

PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER

January 16, 2010 to January 23, 2010

Guided by
Chris Benesh & Alexis Sanchez

This offering of our Panama's Canopy Tower tour was an intimate offering with quite a number of interesting sightings along the way. When asked to come up with the three top species, the following birds made it on to the list. Getting top honors with two votes was the Great Tinamou, a bird we saw wonderfully well thanks to Alexis. It was great to demonstrate for Steve that tinamous really do exist as more than just a disembodied voice. The wonderful Laughing Falcon that we encountered along the Achote Road was another treat. The sometimes elusive White-headed Wren was another crowd pleaser from Achote. In the same genus as our Cactus Wren, this species is limited to Panama and western Colombia. Tiny was a popular theme, and the American Pygmy-Kingfisher seen at the Ammo Dump pond was a memorable encounter. Also, the tiny Golden-crowned Spadebill that performed wonderfully on Pipeline Road was a vote getter. From up in the canopy came the colorful Green Honeycreeper. The peculiar sort of blue, sort of green coloration of the male was intriguing. The nice patterning of the Dot-winged Antwren and bright chestnut underparts of the female were enough to earn it mention on our list of favorites. And finally, the wonderful Spectacled Owls seen along the Old Gamboa Road were a treat. We were fortunate to see these, as access to this area has been severely restricted.

Slate-colored Seedeaters were taking advantage of a big bamboo seeding/die-off in central Panama. As a result, this normally absent species appeared at several locations and was quite a rare treat. Other highlights that did not make the list included Boat-billed Heron and Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Mangrove Cuckoo, Great Potoo, Great Jacamar, Olivaceous Piculet, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (locally scarce), a pair of Moustached Antwrens, Jet Antbird, as many as eight Ocellated Antbirds, Blue Cotinga, a pair of endemic Yellow-green Tyrannulets, lovely singing Song Wrens, Tawny-faced Gnatwren, and Rosy Thrush-Tanager. In addition, there were sixteen species of mammals seen including four species of monkeys.

All in all, Panama is a rich and diverse area. Thanks to each of you for sharing in this wonderful wildlife experience. Chris.

List total: 248 bird taxa and 16 mammal taxa

*If marked to left of list, * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic,
N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant*

Triplist file: pac10a-CB

Tinamidae (Tinamous)

GREAT TINAMOU (*Tinamus major*)

One of the key moments of the trip was Alexis's discovery of a Great Tinamou that removed all shadow of doubt that this type of bird actually exists.

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

MUSCOVY DUCK (*Cairina moschata*)

Cracidae (Guans, Chachalacas, and Curassows)

GRAY-HEADED CHACHALACA (*Ortalis cinereiceps*)

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

BROWN PELICAN (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)

Anhingidae (Anhingas)

ANHINGA (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Fregatidae (Frigatebirds)

MAGNIFICENT FRIGATEBIRD (*Fregata magnificens*)

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

RUFESCENT TIGER-HERON (*Tigrisoma lineatum*)

GREAT BLUE HERON (*Ardea herodias*)

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*)

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*)

LITTLE BLUE HERON (*Egretta caerulea*)

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*)

GREEN HERON (*Butorides virescens*)

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

BOAT-BILLED HERON (SOUTHERN) (*Cochlearius cochlearius panamensis*)

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*)

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*)

Pandionidae (Osprey)

OSPREY (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

GRAY-HEADED KITE (*Leptodon cayanensis*)

SNAIL KITE (*Rostrhamus sociabilis*)

COMMON BLACK-HAWK (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)

SAVANNA HAWK (*Buteogallus meridionalis*)

BROAD-WINGED HAWK (*Buteo platypterus*)

* GRAY HAWK (*Buteo nitidus*)

SHORT-TAILED HAWK (*Buteo brachyurus*)

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

* COLLARED FOREST-FALCON (*Micrastur semitorquatus*)

YELLOW-HEADED CARACARA (*Milvago chimachima*)

LAUGHING FALCON (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*)

Alexis tracked down a bird that we heard calling in the Achote Road area providing a great study.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*)

BAT FALCON (*Falco ruficularis*)

A cooperative pair of birds in Gamboa and another pair hanging around the tower.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*)

