

Panama - Canopy Tower

Naturetrek Tour Report

18 - 25 April 2011



Blue Dacnis



Harpy Eagle



Golden-hooded Tanager



Keel-billed Toucan

Report compiled by Domiciano Álveo
Images courtesy of Abhi Nair



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Day 1

Monday 18th April

Arrival day! Today we met our group and discussed both our itinerary for the week and our first day's plan.

Day 2

Tuesday 19th April

We met early morning at the Canopy Tower Observation Deck, where a hot cup of coffee welcomed us. The morning started very sunny, so the birds were very happy singing away!! We saw Blue Cotinga, Green Shrike-Vireo, Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift, Red-lored Parrot, Scaled Pigeon & the migrant, Blackburnian Warbler! After a delicious breakfast we worked our way down Semaphore Hill where we scored on cool birds like Black-breasted Puffbird, Blue-crowned Manakin, White-tailed Trogon, Great Potoo, Southern Bentbill, Yellow-margined Flycatcher & Slate-colored Grosbeak. After a very successful morning, we were ready to head back for lunch and prepare for our afternoon of birding!

After our lunch break it was off to the Ammo ponds. The afternoon was quite sunny, and some of the highlight birds we found here were American Pygmy Kingfisher, Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Black-throated Mango, Buff-breasted Wren, Ruddy-breasted Seedeater, Yellow-backed Oriole & Golden-fronted Greenlet.

Day 3

Wednesday 20th April

Today we woke up early to head out to world-famous Pipeline Road. Once again, the weather was perfect in the morning, but late afternoon we got some clouds with rain. The birds observed by our group today were Tiny Hawk, Harpy Eagle (re-introduction), Speckled Mourner, Gray Elaenia, Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant, Brownish Twistwing, Pied Puffbird, Buff-throated Foliage-Gleaner, Moustached Antwren, Rufous Mourner, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Chestnut-mandibled Toucan & Gartered Trogon. Pipeline road is also a great place for mammals. We were lucky to observe: Jaguarundi, Central American Agouti and three monkey species: Mantled Howler, White-faced Capuchin and Western (Panamanian) Night Monkey! Our full day was, without a doubt, outstanding!

Day 4

Thursday 21st April

At dawn we met on the Canopy Tower observation deck to do some birding before breakfast. The highlight this morning was seeing a migrating flock of Mississippi Kites! What a spectacle! I am always amazed by bird migration - especially large flocks of hawks! After our wonderful experience with the migrant kites, we headed down to the Plantation trail where we enjoyed views of Sunbittern, Black Hawk-Eagle, Black-tailed Trogon, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Streak-chested Antpitta, Olivaceous Flatbill, Golden-crowned Spadebill, Northern Barred Woodcreeper, Lineated Woodpecker, Blue Dacnis, Mealy Parrot, Eastern Kingbird and Scarlet Tanager!

In the afternoon we headed to the Chagres River where we experienced some rain - but not for long and we were able to find Golden-collared Manakin, Cinnamon Becard, White-winged Becard, Black-bellied Wren, Magnolia Warbler, Black-headed Saltator & Yellow-billed Cacique. Another wonderful day with my new UK friends in Panama! We then headed back to the Canopy Tower for cocktails and dinner.

Day 5

Friday 22nd April

A Summit pond is a nice area for birding and is just 10 minutes away from the Canopy Tower. Today, we had an amazing morning highlighted by finding a rare, nesting Rufous Nightjar! Other birds we enjoyed seeing were Boat-billed Heron, Great Black Hawk, Spectacled Owl, Amazon Kingfisher, Jet Antbird, Forest Elaenia, Greenish Elaenia & Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher. After a fantastic morning, we headed back to the Canopy Tower for a nice lunch.

In the afternoon we went back to Gamboa to check out the marina area, and we got lovely views of birds like Striated Heron, Green Heron, American Coot, Lesser Kiskadee, Yellow-green Vireo & Rufous-capped Warbler, to name a few. What a nice day we all had!

Day 6

Saturday 23rd April

After an early breakfast we decided to head back to the Pipeline road to look for more targets species. On our way we made a quick stop at the ammo ponds where we finally got to see the White-throated Crake after trying hard a few days earlier. Persistence always proves fruitful in birding! Other birds observed at Pipeline were Blue-headed Parrot, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Purple-crowned Fairy, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Black-striped Woodcreeper, Thrush-like Schiffornis & Black-crowned Tityra. We also enjoyed looking at some cool mammals like Hoffmann's Two-toed Sloth, Brown-throated three-toed Sloth and Central America Agouti.

In the afternoon my group visited the Miraflores Locks and the world-class museum there which chronicles the history of the canal. Everyone who visits always comes back amazed at a 100-year-old piece of engineering still working perfectly fine!!!

