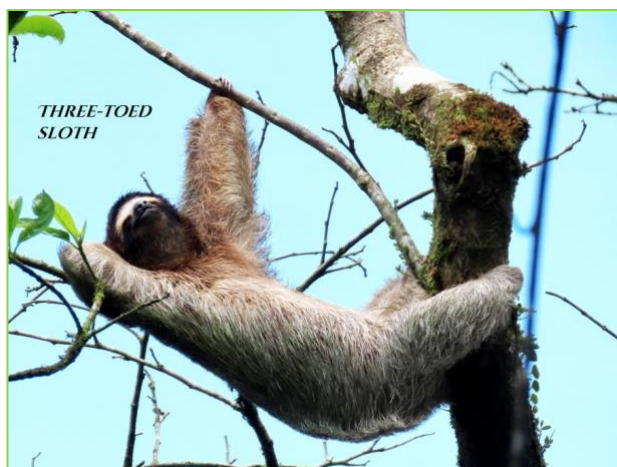


# Panama: Birds & Mammals | Trip Report

March 19-27, 2023 | Written by Robert Gallardo



With Naturalist Journeys guide Robert Gallardo, local guides Alexis and Tino, and participants Mike, Nancy, Michael, Linda, Tim, Norma, Susan, Beth, and Lee Ann.





## Panama: Where Two Continents Meet

Panama has the highest biodiversity in Central America for a reason; it is connected to South America. It is a mixing ground of two continents. 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 March 19 Arrivals | Panama City | Canopy Lodge

Today the adventure began for the nine guests. Everyone had arrived a day early so we were able to get going early to the Canopy Lodge. As we began the road trip we came across a car accident and the going was slow but we eventually made it through. We reached our turnoff to Valle and climbed the slopes of the old, extinct volcano.

We reached the town of Valle which sits inside an ancient volcanic crater. These cool, humid highlands were welcomed by everyone. We arrived at the Canopy Lodge in time for lunch before getting checked into our rooms. We were met by Tino who would be our excellent local guide for the next three days. In the afternoon, we did a short walk on the grounds and were greeted by a special surprise; A White-tipped Sicklebill. It was feeding on *Heliconia* blooms next to the rooms. What a great way to start the walk, as this was the first sighting during Robert's three trips. A pair of Thick-billed Euphonias was building a nest in a hanging planter next to the restaurant and we would enjoy them all day, every day. We had an excellent walk around the gardens and there was a flurry of bird activity. Robert spotted a pair of nesting Spot-crowned Barbets high in a tree, a species which is often difficult to find on this tour. The minute Common Tody-Flycatchers were nesting above one of the ponds. Numerous hummingbirds were zipping about, including the White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits, Violet-headed, Rufous-tailed, and Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds. The colorful Bay Wren was poking around in the pink ornamental banana plants. We spotted our first Lineated Woodpecker of the trip as well. A low-growing fruiting fig down by the ponds would turn out to be a great place to see birds. Bay-breasted Warblers were foraging for insects while the colorful Bay-headed and Golden-hooded Tanagers would prove be eye candy. Orange-chinned Parakeets chattered everywhere and would be out constant companion the entire trip, along with the Cocoa Woodcreeper. It was an excellent way to start the journey.

