

**PANAMA: FALL AT
EL VALLE'S CANOPY LODGE
SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 6, 2018**



Spectacled Owl, El Valle, Panama, October 1, 2018, Barry Zimmer

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By Barry Zimmer

There were so many magical moments on our weeklong Canopy Lodge tour that it is hard to know where to start in describing the highlights of our awesome trip. Perhaps, the twenty minutes spent marveling at a family group of Spectacled Owls no more than 60 feet away should top the list. The pair, with their fledged young bird at their side, allowed lengthy studies and superb photographic opportunities. These owls were voted the runaway winner of the “favorite bird of the tour” competition. And yet, was it even the most memorable bird sighting of the day? On that same day, we tallied a rare “motmot slam”—four species of motmots in the same day. From the impressive Rufous Motmot dominating the Lodge feeders at dawn to the wonderful pair of Broad-billed Motmots that posed along the Las Minas Road right over our heads, to the furtive Tody Motmot that eventually allowed great scope views, and to the Lesson’s Motmot late in the day with its electric-blue crown glowing in the afternoon sun, we enjoyed incredible views of all four species. In how many locales can one tally four species of motmots in a day?

And what about the thirty minutes spent watching a fruiting Ficus tree along the Las Minas Road earlier that same day? It seemed like every color in the rainbow was represented by the birds visiting the tree that morning. A half-dozen turquoise and black Scarlet-thighed Dacnis were like tropical Christmas ornaments scattered about the upper right portion of the tree. Green Honeycreepers and Silver-throated Tanagers near the top added to the avian rainbow of colors. A pair of Spot-crowned Barbets popped in briefly, and then a fluorescent, lime-green Emerald Tanager appeared. A male Crimson-backed Tanager with its improbable blood-red plumage dotted the middle of the tree, while two Golden-collared Manakins arrived down near the bottom. Blue-gray Tanager, Golden-hooded Tanager, Tawny-capped Euphonia, Bananaquit, and Bay-headed Tanager all arrived at the scene. It was a dizzying kaleidoscope of color feasting on the fruit of this one tree. Thirty feet down the road a male Black-throated Trogon was spotted almost directly above us, and we had awesome scope studies for several minutes. Suddenly it flushed and was replaced by a male Collared Trogon on the exact same spot of the branch! Two minutes later, the Collared Trogon flew and was replaced by the aforementioned Broad-billed Motmots! That was a productive branch! All of these amazing sightings occurred on the second day of our trip, and I’m not even sure that it was our most productive day of the tour!

Our second day in the upper elevation forests of Altos del Maria was certainly equally rewarding. One 45-minute stretch of that day was about as good as it gets. Walking down the road near Valle Bonito, we heard the song of a Brown-billed Scythebill nearby. With some effort we lured this improbable-looking bird with its bizarre bill into view. This species is very uncommon and recorded on only about a third of trips to this area. As we were enjoying scope studies of the scythebill, a male White-ruffed Manakin was spotted right above us. Deciding it was time for a midmorning snack and drink break, we set up

camp next to a blooming Inga tree just down the road. Almost immediately a Northern Emerald-Toucanet was sighted behind our vehicles, and everyone rushed to get scope views of this gem. Just as the toucanet disappeared, a stunning Bat Falcon was spotted on a bare snag to the left. Although fairly common throughout most of Central America, this species is nothing short of spectacular. Drinks and snacks in hand, we resumed our watch of the Inga flowers. Quickly a female Green Thorntail was discovered on its perch, and we had great looks at this uncommon hummingbird species. Within moments someone else spied a male thorntail with its long train of retrices hanging down greater than the length of its tiny body. In time, our main target of the day, the incomparable Snowcap, made multiple appearances but was usually chased away by one of the thorntails before everyone could get a good view. With patience, however, we finally found his perch and had long scope views of this beauty. The Snowcap measures out at only two and a half inches and has a largely wine-colored body highlighted by a brilliant white cap and a mostly white tail. Frankly, it must be seen to be believed! What an unbelievably lucky and productive 45-minute stretch!