Day 7

Sunday 24th April

Today, we headed up to the eastern foothills to Cerro Azul, a very special place for birds. When we arrived, there was a stiff wind blowing, making for difficult birding. In wind-protected areas we scored on the endemic Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, after trying for it in at several spots! We also found some fruiting cecropia trees where we observed birds like Bay Wren, Black-and-yellow Tanager, Carmiol's Tanager, Speckled Tanager, Bay-headed Tanager & Scarlet-thighed Dacnis. We also stopped at the house of our good friends, Bill & Claudia, where we loaded up on hummers; Green Hermit, Violet-headed Hummingbird, Violet-Capped Hummingbird, Bronze tailed Plumeleteer, Blue-chested Hummingbird & Snowy-bellied Hummingbird - all put on a show for us!! On our way back to the Canopy Tower, we made a short stop at Costa del Este to look for wading birds. Though the tide was not very low, we saw Gray (Black-bellied) Plover, White Ibis, Marbled Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Black Skimmer, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron & Black-crowned Night-Heron. What a tremendous day of birding!

Day 8

Monday 25th April

What a great trip we had! The week of birding was intense and rewarding! Some headed home and others were going on to the Canopy Lodge where a different suite of birds awaits! The client heading back home had the morning to do some extra birding, so we decided to go out and get some targets birds we had dipped on during the week. Loose ends included Little Tinamou, Crane Hawk, Pheasant Cuckoo, Black-tailed Flycatcher, Rosy Thrush-Tanager - all lifers for my UK friend. We also got a bonus mammal: the Northern Tamandua (anteater). Amazing!

It was fun birding which each one of you, and thank you very much for coming to Panama. I look forward to seeing you soon.

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Species Lists

Birds (✓ = recorded but not counted; H = heard only)

	Common name	April						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	Great Tinamou	H		H	H		✓	
2	Little Tinamou							✓
3	Brown Pelican				✓	✓	✓	
4	Neotropic Cormorant						✓	
5	Anhinga	✓			✓			
6	Magnificent Frigatebird	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
7	Great Blue Heron						✓	
8	Great Egret						✓	
9	Tricolored Heron	✓					✓	
10	Little Blue Heron				✓		✓	
11	Snowy Egret						✓	
12	Cattle Egret						✓	
13	Striated Heron				✓			
14	Green Heron				✓			
15	Yellow-crowned Night-Heron						✓	
16	Black-crowned Night-Heron						✓	
17	Boat-billed Heron				✓			
18	Rufescent Tiger-Heron	✓			✓			
19	Wood Stork						✓	
20	White Ibis						✓	
21	Black-bellied Whistling Duck	✓	✓	✓		✓		
22	Black Vulture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
23	Turkey Vulture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
24	Gray-headed Kite				✓			
25	Swallow-tailed Kite						✓	
26	Double-toothed Kite	✓						
27	Mississippi Kite	✓		✓				
28	Tiny Hawk		✓					
29	Crane Hawk							✓
30	Semi-plumbeous Hawk					✓		
31	Great Black Hawk				✓			
32	Broad-winged Hawk	✓			✓			
33	Swainson's Hawk		✓		✓			
34	Zone-tailed Hawk		✓		✓			
35	Harpy Eagle		✓					
36	Black Hawk-Eagle			✓				
37	Yellow-headed Caracara				✓		✓	
38	Bat Falcon				✓			
39	Peregrine Falcon				✓			
40	Gray-headed Chachalaca		✓	✓				✓
41	White-throated Crake					✓		
42	Gray-necked Wood-Rail		✓					
43	Purple Gallinule	✓			✓	✓		
44	Common Moorhen				✓			
45	American Coot				✓			
46	Sunbittern			✓				
47	Wattled Jacana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		