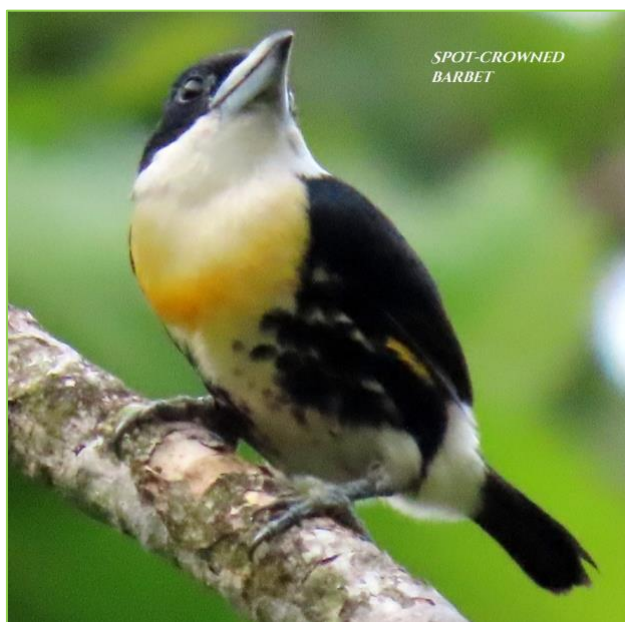


### Monday March 20 | Canopy Lodge area

We woke to a cool, breezy morning and were greeted with fresh hot coffee. The raucous calls of the Gray-cowled Wood-Rail echoed down by the creek. This colorful member of the rail family puts on quite the show at the Lodge and is often found not only under the fruit feeder, but atop it as well. After breakfast, we did another slow walk on the grounds with Tino to see who else would show up. A small group of Collared Aracari made its way to where we were standing and disappeared into the forest behind the lodge. The loud Buff-rumped Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Green Kingfisher were spotted along the creek from the bridge. Gray-headed Chachalacas, a talkative Streaked Flycatcher, and the stunning Rufous Motmot all showed up at the fruit feeder. Down by the ponds we spotted some stunning Blue-headed Parrots in some distant trees. A Rufous-breasted Hermit was working the pink banana blossoms while the dazzling Crimson-backed Tanager chattered from a perch. The tiny Mistletoe Tyrannulet was spotted and would be many of the small flycatchers we would see on the trip. The bulky Fasciated Antshrike was skulking alongside us in the thicket and it popped out for a great look. Along with the antshrike, there was a pair of the elegant Rufous-and-white Wren in the underbrush whose flutelike calls are almost mesmerizing. We took one last side trail that paralleled the creek and found the resident Chestnut-capped Warbler. It was a fantastic way to start the day.



BLACK-CHESTED  
JAY



SPOT-CROWNED  
BARBET



THICK-BILLED  
EUPHONIA

We stopped for lunch and a bit of downtime before continuing our daily activities. Toward the late afternoon we all took a walk up the road. We first spotted the handsome White-vented Plumeleteer amidst the nearby bushes and spotted another further up. Some commotion was coming from the nearby forest and we were suddenly bombarded with a large flock of the Tawny-crested Tanager. There were many males toting their golden mohawks. At the entrance to the Canopy zipline the teeny Violet-headed Hummingbird was working the purple Porterweed shrubs. We descended some steps down to the creek and walked a side trail. We were delighted to come across a handsome male Black-throated Trogon in the forest understory. At the end of the trail Tino knew where to find a roosting Mottled Owl. It was tucked away deep inside a dark area, but we saw it through a scope. We couldn't leave the creek until we looked for one last great bird and there it was. The striking Sunbittern was foraging along the creek and we enjoyed it for several minutes. We started to make our way back to the Lodge and spotted large numbers of migrating Broad-winged and Swainson's Hawks high overhead.

We had a bit of rest before doing our checklist and dinner. We would enjoy the cuisine at each lodge and tasty desserts. Afterward, we went for a short night walk on the grounds. We got close looks at a cute Tropical Screech-Owl and a few frogs. Since it hadn't rained yet, the frog diversity and numbers were low.

## Tuesday March 21 | La Mesa | Cara Iguana

Today we would head out and experience a whole new set of birds. Not far from the lodge is a small plateau where there are remnant patches of wet broadleaf forest. We stopped just up the road from the lodge to see what was stirring. A Rosy Thrush-Tanager was calling from the nearby forest understory and with some patience we got scope views of the brilliant, rosy-red male. What an outstanding species and great way to start the day. Up a bit further we made another stop and found the charming male and female Collared Trogon. The tiny Ochraceous Wren appeared at eye level in a nearby tree and we got good looks at it. A Rufous Mourner called in the distance and taunted us, never coming into view.

We reached the mesa in no time at all and parked. There was a short side road with forest that in the past has always been productive. Today was no exception. High in the sky was a soaring Ornate Hawk-Eagle. There were many giant, red Hot Lips shrubs in bloom which attracted the Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer and Crowned Woodnymph. Then some canopy level action kicked in. Numerous fruiting figs were present which had attracted a nice assortment of birds. The dazzling Scarlet-thighed Dacnis appeared, then Tawny-capped Euphonia, then Emerald Tanager, then Silver-throated Tanager. It was a color overload! But, this is what birding in the tropics is all about.



Upon returning to the van we scanned the nearby fields of a chicken farm. There were many Southern Lapwing present along with some tailless Tropical Kingbirds, Yellow-faced Grassquit, Shiny Cowbird, and Variable Seedeater. Tino decided to take us a bit further down the road to try and locate another interesting bird. In a large patch of forest he found a pair of Wedge-billed Woodcreeper, the smallest member of that group in Central America. Before we headed back to the Lodge someone spotted a Two-toed Sloth heading up a leafless tree. Why? Maybe to sun itself. When it got high enough it spread out and hung there, almost posing (see photo on cover page).

That was so marvelous. We had an outstanding morning and made our way back to the Lodge for lunch and some R&R.

