

**FIELD REPORT**

**FALL AT PANAMA'S CANOPY TOWER**

**OCTOBER 15–22, 2022**



Spotted Antbird, Pipeline Road, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

**LEADERS: BARRY ZIMMER & CARLOS BETHANCOURT**  
**LIST COMPILED BY: BARRY ZIMMER**

**VICTOR EMANUEL NATURE TOURS, INC.**  
**2525 WALLINGWOOD DRIVE, SUITE 1003**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78746**  
**WWW.VENTBIRD.COM**

## Fall at Panama's Canopy Tower October 15–22, 2022

By Barry Zimmer

Our trip began at treetop level with a morning watch atop the Canopy Tower observation deck. In the pre-dawn darkness, the hooting calls of the Rufous Motmot and the plaintive cries of Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon drifted up from the forest below and marked the beginning of a new day. I had just poured my first cup of coffee, as the first hints of gray were forming on the horizon, and birds were beginning to move. A fruiting tree in the parking area down below was already hosting some birds. Time to set the coffee down for a moment. A brilliant Red-capped Manakin was the first to appear, followed in short order by an equally intense male Green Honeycreeper. Back up at treetop level, we caught sight of a pair of tiny Brown-capped Tyrannulets and a very close pair of White-browed Gnatcatchers from about ten feet away. Glancing back down at the fruiting tree, we saw a new arrival—a stunning male Blue-crowned Manakin. Looking down on his glowing blue crown provided the ideal viewing angle. By now the variety of song in the canopy had grown considerably. A Cinnamon Woodpecker called nearby, a Green Shrike-Vireo began to sing, and Keel-billed Toucans croaked in the distance. A pair of Mealy Parrots was spotted on one side of the deck, and then at almost the same time, a troop of adorable Geoffroy's Tamarins, just below eye level, was called out on the other side. The tamarins came in so close that you could almost touch them as they bounced around in the top of a cecropia. The fruiting tree was now a whirlwind of activity with a pair of Blue Dacnis, Red-eyed Vireo, Swainson's Thrush, and finally, two spectacular Golden-hooded Tanagers joining in the quest for the tiny fruits. Two Scaled Pigeons sat up on top of a large mimosa and were quickly joined by a group of Brown-hooded Parrots that rocketed in from the direction of the Canal.

I had completely lost track of my coffee long ago, so I poured another cup. At that moment, a Broad-billed Motmot arrived and posed briefly close to the tower, while a Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher allowed lengthier views. Just then a female Blue Cotinga flashed past the tower and landed in the cecropia that the tamarins had been in. She sat for about a minute before disappearing. Where was her mate? More important, where was my coffee? Each time a new bird was spotted, the coffee was set down somewhere. Spiraling around the observation deck, chasing after new sightings, meant losing track of each cup quickly. Half-full cups were scattered about the tables on the deck in haphazard manner. A male Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, a tiny denizen of the upper canopy, landed in a tree just off the deck and sat well for photos. Typically, one looks up at this species from 50 feet down below. Finally, someone from the kitchen appeared at the top of the stairs and announced breakfast was ready. I could tell this was going to be a good trip!



Red-capped Manakin, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

We gulped down our breakfast and headed straight back up to the top. Almost immediately, an immature Hook-billed Kite lifted up out of the forest and circled around straight out from us for about a minute. This species is quite uncommon in the area, and was a real treat. We remained on the observation deck for about another hour or so, tallying several new birds, including migrant groups of Common Nighthawks, a pair of Black-crowned Antshrikes, several Plain-colored Tanagers, Scarlet-rumped Caciques, a Scarlet Tanager, and several small kettles of Broad-winged Hawks.

By 9:30 or so, we opted to walk down Semaphore Hill along the tower entry road. We paused at the hummingbird feeders at the bottom of the tower, adding Blue-chested Hummingbird, White-vented Plumeleteer, and Long-billed Hermit to our rapidly growing list. Being midmorning, things had quieted down quite a bit as we strolled downhill, but we quickly found a stunning male Black-throated Trogon that posed well for scope views. Our first Black-breasted Puffbird wasn't far away. The remainder of our walk yielded such goodies as a striking Purple-crowned Fairy, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, close Green Shrike-Vireo, Dot-winged Antwren, and White-shouldered Tanager among others. Just before we were picked up to return to the tower, we noticed two big groups of migrating raptors overhead. Most were Broad-winged Hawks (we would estimate about 1,700 for the day!), but there were many Turkey Vultures mixed in as well, all heading on their way to Colombia.