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

WHITE-THROATED CRAKE (*Laterallus albigularis*)

GRAY-NECKED WOOD-RAIL (*Aramides cajanea*)

COMMON MOORHEN (*Gallinula chloropus*)

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (*Vanellus chilensis*)

Jacaniidae (Jacanas)

WATTLED JACANA (*Jacana jacana*)

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

SPOTTED SANDPIPER (*Actitis macularius*)

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

PALE-VENTED PIGEON (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

SCALED PIGEON (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

SHORT-BILLED PIGEON (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*)

RUDDY GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina talpacoti*)

BLUE GROUND-DOVE (*Claravis pretiosa*)

WHITE-TIPPED DOVE (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

GRAY-CHESTED DOVE (*Leptotila cassini*)

Psittacidae (Parrots)

ORANGE-CHINNED PARAKEET (*Brotogeris jugularis*)

BROWN-HOODED PARROT (*Pyrilia haematotis*)

BLUE-HEADED PARROT (*Pionus menstruus*)

RED-LORED PARROT (*Amazona autumnalis*)

MEALY PARROT (*Amazona farinosa*)

Cuculidae (Cuckoos)

SQUIRREL CUCKOO (*Piaya cayana*)

MANGROVE CUCKOO (*Coccyzus minor*)

Good view of one in the mangroves near Colon.

GREATER ANI (*Crotophaga major*)

SMOOTH-BILLED ANI (*Crotophaga ani*)

Strigidae (Owls)

VERMICULATED SCREECH-OWL (*Megascops guatemalae*)

The bird that we mostly heard below the tower on Semaphore Hill belongs to a distinctive population that ranges from central Panama south to parts of western Ecuador. While the taxonomy is unsettled, it may be a distinct species, Choco Screech-Owl.

SPECTACLED OWL (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*)

Nyctibiidae (Potoos)

GREAT POTOO (*Nyctibius grandis*)

Apodidae (Swifts)

SHORT-TAILED SWIFT (*Chaetura brachyura*)

BAND-RUMPED SWIFT (*Chaetura spinicaudus*)

LESSER SWALLOW-TAILED SWIFT (*Panyptila cayennensis*)

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

LONG-BILLED HERMIT (*Phaethornis longirostris*)

STRIPE-THROATED HERMIT (*Phaethornis striigularis*)

WHITE-NECKED JACOBIN (*Florisuga mellivora*)

BLACK-THROATED MANGO (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*)

VIOLET-CROWNED WOODNYMPH (*Thalurania colombica*)

VIOLET-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Damophila julie*)

BLUE-CHESTED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia amabilis*)
SNOWY-BELLIED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia edward edward*)
RUFIOUS-TAILED HUMMINGBIRD (*Amazilia tzacatl*)
WHITE-VENTED PLUMELETEER (*Chalybura buffonii*)
PURPLE-CROWNED FAIRY (*Heliothryx barroti*)

Trogonidae (Trogons)

SLATY-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon massena*)
BLACK-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon melanurus*)
WHITE-TAILED TROGON (*Trogon chionurus*)
GARTERED TROGON (*Trogon caligatus*)
This is a recently recognised split from Violaceous Trogon.
BLACK-THROATED TROGON (*Trogon rufus*)

Momotidae (Motmots)

BLUE-CROWNED MOTMOT (*Momotus momota*)
RUFIOUS MOTMOT (*Baryphthengus martii*)
BROAD-BILLED MOTMOT (*Electron platyrhynchum*)

Alcedinidae (Kingfishers)

RINGED KINGFISHER (*Megaceryle torquata*)
AMAZON KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle amazona*)
GREEN KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle americana*)
AMERICAN PYGMY KINGFISHER (*Chloroceryle aenea*)

Bucconidae (Puffbirds)

WHITE-NECKED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus hyperrhynchus*)
BLACK-BREASTED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus pectoralis*)
PIED PUFFBIRD (*Notharchus tectus*)
WHITE-WHISKERED PUFFBIRD (*Malacoptila panamensis*)

Galbulidae (Jacamars)

GREAT JACAMAR (*Jacamerops aureus*)
One terrific bird that waited for us to return to where Alexis had found it.

