

PANAMA & DARIEN

17 JANUARY – 8 FEBRUARY 2009

TOUR REPORT

LEADER: MATT DENTON

Panama offers some of Central America's best wilderness birding, and this year's tour excelled in many ways. We visit the western, central and eastern parts of this narrow republic, making for a single comprehensive tour unequalled by other companies. All of the Pirre endemics, Beautiful Treerunner, Pirre Warbler, Pirre Bush-Tanager and Green-naped Tanager were seen well in addition to the many Darien specialties seen that included Russet-crowned Quail-Dove, Rufous-cheeked (Pirre) Hummingbird, Dusky-backed Jacamar, Varied Solitaire and Viridian Dacnis. Our total for the trip of 525 species includes many range-restricted and threatened species, over 20 birds confined to the Costa Rica and Panama highlands Endemic Bird Area (this EBA is more extensively covered on our Costa Rica tour), and quite a few species largely ranging in Panama and hard-to-access parts of Colombia and north-western Ecuador. Some of the other many memorable birds included country endemics such as Veraguas Mango and Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, spectacular birds such as Great Green Macaw, Tooth-billed Hummingbird, Ocellated Antbird, Thicket (Fulvous-bellied) and Streak-chested (Spectacled) Antpittas, Black-tipped and Blue Cotingas, Black Oropendola and Blue-and-gold Tanager as well as some little known birds such as Green Manakin and the enigmatic Sapayoa.

We got off to a great start on our first morning atop the new rainforest canopy tower located in Soberanía National Park. There were numerous Keel-billed and Chestnut-mandibled Toucans perched out along with Blue-headed Parrots and Red-lore Amazons. It did not take long for our keen eyes to turn up a gleaming male Blue Cotinga and the relentless song of the Green Shrike-Vireo seemed closer and closer until suddenly we were all watching a pair of these canopy denizens in a neighbouring treetop. A Brown-capped Tyrannulet was seen repeatedly near our tree, a sluggish Black-breasted Puffbird perched out for long studies and a Fasciated Antshrike slowly worked its way around the canopy. Purple-throated Fruitcrows were also prominent and at a nearby marsh we found a Sungrebe scooting across the tranquil waters as a Snail Kite calmly surveyed the scene. The morning activity continued with Rufous and Broad-billed Motmots allowing good views and Western White-tailed and Northern Violaceous Trogons perching out in the morning light. Slaty-tailed Trogons were downright numerous at times as we got to grips with the understory flocks comprised of Western Slaty Antshrike, Checker-throated, White-flanked and Dot-winged Antwrens and Cocoa Woodcreepers. There were some splendid woodpeckers that included Crimson-crested and Lineated as well as Cinnamon Woodpeckers. There were also some very nice manakins in these forests and we had our first encounters with the loud and boisterous Golden-collared Manakin as well as the

more subdued and quiet Blue-crowned and Red-capped Manakins. A set of hummingbird feeders allowed us to have repeated good looks at a good variety of hummers that included Long-billed and Stripe-throated Hermits, White-necked Jacobin, Black-throated Mango, Violet-crowned Woodnymph and Violet-bellied and Blue-chested Hummingbirds. We spent a great deal of time looking for antswarms and there were stories of "if only you were here yesterday." We had good views of Grey-headed Tanager, Bicoloured, Chestnut-backed and Spotted Antbirds and Northern Barred and Plain-brown Woodcreepers all swooping in for the invertebrate bounty available at one of the antswarms. One of the local Smithsonian researchers was studying avian parasites which allowed us to experience some of the birds in the hand. The trees over his banding station were also alive with bird activity and several Grey Elaenias in territorial dispute and the handsome Black-striped Woodcreeper made for notable sightings.

Nearby at the home of bird-loving resident of Gamboa we were treated to an excellent Red-legged Honeycreeper show as over a half-dozen males were all lined around a nectar feeder at once, with others waiting their turn. The grounds of our Gamboa hotel were very birdy and at the nearby marsh there were plenty of Wattled Jacanas and even a Rufescent Tiger-Heron. We also visited the Summit Ponds where both Green and Striated Herons could be viewed side-by-side and where we also appreciated a day-roost of the nocturnal Boat-billed Heron. Here in the seasonal dry forest we had our first encounters with the spectacular Black-chested Jay and were amazed by a pair of Spectacled Owls on their day roost. A pair of Grey-headed Kites also made quite an impression as did the Bat Falcon perched on top of the water tower as it actively made foraging flights over the surrounding woodland. A Northern Royal-Flycatcher was probably our most surprising find here providing us all with a very good sighting. A diminutive Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant was somewhat less cooperative showing to only some of us but a most cooperative Southern Bentbill eventually obliged to everyone's delight. We also had good views of skulking White-bellied Antbirds, melodious Golden-fronted Greenlets, the redstart-like Black-tailed Flycatcher, smart-looking Plain-coloured Tanagers and colourful Yellow-backed Orioles.

An afternoon flight then took us to the western city of David near the Costa Rican border where we immediately began birding the airport woodland. One of our first finds was a Northern Jacana, here at the eastern limit of their range. Later that afternoon we eventually located our main quarry, the Veraguas Mango, however most of us would have to wait to see this colourful endemic at a better site. Fine views of an excited Striped Cuckoo was surely our best sighting here. The next morning we made an early start for the upper slopes of Cerro Colorado in search of two Panamanian endemics, the Yellow-green Finch and the Glow-throated Hummingbird. This year we had no vehicle problems but it was the road that presented a real challenge. No maintenance had been done since the previous rainy season turning what had been a primitive road into something not much better than a rough mule trail. Our drivers slowly grinded their way up the mountain eventually putting us within reach of our target birds, however the weather was miserable with strong tradewinds bringing heavy rain and fog. Soon upon our arrival in the habitat we discovered a small mixed party of birds that contained Black-and-yellow Silky-Flycatcher and Golden-browed Chlorophonia and some in our party were able to see the one Yellow-green Finch just before it dived into thick cover with the rest of the birds. We also worked on a Silvery-fronted Tapaculo with some of us getting a brief view but eventually the wind and rain forced us to descend. We made some roadside rest stops during the return yielding a fabulous male Scintillant Hummingbird, a female Garden Emerald and our first Snowy-bellied Hummingbird.

We hoped for better weather along the Fortuna highway as we began the next day at a roadside cafe. A Black Guan feeding in a roadside bush made for a great early morning start but the weather near the pass and road construction conspired against us and we retreated to do most of the morning birding near the Fortuna reservoir. Roadside forest yielded little flock activity but we were able to have good views of more regional endemics. Hummingbirds included White-bellied and Purple-throated Mountain-gems and Black-bellied Hummingbird and tanager flocks held numerous Blue-

and-gold, Spangle-cheeked, Emerald and Passerini's Tanagers as well as the gorgeous Golden-browed Chlorophonia. The only trail birding of the day produced Collared Trogon and Blue-throated Toucanets. We then descended the Fortuna highway to visit a reliable site for the endemic Veraguas Mango. After some searching along the road in an area of dry forest we located a male feeding on a flowering *Erythrina* tree and perching for long and close studies. There were also some lovely Brown-throated Parakeets perched in the same woodland that allowed for extended studies overhead.