In the late afternoon we went out again. This time to visit a different habitat on the outskirts of town in the direction we came in. There, we skirted around a residential area and some deciduous forest where we would find a few birds seen nowhere else on the trip. From a large, wooded housing compound came the telltale, double-note sound of a motmot; a Lesson's Motmot to be exact. From the Canal eastward is found the similar Whooping Motmot but that species has a one-note call. With some patience, it appeared before us. What a snazzy bird indeed. We got a brief look at a Streaked Saltator; another bird that would not be seen on the remainder of the trip. Then, a male Garden Emerald appeared then seemingly vanished into thin air. In the distance Robert spotted some blooming Coral trees which are good for certain hummingbirds with particularly long bills. And then, voila. A Long-billed Starthroat appeared and perched on a small, leafless branch. Nearby, a pair of Isthmian Wrens were spotted in a thicket and a somewhat shy Squirrel Cuckoo. A light morph Short-tailed Hawk was spotted soaring not high overhead as well. Then, to end the day we had a nice show of color. Five Keel-billed Toucans were calling and seemed to be displaying and we got excellent scope views of this iconic Neotropical bird.



*KEEL-BILLED  
TOUCAN*



*COLLARED  
TROGON*

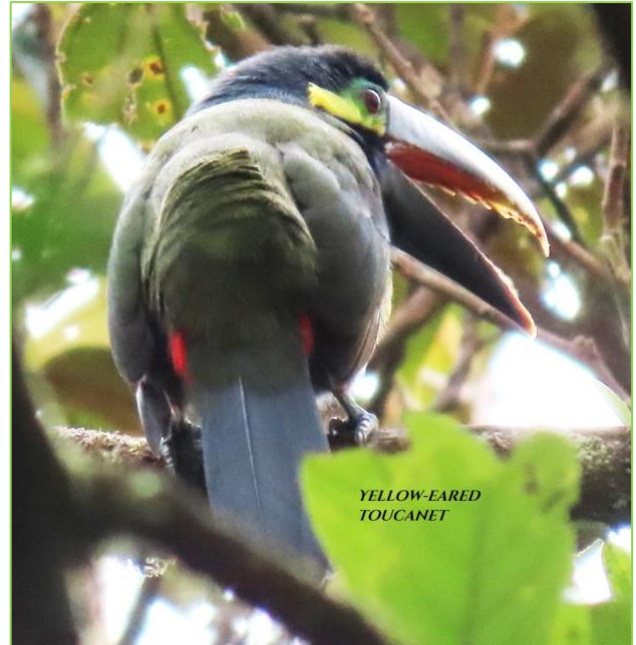
We made our way back to the Lodge for some downtime before doing our checklist and having dinner.

**Wednesday March 22 | Altos de Maria**

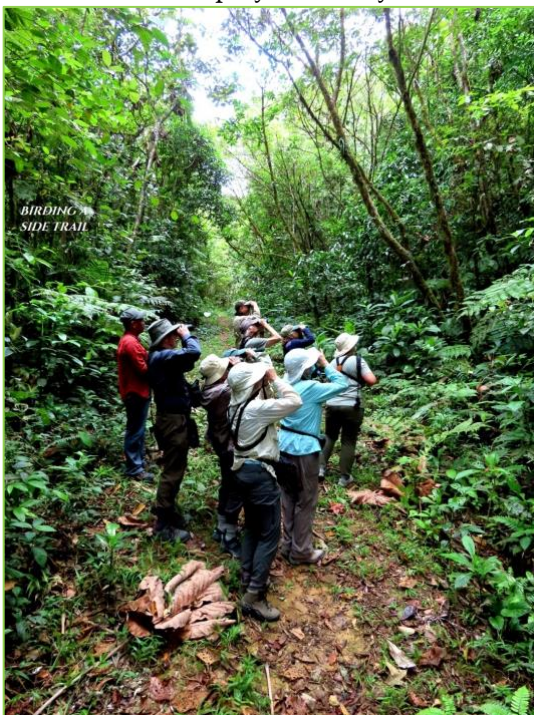
After a good night's rest we were ready for the next day's adventure. We were going to another part of the volcanic rim in search of yet more species. We loaded into four trucks with packed lunch and scopes and would be gone for a good part of the day.

As soon as we reached some humid rainforest we stopped. It was a steep, winding road so finding a good spot for all four trucks was tricky. Right off the bat appeared a Green Hermit which fed on blooming *Heliconia* plants. The sweet call of the Northern Schiffornis echoed through the forest and perched close by where we got a good look. Tino then heard the faint call of a highland specialty; the Spotted Barbtail. In appearance, it looks like a small woodcreeper and does belong to the same family. We got brief views as it crept up a small tree that grew from below then it flew off. A small flock of Common Chlorospingus came through and we would have multiple sightings of this 'common' bird during the day. A pair of Gray-breasted Wood-Wren called in the dark understory. Tino worked his magic and we got brief, but good glimpses of this otherwise shy bird. We noted a couple Snowcap hummingbirds that were gleaning bugs high up in the *Cecropia* trees. Another pair of Collared Trogon graced us with their presence along with a Hepatic Tanager.