Capitonidae (New World Barbets)

SPOT-CROWNED BARBET (*Capito maculicoronatus*)

Ramphastidae (Toucans)

COLLARED ARACARI (*Pteroglossus torquatus*)
CHESTNUT-MANDIBLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos swainsonii*)
KEEL-BILLED TOUCAN (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*)

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

OLIVACEOUS PICULET (*Picumnus olivaceus*)
BLACK-CHEEKED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes pucherani*)
RED-CROWNED WOODPECKER (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*)
YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER (*Sphyrapicus varius*)
CINNAMON WOODPECKER (*Celeus loricatus*)
LINEATED WOODPECKER (*Dryocopus lineatus*)
CRIMSON-CRESTED WOODPECKER (*Campephilus melanoleucos*)

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

PLAIN XENOPS (*Xenops minutus*)
PLAIN-BROWN WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*)
OLIVACEOUS WOODCREEPER (GRAYISH) (*Sittasomus griseicapillus sylvioides*)
NORTHERN BARRED-WOODCREEPER (*Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*)

COCOA WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*)
BLACK-STRIPED WOODCREEPER (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*)

Thamnophilidae (Typical Antbirds)

FASCIATED ANTSHRIKE (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*)
GREAT ANTSHRIKE (*Taraba major*)
BARRED ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus doliatus*)
WESTERN SLATY-ANTSHRIKE (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*)
SPOT-CROWNED ANTVIREO (*Dysithamnus puncticeps*)
CHECKER-THROATED ANTWREN (*Epinecrophylla fulviventris*)
MOUSTACHED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula ignota*)
WHITE-FLANKED ANTWREN (*Myrmotherula axillaris*)
DOT-WINGED ANTWREN (*Microrhopias quixensis*)
DUSKY ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra tyrannina*)
JET ANTBIRD (*Cercomacra nigricans*)
WHITE-BELLIED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza longipes*)
CHESTNUT-BACKED ANTBIRD (*Myrmeciza exsul*)
BICOLORED ANTBIRD (*Gymnopithys leucaspis bicolor*)
SPOTTED ANTBIRD (*Hylophylax naevioides*)
OCELLATED ANTBIRD (*Phaenostictus mcleannani*)
Fantastic views of this species below the tower attending an army ant swarm.

Formicariidae (Antthrushes)

* BLACK-FACED ANTTHRUSH (*Formicarius analis*)

Grallariidae (Antpittas)

* STREAK-CHESTED ANTPITTA (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*)

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

BROWN-CAPPED TYRANNULET (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*)
SOUTHERN BEARDLESS-TYRANNULET (*Camptostoma obsoletum*)
YELLOW TYRANNULET (*Capsiempis flaveola*)
YELLOW-CROWNED TYRANNULET (*Tyrannulus elatus*)
FOREST ELAENIA (*Myiopagis gaimardii*)
GRAY ELAENIA (*Myiopagis caniceps absita*)
GREENISH ELAENIA (*Myiopagis viridicata*)
YELLOW-BELLIED ELAENIA (*Elaenia flavogaster*)
OCHRE-BELLIED FLYCATCHER (*Mionectes oleagineus*)
YELLOW-GREEN TYRANNULET (*Phylloscartes flavovirens*)
PALTRY TYRANNULET (*Zimmerius vilissimus*)
BLACK-CAPPED PYGMY-TYRANT (*Myiornis atricapillus*)
SOUTHERN BENTBILL (*Oncostoma olivaceum*)
COMMON TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum cinereum*)
BLACK-HEADED TODY-FLYCATCHER (*Todirostrum nigriceps*)
BROWNISH TWISTWING (*Cnipodectes subbrunneus*)
OLIVACEOUS FLATBILL (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*)
YELLOW-OLIVE FLYCATCHER (YELLOW-OLIVE) (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens flavoolivaceus*)
YELLOW-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (YELLOW-MARGINED) (*Tolmomyias assimilis flavotectus*)
GOLDEN-CROWNED SPADEBILL (*Platyrinchus coronatus*)
RUDDY-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Terenotriccus erythrurus*)
BLACK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Myiobius atricaudus*)
ACADIAN FLYCATCHER (*Empidonax virescens*)