Many other memorable and amazing moments occurred on other days of the tour. The Pearl Kite that allowed us to walk right underneath it near Antón was certainly on that list. Likewise, the three (!) roosting Tropical Screech-Owls found by Moyo in about half-an-hour were unforgettable, as was the feisty Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl a few hours later. A flock of Black-and-yellow Tanagers that posed in morning light on Altos del Maria was clearly something that none of us will ever forget. Two brilliant White Hawks allowed scope views next to the road—yet another mind-blowing species. And what about the pair of Dull-mantled Antbirds almost in our laps at Valle Bonito? The list goes on and on.

Of course, I haven't even mentioned some of the common species that make a visit to the Tropics so special. From Keel-billed Toucans to Lineated Woodpeckers, to Blue-headed Parrots, and to Gray-cowled Wood-Rails eating bananas on a feeder, we were never without something exotic to look at.

In all, we tallied an impressive 230 species of birds in our weeklong stay. Additionally, we saw 11 species of mammals (including 2 kinds of sloths) and an impressive 57 species of butterflies (many of them every bit as spectacular as the birds!). Somewhat surprisingly, we managed to avoid rain for most of the week and enjoyed the considerably cooler temperatures of the foothills. Simply put, a trip to the Canopy Lodge never disappoints!

ITINERARY:

September 29 – arrival in Panama City

September 30 – birding on hotel grounds pre-breakfast, arrival in El Valle around 10:30 AM; afternoon birding at Valle Chiquito (75 species)

October 1 – lodge feeders, La Mesa (mostly on the Las Minas Road), Cara Iguana (Cariguana) Trail in afternoon (95 species; 126 total)

October 2 – most of the day on Altos del Maria, lodge feeders in late afternoon (73 species; 156 total)

October 3 - Altos del Maria all day (specifically to the Valle Bontio area); lodge feeders in late afternoon (110 species; 174 total)

October 4 – El Valle Cemetery, Pacific Lolwands, including Antón, Juan Hombrón, Santa Clara (102 species; 220 total)

October 5 – Canopy Lodge feeders, Canopy Adventure, La Mesa, drive to Panama City (68 species; 230 total)

October 6 – departures for home (230 total species)

KEY:

Underlined species represent birds of very uncommon occurrence or species that occur regularly but in such low densities as to be easily missed

Bold-faced species indicate birds of rare, casual, or accidental occurrence

BIRDS:

Little Tinamou (*Crypturellus soui*) heard only at Valle Chiquito

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck (*Dendrocygna autumnalis*) at our Panama hotel (Muscovy Duck) (*Cairina moschata*) feral birds flying over the lodge one day

Gray-headed Chachalaca (*Ortalis cinereiceps*) visiting the lodge feeders on two afternoons; also at Valle Chiquito

Rock Pigeon (*Columba livia*)

Pale-vented Pigeon (*Patagioenas cayennensis*) great views at Panama City hotel

Scaled Pigeon (*Patagioenas speciosa*)

White-winged Dove (*Zenaida asiatica*) a surprise find near Antón

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove (*Columbina minuta*) one near Antón

Ruddy Ground-Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) common

White-tipped Dove (*Leptotila verreauxi*) almost daily

Purplish-backed Quail-Dove (*Zentrygon lawrencii*) very much of a surprise find on our way down from Altos del Maria; only seen by parts of two vehicles (Barry's & Moyo's)

Squirrel Cuckoo (*Piaya cayana*) nice views of this striking species (five total)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americana*) one flew over the lodge grounds and was seen by some

Greater Ani (*Crotophaga major*) two at Juan Hombrón; uncommon here

Smooth-billed Ani (*Crotophaga ani*)

Groove-billed Ani (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) fairly common around Antón

Common Pauraque (*Nyctidromus albicollis*) wonderful studies of bird on day roost at the Cara Iguana trail

White-collared Swift (*Strptoprocne zonaris*) one high over La Mesa

Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift (*Panyptila cayennensis*) one over our Panama city hotel