We headed further up the hill and entered into a large, private residential area known as "Altos de Maria." A dream dreamed up by a wealthy Panamanian who sells expensive lots to whomever wishes to live in a far-fetched



YELLOW-EARED  
TOUCANET



BIRDING  
SIDE TRAIL

place. At least the lots don't seem to be selling hotcakes and there is still a lot of old forest. We continued on to a second gate and right inside was a nice surprise. A splendid male Yellow-eared Toucanet was spotted in the subcanopy and we got brief scope views before it disappeared. Nearby, we got a glimpse of the diminutive, yet dazzling, Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant. A Tufted Flycatcher sallied out for bugs from an exposed perch at the edge of a clearing. A Broad-billed Motmot also made an appearance as well as a pair of Northern Emerald Toucanets that fed on a fruiting nightshade tree. The morning literally flew by and we would make one last stop before having lunch. A short trail lead into the forest from a dead-end road and we went in a bit. A Spotted Woodcreeper made a good showing as well as another Slaty-tailed Trogon. A few Black-faced Grosbeaks were feeding on a fruiting Euphorbiaceae tree and most everyone got looks of this stunning species. As we were returning to the trucks a small flock appeared in the canopy and there Olive-striped Flycatcher, Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, and Blue-and-yellow Tanagers. The sighting of a female White-ruffed Manakin would end the action packed morning.

We broke for lunch and went to a lagoon that was nearby. Some covered picnic benches were quite welcomed. As we began to eat, we noticed that some Swallow-tailed Kites were descending lower and lower. All of a sudden, one by one, they began to drink water while in flight. It was a magical moment and this continued for at least another fifteen minutes as more kites came. After lunch, we walked part of a nature trail that lead into the nearby forest. It was that time of day when the birding was slow, but an adorable male Spotted Antbird did make an appearance as well as another pair of Tufted Flycatcher. We started to make our way out and made one last stop at a ghostly miniature golf course that consisted mostly of short grass and different shapes of short cement walls. A White-vented Euphonia was spotted feeding on mistletoe and that was it.



We called it a day and made our back to the Lodge for a short break before our checklist and dinner. Our last full day at Canopy Lodge was nothing less than spectacular.

## Thursday March 23 | Canopy Lodge | Drive to Canopy Tower

We woke this morning to cool air and geared up to head out to our next destination. We got a group picture on the bridge and said 'bye' to our wonderful guide Tino. What wonderful birds we encountered while there. We loaded up the van and made the descent down the mountain. We spotted a Crested Caracara which is an uncommon sighting on this trip.

We made the return drive along the Pacific coast and reached Soberania National Park where the Canopy Tower is located. Upon arrival, we were met and greeted by Tatiana. Since we were a bit early we relaxed and did a little bird observation. The view from the outside upper deck allows for canopy views and a chance to glimpse what bird life is like at those heights. After checking in to our rooms we had lunch then were greeted by Alexis, our local guide. In the past he has proven many times to have keen eyes and ears. During lunch we were also greeted by a different sort. A small troop of Geoffroy's Tamarins came by for their lunch; a few ripe bananas.

In the late afternoon we would walk down Semaphore Hill to see what was stirring. This tall semi-deciduous forest always reveals some great birds and nice surprises. Right outside the gate there was a Black-crowned Antshrike foraging in the understory. The haunting calls of the Great Tinamou echoed in the forest and we would catch up to them later. A bit further we encountered a Black-breasted Puffbird that was perched at mid-canopy height. It was kind of a neck-breaker but we got the scopes on it so everyone could see its unique color pattern. We soon heard the familiar deep calls of the Slaty-tailed Trogon and to our surprise found a pair excavating their nest



BLACK-BREASTED  
PUFFBIRD



SLATY-TAILED  
TROGON

inside a termity. The male remained still for scope views. In the understory a handsome male Red-capped Manakin was spotted. A Southern Bentbill was also seen entering its nest which was located fairly low to the ground. Another raucous call got our attention and belonged to the Scarlet-rumped Cacique which is a canopy-dwelling species. One came into open view when it fed in a distant *Cecropia* tree. A bit further we encountered a small mixed flock of tiny birds that were foraging in thick foliage. Present were Checker-throated Stipplethroat, Plain Xenops, and Dot-winged Antwren. The charming Cinnamon Woodpecker and Rufous Motmot were also seen to finish up the afternoon walk. The Bird Mobile came down to pick us up and we were whisked back up to the Lodge.