BRIGHT-RUMPED ATTILA (*Attila spadiceus*)
DUSKY-CAPPED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)
PANAMA FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus panamensis*)
GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER (*Myiarchus crinitus*)
LESSER KISKADEE (*Pitangus lictor*)
GREAT KISKADEE (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
BOAT-BILLED FLYCATCHER (*Megarynchus pitangua*)
RUSTY-MARGINED FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*)
SOCIAL FLYCATCHER (*Myiozetetes similis*)
STREAKED FLYCATCHER (*Myiodynastes maculatus*)
PIRATIC FLYCATCHER (*Legatus leucophaeus*)
TROPICAL KINGBIRD (*Tyrannus melancholicus*)
FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*Tyrannus savana*)

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

PURPLE-THROATED FRUITCROW (*Querula purpurata*)
BLUE COTINGA (*Cotinga nattererii*)
What an amazing bird. We had some nice views.

Pipridae (Manakins)

BLUE-CROWNED MANAKIN (*Lepidothrix coronata*)
GOLDEN-COLLARED MANAKIN (*Manacus vitellinus*)
LANCE-TAILED MANAKIN (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*)
RED-CAPPED MANAKIN (*Pipra mentalis*)

Tityridae (Tityras and Allies)

MASKED TITYRA (*Tityra semifasciata*)
THRUSH-LIKE SCHIFFORNIS (SOUTHERN) (*Schiffornis turdina panamensis*)
SPECKLED MOURNER (*Laniocera rufescens*)
CINNAMON BECARD (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*)
WHITE-WINGED BECARD (*Pachyramphus polychopterus*)

Vireonidae (Vireos)

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO (*Vireo flavifrons*)
SCRUB GREENLET (*Hylophilus flavipes*)
GOLDEN-FRONTED GREENLET (*Hylophilus aurantiifrons*)
LESSER GREENLET (*Hylophilus decurtatus*)
GREEN SHRIKE-VIREO (*Vireolanius pulchellus*)
Nice views of this canopy dweller.

Corvidae (Crows, Jays, and Magpies)

BLACK-CHESTED JAY (*Cyanocorax affinis*)

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*)
SOUTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*)
GRAY-BREASTED MARTIN (*Progne chalybea*)
MANGROVE SWALLOW (*Tachycineta albilinea*)

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

WHITE-HEADED WREN (*Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*)
A cousin to our Cactus Wren, it was quite a treat to see a mostly white wren.
BLACK-BELLIED WREN (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*)
BAY WREN (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*)
RUFIOUS-BREASTED WREN (*Thryothorus rutilus*)

RUFIOUS-AND-WHITE WREN (*Thryothorus rufalbus*)
BUFF-BREASTED WREN (*Thryothorus leucotis*)
PLAIN WREN (*Thryothorus modestus*)
HOUSE WREN (*Troglodytes aedon*)
WHITE-BREASTED WOOD-WREN (*Henicorhina leucosticta*)
SONG WREN (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*)
A wonderful songster seen and heard well along Pipeline Road.

Poliotilidae (Gnatcatchers)

TAWNY-FACED GNATWREN (*Microbates cinereiventris*)
Alexis got us on to a cooperative individual of this retiring species.
LONG-BILLED GNATWREN (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*)
TROPICAL GNATCATCHER (*Poliotila plumbea*)

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

CLAY-COLORED THRUSH (*Turdus grayi*)
Sometimes known as Clay-colored Robin.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

TROPICAL MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus gilvus*)

Parulidae (New World Warblers)

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*Vermivora chrysoptera*)
YELLOW WARBLER (*Dendroica petechia*)
CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER (*Dendroica pensylvanica*)
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER (*Dendroica castanea*)
BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER (*Mniotilta varia*)
PROTHONOTARY WARBLER (*Protonotaria citrea*)
NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH (*Seiurus noveboracensis*)
MOURNING WARBLER (*Oporornis philadelphia*)
CANADA WARBLER (*Wilsonia canadensis*)

Coerebidae (Bananaquit)

BANANAQUIT (*Coereba flaveola*)

Thraupidae (Tanagers and Allies)