We took full advantage of our last day in the David area by driving to Volcan where we had excellent looks at an early morning Chiriqui Yellowthroat perched at the edge of a dwindling marsh. We then moved up in elevation to the edge of Baru National Park where we commenced to rack up quite a sheet of checklist write-ins starting out with a superb male Resplendent Quetzal followed by numerous regional endemics that included Volcano Hummingbird, Yellow-winged Vireo, Collared Redstart, Flame-throated and Black-cheeked Warblers, Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher and Yellow-thighed Finch. Luckily we still had our 4x4s' to then take us up the incredibly rough road to the mountain cabins of Los Quetzales Hotel. The hummingbird feeders here are some of the best in the region, Costa Rica included, with scores of White-throated Mountain-gems, Green Hermit, Magnificent and Stripe-tailed Hummingbirds, Green Violetear and even a bonus Fiery-throated Hummingbird. Most unexpected were the incredible close-ups of a Wrenthrush (*Zeledonia*) to which we were all treated, with the bird giving us an almost immediate response. A Buffy Tuftedcheek and a Prong-billed Barbet put in appearances for some of us before eventually we had to return to David for our late afternoon flight back to Panama City.

Our next venue was the Serranía de San Blas and the hospitable Burbayar Lodge. Here our primary target was the primitive *Xenornis* or Speckled Antshrike, but despite our best efforts we never detected any sign of this elusive bird. The muddy trails here were somewhat of a challenge with the recent rains but they could not stop us from charging up the slope in search of the Sapayoa, a relict species that was high on many of our lists and one that we were all relieved to see and study so well. Fruiting trees at the edge of the lodge garden attracted lovely White-ruffed Manakins and Scarlet-thighed and Blue Dacnises. The tanager flocks were one of highlights of our birding here with our most desired, the Sulphur-rumped Tanager, showing very well whilst noisy flocks of Tawny-crested and Carmiol's Tanagers numbering over 20 birds were a common sight here in addition to the many Green and Shining Honeycreepers, Golden-hooded Tanager, Dusky-faced Tanagers and White-vented Euphonias. We also achieved excellent views of Spot-crowned Antvireo in the flocks, lured out the shy Dull-mantled Antbird from streamside thickets and scoped a very cute Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant in the immediate subcanopy. Pied Puffbird and Rufous Piha were both examined closely through the scope and a dazzling Great Jacamar impressed everyone with its colours. Late one afternoon our local guide hurriedly called us over to an antswarm at which he had just spotted the mythical Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo. Despite our calm approach, only a few of us were even able to see its blur as the cuckoo made its escape up the slope, never returning despite our best attempts to lure it back. The next morning after scoring excellent views of a Streak-chested Antpitta and Short-billed Pigeon, we returned just as the antswarm was starting to become active and cut a trail in the direction the swarm was heading in order to lay in wait for the birds to approach us. Despite an extremely patient vigil, two hours in length, in which we neither moved or talked during that entire time, there was no sign of the ground-cuckoo and we returned to the lodge in hopes of a future second chance.

Before making our return to Panama City we stopped along the Pan-American highway where a stop in some dry woodland produced a lovely pair of Black Antshrikes as well as the bizarre looking Bare-crowned Antbird skulking in the choked bamboo understorey. We started out the next morning in the elfin woodland of Cerro Azul where birding was very slow possibly due to the foggy weather but we still managed to have good views of Yellow-eared Toucanet and at a private residence we enjoyed some hummingbird feeders featuring the near-endemic Violet-capped Hummingbird alongside numerous Red-footed Plumeleteers. That afternoon we took in the Panama Bay where skyscraping

high-rise condominiums towered over a shoreline brimming with wintering shorebirds. We tallied hundreds of Marbled Godwits and Short-billed Dowitchers alongside Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper and Western Sandpipers. Amidst the many thousands of Laughing Gulls and smaller numbers of Brown Pelican and Black Skimmer we also managed to find a couple of Franklin's Gulls.

The next morning we had time for a visit to Metropolitan Park, a preserve of 265 hectares protecting some of Panama's finest Pacific lowland dry forest. A vocalizing Pheasant Cuckoo immediately piqued our interest and some careful use of playback soon put this forest phantom within our grasp. Most of our group had a good view of the bird on a close perch only for it to disappear into the understorey before a few of us could get on it. The endemic Yellow-green Tyrannulet put in an all too brief appearance but the Lance-tailed Manakins were more cooperative on their display perches. The vocal Flammulated Attila finally bit the dust, an Olivaceous Woodcreeper made the one and only appearance during the trip and some of us managed to spy on one of the Rosy Thrush-Tanagers seen today scratching in the leaf litter.

The next morning we loaded into our 14 seater Caravan along with our meticulously packed luggage for our 9 day trip to the Darien. Our first stop was La Palma, the sleepy provincial capital of the Darien where soon upon arrival we were told that the tides did not favour our immediate departure. A quick scout yielded an immediate favourite bar and we set up shop in one corner as we did our best to keep cool by soaking up the sea breeze and the cold beer. Before long we set off in our boat for the Embará village of Mogue which lies along the river of the same name. We made a couple of stops in the mangroves along the way getting good views of the resident Mangrove Yellow Warblers, a perched Great Black-Hawk, and a female Sapphire-throated Hummingbird. We soon reached the end of the navigable river just short of the village river port and after saying goodbye to a most handsome pig we set off on foot for the village. We immediately had great views of a male Sapphire-throated Hummingbird and arriving at the village trail we eventually won a protracted game of playback with a pair of skulking Black-bellied Wrens. Our main target in the afternoon was seen only in flight, the handsome Black Oropendola, and we would have to wait until tomorrow to improve on these views. The next morning at dawn we began our two hour walk to the Harpy Eagle nest. The cooler morning temperatures made our walk out to the nest a much easier affair than later that afternoon. The nest was located in one of the giant cuipo trees prominent in the area but unfortunately the nesting eagle's position down inside the nest prevented our seeing the incubating bird despite our best efforts to find a different angle. We waited...and waited some more, but unfortunately we were never able to detect any sign of the bird and its mate never visited during our nearly five hour vigil. On the walk back we had some excellent views of a displaying Speckled Mourner, a close soaring King Vulture, we all caught up with great looks at Bare-crowned Antbird and a couple of us saw Spectacled Parrotlets in flight. The beer and chicken sure tasted great when we returned! Some of us still had enough energy to walk out to a Black Oropendola nesting colony where the evening show was well worth the effort. Several male Black Oropendolas displaying in the afternoon sunlight whilst nesting females went in and out of their long hanging, woven nests all made for one of the most memorable sightings of the trip made all the more special knowing that this very impressive looking bird is found only in the Darien and neighbouring Colombia.

A handsome male Black-tailed Trogon perched at close-quarter was the next morning's highlight before we said our goodbye to our village hosts for nearby Punta Patiño. This time the tide was up during the boat ride and some rocky coastal outcrops served as a resting point for thousands of Western Sandpipers as well as Grey, Wilson's and Semipalmated Plovers and even some very nice Surfbirds were easily seen together with a handful of Ruddy Turnstones. Arriving at our airstrip we had some time to bird the dry coastal woodland where we had a nice selection of new birds starting with handsome Orange-crowned Orioles, a vocal Yellow-green Vireo and an unobtrusive Northern Scrub-Flycatcher. A pair of Jet Antbirds showed quite easily and inside the forest interior we had excellent views of the much-requested Panama Flycatcher along with numerous migrant

Prothonotary Warblers. From our thatch-covered waiting lounge behind a long and deserted beach there were numerous Yellow-crowned Night-Herons and a few American Oystercatchers.

The short flight to Cana took us away from the coast, our flight path taking us over the Mogue village (and probably that pesky Harpy) and into the mountains. Unbroken forest stretched for miles in all directions and the Pirre ridge soon became a prominent feature. Then we banked sharply and settled onto the grassy airstrip at Cana where everyone noticed how much cooler it was as they took in all of the surrounding forest and the numerous birds that seemed to be just about everywhere. A fruiting tree that would immediately become a fixture behind our accommodation quickly drew our attention. During our stay one could find from one to six male Blue Cotingas in this fruiting tree along with numerous toucans, tanagers and Crested Guans. There was also a male Black-tipped Cotinga that made its rounds between its favourite perch above our rooms and various trees around the clearing. White-thighed Swallows were a daily sight both perched and foraging, there was a nesting pair of Cinereous Becards in the lime tree and morning and evenings featured flights of Blue-headed Parrots and Chestnut-fronted, Blue-and-yellow, Red-and-green and Great Green Macaws.