Lunch and a midafternoon break ensued before we headed down to the nearby town of Gamboa at 3 PM. At the Canopy B&B, we filled the tray feeders with bananas and were quickly inundated with birds. Swarms of Blue-gray and Palm tanagers came in immediately and were quickly followed by a long list of birds representing pretty much every color of the kaleidoscope. Gray-headed Chachalaca, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucan, Whooping Motmot, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Red-legged and Green honeycreepers, and incomparable Crimson-backed Tanagers all appeared, and no more than twenty feet away! Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds and Variable Seedeaters flitted about the garden, and cute Central American Agoutis scurried about on the ground.



Keel-billed Toucan, Gamboa, Panama, October 16, 2022, Barry Zimmer

We had just enough time for one more stop, so we headed over to the nearby Ammo Dump ponds. Rufescent Tiger-Heron, Wattled Jacana, Purple Gallinule, Southern Lapwing, Lineated Woodpecker, Barred Antshrike, Rusty-margined and Social flycatchers, Lesser Kiskadee, Mangrove Swallow, Buff-breasted Wren, and Black-striped Sparrow were among the more interesting additions. Just before dinner, we checked the banana feeder outside the dining room window of the tower, and in short order saw Central American Woolly Opossum, Kinkajou, and Western Night Monkey, all from about fifteen feet away!



Western Night Monkey, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 16, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Finally, the first day of our trip was over. We had tallied an impressive 118 species for the day and still had five more days of birding to go. A week at the Canopy Tower really is hard to top!

Day Two found us back at the Ammo Dump ponds briefly before we headed out to the beginning of Pipeline Road. A pair of Yellow-crowned Euphonias was added fairly quickly, along with a Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet. White-throated Crakes were calling, but we almost never actually saw them. Carlos was persistent in his efforts to bring one in, and amazingly, within a few minutes, we actually had a pair of crakes in view for about ten seconds. I think it was the first time we had seen the species on the tour in over ten years! We spent the bulk of the morning birding the first couple of kilometers of Pipeline, up to the turn-off for the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center. We had excellent luck with several very uncommon to rare species, as well as some regularly occurring species that are just really hard to see. Topping the list was a pair of Gray Elaenias right over our heads, followed by point-blank views of a pair of Scaly-throated Leaf-tossers at a nest! A Streak-chested Antpitta started singing its somewhat mournful song, and after about ten minutes of frantic searching, we located it not on the ground, but perched about eight feet up on a vine. We had prolonged scope studies of this amazing bird. We likewise did very well with Black-faced Antthrush, another easy-to-

hear, but hard-to-see forest floor dweller. Other highlights of the morning included a pair of White-whiskered Puffbirds from no more than fifteen feet away, White-tailed Trogon, Bright-rumped Attila, Fasciated Antshrike, Dusky Antbird, Dot-winged Antwren, Checker-throated Stipplethroat, Black-bellied Wren, Song Wrens building a nest, and Red-throated Ant-Tanager.



Streak-chested Antpitta, Pipeline Road, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

The afternoon outing was to the area behind the Gamboa Rainforest Resort. Prolonged scope views of a male Golden-collared Manakin were most memorable, but we also added Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (scarce here), close Yellow-throated Toucans, Boat-billed Flycatcher, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Flame-rumped Tanager, and Prothonotary Warbler.

The next day, we returned to Pipeline Road to explore the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center (and the accompanying tower) and portions of the road further out to the Rio Frijolitos. A Great Tinamou walked right out into the road to start things off, but was, unfortunately, only seen by the front vehicle. We did an hour and a half vigil on the PRDC tower that was somewhat slow overall, but we did see a wonderful pair of Semiplumbeous Hawks, Blue-headed Parrot, Cinnamon Woodpecker, and Slate-colored Grosbeak. Chestnut-backed Antbird, White-flanked Antwren, and Spot-crowned

Ant-Vireo were all tallied by our parked vehicles. At the center itself, we enjoyed a drink and snack while watching the non-stop hummingbird action at the feeders. Brilliant Crowned Woodnymphs and flashy White-necked Jacobins were the only totally new species, but we had another male Violet-bellied, and Blue-chested Hummingbirds and Long-billed Hermits literally feeding out of our hands. Walking the portion of Pipeline between the Juan Grande and Frijolitos bridges yielded an array of new species including Crane Hawk, Rufous Motmot, Great Jacamar, Russet-winged Schiffornis, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, multiple Spotted Antbirds (as close as ten feet away at the small ant swarm), Black-striped and Plain-brown woodcreepers, Purple-throated Fruitcrow, and Tawny-faced Gnatwren to name a few. We topped things off with lengthy scope studies of a rare Speckled Mourner just before we called it quits for the day.



