

PANAMA'S DARIEN LOWLANDS: CANOPY CAMP

OCTOBER 6–14, 2018



Harpy Eagle, Rio Membrillo, Panama, October 9, 2018, Barry Zimmer

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By Barry Zimmer

As we cruised along the Rio Chucunaque and the Rio Membrillo in our dugout canoes in the early morning, birds seemed to be everywhere. Ringed and Amazon kingfishers flushed repeatedly from the riverbanks. Several White-necked Puffbirds were seen on high snags. A Green Ibis was spotted in a bare tree and allowed superb views. Two stunning Capped Herons posed in the morning sun. A handsome Red-throated Caracara was spotted by one boat, while a brilliant male Blue Cotinga was seen by the other. Greater Anis were downright abundant with a ridiculous total of 308 individuals counted on the way upriver. Brown-hooded and Blue-headed parrots, Lineated and Crimson-crested woodpeckers, flocks of Yellow-rumped Caciques, and a close Black Oropendola—the list of amazing birds went on and on. Throughout the ride, troops of Mantled Howler Monkeys voiced their displeasure at our presence. But despite all this excitement, we pressed on. Our real goal lay ahead near the Embera-Wounaan village of Sinai.

After nearly three hours in the boat, we finally disembarked at an inconspicuous trail on the river's edge. We still had a mile-and-a-half walk to reach our destination. We tried not to stop, but a responsive male Bare-crowned Antbird and a Rufescent Tiger-Heron in the trail demanded our attention. Finally, we arrived at a small clearing and peered up ahead into the middle of a giant cuipo tree. Our eyes were drawn to a large bundle of sticks in the middle crotch of the tree. Just visible in the center of this giant nest was a large, gray, double-crested head—Harpy Eagle! Harpy is perhaps the most iconic and sought after bird of Central and South America, not to mention the national bird of Panama. For a long time we had views of the head only, but eventually our patience was rewarded, as the eagle stretched its wings and sat up on the left side of the nest. Gasps were audible from throughout the group. It was hard to contain our excitement. For about ten minutes, we enjoyed fabulous scope views of this nearly mythical bird that is a true symbol of wilderness. Our journey had been rewarded. Harpy Eagle was voted the favorite bird of the tour!

But our trip to the Canopy Camp in the Darien of Panama was about so much more than our incredible Harpy sighting. Traveling east from Panama City on our first day, we managed to squeeze in a fair amount of birding en route. At Lago Bayano, we tallied several Cocoi Herons, Bat Falcon, Common Black Hawk, and Black-tailed Tropic among others. While enjoying a tasty lunch in Torti, we watched six species of hummingbirds coming in to the feeders, including the likes of Snowy-bellied, Sapphire-throated, Scaly-breasted, and Long-billed Starthroat. At a private residence near the town of Santa Fe, we had an unexpected sighting of Great Curassow, in addition to the very uncommon Golden-green Woodpecker and a small flock of Black-chested Jays. Roadside stops yielded Pearl Kite, Savanna Hawk, and Fork-tailed Flycatcher. Late in the afternoon, we settled into the Canopy Camp. A small troop of Geoffroy's Tamarins

visited the banana feeders during our orientation session, an adorable little greeting party.

Around the Camp itself, we found birding to be very productive. Barred Puffbird, White-tailed and Gartered trogons, Gray-headed Kite, Collared Forest-Falcon, Yellow-throated and Keel-billed toucans, White-headed Wren, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Spot-crowned Barbet, White-bellied Antbird (lengthy scope studies), Whooping Motmot, Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, and Black Hawk-Eagle were among the more memorable. White-throated Capuchin monkeys were regular at the feeders; we had great views of a Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth along the entry road; and on two nights, Western Night Monkeys were seen just off the dining area.