ROSY THRUSH-TANAGER (*Rhodinocichla rosea*)
DUSKY-FACED TANAGER (*Mitrospingus cassinii*)
GRAY-HEADED TANAGER (*Eucometis penicillata*)
WHITE-SHOULDERED TANAGER (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*)
CRIMSON-BACKED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*)
FLAME-RUMPED TANAGER (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*)
BLUE-GRAY TANAGER (*Thraupis episcopus*)
PALM TANAGER (*Thraupis palmarum*)
PLAIN-COLORED TANAGER (*Tangara inornata*)
GOLDEN-HOODED TANAGER (*Tangara larvata*)
BLUE DACNIS (*Dacnis cayana*)
GREEN HONEYCREEPER (*Chlorophanes spiza*)
SHINING HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes lucidus*)
RED-LEGGED HONEYCREEPER (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*)
BUFF-THROATED SALTATOR (*Saltator maximus*)
BLACK-HEADED SALTATOR (*Saltator atriceps*)

* SLATE-COLORED GROSBEAK (*Saltator grossus*)

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows, and Allies)

BLUE-BLACK GRASSQUIT (*Volatinia jacarina*)

SLATE-COLORED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila schistacea*)

We witnessed one of the more interesting neotropical phenomenon of seeding bamboo in central Panama. As a result, Slate-colored Seedeaters had moved in to feed and breed at several nearby areas. Many long time Panama birders had not seen this species prior to this year.

VARIABLE SEEDEATER (*Sporophila corvina hoffmannii*)

YELLOW-BELLIED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila nigricollis*)

RUDDY-BREASTED SEEDEATER (*Sporophila minuta*)

SAFFRON FINCH (*Sicalis flaveola*)

Cardinalidae (Cardinals and Allies)

SUMMER TANAGER (*Piranga rubra*)

RED-CROWNED ANT-TANAGER (*Habia rubica*)

RED-THROATED ANT-TANAGER (*Habia fuscicauda*)

* BLUE-BLACK GROSBEAK (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*)

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

RED-BREASTED BLACKBIRD (*Sturnella militaris*)

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

GIANT COWBIRD (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)

ORCHARD ORIOLE (*Icterus spurius*)

YELLOW-BACKED ORIOLE (*Icterus chrysater*)

YELLOW-TAILED ORIOLE (*Icterus mesomelas*)

BALTIMORE ORIOLE (*Icterus galbula*)

SCARLET-RUMPED CACIQUE (SCARLET-RUMPED) (*Cacicus uropygialis microrhynchus*)

YELLOW-RUMPED CACIQUE (*Cacicus cela*)

CRESTED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius decumanus*)

CHESTNUT-HEADED OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius wagleri*)

MONTEZUMA OROPENDOLA (*Psarocolius montezuma*)

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

YELLOW-CROWNED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia luteicapilla*)

THICK-BILLED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia laniirostris*)

FULVOUS-VENTED EUPHONIA (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*)

Mammals

COMMON OPOSSUM (*Didelphis marsupialis*)

RED-NAPED TAMARIN (*Saguinus geoffroyi*)

Also known as Geoffroy's Tamarin, these fast moving monkeys are a treat to see.

GRAY-BELLIED NIGHT MONKEY (*Aotus lemurinus*)

Great views of this species near Colon. I'm not sure what was more impressive, these monkeys or Alexis's tree climbing abilities.

MANTLED HOWLER MONKEY (*Alouatta palliata*)

WHITE-THROATED CAPUCHIN (*Cebus capucinus*)

HOFFMANN'S TWO-TOED SLOTH (*Choloepus hoffmanni*)

BROWN-THROATED THREE-TOED SLOTH (*Bradypus variegatus*)

NORTHERN TAMANDUA (*Tamandua mexicana*)

VARIEGATED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus variegatoides*)

RED-TAILED SQUIRREL (*Sciurus granatensis*)

CENTRAL AMERICAN AGOUTI (*Dasyprocta punctata*)

WHITE-NOSED COATI (*Nasua narica*)

KINKAJOU (*Potos flavus*)

OLINGO (*Bassaricyon alleni*)

Terrific views of this species on our night drive.

TAYRA (*Eira barbara*)

SOUTHERN RIVER OTTER (*Lutra longicaudis*)