days of our tour, from various walks we took on outings from the Tower, and at the Tower’s feeders as well.

Stripe-throated Hermit – This was one of the more common species we saw, both from the Tower and the Lodge.

White-tipped Sicklebill – *heard only, Carlos pointed it out as we waited at flowers, but it did not come in for a view in the time we had at La Mesa.*

White-necked Jacobin – Seen every day while at the Tower, this handsome bird put on quite a show, fanning its white tail as it tried to control access to the feeders. We found it on our walks as well, in total on five days of the tour.

Black-throated Mango – Seen at feeders at the Discovery Center on Pipeline, and again on the day we passed through Panama City.

(E) Veraguan Mango – Danielo spotted this beauty, perched between bouts of feeding in trees along the road in Juan Hombron, a nice bright adult.

Rufous-crested Coquette – Danielo had the habits of this often hard to find beauty figured out. In the early morning before it went off to feed seriously, it would preen vigorously on an exposed perch which we could scope. It would leave and sample small purple flowers, then return to preen more. Maybe the flowers needed to wake up as well to get the nectar moving!

Green Thorntail – We saw this beauty as well, around the lodge. One morning three were perched not far from the coquette, all feeding on the same flowering tree. Peg and Alex also had this one at close range while at Altos Marias.

Garden Emerald – Seen just on one day, our quick stop at the Ammo Ponds returning from the boat tour.

Violet-crowned Woodnymph – Seen on two days of the journey, best views were at flowers at the entrance to the Canopy Adventure, which we entered to watch two of our gang, Fred and Pat, zip through the trees.

Violet-bellied Hummingbird – It's hard to get prettier than this little gem, which we saw at both the Canopy Tower and Discovery Center of Pipeline road at feeders.

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird – Seen just on the day we visited Juan Hombron, in the same area we found the endemic Veraguan Mango. This one was very cooperative and perched, showing off its colors and its wide, gem-colored and forked tail.

Blue-chested Hummingbird – Seen on five days of our tour, feeding on flowering trees in the field and at feeders, male and females, *particularly* at the Tower.

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird – We first saw this species at Metro Park, one of the first birds spotted on the tour. We saw it in the gardens of Canopy Lodge, but at this time just a few individuals.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird – This was the most common and widespread of the hummingbirds, seen on most days of the journey. Janice got some nice photos off her porch of room "numero UNO".

White-vented Plumeleteer – Seen on four days, mainly at the feeder at Canopy Tower, but also as we walked between the Canopy Adventure and Lodge.

Purple-crowned Fairy – First seen by Peg at Metro Park, others got to see this beauty from the Discovery Tower, and then again on Achiote Road.

Purple-throated Mountain Gem – a female seen at Altos Marias

Slaty-tailed Trogon – This was the trogon species we saw most often, including a memorable pair that was working on a nest in a termite mound, near Summit Ponds. We had repeated good looks at this one, including the day we walked on Pipeline Road.

White-tailed Trogon – We found a pair of this species on the Pipeline Road, calling to each other, and letting us get the scope on the telltale white under tail – fun!

Gartered (Violaceous) Trogon – Our best views of this species were from the Discovery Tower, where a male perched quite close, enough for photographs. We found another on Pipeline Road, and listened to its repetitive call.

Black-throated Trogon – Fort San Lorenzo area, scope views.

Orange-bellied Trogon – We found a pair of this beautiful species right away as we walked up the road at Las Minas. The next day, on La Mesa, we had wonderful views at very close range as we entered the forest on a trail from agricultural fields. We had photographic opportunities of both the male, and female.

Tody Motmot – Yahoo, success with this little sneaker that so loves the thick underbrush. We found it on our first try for it, but it called and called, and took us about twenty minutes before we smiled to hear Danielo say "I see..." He got the scope on it, and even tried some digiscoping as it stayed within our view.

Whooping (Blue-crowned) Motmot – *Heard only, as we walked down Semaphore Hill, quite a surprise as this is a species we normally see well and on several days. Luckily the other species were not as shy!*

Rufous Motmot – Great looks on several days as one came in to the Lodge feeders in the early morning – we stated that this was a heck of a yard bird! We also found one walking up the road from the Lodge.

Broad-billed Motmot – *Heard only for the main group, but seen well by Peg and Alex at Altos Marias.*

Ringed Kingfisher – Seen well on our boat tour on the Chagras River.

Belted Kingfisher – A resident on the pond at Canopy Lodge offered us ample opportunity to view it.