Birding along the Pan American Highway towards Yaviza, we added a whole new group of birds. One marsh yielded Black-collared Hawk, Spot-breasted Woodpecker, Pied Water-Tyrant, and Large-billed Seed-Finch, while another produced a pair of unexpected Great Green Macaws, Little Cuckoo, Black-capped Donacobius, and Red-breasted and Yellow-hooded blackbirds.

The road to El Salto is always productive, and this year was no different. A stunning male Blue Cotinga allowed great scope studies. Laughing Falcon; Blue-and-yellow Macaw (brief fly-by); Double-banded Graytail; Pied Puffbird; Black, Black-crowned, and Great antshrikes; Gray-cheeked Nunlet; Red-rumped Woodpecker; Long-tailed Tyrant; Orange-crowned Oriole; and White-eared Conebill were among the many other highlights.

A second boat trip to the Embera village of Nuevo Vigia produced scope studies of our two targets in short order—the very range-restricted Dusky-backed Jacamar and Spectacled Parrotlet. A pair of Chestnut-fronted Macaws perched up along the river was a bonus.



Dusky-backed Jacamar, Nuevo Vigia, Panama, October 11, 2018, Barry Zimmer

On our last day, as we headed back to Panama City, we birded the edge and forests of the San Francisco Reserve. The endemic Yellow-green Tyrannulet topped the list, but we also had Violet-bellied Hummingbird, Barred and Pied puffbirds, Fasciated Antshrike, Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, Buff-rumped Warbler, and Orange-billed Sparrow.

In all, we tallied an impressive 248 species in a week of birding around the fabulous Canopy Camp. None of us will ever forget the amazing Harpy Eagle!

ITINERARY:

October 6 – arrival in Panama City

October 7 – briefly at Riande Hotel, Chepo gas station stop, Lago Bayano, Rio Torti, Tortí lunch spot, drive on Pan American Highway to Canopy Camp with stop at private residence near Santa Fe, brief afternoon birding around the camp itself (101 species)

October 8 – grounds of the Canopy Camp all morning, afternoon trip along Pan-American Highway to Yaviza (100 species; 155 total)

October 9 – boat trip from Puerto Limon to near the Embera-Wounaan village of Sinai along Rio Chucunaque & Rio Membrillo; on foot to Harpy Eagle nest; return boat trip (77 species; 189 total)

October 10 – Canopy Camp grounds briefly, El Salto Road in the morning; Lajas Blancas Road in afternoon (99 species; 204 species)

October 11 – La Penita, boat trip along the Rios Chucunaque & Tuquesa to the Embera village of Nuevo Vigia in the morning; afternoon to “Macaw Marsh” along the Pan American Highway (112 species; 218 total)

October 12 – El Salto Road in AM, Canopy Camp (Nando’s Trail) & Sanson Abajo in afternoon (83 species; 228 total)

October 13 – San Francisco Reserve, Tortí, Pan American Highway back to Panama City (114 species; 248 total)

October 14 – departures for home (248 total species)

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:

Great Tinamou (*Tinamus major*) heard only from the Canopy Camp on a couple of occasions

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) heard almost daily, but as is usually the case, not seen

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*)

Muscovy Duck (*Cairina moschata*) two teed up along the Rio Membrillo were memorable; uncommon

Great Curassow (*Crax rubra*) a female at a private residence near Santa Fe was a huge bonus; a tour first!



Great Curassow, Santa Fe, Panama, October 7, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*)

Marbled Wood-Quail (*Odontophorus gujanensis*) heard only at the end of the El Salto Road; not previously encountered on this tour

Least Grebe (*Tachybaptus dominicus*) unexpected were four near Torti Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*)

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*) one at San Francisco Reserve

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) seen daily in numbers, including a fuzzy little baby on the Canopy Camp deck

Blue Ground-Dove (*Claravis pretiosa*) heard on two occasions, and one seen by a few in flight

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) daily

Little Cuckoo (*Coccycua minuta*) great views of one at Macaw Marsh; very uncommon & seldom encountered