Birding at Cana got off to a great start the next morning despite some dreary weather. A flowering *Erythrina* brought in a male Viridian Dacnis which we all had good views of through the scope, an always exciting find as this is one of the sometimes difficult Darien specialities. Our first Spot-crowned Barbets made for a good sighting and an Olivaceous Piculet was also seen very well here at the forest edge whilst new birds along the trails included a calmly perched Semiplumbeous Hawk and similarly quiet birds such as White-whiskered Puffbird and Grey-cheeked Nunlet. Our first Thicket (Fulvous-bellied) Antpitta provided good views to only one person in our party but this would not be our last attempt. We saw a few Slaty Spinetails and found the lovely Yellow-tailed Orioles to also be common along the airstrip. A pair of Sooty-headed Tyrannulets were seen relatively well and also obliging was a Grey Elaenia seen brilliantly through the scope. A Black-faced Antthrush was very cooperative as it came out of the forest to walk rail-like quite near the trail. We also had some great results seeing the reclusive Brownish Twistwing and the odd Thrush-like Schiffornis. After seeing only some distant birds in flight we were all thrilled to have a pair of Great Green Macaws fly into a trailside *Erythrina* tree and begin to messily devour the nectar rich flowers. One afternoon we had an odd looking manakin that upon closer inspection and some playback experiments to which we had an immediate vocal response turned out to be the seldom seen Green Manakin, a great find!

Another of the interesting highlights from our Cana birding was the Barred Puffbird doing its best to swallow a very limp Bananaquit clasped firmly in its very hooked bill. Our first Tody Motmots were surprisingly tame as they allowed us to spend a considerable amount of time photographing them at close range. Here we also had good views of a Ruddy Foliage-gleaner and finally after numerous attempts we enjoyed a superb sighting of Tawny-faced Gnatwren. A second Viridian Dacnis made another fine showing, this time with a female in tow and a male Green Thorntail was seen very well visiting a flowering shrub at the forest edge. We also came to grips with the delightful Dusky-backed Jacamar, another of the Darien specialities, and once we learned their favourite tree we were able to find this species here on most days. A Ruddy Foliage-gleaner responded well to the tape and understory mixed flocks commonly held the lovely Lemon-spectacled Tanager. We also finally had superb views of a Stripe-throated Wren and though our nightbirding was decidedly unproductive this tour, we did enjoy very good views of Short-tailed Nighthawk.

The day finally came for us to climb the Alturas de Nique otherwise known as the Serranía de Pirre in search of those Pirre endemics. One of the first highlights of our walk was a spontaneously singing Wing-barred Antbird which we had to go off trail for. Just when we thought the bird had moved off, it was found tossing leaves below us but it took some body contortions on everyone's part to see this strange antbird. Just before sitting down to eat our sandwiches we were summoned off the trail by a family group of Sooty-headed Wrens singing and showing very well to the group. Climbing slightly higher we located our first Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, and this endemic showed at least twice more

during the walk, the third time at surprisingly close range on a trunk directly overhead. Some excitement was also provided by a small antswarm at which a few of us saw a Rufous-breasted Antthrush quickly moving off. Everyone was surprised at how well set up our camp was and of course our hosts did a great job considering the remoteness of the area. The next morning we began climbing before dawn up into the cloud forest where we arrived in time for the dawn chorus. A pair of Pirre Warblers at close range provided multiple good views and then we began our search for the treerunners. Any hint of activity was investigated and our first forays yielded the ubiquitous Pirre Bush-Tanager and Lineated Foliage-gleaner. Our first encounter with a Beautiful Treerunner left much to be desired as the bird was quite high and difficult to see but perseverance in its favoured elevation and habitat type eventually yielded extended and excellent views of two birds with mixed flocks. Here we also saw another Pirre endemic, the Green-naped Tanager, and a flighty party of Violet-throated Toucanets were finally tracked down for good views through the scope. That afternoon the highlight was the Russet-crowned Quail-Dove which came in several times to our playback trap set out for it with the angry bird briefly taking up position on an elevated song perch. Later, a busy mixed flock was purely chaotic but some of us managed to get on a Brown-billed Scythebill whilst others did better in seeing the tiny Rufous-rumped Antwren. The next morning we walked partly uphill again finding a male Golden-headed Quetzal that was seen particularly well and we all greatly improved on our views of Varied Solitaire from yesterday. One of the most cooperative birds of the trip was a Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser that came in and began foraging practically at our feet. We had set off in search of Rufous-cheeked (Pirre) Hummingbirds and though some of us saw a male and also a female visiting the hot lips flowers, not all of us had seen the bird by the time we returned to camp. In the process of looking for the restricted range hummingbird we continued birding around our camp clearing where we had excellent views of Purple-throated Woodstar and the bizarre Tooth-billed Hummingbird visiting flowering vines whilst overhead a pair of Barred Hawks made a pass and a Sharpbill gave us the run around. We eventually set off to try one last patch of flowers, and this time all of us had good views of a perched female Rufous-cheeked (Pirre) Hummingbird. On the walk down we all scored good views of Sharpbill after spending so much time trying to see this strange cotinga. A pair of Great Green Macaws perched in the lower canopy allowed us long studies of the incredible colours of these magnificent creatures. It just so happened that as we were studying the macaws there was an antswarm happening right below us. Some off trail explorations located the head of the swarm and a ground-cuckoo was heard excitedly bill-clapping. We all proceeded to descend the steep, vine-choked hillside only to find that the shy ground-cuckoo had moved off, a single distant bill clap in alarm signalling that it had moved away from the swarm. This ground-cuckoo disappearing act was disappointing, but at least our off-trail work resulted in good views of a male Immaculate Antbird attending the swarm.

We still had a day and a half at Cana to look for some of our remaining targets. The often tricky Black-billed Flycatcher was found at the same site as last tour providing us all with excellent views. We also had a few good mixed flocks in which we all caught up with Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaner and saw two male Scarlet-browed Tanagers. A Dagua Thrush in the understorey gave us some great close-ups and we continued to enjoy some great bird activity at the Cana mine. A Moustached Antwren in a small sapling was very memorable and thanks to some excellent spotting skills on everyone's part, we had very good views of the Yellow-browed Shrike-Vireo, with some of us even nailing a quick view through the scope. The morning of our flight we devoted considerable time to calling out the White-throated Crake resident along the airstrip but only some of us managed to see the bird as it investigated the tape. Far better were our excellent views of a Thicket (Fulvous-bellied) Antpitta which hopped out onto a patch of bare ground, singing all the while and showing brilliantly to all. The plane took its own sweet time in arriving but our wait was highlighted by Zone-tailed Hawk and Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle. Back in Panama City we had some time on our last day to return to Pipeline Road in hopes of an antswarm and that elusive ground-cuckoo. Alas, it was not meant to be but we did enjoy additional good views of Ocellated Antbird and we were able to bird one of the great Neotropical rainforests one last time.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

Species which were heard but not seen are indicated by the symbol (H).

Species which were not personally recorded by the leaders are indicated by the symbol (NL).

The arrangement of orders, families, genera, and species mostly follows the sequence of the American Ornithologists' Union checklists of North American and South American birds. Conservation threat categories are taken from Threatened Birds of the World, BirdLife International's excellent book on the status of the world's declining avifauna, and updates on the BirdLife website: <http://www.birdlife.org/datazone/index.html>

TINAMIDAE

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*: Heard at various times from mature rainforest with Daniel seeing one bird from the Boca de Cupe trail at Cana.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui*: One bird was seen on the old Gamboa road by a couple of us and others were heard at Cana where Daniel saw one bird walk across the Boca de Cupe trail.