Amazon Kingfisher – Seen posing in one of the ponds at Summit Ponds.

Green Kingfisher – We first got a view at Summit Ponds, but we found several others, including one that liked the cable above the pond at the Lodge, often in view with the scope as we had our morning coffee. Rob got some fine photos of this one.

American Pygmy Kingfisher – We had views of this little cutie from the bridge on Achiote Road where we also found the hummingbird nest.

Black-breasted Puffbird – Seen very well on our walk down Semaphore Hill, the first afternoon.

Pied Puffbird – One came in to see us, giving the whole group a chance to see it as it circled various perches about the Discovery Tower.

Spot-crowned Barbet – *Heard only, Achiote Road. We might have pursued seeing it, but a Hook-billed Kite came in at the same moment we heard it, distracting us with scope views. When it rains it pours!*

Blue-throated (Emerald) Toucanet – We found this species right away as well, on the Las Minas road. They were feeding on fruits in short trees, making small communication sounds between them. Also present for good views at Altos Marias.

Collared Aracari – We first spotted this fine species in open branches for scope views on the Achiote Road day. We then enjoyed close views when they came in to the Canopy Lodge feeders, including Jim and Marjory's own private feeder! They were often in the trees around the lodge.

Keel-billed Toucan – Common, seen nearly every day! We learned to recognize its grating call with delight, and had repeated good views. Our most memorable moments with this signature tropical species was a group in great light at the day's end at Summit Ponds. We had as many as eight, and for quite some time four or five in a tree, talking and popping about, head up, tail up, toucan "yoga" in the trees! When, amazingly, they were joined by a Crimson-crested Woodpecker pair, we just about fell down. Carlos won some very big points with his digiscoping – helping all who had small cameras in the group capture some first-rate images.

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan – We found this species on three days, the first from the Discovery Tower.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker – Seen on the Achiote Road day, scope views.

Red-crowned Woodpecker – Seen on most days, in a wide variety of habitats.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – *Altos Marias scouting trip only, one individual seen with a mix of tanagers and warblers near the small lake we had lunch at.*

Cinnamon Woodpecker – Great views from the Discovery Tower, we all admired this beautiful species.

Lineated Woodpecker – Seen quickly on Day four. Alex was later able to photograph a pair at Altos Marias.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker – Seen on a couple of days, the best views were of a pair at Summit Ponds, which vied for our attentions with five or more Keel-billed Toucans.

Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser – *Local and rare, we were lucky to spot one in a clay bank through which the trail had been cut, it popped out as we passed by, and with a bit of searching we could find it.*

Red-faced Spinetail – *heard only, Altos Marias only.*

Spotted Barbtail – *Altos Marias, at the wet area by the lake in a tree snag.*

Plain Xenops – One seen in a small mixed flock as we walked down Semaphore Hill, then on two additional days.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper – *On the wooded trail at Altos Marias.*

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper – *Alex photographed this species near the pond at Altos Marias.*

Northern Barred Woodcreeper – Semaphore Hill, good views.

Cocoa Woodcreeper – This was the most common woodcreeper we saw and heard, noted on four days.

Black-striped Woodcreeper – Carlos found this species for us by call, and we got good looks at it while walking Pipeline Road.

Spotted Woodcreeper – At the Lodge, our most commonly sighted species, seen on our walk at La Mesa and heard other times.

Fasciated Antshrike – Seen well at close range on one day (day four), both male and female.

Barred Antshrike – Great views at Juan Hombron just as we got out of the vehicle. We saw both male and female, which put on quite a show. Only some other great birds pulled us away!

Western Slaty Antshrike – We saw this very well on our first walk down Semaphore Hill, and then again while walking Pipeline Road.

Plain Antvireo – We found this on two outings from the Lodge, Las Minas Road and the farm trail at La Mesa.

Spot-crowned Antvireo – Danielo showed us this little cutie on Day six, from the Lodge.

Checker-throated Antwren – We first encountered this species in Metro Park, where one just about landed at our feet. We also saw them while walking down Semaphore Hill, in a mixed flock. We also saw it later in the week at Las Minas, also in a mixed flock.

Slaty Antwren – Seen in the bird explosion we encountered at La Mesa, which started with seeing the secretive Song Wren pair and went rather wild from there.

Dot-winged Antwren – First seen in mixed flocks on both Metro Park, and then Semaphore Hill – seen on several days of the tour, often the easiest to spot of those flocking species that dart around.