White-necked Jacobin (*Florisuga mellivora*) one on Altos del Maria

Green Hermit (*Phaethornis guy*) four total; our first thanks to Herman

Long-billed Hermit (*Phaethornis longirostris*) two seen

Stripe-throated Hermit (*Phaethornis striigularis*) only two this year
Purple-crowned Fairy (*Heliothryx barroti*) seen only by a few
 Black-throated Mango (*Anthracothorax nigricollis*) female at Valle Chiquito
Green Thorntail (*Discosura conversii*) very good views of a male and females (three total) in blooming Inga trees on Altos del Maria
Green-crowned Brilliant (*Heliodoxa jacula*) one male on Altos del Maria that was only seen by a few; very uncommon here
Long-billed Starthroat (*Helimaster longirostris*) one or two guarding Erythrina flowers at the Lodge most days; generally uncommon
 Violet-headed Hummingbird (*Klais guimeti*) female on the lodge grounds one afternoon; uncommon
Snowcap (*Microchera albocoronata*) after some time & effort, we had scope views of a male near Valle Bonito; we saw a total of eight individuals; one of the great hummingbirds of the world!
 White-vented Plumeleteer (*Chalybura buffonii*) one at the Canopy Lodge feeders
 Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (*Chalybura urochrysia*) scope views on Altos del Maria (including the cute pink feet!)
 Crowned Woodnymph (*Thalurania colombica*) eleven total (including some spectacular males)
 Blue-chested Hummingbird (*Amazilia amabilis*) one on the Lodge grounds the first day; uncommon here
 Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (*Amazilia edward*) regular on the lodge grounds
 Rufous-tailed Hummingbird (*Amazilia tzacatl*) common
 Sapphire-throated Hummingbird (*Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*) nice studies of three in the Pacific lowlands
 Gray-cowled Wood-Rail (*Aramides cajanea*) great views of one or two on several days at the Lodge feeders; part of recent split from the old Gray-necked Wood-Rail
 Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*) best views on La Mesa
 Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*) a few along the beaches of Santa Clara
 Sanderling (*Calidris alba*) flock of fifteen on the Santa Clara beach
 Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*) one at the Panama City hotel
 Solitary Sandpiper (*Tringa solitaria*) one or two at Antón
 Willet (*Tringa semipalmata*) fifteen or so on the beaches of Santa Clara & Juan Hombrón
 Laughing Gull (*Leucophaeus atricilla*)
 Royal Tern (*Thalasseus maximus*)
 Magnificent Frigatebird (*Fregata magnificens*) about 250 around Santa Clara (many quite close), plus a few elsewhere
Blue-footed Booby (*Sula nebouxii*) about ten off beaches of Santa Clara, some fairly close fly-bys
 Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
 Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
 Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)
 Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)
 Little Blue Heron (*Egretta caerulea*)
 Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*)

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*)

Black-crowned Night-Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)

Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) daily in numbers

Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) ditto

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture (*Cathartes burrovianus*) about ten total around Anton & Juan Hombron

Hook-billed Kite (*Chondrohierax uncinatus*) female flying over Antón; very uncommon here

Pearl Kite (*Gampsonyx swainsonii*) unbelievably close views of one perched on the wires at Juan Hombrón; voted the second favorite bird of the tour!



Pearl Kite, Juan Hombron, Panama, October 4, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Common Black Hawk (*Buteogallus anthracinus*)

Savanna Hawk (*Buteogallus meridionalis*) about six in the Pacific lowlands

Great Black Hawk (*Buteogallus urubitinga*) one adult bird that flew right in front of us at Altos del Maria

Roadside Hawk (*Buteo magnirostris*)

White Hawk (*Leucopternis albicollis*) perched scope views of two; always stunning

Short-tailed Hawk (*Buteo brachyurus*) four total

Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) one flew over the lodge and was seen by a few of us

Tropical Screech-Owl (*Megascops choliba*) three roosting birds right next to the road at Antón thanks to Moyo; amazing studies

Spectacled Owl (*Pulsatrix perspicillata*) incredible, prolonged scope views of three roosting birds (two adults and a mostly grown young) along Cara Iguana Trail; voted the favorite bird of the tour!; WOW!

Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl (*Glaucidium brasilianum*) fantastic views at Santa Clara



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Santa Clara, Panama, October 4, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Black-throated Trogon (*Trogon rufus*) fantastic scope views of male right over our heads on the Las Minas trail; uncommon here

Orange-bellied Trogon (*Trogon aurantiiventris*) four total this year, with superb views of that males & females; regionally endemic

Tody Motmot (*Hylomanes momotula*) wonderful scope views of one right on the Lodge grounds after missing this special bird elsewhere

Lesson's Motmot (*Momotus lessoni*) two on the Cara Iguana Trail and then one more flying in front of the van en route to the lowlands; part of recent three-way split off the old Blue-crowned Motmot; completed our rare "motmot slam" for Day two

Rufous Motmot (*Baryphthengus martii*) a fairly regular (and spectacular) visitor to the lodge feeders!; voted the third favorite bird of the tour!



Rufous Motmot, Canopy Lodge, Panama, October 1, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Broad-billed Motmot (*Electron platyrhynchum*) a somewhat unexpected seven total; exceptional views; uncommon

Ringed Kingfisher (*Megaceryle torquata*) one along the Pan American Highway

Amazon Kingfisher (*Chloroceyle amazona*) one at the Lodge on two different days

Green Kingfisher (*Chloroceryle americana*) intermittently a pair around the Lodge pond; also one at Valle Bonito

Spot-crowned Barbet (*Capito maculicoronatus*) pair at the fruiting tree on the Las Minas trail; uncommon

Northern Emerald (Blue-throated) Toucanet (*Aulacorhynchus prasinus*) a very cooperative bird near Valle Bonito that allowed lengthy scope studies; uncommon

Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) a few really good views including right at our Panama City hotel, although only seven total were seen this year; the essence of the tropics; tied for the fourth favorite bird of the tour!

Black-cheeked Woodpecker (*Melanerpes pucherani*) two at Valle Bonito

Red-crowned Woodpecker (*Melanerpes rubricapillus*) almost daily

Lineated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus lineatus*) scope views of one on the Las Minas trail

Crested Caracara (*Caracara cheriway*)

Yellow-headed Caracara (*Milvago chimachima*) sixteen total, including a pair at our Panama City hotel

American Kestrel (*Falco sparverius*)



Keel-billed Toucan, Valle Chiquito, Panama, September 30, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Applomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*) scope views of one perched near Antón; very uncommon & always a treat

Bat Falcon (*Falco ruficularis*) gorgeous bird spotted by Sarah near Valle Bonito

Orange-chinned Parakeet (*Brotogeris jugularis*) daily with up to 16 in a day; several nice views of this species

Blue-headed Parrot (*Pionus menstruus*) less numerous than usual; but still seen on five days; scope views of perched birds for one vehicle (Victor's) coming down from Altos del Maria

Barred Antshrike (*Thamnophilus doliatus*) good looks of this species at Panama City hotel, Cara Iguana, and Juan Hombrón; eight total

Russet Antshrike (*Thamnistes anabatinus*) Altos del Maria

Plain Antvireo (*Dysithamnus mentalis*) Altos del Maria & La Mesa

Spot-crowned Antvireo (*Dysithamnus puncticeps*) great studies at Altos del Maria & La Mesa

White-flanked Antwren (*Myrmotherula axillaris*) one at La Mesa the last morning

Checker-throated Antwren (*Epinecrophylia fulviventris*) pair at La Mesa the last morning

White-bellied Antbird (*Myrmeciza longipes*) heard only on the way up to Altos del Maria the second time; a real skulker

Chestnut-backed Antbird (*Myrmeciza exsul*) seen quite well on the Las Minas trail