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) three total; always impressive

Striped Cuckoo (*Tapera naevia*) heard only

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) common with many great views; a ridiculous **308** were counted on our boat ride along the Rio Chucunaque & Membrillo

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophagus ani*)

Common Nighthawk (*Chordeiles minor*) one spotted roosting from the dining area

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) seen along entry road at dusk and dawn

White-collared Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris*) high flying flock of about 120 over the San Francisco Reserve

Short-tailed Swift (*Chaetura brachyura*) a couple over the San Francisco Reserve; not seen by all

Band-rumped Swift (*Chaetura spinicaudus*)

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) extraordinary views at a roadside pond near Torti

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) one or two around the Canopy Camp feeders most days; stunning

Rufous-breasted Hermit (*Glaucis irsatus*)

Pale-bellied Hermit (*Phaethornis anthophilus*) less numerous than usual, but still seen on five days

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis strigularis*) one only; not seen by all

Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*) best at the Torti feeders

Long-billed Starthroat (*Heliodoxa longirostris*) birds at the Torti feeders provided superb views

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird (*Phaeochroa cuvierii*) only at the Torti feeders

White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffonii*) regular at Camp feeders

Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Polyerata amabilis*) the common hummer in vervain around the tents & also at Camp feeders

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Saucerottia edward*) only at Torti feeders, but great views there of this gem

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) seen daily

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird (*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*) almost daily, including at the Camp feeders

Violet-bellied Hummingbird (*Damophila julie*) a male at San Francisco Reserve; stunning

Gray-breasted Crake (*Laterallus exilis*) heard only at a marshy area near Yaviza

Gray-cowled Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajaneus*) one near the Rio Tori

Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinicus*) four total

Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) five total

Wattled Jacana (*Jacana jacana*) 34 total

Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*)

Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) one flyover

Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*)

Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) one on the first day at Lago Bayano

Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasiliensis*)

Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*)

Rufescent Tiger-Heron (*Tigrisoma lineatum*) immature bird along trail to Harpy Eagle nest; superb studies

Cocoi Heron (*Ardea cocoi*) five total (Lago Bayano & Rio Chucunaque); very uncommon as a rule

Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)

Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)

Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Striated Heron (*Butorides striata*) two total

Capped Heron (*Pilherodius pileatus*) three total; incredible views along the Rio Membrillo; very uncommon

Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis falcinellus*) flock of a dozen near La Penita; uncommon

Green Ibis (*Mesembrinibis cayennensis*) four total between the two boat trips; superb views along the Rio Chucunaque; very uncommon to rare

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*)

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)

King Vulture (*Sacroramphus papa*) six total

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) four total thanks to Sarah

Gray-headed Kite (*Leptodon cayanensis*) immature bird greeted our arrival at the Camp the first afternoon; an adult was seen along the Rio Chucunaque en route to Nuevo Vigia; uncommon

Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) one en route to the Camp the first day and another en route to Panama City the last day; uncommon

White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) one along the Pan American Highway spotted by Sarah on Day One

Double-toothed Kite (*Harpagus bidentatus*) four total; scope views of one

Black-collared Hawk (*Busarellus nigricollis*) gorgeous adult near Yaviza was a big surprise; spotted by Sarah; rare here

Crane Hawk (*Geranospiza caerulescens*) generally uncommon, but this year we saw an impressive ten birds with several very good views

Common Black-Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*) one at Lago Bayano and another along the Camp entry road

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) three total

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*) seen daily

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) seen by some over the Camp on two different days

Gray-lined Hawk (*Buteo nitidus*) six total

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) no big flights seen this year; only eleven total birds

Zone-tailed Hawk (*Buteo albonotatus*) one over Torti on the boot shopping excursion thanks to Sarah

Harpy Eagle (*Harpia harpyja*) we enjoyed lengthy scope views of this iconic and nearly mythical bird on the nest (the last ten minutes of which it was up on the left side in great view); a simply magical time; tied for the favorite bird of the tour!

