

Panama: Birds & Mammals | Trip Report

April 3-11, 2022 | Written by Robert Gallardo



With Naturalist Journeys guide Robert Gallardo, local guides Alexis and Danilo and participants Tom, Maureen, Joel, Holly, Cindy, Beth, Laura, George, Beverly and Walter.





Panama: Where Two Worlds Collide

When North America finally joined with South America some 4.5-10 million years ago it created a land bridge that would later be coined as the 'Great American Biotic Interchange.' In one manner or another, floral and faunal elements from both continents were then able to cross over and this mixing is greatly exemplified in Panama. Slightly smaller than the state of South Carolina, Panama boasts 1,000 species of birds, 255 species of mammals, 10,000 vascular plants and over 1,800 species of butterflies. In fact, the word 'Panama,' derived from an indigenous language, means 'many butterflies.'

Sunday April 3 Arrivals | Panama City | Canopy Tower

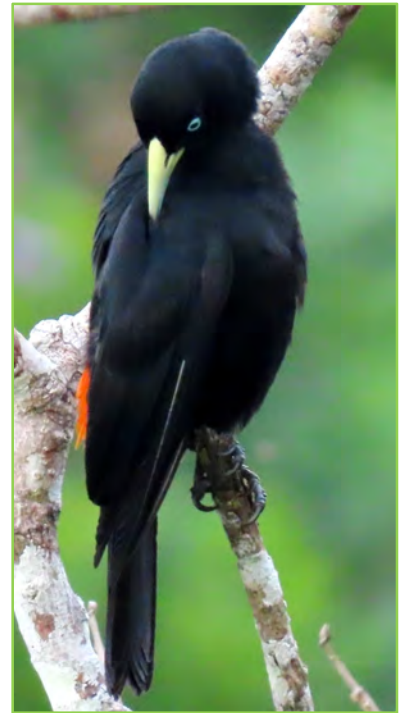
Today the adventure began for the ten guests. Four had arrived a day early so we were able to get up to the Canopy Tower by noon to explore the surroundings. Because it was the middle of the day there was virtually no bird activity. However, some recent rains had triggered the hatching of many butterflies and we saw some colorful hairstreaks, metalmarks, swallowtails and a beautiful Red-striped Leafwing. The remainder of the guests showed up later on in the day and everyone received an orientation to this unique eco-lodge-in-the-sky; once an old radar facility. Alexis, who would be our local guide while at the Tower, has years of experience working there and has keen ears and eyes.



We spent part of the late afternoon atop the tower to see what was stirring. Some distant squalls cooled the air and pushed some birds down close to us. A large flock of migrating Turkey Vultures first passed, then a flock of mostly Broad-winged Hawks, then two small flocks of mostly Swainson's Hawks. All were slowly making their way back to North America to breed. A few brightly colored Scarlet Tanagers, also coming from South America, were also on the move. Many parrots, toucans and other birds put on a chorus of sounds from deep within the forest as the day ended. A pair of Mealy Parrot slipped in quietly to feed, but we spotted them nonetheless. Later on, as we were dining, an Allen's Olingo appeared outside one of the windows to dine on a banana that was set out by the Canopy staff.

Monday April 4 Semaphore Hill | Ammo Dump Ponds | Night Drive

After a good nights' rest we were all up on the roof by 6:30. We were rip-rearing and ready to go with birds and coffee. It was a bit foggy to begin with, but it started to lift and the bird activity really picked up. The Green Shrike-Vireos were in full tilt with their song, which seemed to echo in every direction. Two different individuals showed up to forage at eye level and most everyone was afforded excellent views of this bird that is otherwise difficult to see. Many Scarlet Tanagers made their way through the trees and a pair of the striking Cinnamon Woodpecker made their debut appearance. A couple of large mixed flocks came passing through and included Blue Dacnis, Green Honeycreeper, Plain-colored Tanager, Lesser Greenlet, White-browed Gnatcatcher and the comely Scarlet-rumped Cacique. A Brown-capped Tyrannulet and Forest Elaenia showed up and we got great looks of these diminutive, canopy-dwelling flycatchers. And this was all before breakfast!