Speckled Mourner, Pipeline Road, Panama, October 18, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Day Four took us to a completely different habitat in the foothills of Cerro Azul and Cerro Jefe. Topping out at an elevation just under 3,000 feet, the foothills birding gave us access to a host of new species. The endemic Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker was high on our target list, and within an hour or so we had superb views of a female about thirty feet away. Other noteworthy species included Short-billed Pigeon; Violet-headed and Violet-capped hummingbirds; Black Hawk-Eagle; a pair of White Hawks; Gartered Trogon; Bat Falcon; White-ruffed Manakin; Olive-striped Flycatcher; Scale-crested

Pygmy-Tyrant; Fulvous-vented Euphonia; Golden-winged Warbler; Hepatic, Rufous-winged (very uncommon), and Bay-headed tanagers; Yellow-faced Grassquit; and Streaked Saltator. At a nearby private residence, we enjoyed one of the most amazing feeder shows, which included 10 species of hummingbirds (and probably 200+ individuals) and three species of honeycreepers—all just ten feet away. We added Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer, Green Hermit, and Snowy-bellied Hummingbird to our list, as well as stunning Shining Honeycreepers (abundant). Thank you Jerry and Linda!



Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, Cerro Azul, Panama, October 19, 2022, Barry Zimmer

The following day started off with another relaxing hour on the observation deck before breakfast. Noteworthy were a late and unexpected Piratic Flycatcher, some wonderfully close Scaled Pigeons, and a Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth that put on quite the show.





Scaled Pigeon, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 20, 2022, Barry Zimmer

After breakfast, we went down to Old Gamboa Road. In the parking area we quickly added Long-billed Gnatwren, Yellow-backed Oriole, and a skulking Yellow-billed Cacique for some. The ponds near the police academy were particularly productive. We saw three species of kingfishers, including scope views of the tiny American Pygmy Kingfisher from about 30 feet away. A pair of Cinnamon Woodpeckers posed well overhead, and we found three roosting Boat-billed Herons. A walk through the nearby forest produced Gray-cowled Wood-Rail, Black-tailed Flycatcher, the uncommon Jet Antbird, Great Antshrike, Black-chested Jay, Blue-black Grosbeak, and scope studies of a female Rosy Thrush-Tanager. We topped things off with scope views of a roosting Spectacled Owl!

An evening night drive produced a Nine-banded Armadillo and pretty good looks at a Black-and-white Owl high overhead.



American Pygmy Kingfisher, Old Gamboa Road, Panama, October 20, 2022, Barry Zimmer

On our last day, we visited Metropolitan Park in Panama City. Best birds here included a perched Double-toothed Kite eating a lizard, Lance-tailed Manakin, Greenish Elaenia, Black-bellied Wren, and Red-crowned Ant-Tanager. A pair of endemic Yellow-green Tyrannulets was heard in a tall tree overhead for quite some time but could not be found. Just before lunch, we stopped at Panama Viejo to look for shorebirds. The tide was in our favor, and we saw fourteen species of shorebirds, including over forty Southern Lapwings, Marbled Godwit, Red Knot, and thousands of Western Sandpipers. Also present were a couple of Cocoi Herons and a very rare Lesser Black-backed Gull.

In the afternoon, we experienced our only meaningful rain of the trip, but since we were visiting the Miraflores Locks at the Canal, it didn't really hinder us too much.

In all, we tallied an impressive 270 species of birds and 16 species of mammals in our week at the tower. We had pretty great weather overall with very little rain. I can't wait to return in a couple of years!

## **ITINERARY**

October 15 – arrival at the Canopy Tower in the evening

October 16 – observation deck of tower until 9:30 AM, Semaphore Hill; afternoon to Gamboa (Canopy B&B) & Ammo Dump ponds (118 species; 118 species total)

October 17 – Ammo Dump Pond briefly, Pipeline Road to the Discovery Center turn-off; midafternoon tower watch; late afternoon to area behind the Gamboa Rainforest Resort (105 species; 157 total)

October 18 - Pipeline Road all day (to Rio Frijolitos), including the Panama Rainforest Discovery Center & tower (PRDC) (84 species; 181 total)

October 19 – Cerro Azul (including house of Jerry and Linda Harrison), briefly on Cerro Jefe (103 species; 217 total)

October 20 – observation deck of Canopy Tower until 7:00 AM, Old Gamboa Road, Police Academy (Summit) Ponds; afternoon to Camino de Cruces National Park; evening night drive (102 species; 235 total)

October 21 - Metropolitan Park, Panama Viejo, optional visit to Miraflores Locks in the afternoon (111 species; 270 total)