Black Hawk-Eagle (*Spizaetus tyrannus*) great views of bird in display flight over the entry road

Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*) one spotted by Sarah at Macaw Marsh flying around in broad daylight; unexpected to say the least

Crested Owl (*Lophostrix cristata*) heard only by some from the Camp on a couple of nights

Mottled Owl (*Ciccaba virgata*) heard only several nights at the Camp

Black-tailed Tropicbird (*Trogon melanocephalus*) great views at Lago Bayano and near Nuevo Vigia; heard elsewhere; this species is much more numerous in the Darien than in the Canal Zone

White-tailed Tropicbird (*Trogon chionurus*) best right along the entry road to the Camp

Gartered Tropicbird (*Trogon caligatus*) singles at the Camp and near Nuevo Vigia; formerly called Violaceous Tropicbird

Whooping Motmot (*Momotus subrufescens*) calling every morning around the Camp; seen on three different days when we tracked them down at dawn; (a split from the old Blue-crowned Motmot complex)

Ringed Kingfisher (*Ceryle torquata*) common along the Chucunaque & Membrillo rivers

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle amazona*) a dozen seen on our two boat trips

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) three total; best at Rio Torti

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle inda*) heard only

Barred Puffbird (*Nystalus radiatus*) great views along the entry road at the Camp and at the San Francisco Reserve; tied for favorite bird of the tour!

White-necked Puffbird (*Notharchus macrorhynchos*) four seen on the first boat trip and two more on the El Salto Road

Pied Puffbird (*Notharchus tectus*) several great views; six total

Gray-cheeked Nunlet (*Nonnula frontalis*) great scope views of one on the El Salto Road

Dusky-backed Jacamar (*Brachygalba salmoni*) prolonged studies of this regional specialty near Nuevo Vigia; only discovered here about three years ago

Rufous-tailed Jacamar (*Galbulia ruficauda*) heard only

Great Jacamar (*Jacamerops aureus*) great views right over our heads at the beginning of the Harpy trail; not often seen on this trip

Spot-crowned Barbet (*Capito maculicoronatus*) one in the Canopy Camp clearing was our only one

Collared Aracari (*Pteroglossus torquatus*) many nice views; almost daily

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) seen or heard daily, at times right around the tents

Yellow-throated (Chestnut-mandibled) Toucan (*Ramphastos ambiguus*) best right around the Camp the first and second days; formerly Black-mandibled and/or Chestnut-mandibled

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) common around the Camp

Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) widespread; seen daily

Red-rumped Woodpecker (*Veniliornis kirkii*) seen on two days; best at El Salto
Golden-green Woodpecker (*Piculus chrysochloros*) a female was seen right overhead thanks to Robin on Day One; a real stunner; uncommon
Spot-breasted Woodpecker (*Colaptes punctigula*) we had five of these beautiful woodpeckers; seemed to be fairly numerous in semi-open scrub country



Spot-breasted Woodpecker, near Yaviza, Panama, October 8, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Cinnamon Woodpecker (*Celeus loricatus*) oddly, this species was heard only
Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) six total



Lineated Woodpecker, Canopy Camp, Panama, October 9, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Crimson-crested Woodpecker (*Campephilus melanoleucus*) six total, including a pair in the Camp clearing; a real stunner!

Collared Forest-Falcon (*Micrastur semitorquatus*) immature bird and light morph adult seen on different days at the Camp

Red-throated Caracara (*Ibycter americanus*) one seen by one of the boats on the Rio Membrillo

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*) a couple near Panama City

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) twenty total

Laughing Falcon (*Herpetotheres cachinnans*) scope views along the El Salto Road, plus one along the Rio Membrillo

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)

Bat Falcon (*Falco rufigularis*) five total

Chestnut-fronted Macaw (*Ara severus*) perched pair along the Rio Chucunaque

Blue-and-yellow Macaw (*Ara ararauna*) one pair in quick fly-by along the El Salto Road

Great Green Macaw (*Ara ambiguus*) pair flying over the north end of Macaw Marsh; a lifer for me and a trip first!