A few of us went to the roof at the last hour of daylight. We got scope views of a Scaled Pigeon that was perched in the distance. Several Short-tailed Swifts zoomed by. Then a flock of raptors came soaring by and ended up being about 150 Mississippi Kites that were squeezing in the last couple of miles before nightfall. A few Red-lored and Mealy Parrots also came in and perched in a nearby tree where we got scope views of them. Mantled Howler monkeys called in the distance and would be our constant companion each day in that area. It was a superb way to end the day.

### **Friday March 24 | Metropolitan Park | Summit Park**

We wake up at the crack of dawn to the sounds of Mantled Howler monkeys. Their sounds reverberate through forest canopy and tell us it's time to get up. We did some bird watching from the roof before breakfast. Keel-billed Toucans were making a lot of raucous and could be seen flying through the treetops. A lone Black-cheeked Woodpecker came and perched for scope views. A few of the tiny Lesser Greenlets gleaned leaves in the thick canopy vegetation but would appear briefly to be seen. A handsome male Green Honeycreeper showed up and posed for photos. In the parking lot below we spotted two female Black-throated Mango, a Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, and the dazzling Violet-bellied Hummingbird.

We loaded up in a van and headed down the hill. We were surprised when a White-tailed Deer crossed the road just below the lodge. It might be abundant in other countries, but to see one this far south inside rainforest is a treat. We made a stop to indulge ourselves in a pair of Black-and-white Owls on a day roost. This pair seems to change roosts often so took advantage of their presence.

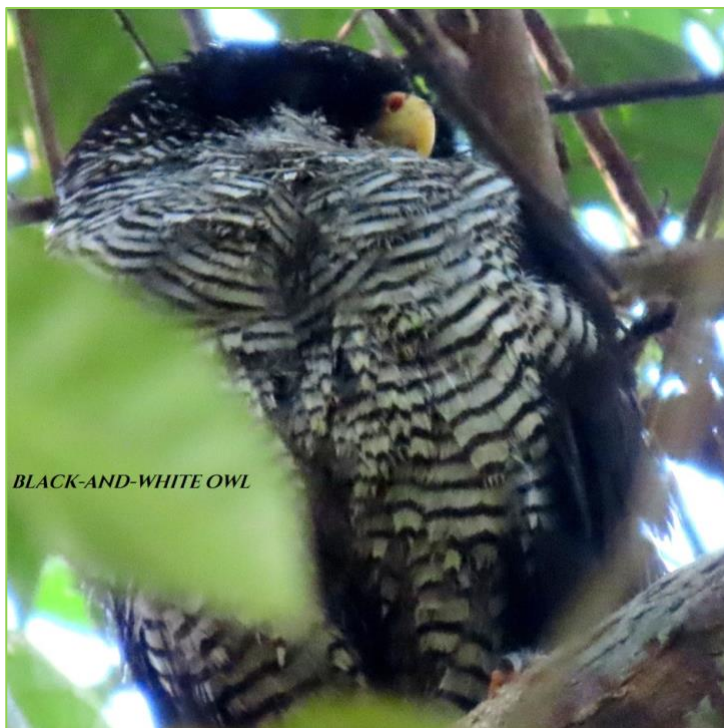


Just down the road we ran into a bit of traffic but got through it and reached Metropolitan Park. Right there in the parking lot a Gumbo Limbo tree was fruiting and had attracted a lot of birds. It was almost non-stop action as different species continued to come in. The handsome White-shouldered Tanager male was present along with female Blue Dacnis and a Bright-rumped Attila. The latter bird usually inhabits the canopy and heard far more often than seen. A pair of Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet also