After breakfast we gathered in the parking lot to slowly make our way down Semaphore Hill. Before we got started we checked out the feeders and blooming plants. Hummers were zipping about and included the Blue-chested and Violet-bellied Hummingbirds, White-necked Jacobin, Stripe-throated and Long-billed Hermits, and a stunning White-vented Plumeleteer. The walk started off a bit slow, but some soft calls that came from the nearby forest soon caught our attention. It ended up being a loose group of Splendid Treefrogs (*Cruziohyla calcarifer*) that had assembled to mate over a water-filled cement pipe. A few of us scrambled up an embankment to get a closer look as well as take photos while the rest looked onward through a scope. What a treat it was to see these spectacularly-colored frogs. The group coined the action as a 'frogy.' We continued down the hill and found a very obliging pair of Broad-billed Motmots that allowed everyone excellent looks and photos. A King Vulture made a brief appearance as it soared away with Black Vultures and a few Swainson's Hawks. A pair of White-whiskered Puffbirds also showed up.



The large Crimson-crested Woodpecker passed by almost unnoticed, but we would catch up to this dazzling species later on in the trip. We were hearing Fasciated Antshrikes virtually everywhere and finally a male/female pair of this stately bird came into view. A pair of the tiny bird whose name is utterly confusing was also seen; the Checker-throated Stipplethroat. Bay-breasted Warblers were in migration and seemed to be virtually everywhere. And finally a pair of the smashing White-shouldered Tanager appeared to end the morning. The crew was feeling tired just as the Bird Mobile came to pick us up. It was a fantastic morning and a great way to start the trip.

We had lunch then took a well deserved midday siesta. By the early afternoon some thunderclouds had formed which brought on a heavy shower.

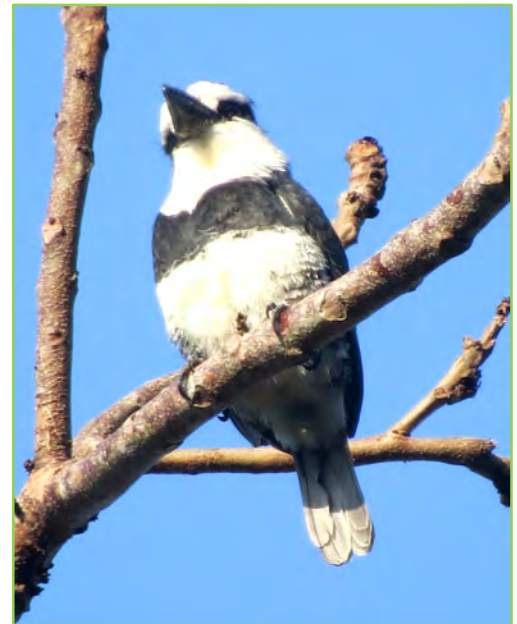
With climate change comes changing weather patterns and April is still supposed to be the dry season in Panama. Nonetheless, we departed in a van and made a brief stop at some fruit feeders in a residential area located en route to our destination. The action at the feeders was slow so we continued to the Ammo Dump ponds where the rain lightened considerably. The bird action was frantic upon our arrival. A group of Gray-headed Chachalacas and Greater Anis were bouncing around the between the coral trees. In a distant pond there was a lone Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, Striated and Green Herons, Green Kingfisher and Purple Gallinules. An adult Rufescent Tiger-Heron slanked away as we approached the pond. The giant Ringed Kingfisher made a star appearance and would be the first of many seen during our days in the Canal area. The itsy-bitsy Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet was also seen and this site seems to

be a great place to see it up close year after year. Other flycatchers there included the Yellow-olive, Panama, Rusty-margined, Streaked, Tropical Kingbird and Great Kiskadee. A male/female pair of the widespread Barred Antshrike was seen well as they preened to dry themselves in a nearby tree. It was a great way to end the afternoon and a day filled with birds.

We had a delicious dinner then embarked on our first night drive. Before leaving, however, a Kinkajou came in to take a banana placed outside the dining room window. Just down the hill a bit we encountered a roosting Great Tinamou and this very well may be the same bird seen on the same roost two years ago. Alexis' eagle eyes also spotted some sleeping Mantled Howler Monkeys and our first Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth. Our first full day was nothing less than spectacular.