Spectacled Parrotlet (*Forpus conspicillatus*) this rarely seen bird provided superb scope views near the indigenous village of Nuevo Vigia; this species has a tiny world range



Spectacled Parrotlet, Nuevo Vigia, Panama, October 11, 2018, Barry Zimmer

- Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) daily in numbers
Brown-hooded Parrot (*Pyrrilia haematotis*)
Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) seen daily with up to 20 per day; many good views of perched birds
Red-lored Parrot (*Amazona autumnalis*) common
Fasciated Antshrike (*Cymbilaimus lineatus*) male at the San Francisco Reserve
Great Antshrike (*Taraba major*) good views of a pair at the end of the El Salto Road; a real skulker
Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) best at Rio Torti
Black Antshrike this range restricted species was seen on two days with good looks at males
Black-crowned Antshrike (*Thamnophilus atrinucha*) formerly called Western Slaty-Antshrike
Checker-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophylla fulviventris*) pair near the Harpy nest
Dusky Antbird (*Cercomacra tyrannina*) pair at El Salto
Bare-crowned Antbird (*Gymnocichla nudiceps*) singles along the trail to the Harpy nest (male) and at the San Francisco Reserve (female); always a treat
White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) we actually had superb scope views of this skulker near the Camp; often heard but seldom seen

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) seen by some near the Harpy nest, heard only by others

Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naevioides*) heard only

Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) seen by a few, heard by others

Plain-brown Woodcreeper (*Dendrocincla fuliginosa*) one on Day Six

Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) widespread; heard often with a few seen

Streak-headed Woodcreeper (*Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*) seen on four days; nine total individuals

Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) one at San Francisco Reserve

Double-banded Graytail (*Xenerpestes minlosi*) pair nest building along the El Salto Road; regional specialty

Brown-capped Tyrannulet (*Ornithion brunneicapillus*) great views by the dining area

Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet (*Camptostoma obsoletus*)

Yellow Tyrannulet (*Capsiempis flaveola*)

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*)

Forest Elaenia (*Myiopagis gaimardi*)

Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*) our first bird of the trip at the Riande Hotel

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleagineus*) one at the San Francisco Reserve

Yellow-green Tyrannulet (*Phylloscartes flavovirens*) a great find at the San Francisco Reserve; a Panamanian endemic!

Sooty-headed Tyrannulet (*Phyllomyias grisceiceps*) nice study at the San Francisco Reserve

Southern Bentbill (*Oncostoma olivaceum*) heard only

Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*) Rio Torti & San Francisco Reserve

Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum nigriceps*) seen very well near the dining area the second morning; tiny & adorable

Yellow-margined Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias assimilis*)

Yellow-breasted Flycatcher (*Tolmomyias flaviventris*) a relatively recent invader to Panama from the south; six total

Royal Flycatcher (*Onychorhynchus coronatus*) heard only

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

Tropical Pewee (*Contopus cinereus*) San Francisco Reserve

Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*)

Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) two at San Francisco Reserve

Pied Water-Tyrant (*Fluvicola pica*) good views of a pair at a marsh near Yaviza; uncommon

Long-tailed Tyrant (*Colonia colonus*) nice views of this attractive species; five total



Long-tailed Tyrant, El Salto Road, Panama, October 10, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Bright-rumped Attila (*Attila spadiceus*) heard often, only one seen (by the Camp)
Choco Sirystes (*Sirystes albogriseus*) four along the El Salto Road were a pleasant surprise; part of a recent four way split of Sirystes
Great Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*)
Lesser Kiskadee (*Philohydor lictor*)
Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*)
Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarynchus pitangua*) numerous this year
Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) common
Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) one at Rio Tortí was our only one of the tour
Gray-capped Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes granadensis*) one along Rio Chucunaque; uncommon
Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) four total
Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) a few migrants
Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) abundant
Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*)
Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savana*) always stunning!; one of our first birds in Panama City
Cinnamon Becard (*Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*) almost daily; pair right around the Camp most days
White-winged Becard (*Pachyramphus polychropterus*) female at San Francisco Reserve; heard elsewhere