October 22 – departures for home (270 species total)

## **KEY**

**bold-faced species** indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence  
underlined species indicate birds of very uncommon occurrence or species that occur regularly but in such low densities as to be easily missed

## **BIRDS**

### **Tinamous**

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) heard almost every day from the tower

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) heard only on Cerro Jefe

### **Waterfowl**

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) best at the Ammo Dump ponds

### **Guans, Chachalacas & Curassows**

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) wonderfully close at the Canopy B&B in Gamboa

## **Pigeons & Doves**

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*) Panama City

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) scope views at the Ammo Dump ponds

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*) great views from the Tower

Short-billed Pigeon (*Patagioenas nigrirostris*) three on Cerro Azul; uncommon

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*)

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*)

## **Cuckoos**

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) four at Ammo Dump on Day 2

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) several good views of this always impressive species; nine total

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americana*) one at the Ammo Dump ponds on Day 1

## **Nightjars**

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) two migrant flocks totaling 13 birds over the Tower the first morning

## **Swifts**

Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) the most numerous swift around the Tower

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) four on Day 1

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) a couple over the PRDC

## **Hummingbirds**

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) absolutely stunning; **35+** individuals on our Cerro Azul day, also a few around the PRDC and the tower



White-necked Jacobin, Panama Rainforest Discovery Center, Panama, October 18, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) two at Cerro Azul

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) formerly Western Long-tailed; one often at the tower feeders, one at the PRDC (from inches away for some) and one at Cerro Azul

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) one at the tower feeders on Day 2

Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliathryx barroti*) three total; perhaps best on Semaphore Hill on Day 1; a real stunner!

Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) male & female on Cerro Azul; uncommon

White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffoni*) one or two regular at Tower feeders, PRDC and Cerro Azul

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysis*) one or two regular at Cerro Azul feeders

Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) another stunner; **25** or more seen on Cerro Azul, plus several at the PRDC; formerly Violet-crowned Woodnymph



Crowned Woodnymph, Panama Rainforest Discovery Center, Panama, October 18, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Polyerata amabilis*) common at Tower feeders & PRDC, a couple at Cerro Azul

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia edward*) a half dozen or so at Cerro Azul

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) fairly common in more open areas

Violet-capped Hummingbird (*Goldmania violiceps*) 2 females on Cerro Jefe

Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Juliamayia julie*) one behind the Gamboa Resort and two more at the PRDC; an incomparable species

### **Rails, Gallinules & Coots**

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajaneus*) a pair seen briefly by some as they crossed a flooded ditch on Old Gamboa Road; heard well & close by everyone

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) seen at the Ammo Dump on a couple of days

White-throated Crake (*Laterallus albigularis*) incredibly, this rarely seen species allowed very nice (albeit brief) views at Ammo Dump on day 2; typically this phantom species is heard only; tied for third favorite bird of the tour!

### **Stilts & Avocets**

Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*)

### **Plovers & Lapwings**

Black-bellied Plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*)

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) particularly well at the Gamboa Rainforest Resort; about 40 at Panama Viejo

Semipalmated Plover (*Charadrius semipalmatus*)

### **Jacanas**

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) close studies at Ammo Dump

### **Sandpipers & Allies**

Whimbrel (*Numeius phaeopus*) one at Panama Viejo

Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa*) three at Panama Viejo

Ruddy Turnstone (*Arenaria interpres*)

Red Knot (*Calidris canutus*) five at Panama Viejo; uncommon

Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*) at least one in with Westerns at Panama Viejo

Western Sandpiper (*Calidris mauri*) a few thousand probably

Short-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus*)

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*)

Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*)

## **Gulls & Terns**

Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*)

Franklin's Gull (*Larus pipixcan*) one at Panama Viejo; uncommon

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) winter adult at Panama Viejo; very rare in the country; a tour first

Gull-billed Tern (*Gelochelidon nilotica*)

## **Frigatebirds**

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*)

## **Cormorants**

Neotropic Cormorant (*Nannopterum brasilianus*)

## **Pelicans**

Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)

## **Hérons, Egrets & Bitterns**

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) wonderful studies of adults & immatures at Ammo Dump Ponds; four total

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) two at Panama Viejo

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Tricolored Heron (*Egretta tricolor*) two at Panama Viejo

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) one brown morph adult at Ammo Dump on Day 1 and another by me only at the Police Academy Ponds



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*)

Boat-billed Heron (*Cochlearius cochlearius*) three roosting at the Police Academy ponds

### **New World Vultures**

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) one behind Gamboa Resort; very uncommon on this tour