Tuesday April 5 Pipeline Road | Summit Gardens

Many more new birds awaited us on our second day in Panama. After an early breakfast we headed out to visit the famous Pipeline Road. During World War II an oil pipeline was built there in case the Canal was ever shut down, as well as a service road that followed it. Basically abandoned after the war, this ten mile track cuts through lush rainforest and is one of the most famous places across the globe where to go and look for birds. As we approached the area we could see a squall heading our way so we stopped for a bit and took cover under a structure alongside the canal. Large cargo ships passed by, heading north toward the Caribbean Sea. Some birds popped out as the rain started to subside and included Yellow-bellied Seedeater, Variable Seedeater, Blue-black Grassquit, a pair of Ringed Kingfishers and Gray-breasted Martins. Two Black Vulture chicks still in downy plumage popped out of a door of an old lighthouse which was a pleasant surprise. A female Bat Falcon made a surprise appearance and alit atop a tall snag. After the rains subsided we continued and stopped briefly at the Ammo Dump ponds. Purple Gallinules and a Rufescent Tiger-Heron were on the move and numerous White-throated Crakes were calling. A pair of the cute Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet appeared in front of us.



We reached the beginning of the Pipeline Road and began our walk. The first great bird we found was a lone Bicolored Antbird that was perhaps awaiting army ants. As we were passing underneath one of many giant fig trees a large bird popped in. It turned out to be a Gray-headed Kite and we got scope views of this handsome bird of prey. Some nearby raucous caught our attention and it turned out to be a small group of Purple-throated Fruitcrow which came across the road. A male/female pair of Black-crowned Antshrike was foraging in the bushes and we were afforded excellent looks. Mantled Howler Monkeys were seemingly everywhere. Numerous species of trogon were calling including Slaty-tailed, White-tailed, Black-tailed and Gartered. We were only able to see the Slaty-tailed, but would catch up to the others later on. A few Collared Aracari were also found searching for food. At the very end of the walk we saw a White-necked Puffbird and a female Blue Cotinga together in a large fig tree. Right after we boarded the Bird Mobile and began to leave I spotted a bird close by. It was a beautiful male Black-throated Trogon.

We returned to the Tower for lunch and were greeted by a small troop of the cute Geoffroy's Tamarin. We were so happy they decided to show up and have a banana lunch. This, the northernmost tamarin, reaches its distribution limit there along the Canal. After a siesta we departed for the nearby Summit Gardens only to encounter a huge squall. We decided to wait it out and it lasted nearly an hour. As it began to subside thousands of winged termites appeared and many birds began to feed on them. Some Crimson-backed Tanagers and Collared Aracaris even joined the action and were sallying out as if to be flycatchers. Red-crowned Woodpeckers were gorging themselves as the termites were crawling out of holes in trees. We entered the gardens and had the whole place to ourselves. The site also serves as a small zoo and can be quite busy on the weekends. We found numerous Central American Agouti, a lone White-nosed Coati and a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth. Some Greater White-lined Bats were found on day roosts under folded palm leaves. Some seeding bamboo plants were attracting a nice assortment of seedeaters, including the uncommon Slate-colored, as well as Yellow-bellied and Variable. A pair of Crested Caracara was perched on exposed branches, drying themselves after the downpour. Toward the end of the walk several of the elegant Black-tailed Trogons came into view as two males were pursuing a female. We returned to the Tower to conclude another fruitful day.



Wednesday April 6 Boat Ride | Rainforest Discovery Center | Night Drive

Today we woke to clear skies. After an early breakfast we departed for the nearby boat dock at the Chagres River to start another adventure. We boarded our covered boat and right off the bat the action began. A male Anhinga with its beautiful blue facial skin had just speared a fish. We stopped to watch it jostle the fish into position then swallow it whole. In a quiet backwater we spotted a Rufescent Tiger-Heron with a baby turtle in its beak. A Lesser Kiskadee was attending its nest, which was built literally at water level, and contained two chicks. A Little Blue and Tricolored Herons were stalking prey along the shoreline. We then came across numerous Purple Gallinules which almost seemed to put on a show for us and preened at close range, strutting their gaudy colors. We also saw numerous Striated Herons; a species that does not range north of Costa Rica. Before entering Gatun Lake a giant, orange-colored fish was