ANATIDAE

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*: A very distant flock was seen on the horizon from the canopy tower on our first morning and a second flock of 10 birds were seen at the Ammo Dump ponds.

CRACIDAE

Grey-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*: Small numbers of this cracid of forest edge and secondary growth were seen at Gamboa and Cana.

Black Guan *Chamaepetes unicolor*: We all had a great view from the bus of a foraging bird at dawn along the Fortunga highway in the west. A species confined to the so-called 'Costa Rica and Panama highlands' EBA (EBA 020). Below I am referring to other such species as 'CR/P highland endemics.'

Crested Guan *Penelope purpurascens*: An impressive arboreal cracid, with a very healthy population at Cana/Cerro Pirre. Penelope is the name of the wife of Ulysses, King of Ithaca, but why this name was bestowed on this genus of Neotropical guans is unknown.

ODONTOPHORIDAE

Marbled Wood-Quail *Odontophorus gujanensis*: This shy forest species was seen only by Daniel at Cana.

PELECANIDAE

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*: Seen in great numbers from the Pacific shoreline.

PHALACROCORACIDAE

Neotropic Cormorant (Olivaceous Cormorant) *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*: Very numerous along the coast where over 200 were recorded at Panama Bay.

ANHINGIDAE

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga*: A few of us had a couple of sightings of this aquatic species at Old Gamboa road but they would always disappear under water for long periods of time.

FREGATIDAE

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*: Magnificent indeed, with many of these graceful birds seen aloft in coastal areas.

ARDEIDAE

- Rufescent Tiger-Heron *Tigrisoma lineatum*: We had a great look at one bird impressively posed with its neck fully extended at the Ammo Dump ponds and a second was seen near Burbayar.
- Great Blue Heron *Ardea herodias*: There were several sightings from the Canal Area and during our time spent east of Panama City probably the oddest record was the wandering bird discovered by Daniel at Cana.
- Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*: Two birds were seen on Lake Bayano and two other birds were non-leader birds on Panama Bay.
- Great Egret *Casmerodius albus*: Regular sightings.
- Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*: Most numerous at Costa del Este of Panama Bay where we had over 50 birds.
- Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*: Most abundant at Panama Bay.
- Tricoloured Heron *Egretta tricolor*: Up to 10 at Panama Bay and similar numbers were seen during our boat journeys in the Darien. Formerly placed in the monotypic genus *Hydranassa* or 'Queen of the water', its 2.5 foot by 2.5 foot frame weighs in at only 13 ounces, making it one of the most elegant of the wading birds.
- Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*: This invasive species was seen regularly in the Canal Area (note that I'm using the 'Canal Area' as a more general term for all areas birded between Metropolitan Park and Pipeline Road).
- Striated Heron *Butorides striatus*: Sightings from the Canal Area and La Palma. It is here in Central Panama that breeding birds of Striated and Green Herons meet and/or overlap, and a more detailed study of the taxonomic status of these forms is still warranted.
- Green Heron *Butorides virescens*: A few birds were seen in the Gamboa area and at the Summit ponds.
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nyctanassa violacea*: Most abundant along the coast south of the Rio Mogue and especially on the huge tidal beach off of Punta Patiño with our count that day numbering up to 50.
- Boat-billed Heron *Cochlearius cochlearius*: We had fairly good scope views of a few birds at Summit Ponds, here of the dark *panamensis* form. Formerly placed in its own family, the Cochleariidae, but recent DNA work has shown that it is related to the tiger-herons. Little is known of the behaviour and life history of this crepuscular and nocturnal species.

THRESKIORNITHIDAE

- White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*: Up to 10 birds were seen along Panama Bay but most numerous within the Mogue river estuary where we had over 100 birds.
- Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*: Two birds flushed and were seen in flight as they exited from the small marsh at Punta Patiño

CICONIIDAE

- Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*: Our first was seen in David and another dozen birds were seen in the Canal Area.

CATHARTINAE

- Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*: Particularly numerous around towns and cities. Recent genetic data strongly refute any cathartid-stork relationship and in fact New World vultures are sufficiently distinctive that fossil cathartids can be recognized as far back as the middle Eocene (56 to 35 million years ago).
- Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*: Common and widespread. Studies indicate that this species often uses its keen sense of smell to locate carrion.
- King Vulture *Sarcoramphus papa*: First seen at Burbayar followed by several sightings of soaring birds in the Darien with our most notable being the low-soaring bird during our return from "the nest."

PANDIONIDAE

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*: Up to 20 individuals seen in all, shared between the Canal Area, the Rio Mogue and Punta Patiño. Given its unique karyotype (the number and appearance of chromosomes), which differs from that known for other hawks and eagles, and given that *Pandion haliaetus* can be recognized as a species in the fossil record as far back as the Miocene, current thinking is that family rank is appropriate. Pandion (Greek mythology) was the King of Attica, whose tragic daughters, Philomela and Progne, were transformed into a nightingale and a swallow respectively.

ACCIPITRIDAE

Grey-headed Kite *Leptodon cayanensis*: A single bird at the Old Gamboa road was seen brilliantly soaring and perched, its boldly patterned wings very distinctive.

American Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus*: One of the most elegant raptors in the world and seen soaring on several occasions. Note that most birds breeding in Central and North America spend the non-breeding season in South America.

Pearl Kite *Campsonyx swainsonii*: We enjoyed absolutely superb views of a perched bird over the Pan-American highway during the journey from Burbayar Lodge.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*: A single perched bird was scoped in open country near David. A recent colonizer, the first Panamanian records dating back to 1967 and most recently.

Snail Kite *Rostrhamus sociabilis*: A juvenile bird was seen perched at the edge of the small lake near the Pipeline Road canopy tower.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* (NL): A couple of birds were seen soaring at Cana. Like the American Swallow-tailed Kite, Central American breeders withdraw to South America during the non-breeding season.

Tiny Hawk *Accipiter superciliosus*: Although the elevation had me scratching my head, there is no doubt that this is the identity of the raptor being mobbed up on Cerro Pirre by White-ringed Flycatchers and others. We certainly had great views!

Barred Hawk (Black-chested Hawk) *Leucopternis princeps*: We had a quick but good look at two soaring and displaying birds over the Pirre camp. Note that, when here and below referring to 'Cerro Pirre', we're really talking about one of the peaks of the Serranía de Pirre which lies northwest of Cana, and not of the 'Cerro Pirre' shown on the maps, which lies at the northern end of the range.

Semiplumbeous Hawk *Leucopternis semiplumbea*: On two occasions we had excellent scope views of a perched bird in the subcanopy at Cana. Good spotting, Dave!

White Hawk *Leucopternis albigollis*: Good views of this handsome raptor during lunch hour at Cerro Azul and also seen on Cerro Pirre. Here the attractive race *costaricensis*.

Common Black-Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*: This handsome raptor showed well at Punta Patiño.

Great Black-Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga*: Good views of a perched bird from the Mogue area.

Grey Hawk *Buteo nitidus*: An adult was seen in the Gamboa area and in our wanderings of the Cerro Azul neighbourhood we saw a perched juvenile.

Roadside Hawk *Buteo magnirostris*: Two birds were seen in the David area and a half dozen more were seen in the Darien lowlands (Mogue, etc).

Broad-winged Hawk *Buteo platypterus*: This trip we mostly saw wintering birds at the middle elevation of Cerro Azul and Nusagandi but there was one seen in the lowlands of Mogue.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus*: At Cana we had good views of this Turkey Vulture mimic.