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) fine total
Black-crowned Tityra (*Tityra inquisitor*) pair near the Camp; uncommon
Purple-throated Fruitcrow (*Querula purpurata*) four total; El Salto Road
Blue Cotinga (*Cotinga nattereri*) male for some along the Rio Membrillo, then a stunning male and a female along the El Salto Road



Blue Cotinga, El Salto Road, Panama, October 10, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*)
Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*) Rio Torti
Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtatus*) San Francisco Reserve
Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) a few migrants
Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) three late migrants
Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*) best seen at the curassow house
Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne chalybea*) common
Mangrove Swallow (*Tachycineta albilinea*) Rio Chucunaque & Membrillo
Southern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*) common along rivers
Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) one at San Francisco Reserve
Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) daily in numbers
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
White-headed Wren (*Campylorhynchus albogularis*) pair right around the Camp, heard elsewhere

Black-bellied Wren (*Thryothorus fasciatoventris*) one seen along the El Salto Road; heard elsewhere; a real skulker
Isthmian Wren (*Cantorchilus elutus*) heard at Lago Bayano; formerly part of Plain Wren complex
Buff-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus leucotis*) heard several times, and finally seen at the end of the El Salto Road
White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henichorina leucosticta*) one near the Harpy nest
Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*)
Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) hard only
Tropical Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila plumbea*) a pair along the Camp entry road
Black-capped Donacobius (*Donacobius atricapilla*) great, close views of one at "Macaw Marsh" along the Pan American Highway; very uncommon & localized



Black-capped Donacobius, Macaw Marsh, Panama, October 11, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Swainson's Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) only one, not seen by all
Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) very scarce in this area compared to the Canal Zone; only nine total
Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) Torti
Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia lueicapilla*) best along Camp entry road

Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia laniirostris*) the most widespread of the euphonias
Fulvous-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia fulvicrissa*)
Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantiirostris*) pair at the San Francisco Reserve;
a real skulker
Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)
Red-breasted Blackbird (*Sturnella militaris*) twelve total
Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) heard only along the Rio
Chucunaque
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) fourteen total
Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) common & widespread; even
eating bananas at Camp feeders
Black Oropendola (*Psarocolius guatimozinus*) a few fly-bys near Yaviza followed by
great views along the Rio Membrillo; uncommon & very range restricted
Yellow-rumped Cacique (*Cacicus cela*) large flocks along the Rio Chucunaque and
Rio Membrillo
Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) our first thanks to Robin; six total
Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) one at San Francisco Reserve
Orange-crowned Oriole (*Icterus auricapillus*) pair along the El Salto Road
Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*) a few migrants
Giant Cowbird (*Molothrus oryzivorus*)
Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*)
Carib Grackle (*Quiscalus lugubris*) a few around Torti; a very recent invader to
Panama from Columbia (so recent that it was a first for me in the country!)
Yellow-hooded Blackbird (*Chrysomus icterocephalus*) quite a few at Macaw Marsh in
the late afternoon
Northern Waterthrush (*Seiurus novaboracensis*) only one
Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) two total
Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica petechia*) common
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Myiothlypis fulvicauda*) pair along river at San Francisco
Reserve
Canada Warbler (*Wilsonia canadensis*) one seen
Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)
Blue-black Grosbeak (*Cyanocompsa cyanoides*) heard only
Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) common
Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) common
Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) gorgeous; six total
Plain-colored Tanager (*Tangara inornata*) fairly common
White-eared Conebill (*Conirostrum leucogenys*) very good views of four along the
El Salto Road
Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*) our first thanks to Trenay
White-shouldered Tanager (*Tachyphonus luctuosus*) eleven total
Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) near Sinai & Nuevo Vigia;
four total
Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) "sangre del toro"; fairly
common