spotted next to the shoreline under a tree. Our boatman had never seen one before and we hadn't a clue as to what it was. We entered the Canal and huge ships passed by. In a quiet backwaters area we came across a large Chestnut-headed Oropendola colony and parked there in the shade to watch the action. The colony was bustling with activity as some oropendolas were building nests while others were defending them from marauding female Giant Cowbirds. A lone Yellow-rumped Cacique came and went then a Snail Kite landed on a low branch to enjoy the escargot contained within an apple snail. Over a far ridgeline Alexis spotted a pair of the beautiful White Hawks that were gliding on warm air. We continued along to another backwater area filled with forest-covered islands. Snail Kites were more plentiful there, including a tree that contained at least a dozen males. We hadn't a clue as to why there were so many in one tree. Numerous Limpkins were spotted, including a pair with two young. One small island harbored one lone Howler Monkey and one White-faced Capuchin. At one point a Gray-lined Hawk lifted out of a tree and raced away. A Zone-tailed Hawk, trying to disguise itself amidst some Turkey Vultures, was spotted as well. Iguanas of all sizes were seen at all heights in the surrounding trees. As we started to make our way back to the boat dock at high speed Robert spotted an American Crocodile along a distant shoreline. As we slowly approached, it remained on the sandy shore, its mouth open wide. To our surprise, it stayed there and slowly turned around, allowing us an excellent view of this seven foot specimen. We were afforded great, close up views and photos before it slid slowly into the murky waters. As we approached the dock a pair of the handsome Southern Lapwing was spotted along a grassy shoreline and was a great way to end this wonderful boat ride.

We returned to the Tower for lunch and a nice siesta before continuing with the days' activities. We boarded the Bird Mobile and headed out to visit the Rainforest Discovery Center. Just down the road from the Tower Alexis decided to check out a spot that is sometimes known to be a day roost for owls. Sure enough, they were there. A pair of the exquisite Black-and-white Owls was perched low in the subcanopy and we were afforded scope views.



We continued to the destination which is located adjacent to Pipeline Road. It was still too sunny to climb the 100 ft. tower so we looked for birds at a covered rest area that had some hummingbird feeders. Long-billed Hermit, male Violet-bellied Hummingbird, White-necked Jacobin and Blue-chested Hummingbirds zipped to and fro, taking turns at the feeders. A Southern Bentbill buzzed from a thicket and would continue to haunt us. A Plain-brown Woodcreeper also paid us a quick



visit. A gorgeous male Golden-collared Manakin popped in and we peered into the vegetation to see it perched.

It was time to climb the tower so we made our way up.

On the way up many Greater White-lined Bats were seen as they flushed out from under the steps. We reached the top and what a splendid view of the rainforest canopy. There is so much that we don't see from ground level and places like this offer a glimpse into this mysterious realm. Perched atop a distant tree were gathered several Scaled Pigeons that often spend most of their time at canopy heights. A female Black-tailed Trogon appeared in a gap below us and afforded us a different perspective. In distant trees both the Keel-billed and Yellow-throated Toucans emitted their respective calls which echoed across the treetops. Some Purple-throated Fruitcrows were calling and their sounds reverberated across the canopy. Then all of a sudden, there he was; the prized bird we were waiting for. A male Blue Cotinga appeared atop a leafless tree and we were afforded scope views before it flew away to a distant ridgeline. It was an excellent way to end another rewarding day in Panama.

We returned to the Tower and had dinner then undertook another night drive. A pair of Mottled Owls hooted in the distance, but would come no closer. A Nine-banded Armadillo crossed the road and the faithful Great Tinamou was on its perch.

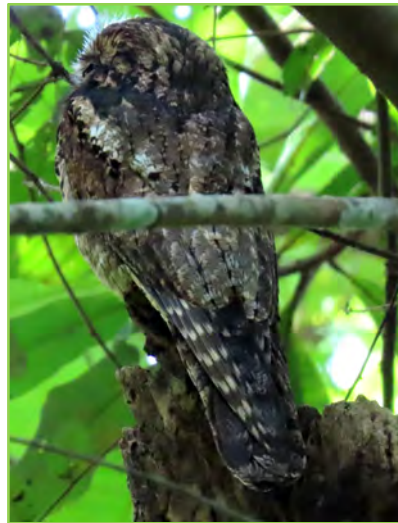
Thursday April 7 Metropolitan Park | Miraflores Locks



This morning we headed out toward Panama City to visit the Metropolitan Park. However, right as we were departing, a male Blue Cotinga showed up in a Cecropia tree adjacent to the tower. Rats, we were just up there! We continued on and arrived at the park. This swath of forest on the outskirts of the city is a favorite place for people to go walking, but it also harbors a nice selection of birds that inhabit the thick forest understory as well as amidst the trees subcanopy. Right away we found a Yellow-headed Caracara perched close by and allowed for great views and photos. Nearby, a diverse feeding flock had amassed where we were able to observe the Whooping Motmot, Yellow-green Vireo, Squirrel Cuckoo, Canada Warbler, Lesser Greenlet, Plain-colored Tanager, Mistletoe Tyrannulet and Greenish Elaenia. Amidst them was a Golden-fronted Greenlet which represented a good sighting. A small group of the lovely White-shouldered Tanager also appeared. What a great way to start the morning! To our surprise a Great Egret was stalking the edge of the woods and actually appeared to be hunting.