Bare-crowned Antbird – *heard only, Pipeline Road.*

Dusky Antbird – Metro Park, and Semaphore Hill, also heard on Pipeline Rd.

Chestnut-backed Antbird – Seen on Pipeline Road with Carlos, and then Danielo showed it to us on both days outings from the Lodge, Las Minas and in the big mixed flock we found on the farm trail of La Mesa. We heard it several other spots as well.

Spotted Antbird – The group got a super close look at this tame little individual on the trail into the forest from Achiote Road – what a great look at this secretive species!

Ocellated Antbird – *heard only, Pipeline Road.*

Black-faced Antthrush – *heard only, Canopy Adventure trails.*

Black-crowned Antpitta – We had quite a time with this species, standing for some time calling to it, hearing it answer, looking and looking. A few got a glimpse, but Alex, poised above, watched the mate walk by in plain view about four feet away!

Streak-chested Antpitta – Danielo got us all to see this beauty in the scope, one of our first birds spotted on Pipeline Road. Again the mate showed up across the road, two in one day was a WOW.

Brown-capped Tyrannulet – *Heard only walking Semaphore Hill from the Canopy Tower.*

Southern Beardless Tyrannulet – Seen at Juan Hombron.

Mouse-colored Tyrannulet – Heard only, two places on the day of the Pacific drier lowlands.

Forest Elaenia – seen on several days.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia – Fairly common, the clearest sighting was at La Mesa, by our bus at the snack break.

Lesser Elaenia – Seen well on the Juan Hombron day.

Sepia-capped Flycatcher – Seen by the bathing spot we found on the road to the Canopy Adventure.

Paltry Tyrannulet – Semaphore Hill and Pipeline Road.

Scale-crested Pygmy Tyrant – *heard only, Las Minas, seen several times by Peg and Alex at Altos Marias.*

Pale-eyed Pygmy Tyrant – *heard only, Juan Hombron*

Southern Bentbill – *heard repeatedly in the forests around the Tower, on Pipeline*

Yellow-margined Flycatcher – Semaphore Hill, good views our first afternoon

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher – Good views on a steep cut bank on the road we walked at La Mesa

Tufted Flycatcher – **quite common at Altos Marias**

Long-tailed Tyrant – **beautiful pair at Altos Marias, perched on bromeliad-clad trees.**

Bright-rumped Attila – Wonderful views of this bird, on the farm trail at La Mesa

Rufous Mourner – Quick views on Pipeline Road, at Altos Marias seen feeding on a large cicada.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher – Seen at La Mesa, and very well at Juan Hombron.

Panama Flycatcher – Seen and heard on several days, starting with Metro Park, then from the Tower area and also from the Pacific lowlands.

Great-crested Flycatcher – Metropolitan Park, one of our first birds, calling.

Lesser Kiskadee – heard only, Summit Ponds at the far end.

Great Kiskadee – Very common throughout, great to hear it call out its name.

Boat-billed Flycatcher – First seen at the Summit Ponds, and then seen well while birding Juan Hombron area.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher – Seen well below the Roadside Hawk, on a wire at the rice fields.

Social Flycatcher – Seen daily.

Streaked Flycatcher – Seen only our first day, at Metropolitan Park.

Piratic Flycatcher – Seen near Summit Ponds in the nesting area of the Chestnut-headed Oropendolas.

Tropical Kingbird – Seen daily, often vocal.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher – Rob picked up the camera at Juan Hombron for some great shots, and we all enjoyed watching these charismatic birds.

Thrush-like Schiffornis – *heard only, Semaphore Hill. Seen by Peg and Alex as Danielo lured them in to inspect us up at Altos Marias.*

Masked Tityra – First good views were on the Achiote Day, then at a few other locations.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow – Seen in the scope on the Pipeline Road, while walking after our time on the tower.

Blue Cotinga – We had quick flight views from the Discovery Tower and then great scope views, at a distance, from an individual which did not want to move, from the Canopy Tower.

Golden-collared Manakin – *Heard only, Semaphore Hill. A female seen by Peg and Alex at Altos Marias.*

White-ruffed Manakin – *a female, and then a young male at Altos Marias.*

Lance-tailed Manakin – Sneak preview type views in the Juan Hombron area – very good looks at a female but no spectacular male – an invitation to return!

Yellow-throated Vireo – good looks at this migrant in Metro Park, then again at Altos Marias.

Philadelphia Vireo – Metropolitan Park.