Red-tailed Hawk *Buteo jamaicensis*: One soaring bird was seen in the Cerro Punta area.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus melanoleucus*: Some in the group enjoyed good scope views of this small eagle at Cana, generally a rare and somewhat local bird in Panama.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus*: One soaring bird was seen distantly at Cana.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus ornatus*: Two displaying birds were seen above us on the slopes of Cerro Pirre.

FALCONIDAE

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus*: Great looks at this loud bird at Cana. They mostly feed on wasp and bee larvae by tearing into some of those amazing paper nests we observed. Still common here, this species has sadly disappeared from most of its former range in Central America over the last few decades, for unknown reasons, though human hunting is probably to blame. Note that the old genus name *Ibycter* has recently been resurrected for this species, based largely on syringeal evidence (the syrinx is the set of muscles forming a bird's vocal cords; I'm sure this species' syrinx must be pretty distinct to be able to produce so many decibels!).

Crested Caracara (Northern C C) *Polyborus cheriway*: One bird was seen at Costa del Este of Panama Bay.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*: This scavenger was seen on several occasions in the open habitats that it frequents. This raptor is on the increase (and only invaded nearby Costa Rica in 1973), but is still absent from largely forested areas (s.a. the vicinity of Cana).

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinnans* (H): A calling bird at Punta Patiño stayed out of sight.

Barred Forest-Falcon *Micrastur ruficollis* (H): We encountered one calling pre-dawn during our first morning at the higher elevations of Cerro Pirre.

Collared Forest-Falcon *Micrastur semitorquatus*: At Summit we had one bird fly across the road and then seemingly hover for an instant before diving into an impenetrable thicket.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*: A pair was seen well at what was probably a regular perch on the water tower of Old Gamboa road. This fierce little predator is able to take hummingbirds, and in fact I photographed one in Tambopata holding a male White-necked Jacobin in its talons (which it promptly ate).

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus* (NL): One bird was seen on the grounds of the Gamboa resort.

RALLIDAE

White-throated Crake *Laterallus albigularis*: A single bird was seen by at least three of us when it stuck its head out of the grass at Cana.

Purple Gallinule (American P G) *Porphyryla martinica*: One bird was seen at the Gamboa marsh.

Common Moorhen (C Gallinule) *Gallinula chloropus*: We found this species to be most abundant near the mouth of the Chagres River at Gamboa where one section of river held over 100 birds.

HELIORNITHIDAE

Sungrebe *Helionis fulica*: This species is always a good find in the Canal Area and we were all able to get a good view through the scope of a swimming bird.

CHARADRIIDAE

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*: A fairly common species at Costa del Este. A species that is spreading in Central America, and there are now breeding records from Costa Rica and the presence of several birds has been recorded from Mexico.

Grey Plover (Black-bellied Plover) *Pluvialis squatarola*: Abundant in Panama Bay and the Punta Patiño beach.

Wilson's Plover *Charadrius wilsonia*: We saw impressive numbers on the sea rocks off Punta Alegre where there were up to 250 individuals together with other plover species.

Semipalmated Plover *Charadrius semipalmatus*: There were up to 500 individuals together with the previous species off Punta Alegre.

HAEMATOPODIDAE

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*: Three were seen at the huge tidal beach of Punta Patiño.

RECURVIROSTRIDAE

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus*: There was a handsome gathering at Costa del Este of up to 100 birds.

JACANIDAE

Northern Jacana *Jacana spinosa*: What was probably the same individual was seen at the David marsh. The specific name comes from the sharp spur most jacanas have on the carpal joint of the wing, and which adults use to threaten anyone approaching their young. The ranges of this and the previous species meet in Eastern Chiriqui and Veraguas states.

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*: Many nice views of both adults and immatures. Panamanian birds belong to the melanistic (no chestnut in adults) race *hypomelaena*, which is only found here and in adjacent Colombia. The Jacanidae are one of the few bird families where most species exhibit sexual role reversal, with males incubating the eggs and females being polyandrous. The only exception in the family is the monogamous Lesser Jacana *Microparra capensis*.

SCOLOPACIDAE

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*: Greatest numbers were seen at Costa del Este where there were over 250 birds.

Lesser Yellowlegs *Tringa flavipes*: Less numerous than the previous in the same area, allowing for nice side-by-side comparisons.

Willet *Catoptrophorus semipalmatus*: Numerous in Panama Bay.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularia*: Our biggest numbers recorded on our first visit to Costa del Este and later observed regularly throughout.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*: Up to 50 were seen in Panama Bay and also very numerous in the Mogue mangroves and along the coast where we had well over 50 additional individuals. Although some authors have considered New World *hudsonicus* to be a separate species from Old World populations based on genetic distance and plumage pattern, vocalizations are evidently very similar, in contrast to the many allotaxa in the Scolopacidae treated as separate species.

Marbled Godwit *Limosa fedoa*: We had wonderful scope studies in Panama Bay, with about 100 birds counted at Punta del Este.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*: Up to 10 birds were seen at Panama Bay and another 20 were seen along the coast during our journey to and from Mogue.

Surfbird *Aphriza virgata*: A bird requested by Keith that we all saw very well off of Punta Alegre.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*: A small group of these beach-combers was seen at Costa del Este and a few more were seen during the journey to Punta Patiño.

Western Sandpiper *Calidris mauri*: The 500 birds seen in Panama Bay and the 1500 birds off of Punta Alegre made for a true wildlife spectacle.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*: Small numbers were seen near Panama Bay.

Short-billed Dowitcher *Limnodromus griseus*: Hundreds were seen in Panama Bay. The generic name is derived from old Greek: *limne* = marsh, *dromos* = running, inhabiting.

LARIDAE

Laughing Gull *Larus atricilla*: Nearly 1000 birds were seen at Panama Bay. By far, the most numerous wintering gull in Panama.

Franklin's Gull *Larus pipixcan*: Good comparisons between two individuals of this species and the previous at Panama Bay thanks to Dave's good spotting.

Gull-billed Tern *Sterna nilotica*: One was seen during our boat journey from Mogue.

Caspian Tern *Sterna caspia*: One bird was seen in flight during the journey to Mogue.

Royal Tern *Sterna maxima*: Approximately 50 birds were seen at Panama Bay and several more were seen during the journey to and from Mogue.

Sandwich Tern *Sterna sandvicensis*: Around 20 birds were seen during the journey to Punta Patiño. Apparently named after the town of Sandwich in Kent.

RYNCHOPIDAE

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*: Up to 40 individuals were seen at Panama Bay.

COLUMBIDAE

Rock Pigeon (Feral P) *Columba livia*: Common in urban environments. Panama birds are at best only marginally feral, and don't occur away from humans.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*: Regular sightings in central Panama and two were seen at Punta Patiño. This species is conspicuous in its absence in Cana, a small open area in an ocean of forest, from which quite a few open country species are absent.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*: Good looks at a bird scoped up from our canopy tower at Pipeline Road and one to four individuals were seen almost daily from the Cana porch.

Band-tailed Pigeon *Patagioenas fasciata*: Up to 25 birds were seen in flight along the Fortuna road and slightly smaller numbers were seen at Cerro Azul.

Short-billed Pigeon *Patagioenas nigrirostris*: Michael whistled a bird in for good views near Burbayar Lodge.

Ruddy Pigeon *Patagioenas subvinacea* (H): Several heard-only birds at higher elevation on Cerro Pirre.

Plumbeous Pigeon *Patagioenas plumbea* (H): Several birds were heard at the lower elevations of Cerro Pirre.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta* (NL): One was seen by Daniel at our Gamboa resort.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*: Small numbers of this open country dove were seen in the lowlands throughout the country.