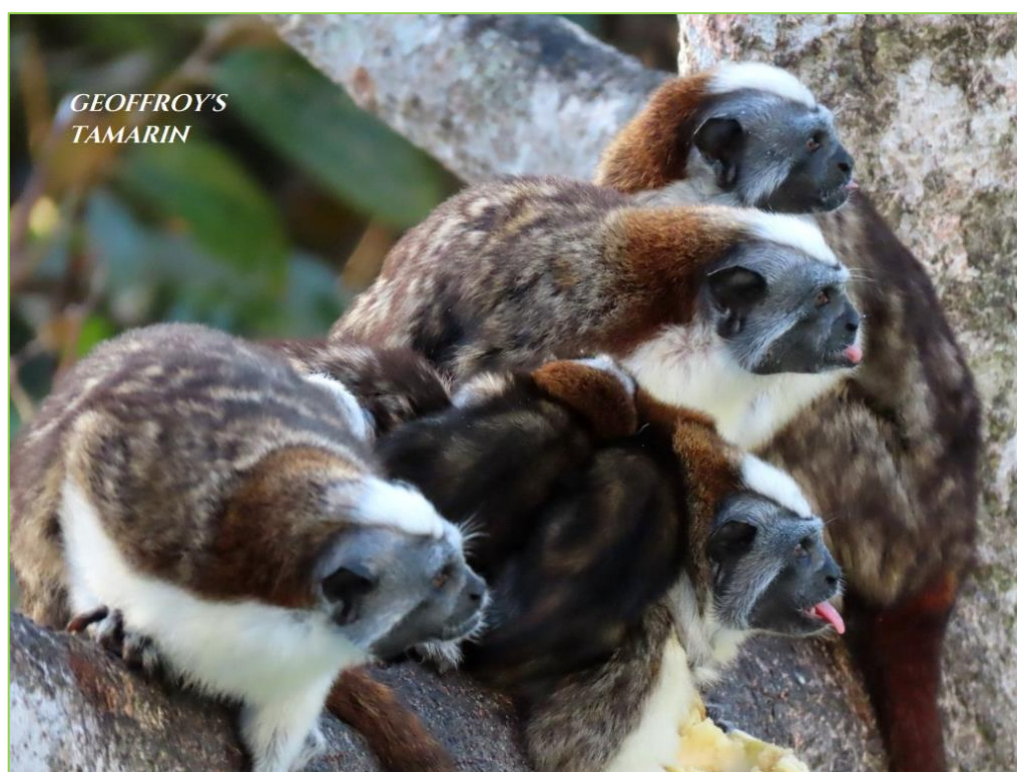


appeared. Two other small flycatchers showed up; Forest and Greenish Elaenias. We were having bad luck on vireos until a Scrub Greenlet, Golden-fronted Greenlet, and Red-eyed Vireo showed up. An attractive Gartered Trogon appeared along with a Yellow-backed Oriole; the latter being the only oriole we would see on the trip. A female Black-crowned Tityra was spotted moving in the canopy but the male was nowhere in sight. We weren't done with flycatchers just yet as a Panama Flycatcher came into view. Just up the trail a bit we came across the tiny Long-billed Gnatwren which usually haunts thickets. A Rufous-breasted Wren was also working a thicket and we got to see it in the scope when it stopped to rest. It's not very often when one gets to see a wren in a scope. We were hoping to see Lance-tailed Manakin but they remained far down in a ravine. Alexis was notified of a special bird that was nesting in a neighborhood in Gamboa so we decided to go see it before heading back to the Canopy Tower.

We travelled in the direction of the Tower and kept going until we reached Gamboa. In front of the Canopy B&B a Spectacled Owl nested in someone's front yard and fledged one chick. The fluffy white chick was wide awake; looking at the new world it would become part of. The mother was sitting next to it, fast asleep. The owners of the house showed up and entered into the front yard. It was enough to wake the mother and we could then see her big, golden eyes. It was a wonderful way to end the morning and see just how adaptable these creatures can be if given the chance. We returned to the Tower and had lunch then some downtime.



*BLACK-AND-WHITE OWL*



*GEOFFROY'S  
TAMARIN*



In the afternoon we departed for the nearby Summit Park. As we descended the hill Alexis spotted something in the creek bed below. It was a Great Tinamou that froze when we stopped. As large as it was, it was still difficult to see amidst the dry leaf litter. We arrived at the park and were greeted by an adult Yellow-headed Caracara perched atop a light post. Adjacent to the parking lot were some handsome Yellow-rumped Caciques that were building nests in a palm. We enjoyed their varied musical notes. It was quite warm, but we still saw many of the more common birds. Several Common Nighthawks were spotted on day roosts and likely represented migrating birds. Down by the Harpy Eagle enclosure Alexis found one Common Tent-making Bat hidden under a palm leaf. A pair of Masked Tityras were spotted on a nearby snag; likely a nest site. Further back, toward the Jaguar enclosure, a Great Black-Hawk sat in the dark forest understorey. It almost seemed like a strange place to see this raptor. Just as we were beginning to return to the parking lot, we heard the sounds of the Golden-collared Manakin in a nearby slough. We saw a female and the stunning male, and would be our only looks at this stunning bird.



We returned to the lodge and had a little downtime before we did our checklist then dinner. Afterward, we did a night drive down Semaphore Hill. It was unusually 'quiet' but we did see two Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloths which is the less common of the two species that occur in Panama.