	Common name	April						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
48	Black-necked Stilt						✓	
49	Southern Lapwing						✓	
50	Grey Plover (Black-bellied)						✓	
51	Marbled Godwit						✓	
52	Willet						✓	
53	Spotted Sandpiper				✓		✓	
54	Western Sandpiper						✓	
55	Laughing Gull	✓						
56	Franklin's Gull					✓		
57	Royal Tern					✓		
58	Gull-billed Tern						✓	
59	Sandwich Tern				✓		✓	
60	Black Skimmer						✓	
61	Rock Pigeon						✓	
62	Scaled Pigeon	✓		✓	✓			
63	Pale-vented Pigeon	✓	✓		✓			✓
64	Ruddy Ground-Dove	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
65	White-tipped Dove	✓		✓	✓	✓		
66	Gray-chested Dove	✓						
67	Orange-chinned Parakeet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
68	Blue-headed Parrot	✓		✓		✓		
69	Red-ored Parrot	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
70	Mealy Parrot	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
71	Yellow-billed Cuckoo					✓		
72	Squirrel Cuckoo		✓	✓			✓	
73	Greater Ani	✓			✓			
74	Smooth-billed Ani	✓	✓					
75	Pheasant Cuckoo							✓
76	Spectacled Owl				✓			
77	Great Potoo	✓						
78	Rufous Nightjar				✓			
79	Band-rumped Swift				✓			
80	Chimney Swift	✓	✓					
81	Short-tailed Swift	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
82	Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift	✓						
83	Green Hermit						✓	
84	Long-billed Hermit	✓				✓		
85	Stripe-throated Hermit					✓	✓	
86	White-necked Jacobin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
87	Black-throated Mango	✓						
88	Violet-headed Hummingbird						✓	
89	Violet-capped Hummingbird						✓	
90	Violet-crowned Woodnymph				✓		✓	
91	Violet-bellied Hummingbird	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
92	Rufous-tailed Hummingbird						✓	
93	Blue-chested Hummingbird	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
94	Snowy-bellied Hummingbird	✓		✓	✓		✓	
95	Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer						✓	
96	Purple-crowned Fairy					✓		
97	Long-billed Starthroat						✓	
98	White-tailed Trogon	✓						

	Common name	April						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
99	Gartered Trogon		✓	✓			✓	
100	Black-throated Trogon		✓					
101	Black-tailed Trogon			✓				
102	Slaty-tailed Trogon		✓	✓		✓	✓	
103	Ringed Kingfisher				✓		✓	✓
104	Amazon Kingfisher				✓			
105	Green Kingfisher				✓			
106	American Pygmy Kingfisher	✓						
107	Whooping Motmot			✓	✓			
108	Rufous Motmot	✓		✓	✓			
109	Broad-billed Motmot	✓	✓		✓	✓		
110	Black-breasted Puffbird	✓				✓		
111	Pied Puffbird		✓					
112	Collared Aracari			✓	✓			
113	Keel-billed Toucan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
114	Chestnut-mandibled Toucan		✓			✓		
115	Black-cheeked Woodpecker						✓	
116	Red-crowned Woodpecker	✓			✓		✓	
117	Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker						✓	
118	Cinnamon Woodpecker		✓			✓		
119	Lineated Woodpecker			✓	✓	✓		
120	Crimson-crested Woodpecker			✓				
121	Plain Xenops	✓				✓		
122	Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner		✓					
123	Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser							✓
124	Plain-brown Woodcreeper	✓				✓		✓
125	Olivaceous Woodcreeper			✓				
126	Northern Barred Woodcreeper	✓	✓					
127	Cocoa Woodcreeper	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
128	Black-striped Woodcreeper		✓			✓		
129	Fasciated Antshrike	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
130	Barred Antshrike	✓						
131	Western Slaty Antshrike	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
132	Pygmy Antwren	✓						
133	Checker-throated Antwren	✓	✓					
134	White-flanked Antwren	✓						
135	Dot-winged Antwren	✓	✓	✓		✓		
136	Dusky Antbird			✓				
137	Jet Antbird				✓			
138	White-bellied Antbird			✓				
139	Chestnut-backed antbird	✓						✓
140	Spotted antbird		✓					
141	Black-faced Antthrush			✓				
142	Streak-chested Antpitta			✓				
143	Speckled Mourner		✓					
144	Blue Cotinga	✓	✓					
145	Purple-throated Fruitcrow		✓					
146	Golden-collared Manakin			✓				
147	Blue-crowned Manakin	✓		✓		✓		
148	Red-capped Manakin	✓	✓			✓		
149	Brow-capped Tyrannulet	✓				✓		

	Common name	April						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
150	Yellow Tyrannulet							✓
151	Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet			✓				
152	Forest Elaenia	✓	✓		✓			
153	Gray Elaenia		✓					
154	Greenish Elaenia				✓			
155	Yellow bellied Elaenia	✓						
156	Ochre-bellied Flycatcher			✓				✓
157	Paltry Tyrannulet						✓	
158	Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant		✓					
159	Southern Bentbill	✓						
160	Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher				✓			
161	Common Tody-Flycatcher	✓		✓	✓	✓		
162	Brownish Twistwing		✓					
163	Olivaceous Flatbill	✓		✓				
164	Yellow-olive Flycatcher				✓			
165	Yellow-margined Flycatcher	✓						
166	Golden-crowned Spadebill			✓				
167	Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher		✓			✓		
168	Black-tailed Flycatcher							✓
169	Olive-sided Flycatcher						✓	
170	Eastern Wood-Pewee	✓	✓		✓		✓	
171	Bright-rumped Attila		✓					
172	Rufous Mourner		✓					
173	Dusk-capped Flycatcher			✓	✓	✓	✓	
174	Panama Flycatcher	✓						
175	Great-crested Flycatcher	✓	✓			✓		
176	Lesser Kiskadee	✓		✓	✓			
177	Great Kiskadee	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓
178	Rusty-margined Flycatcher	✓		✓	✓			
179	Social Flycatcher	✓		✓	✓			✓
180	Streaked Flycatcher			✓	✓			
181	Piratic Flycatcher	✓		✓				
182	Tropical Kingbird	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
183	Eastern Kingbird	✓		✓	✓			✓
184	Fork-tailed Flycatcher	✓		✓		✓		
185	Thrush-like Schiffornis					✓		
186	Cinnamon Becard			✓				
187	White-winged Becard			✓				
188	Masked Tityra	✓		✓		✓		
189	Black-crowned Tityra					✓		
190	Gray-breasted Martin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
191	Tree Swallow	✓						
192	Mangrove Swallow				✓			
193	Northern Rough-winged Swallow			✓				
194	Southern Rough winged Swallow	✓			✓			
195	Bank Swallow	✓						
196	Barn Swallow	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
197	Black-bellied Wren			✓				
198	Bay wren						✓	
199	Plain wren						✓	
200	Buff-breasted wren	✓						✓