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa*: Four birds were observed at Mogue and Punta Patiño.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*: Frequently encountered throughout. The bird is named after Jules Pierre Verreaux (1808-1873), a French collector, naturalist and natural history dealer, who also has (among others) an eagle, a coua and a turaco bearing his name.

Grey-chested Dove *Leptotila cassini*: A more retiring relative of the previous, seen a few times and heard more frequently.

Olive-backed Quail-Dove *Geotrygon veraguensis*: Two birds flushed from the trail at Nusagandi but were then seen by nearly the entire group a few paces ahead.

Russet-crowned Quail-Dove *Geotrygon goldmani*: A very responsive individual of this normally shy Darien endemic gave nearly all of us great views on Cerro Pirre. This species is restricted to the Darien highlands Endemic Bird Area (Birdlife's EBA 024). Below I am simply referring to species restricted to either this or the Darien lowlands EBA (023) as 'Darien endemics'.

PSITTACIDAE

Brown-throated Parakeet *Aratinga pertinax*: Excellent scope looks from the David lowlands. *Pertinax* is Latin for 'tenacious, obstinate'. Note that *Aratinga* and *Pyrrhura* parakeets are called 'conures' in the fairly recent Juniper & Parr monograph.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw *Ara severa*: The smallest macaw found at Cana, and a pair with particularly short tails (no doubt moulting but strange that both would have the same length!) was seen daily around the airstrip. Like Red-and-green and Blue-and-yellow Macaws, this South American species doesn't penetrate any further into Central America than Darien or (a bit farther west) the upper Bayano Valley.

Great Green Macaw *Ara ambigua*: One of the most impressive macaw species, we had superb views of perched birds. Populations of this flagship species have been severely reduced or extinct in other parts of its Central and South American range (given 'Endangered' status by Birdlife, this species remains numerous at Cana and on the slopes of Cerro Pirre (where it ranges all the way to the top, unlike the next two species), and Darien is currently the species' stronghold.

Red-and-green Macaw *Ara chloroptera*: We saw small numbers of birds very well in flight. Also sometimes called the Green-winged Macaw.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw *Ara ararauna*: We had excellent flight views and even some perched birds from the airstrip on many occasions at Cana. Sadly, the thrilling sight and sound of macaws will become a thing of the past if deforestation in the Americas continues.

Spectacled Parrotlet *Forpus conspicillatus* (NL): A few birds were spotted by Keith during our return walk from the eagle site.

Orange-chinned Parakeet (Tovi P) *Brotogeris jugularis*: Especially numerous around the Cana clearing.

Blue-fronted Parrotlet *Touit dilectissima*: A group of about 10 birds zoomed low through the fog over our heads at Cerro Azul but only John was lucky enough to see three perched birds in the *Erythrina* right outside Cana's front porch.

Brown-hooded Parrot *Pionopsitta haematotis*: Superb scope studies of birds in beautiful light one late afternoon at Burbayar Lodge.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*: The most numerous parrot on the trip, frequently admired in the scope.

Red-ored Amazon (Yellow-cheeked A, R-I Parrot) *Amazona autumnalis*: Small numbers in the Canal Area but most numerous in David.

Mealy Amazon (M Parrot) *Amazona farinosa*: The noisiest in the genus, small numbers were seen at Burbayar and Cana.

CUCULIDAE

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*: Seen frequently throughout the trip.

Little Cuckoo *Piaya minuta* (H): A few of these second growth skulkers were heard at Cana but would not come out for us.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia*: One was seen singing its heart out at the David airport.

Pheasant Cuckoo *Dromococcyx phasianellus*: About half of the group had a good look through the scope of a bird perched quite near the trail and low off the ground in the Canal Area.

Rufous-vented Ground-Cuckoo *Neomorphus geoffroyi*: Two birds were encountered during the trip. Two of us had untickable views of the first bird as it ran up the slope and a bill-clap of a second was heard in the vicinity of an ant swarm on Cerro Pirre.

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*: We had good looks in the scope at this species in the Mogue and Punta Patiño areas.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*: Small parties were found in the Canal Area, but this species was particularly conspicuous at Punta Patiño and around the clearing at Cana. The generic name has been derived from the Greek words *kroton*, a tick, and *phagos*, 'eater'. In parts of South America, both this and the next species are called 'garrapateros' (tickers) or 'vacamuchachos' (cowboys) for their supposed habit of eating ticks off cattle. Although I have never seen them eat ticks, I have observed groups sifting through refuse piles for scraps of meat and bones (they love chicken).

STRIGIDAE

Chocó Screech-Owl *Otus centralis* (H): We tried this species once pre-dawn and also an evening attempt with no result.

Tropical Screech-Owl *Otus choliba*: John and Nigel were the only takers on my offer at Cerro Azul where we had great views of a responsive bird.

- Crested Owl *Lophotrix cristata* (H): One very distantly calling bird at Cana was inaccessible and we tried to see a calling bird overhead at Cerro Pirre but were denied.
- Spectacled Owl *Pulsatrix perspicillata*: Excellent studies of a roosting pair of this powerful predator from the Canal Area.
- Central American Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium griseiceps* (H): Overall this species was quiet or unresponsive this year at several locations including the Darien where we came close to one calling bird but it proved impossible to find in the thick canopy before moving off.
- Mottled Owl *Ciccaba virgata* (H): A responsive bird at Pipeline Road stayed out of view and a second was heard at Cana.

CAPRIMULGIDAE

- Short-tailed Nighthawk *Lurocalis semitorquatus*: Our only good result of nightbirding at Cana were the great views we had of this species.
- Common Pauraque *Nyctidromus albicollis*: A few in the Canal Area and along the Llano-Carti road (Nusagandi) provided our best view, and also heard/seen daily around the 'lodge' at Cana.

NYCTIBIIDAE

- Great Potoo *Nyctibius grandis* (H): A distant heard-only record from Pipeline Road.
- Common Potoo (Grey Potoo) *Nyctibius griseus* (H): Another distant heard-only, from the Llano-Carti road during our nightjar search.

APODIDAE

- White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris*: This impressive swift was seen along the Fortunta road and also in good numbers in the Darien at Punta Patiño and Cana.
- Vaux's Swift *Chaetura vauxi*: A group of 10 birds were seen extremely well as they foraged low over the road at Fortuna.
- Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyura*: Small numbers were seen at Punta Patiño and Cana.
- Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicauda*: Numerous in Central Panama and at Cana.
- Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift *Panyptila cayennensis*: One bird was seen quite well at Cana.

TROCHILIDAE

- Rufous-breasted Hermit (Hairy H) *Glaucis hirsuta*: One showed rather briefly at Gamboa.
- Band-tailed Barbthroat *Threnetes ruckeri*: This understory hummingbird approached us curiously at Burbayar for a decent view. The first in a very nice set of 41 species of hummingbirds seen on the tour. Read the hummingbird family account in Volume 5 of the *Handbook of the Birds of the World* (from here onward abbreviated as HBW) for an excellent summary of hummingbird biology.
- Green Hermit *Phaethornis guy*: Regular sightings. Here the race *coruscus*, in which there is a strong sexual difference in tail length, the males having shorter central tail feathers than the females.
- Long-billed Hermit (Western Long-tailed Hermit) *Phaethornis longirostris*: A regular visitor to feeders in the Canal Area and also seen well at Mogue and Cana. For more details on the new hermit taxonomy, see the excellent hummingbird chapter in HBW 5.
- Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis*: Scattered sightings of this tiny hermit.
- Tooth-billed Hummingbird *Androdon aequatorialis*: Superb studies of this bizarre looking hummingbird foraging at a profusely flowering vine on Pirre. A species pretty much restricted to the Darien highlands (024) and Chocó (041) Endemic Bird Areas.
- Violet Sabrewing *Campylopterus hemileucurus*: One was seen briefly at the Los Quetzales cabins.
- Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii*: Several birds were seen in the Canal Area and at David.
- White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*: Numerous sightings of this smart hummer.