## Saturday March 25 Pipeline Road | Ammo Dump Ponds

Every day we venture out to a different place to search for the wide variety of fauna that Panama possesses. Any visit to this country must include a morning at the famous Pipeline Road. We headed out early in the Bird Mobile and made a quick stop at the Ammo Dump ponds. A stately adult Rufescent Tiger-Heron was there, neck extended in a diagonal position as it peered into the grass. It had its eyes on something.

We reached the entrance to Pipeline Road and part way in came across a bunch of birds calling. It was a group of Black-tailed Trogons and there were no less than six. From there, we walked for a bit and encountered a beautiful White-tailed Trogon and got scope views, and then a male Crimson-crested Woodpecker appeared nearby in a large tree. What a stately bird! Some sweet whistling sounds caught Alexis' attention which belonged to the Purple-throated Fruitcrow. They actually had a flimsy stick nest in a tree right above the road. A tiny bird popped in and ended up being a Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher. Alexis heard another sound and it belonged to the tiny Moustached Antwren. A pair of them was working a viny tangle halfway up a large tree. A bit further up the road we heard the haunting call of the Streak-chested Antpitta. It came very close to the road but we couldn't get a good look at it. Just then, a lone and curious White-nosed Coati appeared out of nowhere and walked behind Tim and Robert then headed off into the forest. So many birds were seen in such a small stretch of road. We loaded up in the Bird Mobile and parked at the main gate then kept walking in.

A shy Gray-chested Dove was foraging along the road and popped out a few times when we





got brief looks. Scanning the sky, Alexis found us a pair of Gray-headed Kite, a Black Hawk-Eagle, and a Double-toothed Kite which passed by twice fairly low. Another beautiful denizen of these forests is the Velvety (Blue-crowned Manakin), the male of which totes a brilliant blue crown. We did find one, but it turned out to be a female with no male in sight. A sing-songy whistle came from the forest and belonged to the Bicolored Antbird. It came in close and perched for scope views. What a cutie! The Cocoa Woodcreeper is THE dominant species virtually everywhere we visited, but today we got to see a Plain-brown Woodcreeper which perched in plain view. The whimsical repertoire of



the Song Wren echoed from within the forest which we enjoyed, but they would not be seen this time around. It had warmed up significantly and the majority of the morning bird activity was finished. We headed back to the lodge for lunch and some R&R.

In the late afternoon we returned to the Ammo Dump ponds to see what we could find. The wetland, which includes some open water, always reveals some great birds. A few Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks and wild Muscovy Ducks were on the far side of the pond. A lone, and giant, Greater Ani also came in to forage in the trees. There were numerous wading birds, including one Striated Heron. A few migratory shorebirds were also present and would be the only ones seen during the trip. Many adult and young Wattled Jacanas were seen foraging. Scanning the far shoreline, Robert spotted a small (ish) Spectacled Caiman as it sunned itself with its mouth open. We finished the afternoon jaunt with the

sighting of both male Yellow-bellied & Ruddy-breasted Seedeaters.

After our checklist and dinner a few of us headed out on another night drive. One never knows what will appear during these forays which was proven on this day. Just below the lodge was a Great Tinamou on its night roost. It wasn't there the other night. Could this be the same bird we saw back in 2019? We reached the main paved highway and drove down a bit then parked. All was silent. Tim was scanning the trees and spotted a Kinkajou; the only one for the trip. The fact that the Balsa trees had already bloomed made it difficult to locate this nocturnal and arboreal mammal. We went a bit further and made one last stop. Off in the distance we heard the loud whooping call of the Great Potoo. We had such great luck as it came flying in and perched on a nearby snag. The wingspan is more than 2' and we could see its silhouette against the night sky. What a way to end the evening!

## Sunday March 26 Chagres River & Canal Boat Ride | Rainforest Discovery Center

Today was our last full day in Panama and we embarked on an unforgettable adventure. We reached the boat dock at the mouth of the Chagres River and were assigned our boat. It didn't take long for us to realize that our young boat driver wasn't 'feeling well' so Robert had Alexis sit toward the back of the boat to keep an eye on him. We got stuck on an old stump and fortunately we were able to free ourselves. Another boat showed up to let us know that there were some ducks nearby so we went to investigate. It ended up being a group of 25 Masked Ducks. One would be lucky to see just one of these rare migratory species in the region, let alone a group of them. We continued on and saw Mangrove Swallows, sunning Anhingas and Iguanas, Purple Gallinule, and Limpkin. A Peregrine Falcon came speeding by, looking for unsuspecting prey. Several Osprey were also spotted.