	Common name	April						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
201	House Wren	✓		✓	✓		✓	
202	Song wren		✓					
203	Swainson's Thrush	✓	✓			✓	✓	
204	Clay-colored Robin	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
205	Long-billed Gnatwren					✓	✓	
206	Tropical Gnatcatcher	✓	✓	✓	✓			
207	Black-chested Jay				✓			
208	Red-eyed Vireo	✓	✓		✓		✓	
209	Yellow-green Vireo				✓			
210	Scrub Greenlet				✓			
211	Golden-fronted Greenlet	✓						
212	Lesser Greenlet	✓			✓			
213	Green Shrike-Vireo	✓			✓			
214	Yellow Warbler	✓			✓		✓	
215	Chestnut-sided Warbler	✓			✓	✓		
216	Magnolia Warbler	✓		✓	✓			
217	Blackburnian Warbler	✓						
218	Bay-breasted warbler					✓		
219	Northern Waterthrush				✓			✓
220	Rufous-capped Warbler				✓	✓	✓	
221	Bananaquit						✓	
222	Black-and-yellow Tanager						✓	
223	Rosy Thrush-Tanager							✓
224	Olive (Cormiol's) Tanager						✓	
225	Gray-headed Tanager		✓			✓		✓
226	White-shouldered Tanager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
227	Red-throated Ant-Tanager			✓	✓			
228	Hepatic Tanager						✓	
229	Scarlet Tanager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
230	Summer Tanager				✓			
231	Crimson-backed Tanager	✓		✓	✓	✓		
232	Flame-rumped Tanager			✓		✓		
233	Blue-gray Tanager	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
234	Palm Tanager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
235	Yellow-crowned Euphonia	✓					✓	
236	Thick-billed Euphonia				✓		✓	
237	Plain-colored Tanager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
238	Speckled Tanager						✓	
239	Bay-headed Tanager						✓	
240	Golden-hooded Tanager	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
241	Scarlet-thighed Dacnis						✓	
242	Blue Dacnis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
243	Green Honeycreeper	✓		✓				
244	Red-legged Honeycreeper	✓		✓	✓	✓		
245	Blue-black Grassquit	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓
246	Variable Seedeater	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
247	Yellow-bellied Seedeater	✓					✓	
248	Ruddy-breasted Seedeater	✓		✓	✓			
249	Yellow-faced Grassquit						✓	
250	Orange-billed Sparrow	✓						
251	Black-striped Sparrow			✓			✓	

	Common name	April						
		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
252	Streaked Saltator	✓		✓	✓			
253	Buff-throated Saltator	✓		✓	✓			
254	Black-headed Saltator			✓				✓
255	Slate-colored Grosbeak	✓	✓				✓	
256	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	✓			✓			✓
257	Blue-black Grosbeak		✓					
258	Great-tailed Grackle	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
259	Yellow-backed Oriole	✓						
260	Yellow-tailed Oriole	✓		✓				
261	Yellow-billed Cacique			✓				
262	Yellow-rumped Cacique	✓						
263	Scarlet-rumped Cacique	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
264	Chestnut-headed Oropendola		✓	✓				

Mammals

1	Mantled Howler		✓					
2	White-faced Capuchin		✓					
3	Geoffroy's Tamarin	✓						
4	Western Night Monkey		✓					
5	White-nosed Coati						✓	
6	Jaguarundi		✓					
7	Red-tailed Squirrel	✓	✓	✓		✓		
8	Capybara	✓						
9	Central American Agouti	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
10	Northern Tamandua							✓
11	Variegated Squirrel			✓	✓			
12	American Crocodile				✓			
13	Lesser White-lined Bats	✓						