- Green Violetear *Colibri thalassinus*: Lekking birds were seen on the lower slopes of Cerro Colorado giving their monotonous call and it was also a numerous bird at the feeders near Volcan.
- Veraguas Mango *Anthracothorax veraguensis*: After several of us saw one bird at the David airport only briefly, we were later treated to superb close-ups of a male foraging in some dry woodland near David. One of the true Panama endemics.
- Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*: Fairly numerous this tour with daily sightings in the Canal Area and one also seen at Mogue.
- Green Thorntail *Discosura conversii*: Both a male and female were seen well as they foraged at a flowering shrub at Cana.
- Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis*: During the drive down Cerro Colorado we had good views of a female of this nearly restricted-range species found only in Costa Rica and Panama.
- Violet-crowned Woodnymph (Blue-c W) *Thaluria colombica*: Good numbers were seen on the feeders at Burbayar. Here the race *venusta*, the range of which is separated by the next species from the nominate birds found in northern Colombia.
- Green-crowned Woodnymph *Thaluria fannyi*: A few sightings (mostly males) in Darien.
- Fiery-throated Hummingbird *Panterpe insignis*: Once discovered we had repeated good views of one individual on the feeders at Los Quetzales.
- Violet-bellied Hummingbird *Damophila julie*: Excellent close-ups at the feeders of the rainforest centre on Pipeline Road.
- Sapphire-throated Hummingbird *Lepidopyga coeruleogularis*: A female at first caused some confusion in the mangroves at Mogue and then we all had good views through the scope of a male there. A species only ranging in Panama and Caribbean Colombia, mainly in coastal areas, but recently it has been discovered in southern Costa Rica in the wake of deforestation.
- Violet-capped Hummingbird *Goldmania violiceps*: Unfortunately the lek at Cerro Azul was not active at the time of our visit but fortunately we all had good views of a perched female with her tail spread at Cerro Azul and later during our lunch hour a second female was seen visiting a feeder. A restricted-range Darien endemic, here (like the Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker and the Tacarcuna Bush-Tanager) reaching the western limit of its range. Described by E. W. Nelson in 1911 and named after one of the great American mammalogists, Edward Alphonso Goldman 1873-1946 who described over 300 new forms of mammals and negotiated the first treaty between Mexico and the United States to protect migrating birds and game mammals.
- Rufous-cheeked Hummingbird (Pirre H) *Goethalsia bella*: Good views of this restricted-range Darien highlands endemic (only found on the Serranía de Pirre and the nearby Cerro Sapo) species at the hot-lips plants above our Pirre camp. Currently classified as Near-threatened, the proposed Darien link of the Pan-American highway would likely be detrimental to this species. This monotypic genus was named after George Washington Goethals, US chief engineer during the Canal construction.
- Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*: Regular sightings, with a very smart male coming to the feeders at the Canopy Tower.
- Snowy-bellied Hummingbird (Snowy-breasted H) *Amazilia edward*: First seen at below Cerro Colorado here of the blue-black tailed *niveoventer* and then singles were seen at Metropolitan Park and also at the feeders of Cerro Azul, here of the rufous-tailed nominate race. HBW places this restricted-range species (only found in Panama and Pacific Costa Rica) and several other species in the genus *Saucerottia*, and uses the unfortunate name 'Snowy-breasted Hummingbird' for this species.
- Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl*: Small numbers throughout. Tzacatl was a warrior in Aztec mythology. One of about half a dozen species maintained in the narrowed-down genus *Amazilia* in HBW 5.
- Stripe-tailed Hummingbird *Eupherusa eximia*: At least 5 birds were seen visiting the feeders at Los Quetzales.

- Black-bellied Hummingbird *Eupherusa nigriventris*: Along the Fortuna road a perched female was seen well by all through the scope and a nearby male was a brief leader-only sighting.
- White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii*: Singles were seen in the Canal Area and also at Burbayar and we also had regular sightings on the Boca de Cupe trail at Cana, here of the race *micans*.
- Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer (Red-footed P) *Chalybura urochrysia*: Numerous on the feeders we visited at Cerro Azul.
- White-bellied Mountain-gem *Lampornis hemileucus*: Two were seen very well along the Fortuna road. Another CR/P highlands endemic.
- White-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis castaneiventris*: This Panama endemic showed very well at the feeders of Los Quetzales. Volume 5 of HBW lump both Grey-tailed Mountain-gem *L. cinereicauda* of Costa Rica and the following species in *L. castaneiventris* with the name Variable Mountain-gem used for the enlarged species. A study of contact zones between the different forms is sorely needed but probably impossible due to the difficult topography of the area.
- Purple-throated Mountain-gem *Lampornis calolaema*: A total of three of this CR/P highlands endemic were seen at Cerro Colorado and Fortuna.
- Green-crowned Brilliant *Heliodoxa jacula*: One was seen at Cerro Colorado and at least 5 birds were seen at Fortuna.
- Magnificent Hummingbird *Eugenes fulgens*: Both sexes were seen on Cerro Colorado and it was probably the most numerous hummer on the feeders at Los Quetzales with at least 30 birds seen there.
- Greenish Puffleg *Haplophaedia aureliae*: The most frequently encountered high-elevation hummer on Cerro Pirre, here of the race *caucensis* (named after Colombia's Cauca river/valley).
- Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliothryx barroti*: A few birds were seen in the Canal Area and we also had a handful of sightings from around Cana hovering over our heads. This predominantly insectivorous hummer is known as a nectar-robber due to its habit of piercing the base of flowers with its short bill.
- Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris*: Two birds were seen at Cana including one feeding in the *Erythrina* at the mine.
- Magenta-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox bryantae* (NL): A male of this CR/P endemic species was spotted by Dave from the vehicle as we churned our way up Cerro Colorado.
- Purple-throated Woodstar *Calliphlox mitchellii*: A couple of males were seen perched for good scope views from our Pirre camp.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird *Archilochus colubris*: A female was seen during our hummingbird session at the David airport.
- Volcano Hummingbird *Selasphorus flammula*: Males of this CR/P endemic were seen very well perched quite near to us in the Cerro Punta area of western Panama.
- Scintillant Hummingbird *Selasphorus scintilla*: A perched male was seen showing off his iridescence and looking very smart on a low perch from the Cerro Colorado road. This restricted-range species is a CR/P endemic.

TROGONIDAE

- Western White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus*: Our first was a male, perched near the rainforest centre of Pipeline Road and others were seen at Mogue and Cana.
- Northern Violaceous Trogon *Trogon caligatus*: Four sightings of this trogon from both the Canal Area and in Darien.
- Collared Trogon *Trogon collaris*: A male of the race *puella* was seen in the Bocas del Toro foothills and a male and female of the smaller subspecies *extimus* were seen at higher elevations on Cerro Pirre.
- Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*: A regularly heard understory trogon, and we had good views of both sexes.

- Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanurus*: A male of this handsome trogon perched nicely for us at Mogue as we walked out to meet the boat, here of the race *macroua*.
- Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon massena*: We saw about 4 birds daily in the Canal Area, most of them at extremely close distances and one was also seen near Burbayar Lodge. Birds here belong to the race *hoffmanni*, named after Carl Hoffmann, one of the major 19th century naturalists in Costa Rica, who died at a young age fighting the army of William Walker in Nicaragua in 1856.
- Golden-headed Quetzal *Pharomachrus auriceps*: We were fortunate to enjoy such great looks at this species through the scope during our birding at upper elevations in Darien.
- Resplendent Quetzal *Pharomachrus mocinno*: A bonus bird for many and we had great views of a total of 4 birds including two gorgeous males.