Scrub Greenlet – *heard only, Pacific lowlands day.*

Golden-fronted Greenlet – seen at our first stop in the Pacific lowlands on the Juan Hombron Road.

Lesser Greenlet – Seen in a flock on Pipeline Road, from the Discovery Tower, and on various forest walks.

Green Shrike Vireo – This bird we nick-named the “beep-beep-beep” and many of the group quickly recognized its call. A few of the quick spotters got looks in and out of leaves as it remained just out of view for most from the Canopy Tower. On our last morning, as we relaxed with coffee, voila – it came out in all its glory, feeding quite close, to show off all its colors.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike – Carlos heard this one soon after we got out of the vans on our day in the Pacific Lowlands, it was quite curious and came in to see us, showing off its facial colors and singing away.

Black-chested Jay – We found a good sized group in the Achiote Road, flying above us as we walked on a secretive trail. They came in to the Canopy Lodge a couple of times, but never to the feeders.

Gray-breasted Martin – Very common throughout – we first saw them well on Achiote Road, then noticed them more each day.

Mangrove Swallow – These little cuties posed for us as we prowled the backwaters of the Canal by boat. We saw them on freshwater lakes, mainly when we were around the Canal.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow – Seen throughout the journey, numerous, at various elevations.

Barn Swallow – We saw a few Barn Swallows here and there, highest numbers around agricultural fields of Juan Hombron.

White-headed Wren – Wow! We got super looks at this often secretive wren. It posed on some shrubs for us as we walked Achiote Road, and we even got the scope on it.

Black-bellied Wren – Heard only on our first walk down Semaphore Hill Road, then seen by Alex and Peg as they walked it a second day.

Bay Wren – Seen on our walk between the Canopy Lodge and Canopy Adventure, bathing in a secretive water spot away from the creek. Heard more often than seen, at several locations.

Rufous-breasted Wren – We got looks at this bird on our walk on trails from a private home as we looked for owls and the Tody Motmot. Glimpses on several occasions, and often vocal.

Rufous-and-White Wren – *Heard only, on the walk by Cara Iguana.*

Buff-breasted Wren – Seen on our walk up Las Minas Road.

Plain Wren – Seen well by all, in a clearing up on La Mesa, across from the penned-in sheep.

House Wren – We often heard its familiar call, especially around Canopy Lodge, and we saw it there, on walks from there, and in the Juan Hombron area.

White-breasted Wood-Wren – *heard only, Semaphore Hill.*

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren – *heard only by the main group, then seen after the tour, up at Altos Marias in the small clearing by the development’s miniature golf course.*

Song Wren – Great views of this elusive species, in a mixed flock off the Las Minas Road. We walked back to the forest to look for hermits as there were many blooming Heleconias, and found those plus a great bird “explosion”, a mixed flock which held a pair of this great bird.

Tawny-faced Gnatwren – Carlos was able to point this active tiny dynamo out to us well, as we walked up the road past Canopy Lodge. *It was in a cut bank that was steep, and we watched it work among roots of trees that had fallen.*

Long-billed Gnatwren – *Seen on Achiote Day.*

Tropical Gnatcatcher – *Seen very well from the Canopy Tower, an individual appeared each morning to sing and sing from some adjacent leafless branches, a treat! We saw it on several days, but this was most memorable.*

Swainson's Thrush – Seen near Canopy Lodge, and then again at Altos Marias.

Clay-colored Robin – very common, seen most days and at the feeders of the Lodge where it was a bully to the other species. Near the Summit Ponds we found a group feeding with lust on a fruiting tree.

Tropical Mockingbird – Seen in and around the Canal, one quite well as we crossed Gatun Locks.

Golden-winged Warbler – Seen in mixed flock while walking up on La Mesa, again at Altos Marias.

Tennessee Warbler – Seen daily at the feeders at Canopy Lodge, and at Metropolitan Park our first walk.

Yellow Warbler – Las Minas Road, and in the Pacific lowlands.

Chestnut-sided Warbler – Seen first at Metropolitan Park and then from Canopy Tower each morning, also in flocks on Pipeline Road, and Achote Road.

Blackburnian Warbler – *Altos Marias in mixed flock.*

Bay-breasted Warbler – Seen on our first walk at Metropolitan Park, then on walks from the Canopy Lodge.

Black-and-white Warbler – One seen near the Roadside Hawk sighting, the Pacific lowlands day.

American Redstart – One individual seen, but it was clearly upstaged by the adjacent roosting Tropical Screech Owl.