Dull-mantled Antbird (*Myrmeciza laemosticta*) incredible views of this localized species near the lake at Valle Bonito
 Spotted Antbird (*Hylophylax naeviioides*) heard only on La Mesa
 Black-faced Antthrush (*Formicarius analis*) heard only
 Wedge-billed Woodcreeper (*Glyphorhynchus spirurus*) three total; uncommon
 Cocoa Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus susurrans*) oddly scarce this year with only two seen
 Spotted Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*) six total with several really good views
Straight-billed Woodcreeper (*Xiphorhynchus picus*) very cooperative bird at Antón; uncommon & local
Brown-billed Scythebill (*Campylorhamphus pusillus*) the second day on Altos del Maria we had killer views of this very uncommon & seldom seen bird; tied for fourth favorite bird of the tour
 Plain Xenops (*Xenops minutus*) scope study on the Las Minas trail
Spotted Barbtail (*Premnoplex brunnescens*) three total on Altos del Maria
Red-faced Spinetail (*Cranioleuca erythrops*) great views after some effort on Altos del Maria
 Pale-breasted Spinetail (*Synallaxis albescens*) heard only at Antón
 Southern Beardless-Tyrannuleet (*Camptostoma obsoletum*) Antón
 Mouse-colored Tyrannulet (*Phaeomyias murina*) Antón
 Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet (*Tyrannulus elatus*) heard only at Panama City hotel (seen by those who stayed on October 6 to continue to Canopy Camp tour)
 Yellow-bellied Elaenia (*Elaenia flavogaster*)
 Olive-striped Flycatcher (*Mionectes olivaceus*) five total
 Ochre-bellied Flycatcher (*Mionectes oleaginous*) one the last afternoon at the Lodge
 Paltry Tyrannulet (*Zimmerius vilissimus*) surprisingly scarce with only two seen
 Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pileatus*) three total
Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant (*Lophotriccus pilaris*) two at Antón
 Common Tody-Flycatcher (*Todirostrum cinereum*)
White-throated Spadebill (*Platyrinchus mystaceus*) scope views of one for most on Altos del Maria; very uncommon
Bran-colored Flycatcher (*Myiophobus fasciatus*) good views of one en route to Altos del Maria; uncommon & local
 Tufted Flycatcher (*Mitrephanes phaeocercus*) great views of this handsome flycatcher in the highlands
 Eastern Wood-Pewee (*Contopus virens*) very common
 Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*)
 Dusky-capped Flycatcher (*Myiarchus tuberculifer*) one in the Lodge gardens the last day
 Panama Flycatcher (*Myiarchus panamensis*) two in the Pacific lowlands
 Great Kiskadee (*Pitangus sulphuratus*) very common
 Boat-billed Flycatcher (*Megarhynchus pitangua*) six total
 Rusty-margined Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes cayanensis*) pair at Juan Hombrón
 Social Flycatcher (*Myiozetetes similis*) widespread & common
 Streaked Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes maculatus*) one in the lowlands

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher (*Myiodynastes luteiventris*) several migrants; best at Cara Iguana Ficus tree

Piratic Flycatcher (*Legatus leucophalus*) very late pair at Ficus tree on Cara Iguana trail

Tropical Kingbird (*Tyrannus melancholicus*) abundant in open country

Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) two migrants

Gray Kingbird (*Tyrannus dominicensis*) one on road to Juan Hombrón

Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Tyrannus savanna*) three total; always spectacular

White-winged Becard (*Pacyramphus polycopterus*) one at Cara Iguana

Masked Tityra (*Tityra semifasciata*) four at Cara Iguana

Lance-tailed Manakin (*Chiroxiphia lanceolata*) female on Antón Road

White-ruffed Manakin (*Corapipo altera*) four total including one adult male spotted near Valle Bonito

Golden-collared Manakin (*Manacus vitellinus*) two males displaying and one female on the Las Minas Road

Rufous-browed Peppershrike (*Cyclarhis gujanensis*) heard only at Santa Clara

Scrub Greenlet (*Hylophilus flavipes*) five total

Lesser Greenlet (*Pachysylvia decurtatus*)

Golden-fronted Greenlet (*Pachysylvia aurantiifrons*) road to Antón

Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) migrants some days

Yellow-green Vireo (*Vireo flavoviridis*) one late bird from some at Antón

Black-chested Jay (*Cyanocorax affinis*) less numerous than usual, but exceptional views heading up to Altos del Maria the second day