Blue Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) five total; good views of female at San Francisco Reserve
Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) very common
Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Sporophila funerea*) San Francisco Reserve
Large-billed Seed-Finch (*Oryzoborus crassirostris*) this species was first recorded in Panama in 2009 as it moved northward from Colombia; still considered rare & localized here; we had great views of one near Yaviza
Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila corvina*)
Ruddy-breasted Seedeater (*Sporophila minuta*) San Francisco Reserve

total species - **248**

***in combination with the Canopy Lodge tour 366 species were seen

LEADER ONLY BIRDS:

Purple-crowned Fairy
Semiplumbeous Hawk
Slaty-tailed Tropicbird
American Pygmy Kingfisher
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher
Cliff Swallow
Scarlet Tanager
Yellow-bellied Seedeater

MAMMALS:

Common Opossum
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth---one that showed well along the El Salto Road
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth---one spotted by Trenay sleeping along the entry road to the Camp
Geoffroy's Tamarin---adorable; seen daily; several nice views, often right around the tents & at the banana feeders
White-throated Capuchin---a few right around our tents & at the feeders most days



White-throated Capuchin, Canopy Camp, Panama, October 8, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Western Night Monkey---seen on two nights just off the dining area
Mantled Howler Monkey---heard often; great views along the Rio Chucunaque and on
the El Salto Road
Red-tailed Squirrel
Forest Rabbit---leader only
Tree rat species
unidentified bat species (probably several as we saw different sizes)
White-nosed Coati---often visiting the feeders

total species – 12+

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:

Mediterranean (House) Gecko
Yellow-headed Gecko
Striped Basilisk
Ameiva species

Green Iguana
Spectacled Caiman
Marine Toad

Total species - 7

BUTTERFLIES:

Parides sesotris--Emerald-patched Cattleheart
Parides species---probably Variable Cattleheart (*P. erithalion*)
Papilio thoas--Thoas Swallowtail
Phoebis argante--Apricot Sulphur
Strymon ziba--Ziba (Red-spotted) Scrub-Hairstreak
Arawacus species---Stripestreak species (Chiapas?)
Detritivora barnesi--Cloaked Scintillant
Dryas julia--Julia Heliconian
Heliconius erato--Erato Heliconian
Heliconius hecale--Heart-spotted (Hecale) Heliconian
Heliconius sara--Sara Heliconian
Heliconius cydno--Cydno Heliconian
Heliconius charithonia--Zebra Heliconian
Chlosyne janais--Crimson Patch
Anartia fatima--Banded Peacock
Anartia jatrophae--White Peacock
Siproeta stelenes--Malachite
Adelpha species--- Sister species
Colobura dirce--Small (Dirce) Beauty
Hamadryas laodamia--Starry Cracker (female)
Hamadryas feronia--Variable Cracker
Hamadryas amphinome--Red Cracker
Hamadryas ipthime--Brownish Cracker
Prepona--Two-spotted Prepona
Historis odius--Orion Cecropian
Morpho helenor--Common Morpho
Caligo telemonius--Yellow-fronted Owl-Butterfly
Danaus plexippus--Monarch
Danaus gillipis--Queen
Satyr species
Urbanus simplicius--Plain Longtail
Paches loxus--Brilliant Blue-Skipper



Brilliant Blue-Skipper, El Salto Road, Panama, October 10, 2018, Barry Zimmer

+several additional unidentified skippers

total species – 31+

***Many butterfly identifications were somewhat speculative, but were (at least initially) 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. I have tried to include a common name when known.

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:

Giant (Helicopter) Damselfly

Carmine Skimmer

Leafcutter ants

Eel species

Panamanian Cord Snake