Northern Waterthrush – we heard them on several occasions, then got to study one individual which stayed close under the bridge at the Canopy Lodge, even making forays up on the lawn under the feeders.

Louisiana Waterthrush – *Altos Marias seen on the trail.*

Kentucky Warbler – *Leader only, Carlos tried to get us on this prize, but it moved into dense vegetation aside the Pipeline Road.*

Canada Warbler – Seen in a mixed flock on the road between the Canopy Lodge and Canopy Adventure.

Rufous-capped Warbler – What a treat to have this warbler so tame at the feeders of Canopy Lodge this year. It was a group favorite, so perky with its tail up, almost wren like, and standing up to the aggression of the larger birds. We also saw it in the field on a couple days, but having it as a “yard bird” was grand.

Bananaquit – Seen several days, including Achote, and while at Canopy Lodge and vicinity, first by the small pond we stop at driving uphill to La Mesa.

Common Bush Tanager – *Altos Marias, common.*

Black-and-yellow Tanager – *heard only, a large flock working the area across the clearing at the end of Las Minas, where we hoped to find the grassfinch. Seen at Altos Marias.*

Rosy Thrush-Tanager – *This bird put on a veritable concert for us, as it hid in thickets and we stood on the road we took to the forest trail from the main Las Minas Road. It sang and sang, but never came into view. We also heard it from the Lodge, as we forayed out for a field trip.*

Dusky-faced Tanager – First seen on Achote Road, we then had daily views in and around the lodge, and in flocks while walking, a pair that came to the feeders.

White-shouldered Tanager – Our first view was a very tame pair walking down hill from the viewpoint in Metropolitan Park. We also saw it from the Canopy Tower, and while walking Semaphore Hill. Seen on four days of the journey.

Tawny-crested Tanager – Seen on three days, at higher elevations above Canopy Lodge, always in noisy flocks. One flock came in to the secretive bathing spot we saw the Bay Wren at.

Crimson-backed Tanager – First seen (with gasps!) at Metropolitan Park in trees by the entry gate. This bird is always a favorite, seen regularly with its velvet “Elvis” colors.

Flame (Lemon)-rumped Tanager – Seen only at the Lodge on this tour, that first sighting is also a gasp! Seen daily once at the Lodge.

Blue-gray Tanager – Common, seen almost daily, and at the Tower they came very close, sometimes sitting on the rail.

Palm Tanager – This bird was also quite tame atop the Canopy Tower, and seen also at the Lodge.

Golden-hooded Tanager – Seen on three days, seen at the small pond we stop at from the Lodge going up to Las Mesa, we also had one very close look from the Discovery Tower, then again from the Canopy Tower, a beauty!

Plain-colored Tanager – Seen on two days, at the Discovery Tower and the Canopy Tower.

Bay-headed Tanager – Seen briefly on Day seven, on the road between Canopy Lodge and the Canopy Adventure, also seen at Altos Marias.

Silver-throated Tanager – Las Minas Road, near the toucanet sighting. Also at Altos Marias.

Blue Dacnis – Discovery Tower, and Canopy Tower – a bright pair close enough for photographs, gleaming in morning light for a third year in a row! Seen on four days overall.

Green Honeycreeper – This bird finally came in by the Lodge feeders our final morning, what a beauty.

Red-legged Honeycreeper – We had to look for this jewel this year, finding it first near Summit Ponds near the oropendola nests, then again with some work in residential areas for the six that continued on the beach day.

Buff-throated Saltator – Seen on four days, at the Canopy Lodge feeders and on most of our outings from there.

Black-headed Saltator – *Heard only, day six.*

Slate-colored Grosbeak – Seen on our third day, Pipeline Road.

Blue-black Grassquit – Seen in open areas of the rice fields near Santa Clara.

Variable Seedeater – Seen at the lush grass walking in to Summit Ponds, again in agricultural areas of Juan Hombron.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater – seen alongside the Variables, perched for our viewing, near the oropendola nests the day we went to Summit Ponds.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater – one pair, in with the other seedeaters near Summit Ponds.

Yellow-faced Grassquit – Las Mesa, in the same area as the Plain Wren, a clearing by the penned-in sheep.

Saffron Finch – a quick pick up for some driving across Gatun Locks, perched on a fence wire, shining yellow.

Orange-billed Sparrow – Seen very well just off the porch of the dining area at Canopy Lodge as a present our very last morning. Also seen by several walking up the road to the Canopy Adventure, in lush vegetation below us.