Gray-breasted Martin (*Progne subis*)

Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*)

Scaly-breasted Wren (*Microcerculus marginatus*) heard only

House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) seen daily; this is the “Southern House Wren”, *T. musculus*, of some authors

Ochraceous Wren (*Troglodytes ochraceus*) pair above the mini-golf course on Altos del Maria the second day was seen well; regional endemic

Rufous-breasted Wren (*Thryothorus rutilus*) perhaps best on the Cara Iguana trail

Isthmian Wren (*Cantorchilus elutus*) nice views at Panama City hotel; heard elsewhere; part of three way split of the old Plain Wren complex

Bay Wren (*Thryothorus nigricapillus*) often heard & sometimes seen right around the rooms, occasionally elsewhere; another skulker; best the final day near the bridge

White-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henichorina leucosticta*) superb studies of this skulker on La Mesa the last morning

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren (*Henicorhina leucophrys*) great views of this skulker after much effort on Altos del Maria

Song Wren (*Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*) incredibly, we had prolonged scope views of one on the Las Minas Road

Tawny-faced Gnatwren (*Microbatas cinereiventris*) heard only on La Mesa

Long-billed Gnatwren (*Ramphocaenus melanurus*) heard only on the Las Minas Road

Swainson’s Thrush (*Catharus ustulatus*) only two this year

Pale-vented Thrush (*Turdus obsoletus*) four on Altos del Maria each day; very uncommon

Clay-colored Thrush (*Turdus grayi*) abundant
 Tropical Mockingbird (*Mimus gilvus*)
 House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) an unprecedented seven at the bathroom stop in Antón; very localized in Panama
 Yellow-crowned Euphonia (*Euphonia luteicapilla*)
 Thick-billed Euphonia (*Euphonia lanirostris*) common at lodge feeders & elsewhere
White-vented Euphonia (*Euphonia minuta*) nine on Altos del Maria; generally uncommon
 Tawny-capped Euphonia (*Euphonia anneae*) seventeen total; seen most days
 Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*) two at Valle Chiquito the first afternoon
Rosy Thrush-Tanager (*Rhodinocichla rosea*) this skulker was seen by about half the group on the Cara Iguana trail
 Orange-billed Sparrow (*Arremon aurantillostris*) seen on three occasions around the Lodge; best right from the bridge two days; what a bill!
Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch (*Arremon brunneinucha*) great views of this skulker the last morning on La Mesa
 Common Chlorospingus (*Chlorospingus flavopectus*) common on Altos de Maria; the distinctive subspecies *punctulatu*; formerly known as Common Bush-Tanager
 Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*)
 Red-breasted Blackbird (*Leistes militaris*) Antón
 Yellow-billed Cacique (*Amblycercus holosericeus*) heard only at Valle Chiquito
Crested Oropendola (*Psarocolius decumanus*) one for one vehicle (Victor's) coming back from Altos del Maria
 Chestnut-headed Oropendola (*Psarocolius wagleri*) regular around lodge (though mostly as flyovers) and elsewhere
 Orchard Oriole (*Icterus spurius*) two total
Yellow-backed Oriole (*Icterus chrysater*) pair seen in at Valle Chiquito just before the rains came; uncommon
 Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*)
 Great-tailed Grackle (*Quiscalus mexicanus*) abundant in open country
 Northern Waterthrush (*Parkesia noveboracensis*)
 Black-and-white Warbler (*Mniotilta varia*)
 Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*) four in the lowlands; stunning!
 Tennessee Warbler (*Oreothlypis peregrina*)
 Mourning Warbler (*Oporornis philadelphia*)
Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*) a stunning surprise was an immature male on the Lodge grounds the first afternoon; a tour first and a new bird for me in Panama!
 Blackburnian Warbler (*Setophaga fusca*) twelve total
 Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*) mostly in the lowlands
 Chestnut-sided Warbler (*Setophaga pensylvanica*) for some at Antón
Buff-rumped Warbler (*Phaeothlypis fulvicauda*) pair around the Lodge daily; usually uncommon, but conspicuous this year
 Rufous-capped Warbler (*Basileuterus rufifrons*) seen most days
 Canada Warbler (*Cardelina canadensis*) two total