None of us had ever seen this type of behavior from this species, but there it was. Nearby was a Plain Xenops foraging in the subcanopy and at one point it stopped to preen and we got scope views of this otherwise 'busy' bird.

We continued up the trail a bit further and found a pair of the handsome Rufous-and-white Wren that were building a nest and a Rufous-breasted Wren was close by as well. A bit further up, Alexis and I heard a strange squeaking sound that came from the forest understory. He found where it was coming from and it was no less than a newborn Two-toed Sloth, still with its umbilical cord attached. It was stuck under some roots. The mother was nowhere to be seen so Alexis decided to rescue it. He took it to the gate where there was a person in charge who quickly called someone from a rescue center. It was a heart touching moment and we all hopped this little fellow pulls through and can be released back into the wild.



A bit further up we encountered a female Lance-tailed Manakin then a stunning male. This beautiful bird is fairly widespread, but is heard more often than seen. Near a covered rest area we saw the Common Potoo with its odd, stick-like appearance, on its day roost. It seems as if this bird is there at the same spot year after year. Nearby, a female Golden-winged Warbler was working the foliage at mid-story height. We reached the top of the hill and it was fairly quiet, except for a pair of Dusky-capped Flycatchers that were hawking insects. As we descended the trail, a small group of the dashing and noisy Yellow-backed Orioles appeared overhead. Then, three of the stately Crimson-crested Woodpeckers were spotted working the trunks of large trees fairly low in the understory and we were able to observe them well.

We made the return trip to the Canopy Tower, but needed to make a stop along the road to look for a cute critter. The regular day roost near the Tower for the Western Night Monkey had changed, but the network of local guides in Panama had turned up another one. With a little patience this adorable creature appeared and we got great looks at it. Upon approaching the gate to the Tower I got out to open it and heard something calling nearby. It turned out to be a Crane Hawk perched in a large, leafless tree. What a great way to end a productive morning.

At the tower we had lunch then a short break. In the early afternoon we made the short drive to the Miraflores Locks to see firsthand an engineering feat and piece of American-Panamanian history. From the top floor one can observe the coming and going of large ships of all kinds, ranging from fuel tankers to cargo ships. Small sailboats are escorted through as well. In the morning hours, the traffic goes northward toward the Caribbean Sea and in the pm hours the



ships go toward the Pacific Ocean. The Canal works non-stop, every day of the year. A few birds spotted there included a female American Kestrel, Gray-breasted Martin, Royal Tern and Sandwich Tern. On our way back, in a nearby mudflat, several White Ibis were spotted. It was an end to another great day.

Friday April 8 Canopy Tower | Transfer to Canopy Lodge



This morning was our last chance to enjoy the surrounding forests and canopy views of the wildlife. We had yet another chance to see the Green Shrike-Vireo which often eludes the observer at ground level. A plethora of birds came through to feed on fruit and insects and included flycatchers, tanagers, greenlets and warblers. A couple of Mantled Howler monkeys also came into view nearby and allowed for some photos. A Broad-billed Motmot perched in plain view and two Cinnamon Woodpeckers worked some large tree trunks. A pair of Collared Aracari stole the show as they fed close by on a fruiting Cecropia tree. Just as we were getting ready to depart three more male Blue Cotingas showed up in the trees above us. Nice going away party! We checked out and said our 'farewells' to Alexis and the tower.

We made our way westward toward the Canopy Lodge, our next destination in the foothills, and site for more adventure. We drove through the dry Pacific lowlands then turned north to start the climb toward the town of Valle which sits inside an ancient volcanic crater. These cool, humid highlands were welcomed by everyone. We reached the Canopy Lodge by noon and got checked into our rooms before having lunch. We were met by

Danilo (aka 'Junior') who would be our local guide for the next three days. We did a short walk on the grounds and were greeted by the Dusky-faced Tanager; unique and placed in its own family. Thick-billed Euphonias and Gray-headed Chachalacas were gorging themselves at the fruit feeder. A one-eyed Rufous Motmot would also be a daily sighting on the feeder and in the nearby trees. A beautiful Dotted Firetip skipper was also spotted patrolling a small patch of river and would alight on leaves for a scope view. We walked up the paved road a bit to see what was stirring. The walk paid off as Danilo knew where a special bird had been perching. It was the Rufous-crested Coquette and there it was in all its glory. Some dark clouds were approaching so we started to head back and returned just in time.