Chestnut-capped Brush Finch – *heard only, as we waited for the hopeful antpitta of Las Minas Road. Seen at Altos Marias.*

Black-striped Sparrow – Great looks near the penned-in sheep on La Mesa, by the chicken farms.

Hepatic Tanager – Altos Marias, Peg picked up this familiar species from home (Arizona Sky Islands)

Summer Tanager – Seen well on our day down in the Pacific lowlands.

Red-crowned Ant Tanager – Seen on five days, often alerting us to presence of other birds. Seen very well going into Summit Ponds, and a pair showed up now and then at the Lodge feeders.

Red-throated Ant Tanager – *LO, mixed flock on Las Minas, the others were intent on finding the antpitta when this pair came through*

Blue-black Grosbeak – Heard on day seven, then seen near the bathing area we found near the entrance to Canopy Adventure late one afternoon.

Eastern Meadowlark – Agricultural areas of the Pacific lowlands, where we had the Fork-tailed Flycatchers.

Great-tailed Grackle – Seen daily at almost all locations

Giant Cowbird – Seen on two days, one near Summit Ponds, one by another group of oropendola nests from the Lodge.

Orchard Oriole – Seen very well from our boats at the start of day on the water, and again on the day to the Pacific lowlands.

Yellow-backed Oriole – The first bird we recorded as we started our walk at Metropolitan Park, a great greeting.

Yellow-tailed Oriole – *Heard only, on our very quick mid-day stop to Ammo Ponds.*

Scarlet-rumped Cacique – Seen on two days, one on Semaphore Hill and one on Pipeline Road.

Yellow-rumped Cacique – Stunning views on our Canal boat trip and then a colony on Pipeline Road.

Crested Oropendola – Achiote Road.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola – Seen on five days in a variety of locations, they were just building nests now and quite active. A few came in to the Lodge feeders, and they were often around in the trees.

Yellow-crowned Euphonia – Seen only on one day, the Pacific lowlands.

Thick-billed Euphonia – Seen first near Summit Ponds, and then one of the most common feeder birds at Canopy Lodge and on our outings from there.

Fulvous-vented Euphonia – Seen on three days, two from the Tower and one at the Lodge, on the grounds and shy at the feeders.

Tawny-capped Euphonia – Good views, Las Minas Road, at several points, including one perched low at the end of our hike there. A handsome bird, we found them between the Canopy Lodge and Canopy Adventure as well.

Mammals

Common Opossum – Several individuals were seen on the night drive, the species responsible for showing Julie and David!

Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth – Seen on our night drive from the Tower.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth – First seen at Metropolitan Park where Rob got great photos, then good views on our walk from Semaphore Hill, and then one very close off the observation deck of the Tower.

Nine-banded Armadillo – a great find on the grass, feeding away, at Fort San Lorenzo

Proboscis Bat – small row of bats roosting on a tree, pointed out by Carlos on the boat ride.

False Vampire Bat – a very large bat that got into the Canopy Tower and flew high above us one evening.

Geoffroy's Tamarin – We had looks on the Achiote Day of an active troop, then again near the Tower.

White-faced Capuchin – Best looks from boat ride, we stayed on past the other boats and watched them for some time, interactions between the male and a female with a baby, all feeding on flowers, fun!

Mantled Howler Monkey – We miss our wake up calls! Seen and heard daily in the lowlands.

Variegated Squirrel – Panama Viejo.

Red-tailed Squirrel – Seen on two days from the Tower, then at feeders by the Lodge and outings at that elevation.

Central American Agouti – First seen (heard munching seeds to alert us) on our walk from Semaphore Hill, then great looks at the Lodge.

White-nosed Coatimundi – Peg saw the hind end of one dash up Semaphore Hill, then Alex and Peg saw a troop cross the road on the way back to the airport.

Kinkajou – excellent looks on our night drive from the Tower

Tayra – quick view of one dashing away, out of the creek bed on the trail at Altos Marias.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Parrot Snake – Tino showed this handsome snake to Lynda and Janice the afternoon they spent in the garden.

Green Iguana – Great views on the boat ride, Fort San Lorenzo and Achiote Road, also the rice fields.

Basiliscus Lizard – far less common than in January, but seen quickly on the boat trip, and then on the bird feeder at the lodge one morning.

Yellow-eared Slider – many seen basking on the boat tour, and at Summit Ponds

Common Butterflies

(A short list of those we observed and photographed, thanks to Alex Vargo, and Tino Sanchez, working with our photos and live sightings. Note there were numerous other species!)