We continued on toward the Panama Canal where a giant cargo ship was cruising toward the Atlantic. We reached another bay which held many small islands. One was famous as it harbored released monkeys where all the tourist boats went. We cruised by and sure enough, there was a White-faced Capuchin. It didn't take long until we started seeing Snail Kites of all ages. We watched one snag a snail from the waters' surface, perch, and begin to enjoy its escargot cru. Our driver spotted a couple small American Crocodiles hiding under vegetation along muddy banks. We finally got to see a Yellow-throated Toucan and would mean that we saw all the toucans of Panama. Just as we were about to return to the boat docks we spotted a pair of Southern Lapwing with a tiny chick not far behind them. We returned to the dock area but Robert wanted to find one last bird. Last year a pair of Lesser Kiskadee was nesting along the waters' edge by a house so went to see if they were still there. And there they were.

We loaded the Bird Mobile and made our way back to the lodge. As we began to ascend Semaphore Hill Robert spotted something perched nearby in the forest understory. It ended being the small, yet brightly colored Semiplumbeous Hawk. It remained long enough for everyone to get good pictures of this uncommon raptor.

We had lunch and then some downtime. Alexis had gotten word that someone had found a nest of another owl. It was the Choco Screech-Owl, one we only heard the other night during an outing. It was located at the Rainforest Discovery Center. That is also one of the best places to look for the Blue Cotinga atop the canopy tower. Although a visit there was not on the planned itinerary, we didn't need any other reason not to go. We reached the place and one of the staff members took us directly to see the owl. It was out of the nest hole, perched in the deep shadow of a small understory palm. It was a Lifer for all of us. We climbed the tower and it was still quite sunny and warm. Alexis scanned the trees and voila, he found a male cotinga perched inside a tree. That is what they do until the late afternoon. It was fairly 'quiet,' bird wise, but we did see a soaring Short-tailed Hawk and a close view of a Mistletoe Tyrannulet. A troop of Mantled Howlers fed nearby on the fruiting white cashew. It was a wonderful way to end our last full day.

We returned to the lodge to do the checklist one final time and recall many wonderful moments. Everyone had a special bird or moment they enjoyed. We recorded more than 260 species of birds and more than a dozen mammals.

## Monday March 27 | Departures

We woke again this morning to the sounds of the howler monkeys. We did some bird watching from the roof then had breakfast. We said our 'good-byes' to Alexis and the staff at the Canopy Tower then departed.

### Favorite sightings of the trip:

Mike-Spectacled Owls.

Nancy-Spotted Antbird. Blue-chested Hummingbird on nest.

Beth-Howler Monkey and Tamarin with young. Snail Kite feeding. Boat ride.

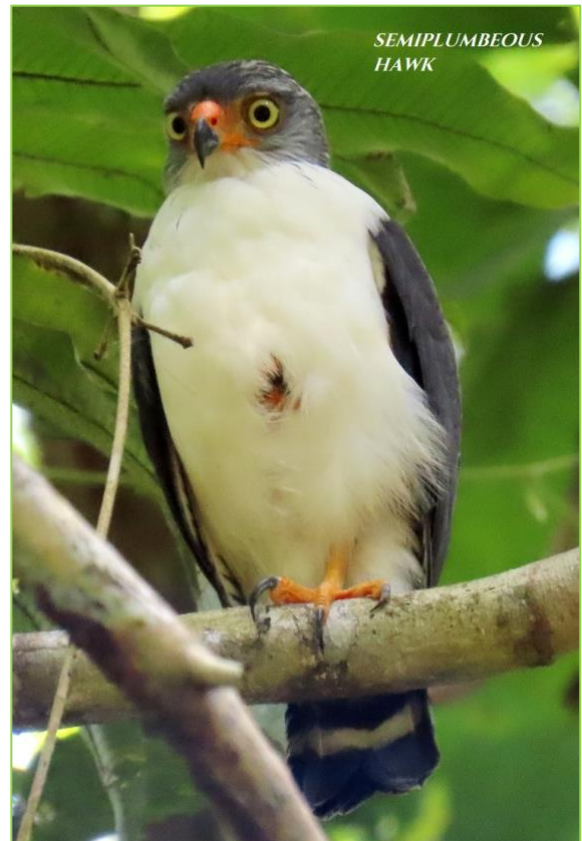
Michael-Watching monkeys climbing in trees. Animal behavior in general.

Tim-Sounds of the Great Potoo.

Linda-All owls. Boat ride.

Lee Ann-Collared Trogon swinging on vine. Boat trip was 'weirdest' experience.

Susan-Black-and-white Owl. Boat ride.





Norma-Great Potoo and its unusual sounds and facial movements.

Alexis-Group of Masked Ducks. Waking up the boatman.

Robert-Seeing Great Potoo at night. Moustached Antwrens. Masked Ducks. All images by Robert.