Saturday April 9 | Altos del Maria

After an early breakfast we journeyed up into the nearby highlands to experience a whole new set of birds. Our first stop turned out to be quite rewarding and would allow us great looks at some wonderful birds. A male/female pair of Flame-rumped Tanagers was perched off in the distance and we got scope views. A Tufted Flycatcher was briefly seen before it disappeared into the thick forest. Eventually, a small mixed flock began to appear and was working the forest; a favorite stop for Danilo. Robert spotted a small, greenish-yellow bird amidst the flock and it turned out to be a regional endemic; a female Black-and-yellow Tanager. We were really hoping a male would be around and our wish came true, as several minutes later two appeared. We got multiple, excellent looks at this stunning bird and a one even decided to perch and sit still for several minutes. It's always great to see a regional endemic. Other species in the mixed flock included the brightly colored Silver-throated Tanager, Green Honeycreeper, Blackburnian Warbler, many Common Chlorospingus and a Red-faced Spinetail. Nearby, a Collared Trogon (formerly Orange-bellied) appeared and we got great views of it. A White-throated Spadebill skulked in the dark understory along a road cut then disappeared into the darkness. A pair of Rufous Mourner also showed up and we all had great looks. As the sky warmed a bit we spotted





several Swallow-tailed Kites along a ridgeline. We also heard some Barred Parakeets pass by overhead which were previously unknown from the area.

We continued up the road and entered a large, private residential area. It was almost surreal to find this system of narrow paved roads, lined with street lamps, amidst this beautiful highland forest. Much of the mountain has already been divided into lots and we realized we were enjoying these fragile

forests that were hanging on by a thread on borrowed time. We parked and walked a short section of the road. A female Snowcap was catching bugs in the shade of a partially cleared lot. Further down was a large, dead snag where an Emerald Toucanet was digging out a nest cavity. This was something most of us have never seen before as woodpeckers are usually the ones who dig out nest cavities and are eventually taken over by other birds. A small mixed flock appeared in the subcanopy and we got brief looks at the diminutive Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant. We then spotted a prized species; the handsome Rufous-browed Tyrannulet. It appeared several times and we were afforded great looks. We also heard an Ochraceous Wren calling from the subcanopy, but never got to see it. At another stop we came across a pair of Eye-ringed Flatbill and a perched White Hawk.

Around noon we had a picnic lunch at a visitor's center adjacent to a small, artificial reservoir. A small Chestnut-headed Oropendola colony was bustling with activity. A Yellow-bellied Elaenia perched in the same tree and a pair of Thick-billed Euphonia kept busy making a nest along a low branch, tucked away underneath a bromeliad. A rain shower set in so we hunkered down until it let up. Danilo spotted a perched bird on the other side of the lagoon that was new for the trip: a Long-tailed Tyrant. We started to make our way back, but needed to make one last stop to check out a fruiting tree. Danilo was on the lookout for a very special bird and there it was. Along with several Emerald Toucanets, there was a female Yellow-eared Toucanet that was seen briefly. Dark clouds and rain were starting to move in so we made our way back to the Lodge and called it a day. This was, without doubt, the 'birdiest' day we would have on the entire trip.

Sunday April 10 La Mesa | Cara Iguana

Each and every day during this trip is extraordinary and special in its own way, and our last full day in Panama would be no exception. After breakfast we once again departed for another highland site. However, we first stopped at the river nearby to see if a special bird was present. Just down a trail and over a few bridges we found it; the lovely Sunbittern. It walked down the river a ways and began to emit its whistle which was special to hear. We continued and made our way to a nearby plateau area that was mostly settled with houses and chicken farms, but did have