Dusky-faced Tanager (*Mitrospingus cassinii*) group of five or six were daily visitors to the feeders

Hepatic Tanager (*Piranga flava*) the Panamanian race *testacea* which is almost certainly a different species than the one found in the United States

Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*)

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager (*Habia rubica*) best on La Mesa the last morning

Blue-gray Tanager (*Thraupis episcopus*) common, especially at the feeders

Palm Tanager (*Thraupis palmarum*) seen daily

Golden-hooded Tanager (*Tangara larvata*) seven total; most seen on the Lodge grounds; gorgeous!

Bay-headed Tanager (*Tangara gyrola*) a real stunner

Emerald Tanager (*Tangara florida*) one in the fruiting Ficus tree on the Las Minas Road; very uncommon here

Silver-throated Tanager (*Tangara icterocephala*) common in upper elevations

Green Honeycreeper (*Chlorophanes spiza*) stunning!; ten total

Black-and-yellow Tanager (*Chryothlypis chrysomelas*) absolutely spectacular

Blue-black Grassquit (*Volatinia jacarina*)

Tawny-crested Tanager (*Tachyphonus delatrii*) only two this year; brief views

Flame-rumped Tanager (*Ramphocelus flammigerus*) regular at the lodge feeders and elsewhere; truly stunning

Crimson-backed Tanager (*Ramphocelus dimidiatus*) daily, especially at the feeders; spectacular; tied for fourth favorite bird of the tour!



Crimson-backed Tanager, Canopy Lodge, Panama, September 30, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Shining Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes lucidus*) female on Altos del Maria
Red-legged Honeycreeper (*Cyanerpes cyaneus*) a few females & immatures at Cara Iguana
Scarlet-thighed Dacnis (*Dacnis cayana*) a very good trip for this stunning species with thirteen seen, including many males; best at the fruiting Ficus on the Las Minas road
Bananaquit (*Coereba flaveola*) common around lodge garden and elsewhere
Yellow-faced Grassquit (*Tiaris olivaceus*)
Thick-billed Seed-Finch (*Sporophila funerea*) one female on Altos del Maria
Variable Seedeater (*Sporophila americana*)
Yellow-bellied Seedeater (*Sporophila nigricollis*) three at our Panama city hotel
Wedge-tailed Grass-Finch (*Emberizoides herbicola*) nice scope views near the cemetery; uncommon
Black-headed Saltator (*Saltator atriceps*) two on the way up to Altos del Maria the second day
Buff-throated Saltator (*Saltator maximus*) one or two most days; best at the lodge feeders
Slate-colored Grosbeak (*Saltator grossus*)
Streaked Saltator (*Saltator striatipectus*)

Total species – **230**



Golden-hooded Tanager, Canopy Lodge, Panama, October 4, 2018, Barry Zimmer

LEADER ONLY BIRDS:

Black Guan
Peregrine falcon
Louisiana Waterthrush

MAMMALS:

Common Opossum---one evening on one of the feeder trays
Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth---seven total; great studies
Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth---one that put on a great show at the Canopy Adventure



Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth, Canopy Adventure, Panama, October 5, 2018, Barry Zimmer

Western Dwarf Squirrel----scope views of this adorable critter
Red-tailed Squirrel---banana thieves!
Variegated Squirrel
Central American Agouti---common around the Lodge, including some babies
Forest Rabbit (Tapeti)----leader only at dawn at the Lodge
Great Fruit-eating Bat---flying around as we watched the Tody Motmot
Bat species----probably several unidentified, including some small and medium sized species
Tayra----seen by Moyo & Phyllis only; uncommonly seen

Total species – 11+

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:

Striped Basilisk

Ameiva species---sometimes called Central American Whiptail

Green Iguana

Spiny-tailed Iguana

Mediterranean Gecko

Eyesh Viper----spotted by Danilo at Valle Bonito; great views

Cane Toad

Milk Frog----a huge tree frog specie

Total species – 8

BUTTERFLIES:

Emerald-patched Cattleheart (*Parides sesotris*)

Cattleheart white (*Archonias brassolis*)

Thoas Swallowtail (*Papilio thoas*)

Panamanian Kite-Swallowtail (*Protographium agesilaus*)---a new species for the Canopy Family list which is over 1000 species total)

Apricot Sulphur (*Phoebis argante*)

Cloudless Sulphur (*Phoebis sennae*)

Bright Brangas (*Brangas getus*)

Bitias Hairstreak (*Panthiades bitias*)

Ochus Hairstreak (*Pantades ochus*)

Red-bordered Pixie (*Melanis pixe*)----at Panama City hotel for some

Brilliant Greenmark (*Caria mantinea*)

Honduran Metalmark (*Caria rhacotis*)

Giant Anteros (*Anteros kupris*)

Black-bellied Jewelmark (*Anteros formosus*)

Renaldus Jewelmark (*Anteros renaldus*)---the one with the fuzzy pink feet!

Sailor's Lemmark (*Thisbe irenea*)

Juno Heliconian (*Dione juno*)

Zebra Heliconian (*Heliconius charithonia*)

Banded Orange Heliconian (*Dryadula phaetusa*)

Dot-bordered (Doris) Heliconian (*Laparus doris*)

Erato Heliconian (*Heliconius erato*)

Sara Heliconian (*Heliconius sara*)

Cydno Heliconian (*Heliconius cydno*)

Crimson Patch (*Chlosyne janais*)

Narva Checkerspot (*Chlosyne narva*)

Creamy Crescent (*Eresia clio*)



Honduran Metalmark, Canopy Lodge, Panama, October 5, 2018, Barry Zimmer

White-dotted Crescent (*Castilia ofella*)
 Black-bordered Tegosa (*Tegosa anieta*)
 Orange-patched Crescent (*Phyciodes drusilla*)
 Three-banded (Variable) Crescent (*Eresia ithomioides*)
 Banded Peacock (*Anartia fatima*)
 White Peacock (*Anartia jatrophae*)
 Rusty-tipped Page (*Siptoeta epaphus*)
 Malachite (*Siproeta stelenes*)
 Zina Sister (*Adelpha zina*)
 Celerio Sister (*Adelpha serpa*)
 Prepona species
 Common Morpho (*Morpho helenor*)
 Cypris Morpho (*Morpho cypris*)
 Short-tailed Morpho (*Morpho theseus*)
 Yellow-bordered Owl Butterfly (*Caligo uranus*)
 White Satyr (*Pareuptychia ocirrhoe*)
 Blue-smudged Satyr (*Chloreuptychia arnaca*)
 Satyr species
 Diasia Clearwing (*Ithomia disaia*)
 Common Ghost-Skipper (Phanus) (*Phanus marshallii*)
 Glassy-winged Skipper (*Xenophanes tryxus*)
 Broken Silverdrop (*Epargyreus exadeus*)

Frosted Flasher (*Astrartes alardus*)
Yellow-tipped Flasher (*Astrartes anaphus*)
Two-barred Flasher (*Astrartes fulgerator*)
Teleus Longtail (*Urbanus teleus*)
Golden-snouted Scallopwing (*Staphylus vulgata*)
Common Blue Skipper (*Quadras cerialis*)
Red-studded Skipper (*Noctuana stator*)
Marciana Skipper (*Milanion marciana*)
Itona Skipper

Total species –57 (plus many, many others left completely unidentified)

***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. Also, many of these identifications were thanks to Tino Sanchez, who aided us tremendously on butterfly IDs.



Hercules Beetle, Valle Bonito, Panama, October 3, 2018, Barry Zimmer

SIGNIFICANT OTHERS:

Hercules Beetle----wow this thing was amazing; a lifer for me

Giant (Helicopter) Damselfly----also called Blue-winged Damselfly

Pseudosphinx Moth caterpillar----at the Spectacled Owl site

Large Maple Spanworm Moth

Scorpion species

Dobson fly larva

Jamming to Wall of Voodoo on Altos del Maria---Victor's new favorite band!