### **Osprey**

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

### **Hawks, Eagles & Kites**

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) immature bird over the tower on Day; thanks to Jorge; very uncommon here

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) one calling overhead at Jerry & Linda's house; seen well out front by a few of us

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) exceptional views of bird eating a lizard at Metro Park the last day, plus one over the tower by some on day 2



Double-toothed Kite, Metropolitan Park, Panama, October 21, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) migrant flock of 38 over Cerro Jefe, plus a couple singles elsewhere

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) one perched very close along Pipeline Road; great scope views; very uncommon

White Hawk (*Pseudastur albicollis*) pair flying low over Cerro Azul

Semiplumbeous Hawk (*Leucopternis semiplumbeus*) pair from the PRDC tower seen repeatedly and well; uncommon

Gray-lined Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*)

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) seen most days, but our only sizable flight was the first day when over **1700** were tallied

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) perched dark morph bird from the Tower on Day 1



Semiplumbeous Hawk, Panama Rainforest Discovery Center, Panama, October 18, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) a little early for this species; we had five total

### Owls

Choco Screech-Owl (*Megascops centralis*) this species was heard painfully close for quite awhile, but could not be seen; a recent split from the Middle American Screech-Owl

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) nice scope views of roosting bird along Old Gamboa Road thanks to Carlos!

Black-and-white Owl (*Ciccaba nigrolineata*) we finally got pretty good views of this one high overhead along Semaphore Hill

### Trogons

Slaty-tailed Trogon (*Trogon massena*) best was a male right overhead at Gamboa Resort; three total

White-tailed Trogon (*Trogon chionurus*) singles each day on Pipeline

Gartered Trogon (*Trogon caligatus*) two on Cerro Azul; formerly Violaceous Trogon

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) male on Semaphore Hill on Day 1

### Motmots

Whooping Motmot (*Momotus subrufescens*) best at the Canopy B&B; four total; newly split species from the Blue-crowned Motmot complex



Whooping Motmot, Gamboa, Panama, October 16, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Rufous Motmot (*Barythengus martii*) four total; best at the ant swarm along Pipeline; heard at dawn from tower most mornings

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) four total; excellent views in parking area below tower from just feet away!

### Kingfishers

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*)

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) scope view at the Police Academy ponds

American Pygmy Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle aenea*) incredibly close scope study at the Police Academy ponds; uncommon

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) fly-by at the Police Academy ponds

### **Puffbirds**

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus hyperrhynchos*) pair on the utility wires near Summit Gardens; three total; uncommon

Black-breasted Puffbird (*Notharchus pectoralis*) one on walk down Semaphore Hill & another on Pipeline



White-whiskered Puffbird, Pipeline Road, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

White-whiskered Puffbird (*Malacoptila panamensis*) awesome views of pair on Pipeline Road on Day 2, plus another single on Day 3; uncommon

### **Jacamars**

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*) great scope study along Pipeline Road on Day 3; very uncommon

## **Toucans**

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) very close views of a pair at the Canopy B&B feeders; scarcer than usual with only six total seen

Yellow-throated Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) best behind the Gamboa Resort; seven total

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) almost daily with up to 6 in a day; the essence of the tropics!

## **Woodpeckers**

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) five total

Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) best at the Canopy B&B feeders

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucus*) great studies at Metro Park & on Semaphore Hill; three total

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) six total

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) good views from the PRDC tower and at the Police academy ponds

**Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker** (*Piculus collopterus*) great, close studies of a female on Cerro Azul; a Panamanian endemic!; tied for the third favorite bird of the tour

## **Falcons & Caracaras**

Slaty-backed Forest-Falcon\_ (*Micrastur mirandollei*) heard only from the Tower & the PRDC tower

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) scattered about open areas; seen daily

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) one on Cerro Azul; unusually scarce

## **New World Parrots**

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) seen on four days (best at the Canopy B&B)

Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrilia haematotis*) seen perched very close from the tower on three days; generally uncommon



Brown-hooded Parrot, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) perched distantly from the PRDC tower

Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) seemed much scarcer than usual, but still seen on four days

Mealy Parrot (*Amazona farinosa*) nine total; scope views of a pair from the tower

### **Manakins**

Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) two immature males & a female at Metro Park

White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) three on Cerro Azul; uncommon

Blue-crowned Manakin (*Lepidothrix coronata*)      daily at the fruiting melastome in the tower parking area (including brilliant males); a few elsewhere



Blue-crowned Manakin, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*)      brilliant male & a female behind the Gamboa Resort; prolonged study of the male

Red-capped Manakin (*Ceratopipra mentalis*)      almost always three or four present in the fruiting melastome at the tower; up to three stunning males at a time; voted the second favorite bird of the tour!