patches of forest and hedgerows where we would encounter more new birds. Our first stop was a junction of open areas and some woodland. There, we found a Black-striped Sparrow, Southern Lapwings in a field, Shiny and Bronzed Cowbirds, White-lined Tanager, Yellow-faced Grassquit and a brightly plumaged Mourning Warbler. We walked a nearby road and found a nice assortment of birds, including the handsome Tawny-crested Tanager, replete with its gold-colored mohawk. A mixed flock was working the thick, dark, canopy and we tried our best to get views of everything that was moving. There was a Plain Xenops, Russet Antshrike and Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. We continued along the road and found a Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, Tawny-capped Euphonia and Bran-colored Flycatcher. At another stop we found Smooth-billed Ani, Roadside Hawk and a singing Thick-billed Seed-Finch. We were wrapping up the morning and started to make our way down the hill toward the Lodge, but needed to make one more stop. Danilo had a good spot for another handsome bird: the Spot-crowned Barbet. We parked on a bend in the road that was surrounded by tall trees so we got out and looked around. Suddenly they appeared high overhead in a Cecropia tree, but through the scopes we got great looks. It was an awesome way to end the morning.

We had lunch back at the Lodge then took a short siesta. A few of the guests decided to go to town to see the sights and sounds. The remainder of us ventured out one last time to see what other new birds we could find. We took a small road that led to the edge of town where the deciduous forest was in good shape. Right at the edge of the road we saw a male Yellow-crowned Euphonia and close by a Streaked Saltator. We walked along the forested road and came to a



side trail that went further up the hill. We were going for a Tody Motmot which was known to haunt this area. We did hear one, but it did not want to come into view. We also heard a Rosy Thrush-Tanager, but it was also playing hard to get. However, we did see a handsome male Lance-tailed Manakin that perched close to us. On our way back to the van we found a Lesson's Motmot, there at its typical southern limit of distribution. We decided to try another spot and had a bit more luck. In a field we saw our only Cattle Egret for the trip and heard an Isthmian Wren (formerly Plain Wren). A pair of Panama Flycatchers and a Striped Cuckoo were also seen in the treetops. But the bird we *really* wanted to see was the Rosy Thrush-

Tanager, with both the male and female being brightly colored. With some patience a pair did show up and we were afforded several looks them. What a great bird to end the trip with.

That night at the Lodge, several of us walked down to the ponds and found a nice assortment of frogs. It was a most serene way to wrap up the trip. We recorded 265 species of birds and 15 species of mammals.



Monday April 11 | Departures

The tour ended and the Naturalist Journeys guests departed for Panama City at different times. This wonderful tour, offered year after year, continues to reward guests with great sightings and excellent opportunities to photograph a wide range of flora and fauna.

Favorite sightings of the trip:

Joel-Thick-billed Euphonia (mid flight shot),
Holly-Rufous Motmot (in flight)
Walter-Blue Cotinga,
Beverly-Black-and-yellow Tanager
Laura-Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Dusky-faced Tanager
George-Black-and-white Owl
Tom-Keel billed Toucan, Spot-crowned Barbet
Maureen-Blue Cotinga, Green Shrike-Vireo, Rosy Thrush-Tanager
Beth-Baby Black Vulture,
Cindy-Sunbittern, Limpkin
Robert-Rufous browed Tyrannulet, Splendid Treefrogs

Favorite moment-Baby Two-toed sloth rescued by Alexis.

Other Favorite organism-colorful, day-flying arctiid moth.

Photo Captions:

Page 1-Gatun Lake Forest Backdrop, Birding Altos del Maria highlands with Danilo, Baby Green Iguana, male Black-and-yellow Tanager, Western Night Monkey, Canopy Tower

Page 2-Great Eurybia (butterfly-*Eurybia patrona*), Mealy Parrot

Page 3-Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Splendid Treefrogs (*Cruziohyla calcarifer*)

Page 4-White-necked Puffbird, Purple-throated Fruitcrow

Page 5-Geoffroy's Tamarin, bottom row: Lesser Kiskadee, Anhinga, Purple Gallinule

Page 6-Black-and-white Owl, American Crocodile, Birding atop tower at Rainforest Discovery Center

Page 7-Blue Cotinga, Alexis rescuing baby Two-toed Sloth

Page 8-Yellow-headed Caracara, Common Potoo, Snail Kite, Cargo ship at Miraflores Locks

Page 9-Collared Aracari, Cocoa Woodcreeper

Page 10-Sunbittern, Northern Emerald Toucanet

Page 11-Spot-crowned Barbets, Rosy Thrush-Tanager, Canal Zone Treefrog (*Boana rufitela*)

All images by Robert Gallardo