Golden-collared Manakin, Gamboa, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

## Cotingas

Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) seen both days on Pipeline Road, but never particularly well

Blue Cotinga (*Cotinga nattererii*) very close views of a female from the tower on Day 1

## Tityras & Allies

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) seven total

Russet-winged Schiffornis (*Schiffornis veraepacis*) great looks at this uncommon species near the Rio Frijolitos on Day 3

**Speckled Mourner** (*Laniocera rufescens*) lengthy scope views of one along Pipeline Road; rare

## Sharpbills

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher (*Terrenotriccus erythrurus*) two along Pipeline Road

Black-tailed Flycatcher (*Myiobius atricaudus*) two at Old Gamboa Road; uncommon

### **Tyrant Flycatchers**

Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) two on Cerro Azul

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) one on Pipeline

Yellow-green Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes flavovirens*) a pair that was heard high overhead at Metro Park for quite some time, but could not be located; Panamanian endemic

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) nice views at Cerro Azul

Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pilaris*) seen briefly by some in Metro Park the last day

Southern Bentbill (*Oncostoma olivaceum*) seven total with best views along Old Gamboa Road

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) Ammo Dump, Old Gamboa Road

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) from about 20 feet away at eye level on the tower!

Olivaceous Flatbill (*Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*) Semaphore Hill on Day 1

Yellow-olive Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias sulphurescens*)

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*) nice studies from the tower of this tiny canopy dweller

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) perhaps best on Cerro Azul

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*) five total over three days

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardii*) Semaphore Hill & Pipeline



Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 16, 2022, Barry Zimmer

**Gray Elaenia** (*Myiopagis caniceps*) a pair of these rather rare birds were seen quite close overhead along Pipeline on Day 2, but the lighting wasn't great

Greenish Elaenia (*Myiopagis viridicata*) one at Metro Park the last day

Mistletoe Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius parvus*) eight total; formerly Paltry Tyrannulet

Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Contopus cooperi*) three total

Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) daily in numbers

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax vireescens*) five total

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) heard often, but seen pretty well at the beginning of Pipeline on Day 2

Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*)

Panama Flycatcher (*Myiarchus panamensis*) one along Old Gamboa Road

Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*) seen on four days

Lesser Kiskadee (*Pitangus lictor*) great views at Ammo Dump & Police Academy ponds

Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)

Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) one on Pipeline was our only one of the tour

Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) very close at the Ammo Dump

Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*)

Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) five total

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) one from the tower on Day 1

**Piratic Flycatcher** (*Legatus leucophaeus*) a surprise this late was one at the fruiting melastome in the tower parking area on Day 5; not usually seen by mid-October

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) abundant

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) flock of eight migrating past the tower on Day 1

**Gray Kingbird** (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) a real surprise was one from the tower dining room on Day 2 (not many, if any, previous records from the tower itself), not seen by all

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) a couple along fence lines in Panama City for some on the last day

### Typical Antbirds

Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) good views of several, especially along Pipeline

Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) female acutally seen along Old Gamboa Road

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) pair at the Ammo Dump Ponds the first afternoon

Black-crowned Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) daily with up to three a day; formerly called Western Slaty-Antshrike

Spot-crowned Ant-Vireo (*Dysithamnus puncticeps*) seen at the PRDC parking area

Checker-throated Stipplethroat (*Epinecrophylla fulviventris*) both days on Pipeline Road & on Cerro Azul; formerly Checker-throated Antwren

Moustached Antwren (*Myrmotherula ignota*) heard only from the PRDC tower

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) particularly well at the PRDC

Dot-winged Antwren (*Microrhoptias quixensis*) seen well on three days

Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacroides tyrannina*) best on Pipeline Road

Jet Antbird (*Cercomacra nigricans*) nice views of a male along Old Gamboa Road; very uncommon & localized

White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) heard only; a real skulker

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Poliocrania exsul*) seen extremely well & close along Pipeline

Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naeviodes*) excellent views of this striking species, especially at the ant swarm; tied for favorite bird of the tour!

### **Antpittas**

Streak-chested Antpitta (*Hylopezus perspicillatus*) after some searching, we had wonderful studies of this amazing bird; tied for favorite bird of the tour!

### **Antthrushes**

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) nice views of this skulker on Pipeline Road on Day 2; more often heard than seen

### **Ovenbirds & Woodcreepers**

Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser (*Sclerurus guatemalensis*) amazingly, we found a nest of this infrequently seen & very uncommon species right next to Pipeline Road; tied for third favorite bird of the tour!



Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser, Pipeline Road, Panama, October 17, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Olivaceous Woodcreeper (*Sittasomus griseicapillus*) two at Metro Park the last day, plus one for a few from the tower

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fulginosa*) great views on Pipeline, especially at the ant swarm; two total

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) the most widespread Canal Zone woodcreeper; ten total

Black-striped Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*) one on Pipeline; uncommon

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) four total

## **Vireos**

Green Shrike-Vireo (*Vireolanius pulchellus*) nice views of a pair along Semaphore Hill on Day 1, along Pipeline on day 2 and another single from the tower for some on Day 5; easy to hear, but often hard to see

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtatus*) numerous; seen daily

Golden-fronted Greenlet (*Pachysylvia aurantifrons*) Gamboa Resort, Old Gamboa Road & Metro Park

Yellow-throated Vireo (*Vireo flavifrons*) one spotted by Jay in Metro Park

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) a few seen each day

### **Corvids**

Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*) two along Old Gamboa Road

### **Swallows**

Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) Ammo Dump & Police Academy Ponds

Blue-and-white Swallow (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*) one by Alan on Cerro Azul

Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) scope studies at Ammo Dump

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) daily in numbers

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) daily in numbers

Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*) a few from the Tower

### **Gnatcatchers**

Tawny-faced Gnatwren (*Microbates cinereiventris*) a pair by the ant swarm along Pipeline Road; generally uncommon

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) best views by the Old Gamboa Road parking area

White-browed Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila bilineata*) several nice views; especially close from the tower (from about ten feet away!); formerly Tropical Gnatcatcher

### **Wrens**

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)

Black-bellied Wren (*Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*) nice views of this skulker at the beginning of Pipeline Road & at Metro Park

Rufous-breasted Wren (*Pheugopedius rutilus*) briefly on Semaphore Hill, but best at Metro Park

Rufous-and-white Wren (*Thryophilus rufalbus*) heard only at Metro Park (as is often the case)

Isthmian Wren (*Cantorchilus elutus*) very good views on Cerro Azul at the Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker spot; heard elsewhere; generally skulking

Buff-breasted Wren (*Cantorchilus leucotis*) Ammo Dump

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucosticta*) Pipeline Road

Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*) great studies on Pipeline Road (one pair nest building); great song

### **Mockingbirds & Thrashers**

Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*) six total

### **Thrushes**

Gray-cheeked Thrush (*Catharus minimus*) two total; uncommon

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) one or two daily

Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) common

### **Old World Sparrows**

House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) four in Panama City over two days

### **Finches, Euphonias & Allies`**

Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*) Ammo Dump on Day 2

White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*) heard only at Cerro Azul

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*)

Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*) five on Cerro Azul; less numerous than usual

Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) Cerro Azul

### **Thrush-Tanager**



Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*) scope views of female buried in a thicket at Old Gamboa Road; also heard at Camino de Cruces & Metro Park; always tough to see

### **New World Sparrows**

Black-striped Sparrow (*Arremonops conirostris*) Ammo Dump

Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantirostris*) by a few at Camino de Cruces

### **Icterids**

Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) one by the parking area at Old Gamboa Road

Scarlet-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus uropygialis*) several good views of this noisy canopy denizen, especially at the Tower

Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) best at Old Gamboa Road

Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) four total

Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)

### **Warblers**

Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia novaboracensis*) four total

Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) male on Cerro Azul and female at Metro Park; uncommon

Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*) eight total

Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) two total

Tennessee Warbler (*Leiothlypis peregrina*) five total

American Redstart (*Setophaga ruficilla*) three total

Magnolia Warbler (*Setophaga magnolia*) one in Metro Park; uncommon

Bay-breasted Warbler (*Setophaga castanea*) two seen

Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) three total

Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) fairly common

Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) six total

Canada Warbler (*Cardellina canadensis*) six total

### **Cardinals & Allies**

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) Cerro Azul

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*) seven total; often at fruiting tree in tower parking area

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) agitated male in Metro Park with red crown raised

Red-throated Ant-Tanager (*Habia fuscicauda*) nine scattered over four days

Carmioli's Tanager (*Chlorothraupis carmioli*) heard only at the Harrison's on Cerro Azul; uncommon

Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) two seen

Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanoloxia cyanooides*) female along Old Gamboa Road

### **Tanagers**

White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) seen on four days

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) four behind Gamboa Resort; uncommon in this area

Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) "sangre del toro"; is there a prettier tanager?; about twenty total

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) common

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) common

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Stilpnia larvata*) certainly one of the prettiest tanagers; stunning pairs at the Canopy Tower and on Cerro Azul

Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) fairly common

**Rufous-winged Tanager** (*Tangara lavinia*) immature bird on Cerro Azul seen fairly well

**Bay-headed Tanager** (*Tangara gyrola*) excellent views of this beauty on Cerro Azul; seven total



Bay-headed Tanager, Cerro Azul, Panama, October 19, 2022, Barry Zimmer

**Blue Dacnis** (*Dacnis cayana*) seen on five days; brilliant!

Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) about twenty or more on Cerro Azul; absolute gems



Shining Honeycreeper, Cerro Azul, Panama, October 19, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) three males that were bullied at the Canopy B&B, plus three more on Cerro Azul

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) many excellent views of this beauty, including almost constantly in the tower melastome

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) one at the Ammo Dump

Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)

Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) one on Cerro Jefe

Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivacea*) a few on Cerro Azul

Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) not seen by all

Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*) Old Gamboa Road

Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*) good views for most on the PRDC tower  
total species - **270**

\*\*\*\*in combination with the Canopy Camp tour, 355 species were seen



Crane Hawk, Pipeline Road, Panama, October 18, 2022, Barry Zimmer

### **LEADER ONLY BIRDS**

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)  
Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) heard only  
Merlin (*Falco columbarius*) PDRC tower  
Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) from the Canopy Tower  
Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*) Ammo Dump  
Chestnut-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus delatitrii*) Cerro Azul

### **FAVORITE BIRDS OF THE TOUR (BY GROUP VOTE)**

1. Streak-chested Antpitta & Spotted Antbird tied
2. Red-capped Manakin

3. White-throated Crake, Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker & Scaly-throated Leaf-tosser tied

## **MAMMALS**

Central American Woolly Opossum---one on the first night from the dining room at dinner, plus another on the night drive

Nine-banded Armadillo---on Semaphore Hill on the night drive; another as some of us were being transferred from the Crowne Plaza to the Tower the first night



Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 20, 2022, Barry Zimmer

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth---several great studies (especially one in a close cecropia from the Tower over three days); nine total

Northern Tamandua---one walking across the paved road near Summit Gardens on Day 6

Geoffroy's Tamarin---adorable; great views from the Tower in particular (attacking the banana offerings)



Geoffroy's Tamarin, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 16, 2022, Barry Zimmer

White-throated Capuchin---Pipeline Road

Western Night Monkey----seen from just feet away coming in to the nighttime banana offering

Mantled Howler Monkey----seen on four days, including from the tower

Red-tailed Squirrel---three total

Variegated Squirrel---three total

Central American Agouti---many great, close studies; seen every day but one with up to ten in a day

Unidentified bat species

Olingo---also coming in for bananas from the tower dining room on Day 5

White-nosed Coati---thirteen total; many close sightings

Kinkajou---yet another tower banana eater!



Kinkajou, Canopy Tower, Panama, October 16, 2022, Barry Zimmer

White-tailed Deer---one at Miraflores Locks

total species – 16+

### **REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS**

Green Iguana

Mediterranean (House) Gecko

Yellow-headed Gecko

Forest Toad

Central American (Common) Slider

total species - 5



## **BUTTERFLIES**

*Parides species*---unidentified Cattleheart  
*Papilio thoas*---Thoas Swallowtail  
*Papilo species*----unidentified swallowtail  
*Phoebis argante*---Apricot Sulphur  
*Phoebis sennae*---Cloudless Sulphur  
*Arcas imperialis*---Imperial Sunstreak  
*Dryas julia*---Julia Heliconian  
*Heliconius erato*---Erato Heliconian  
*Anartia fatima*---Fatima or Banded Peacock  
*Adelpha species*---unidentified Sister  
*Archaeoprepona demophoon*---Two-spotted Prepona  
*Historis odius*---Orion Cecropian  
*Siderone syntyche*---Red-patched Leafwing  
*Morpho helenor*---Blue Morpho or Common Morpho  
*Caligo species*---unidentified owl-butterfly  
*Mechanitis lysimnia*---Confused Tigerwing  
*Mylon species*  
Various other unidentified skippers

total species – 17+

\*\*\*Many of the butterfly identifications were somewhat speculative, but were based on A Swift Guide to the Butterflies of Mexico and Central America (Glassberg). This book does not include ranges for Panama making identifications that much more difficult. In some cases, I have listed a species which looks very similar not really knowing if it even occurs in Panama. Many more that were seen, were left unidentified (whites, sulphurs, skippers, etc.). I have tried to include a common name when known.

## **SIGNIFICANT OTHERS**

Leafcutter ants  
Army ant swarm  
Praying Mantis species  
6.7 earthquake off Panama near Coiba Island that made the Tower sway!