MOMOTIDAE

- Tody Motmot *Hylomanes momotula*: This species seems to be on the comeback at Cana where we enjoyed excellent views at some unusually confiding birds both there and also on the Pirre Trail.
- Blue-crowned Motmot *Momotus momota*: We enjoyed good views of this species from Pipeline Road as well as from inside the woodland at Punta Patiño.
- Rufous Motmot *Baryphthengus martii*: Thanks to the guides at the rainforest centre we had good views of this species there and a second was seen at Cana. This species is not monotypic, birds here belong to the race *semirufus*. It differs in voice and plumage from nominate birds found east of the Andes in South America, which have no rackets and may be a separate species.
- Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*: Superb scope views in the Canal Area and at Burbayar and Cana.

CERYLIDAE

- Ringed Kingfisher *Ceryle torquata*: Singles were seen on most days in the Canal Area and also seen at David and in the Mogue area.
- Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*: A couple of sightings from the Gamboa area and two were seen during the journey to and from Mogue as well.
- Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*: Two were seen during our journey from La Palma to Mogue.

BUCCONIDAE

- Barred Puffbird *Bucco radiatus*: We all had smashing scope views at Cana, and we observed one bird smashing the daylight out of a lifeless Bananaquit clasped firmly in its bill.
- White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus*: We had good views of this species on a low perch at Punta Patiño. Note that this widespread form is now considered a separate species from Guianan Puffbird *N. macrorhynchus*. Birds here belong to the nominate race.
- Black-breasted Puffbird *Notharchus pectoralis*: We had great views of this species from the canopy tower on Pipeline Road and otherwise heard at Cana.
- Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*: One was spotted by Keith at Burbayar Lodge which we all had great views of and a second was seen the next day from the road.
- White-whiskered Puffbird *Malacoptila panamensis*: Several good sighting from Pipeline Road and one was also seen from the trails at Cana.
- Grey-cheeked Nunlet *Nonnula ruficapilla*: Multiple stunning looks from around Cana. A species found only in Panama and northern Colombia.
- White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus*: Four birds were following the ant swarm at Nusagandi and also memorable was the family group 'sitting' around waiting for an ant swarm near the Boca de Cupe trail at Cana. The only nunbird in Central America, here of the distinct race *pallescens*.

GALBULIDAE

Dusky-backed Jacamar *Brachygalba salmoni*: A smart Darien speciality, studied well on a couple of occasions on their habitual perch for great views through the scope. Thanks to Roger for finding out the whereabouts of this bird and Daniel for spotting them. This one is restricted to the Darien lowlands (023) and Nechí lowlands (037) Endemic Bird Areas.

Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus*: We had some good close-ups of this one along the Llano-Carti road allowing us to appreciate the reflective plumage of this impressive bird. This was the flagship species in the efforts to create Darien National Park.

CAPITONIDAE

Spot-crowned Barbet *Capito maculicoronatus*: The northernmost species of the genus, seen repeatedly in Darien, here of the race *rubrilateralis*, with red flank patches.

Red-headed Barbet *Eubucco bourcierii*: Good views of a female of the Darien race *anomalus* at Cana and Dave saw a second female on Cerro Pirre.

Prong-billed Barbet *Semnornis frantzii*: Most of us had great views of this CR/P highland endemic from Los Quetzales. Sorry, Keith!

RAMPHASTIDAE

Blue-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus coeruleogularis*: Excellent views of this CR/P highland endemic form from the Fortuna area. Note that this and the following form have once again been wisely subsumed into the broadly defined Emerald Toucanet *A. prasinus*.

Violet-throated Toucanet *Aulacorhynchus cognatus*: We enjoyed good views through the scope of at least one bird with several others seen in flight at upper elevations on Cerro Pirre.

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*: A fairly regular sight at Cana with some seen very well in the scope.

Yellow-eared Toucanet *Selenidera spectabilis*: Seen very well at Cerro Azul and otherwise heard-only on Cerro Pirre .

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*: This spectacular, rainbow-colour billed toucan was seen frequently and its frog-like croaks were heard daily.

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan *Ramphastos swainsonii*: A 'yelper' and the largest toucan in Panama, regularly encountered throughout the country's humid forests. Note that HBW has lumped this form into Black-mandibled Toucan *R. ambiguus*, using the name Yellow-throated Toucan for the enlarged species.

PICIDAE

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus*: We had one particularly good sighting at Cana during our stay, a delightful little bird!

Acorn Woodpecker *Melanerpes formicivorus*: A bird posed brilliantly for us atop a dead wooden snag in the Cerro Punta area.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*: Frequent encounters.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*: A common bird in central Panama, and a few were also found in the west.

Smoky-brown Woodpecker *Veniliornis fumigatus* (H): One heard-only bird from Fortuna.

Red-rumped Woodpecker *Veniliornis kirkii*: A handful of sightings from Cana and the surrounding trails. Named after John Kirk, a 19th century collector on Tobago.

Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker *Piculus collopterus*: An attractive restricted-range Darien endemic, and for now a true country endemic, seen very well on Cerro Pirre with a catch-up for Daniel showing on the mine trail.

Golden-green Woodpecker *Piculus chrysochloros* (NL): Seen very well by Daniel and Euclides along the Boca de Cupe trail which represents a new record for Cana although it has been recorded elsewhere in Panama recently.

Golden-olive Woodpecker *Colaptes rubiginosus*: One showed well along the Fortuna road.

- Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Colaptes punctigula*: One was glimpsed in the woodland of Lake Bayano.
- Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*: We saw two very well at Pipeline Road and a few more were seen well at Cana. One of Sue's favourites.
- Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*: Several good sightings from the Canal Area and in Darien. A relative of the Pileated Woodpecker of North America.
- Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*: Repeated sightings of this big woodpecker, here of the dark-billed race *malherbii*.

SAPAYOIDAE

- Sapayoa (Broad-billed S) *Sapayoa aenigma*: A species high on everyone's target list and seen extremely well at Nusagandi with another heard at Cana. Several genetic studies have shown that Sapayoa belongs with Old World sub-oscines, and most recently two different genetic studies published last year both showed that *Sapayoa* is embedded within the Old World Broadbills (Eurylaimidae), with one author proposing breaking the Eurylaimidae into two families (actually resurrecting the old family name Calyptomenidae for *Smithornis* and *Calyptomena* to retain family-level rank for Sapayoidae). Watch this space!

FURNARIIDAE

FURNARIINAE

- Slaty Spinetail *Synallaxis brachyura*: An abundant inhabitant of the brushy edge growth around Cana. Members of this genus are typically skulkers of rank undergrowth, shrubby areas or forest understorey.
- Red-faced Spinetail *Cranioleuca erythrops*: One was seen well in a flock near the Fortuna road. Unlike *Synallaxis* spinetails, members of this genus are typically arboreal, often favouring vine tangles in mid-storey and subcanopy.
- Double-banded Greytail *Xenerpestes minlosi*: One with a mixed-flock was difficult to see and was a leader-only bird.
- Beautiful Treerunner *Margarornis bellulus*: Superb views of this Darien endemic, classified as Near-threatened, with the second bird spotted by Keith in the flock on Cerro Pirre.
- Ruddy Treerunner *Margarornis rubiginosus*: Up to 6 birds were seen with mixed flocks in the Cerro Punta area.
- Buffy Tuftedcheek *Pseudocolaptes lawrencii*: One with a mixed flock was seen at extremely close-range by some of us at the Los Quetzales cabin.
- Western Woodhaunter (Western Striped Woodhaunter) *Hyloctistes virgatus* (H): One was heard at Burbayar.
- Lineated Foliage-gleaner *Syndactyla subalaris*: A common forest bird near the top of Cerro Pirre where we saw four.
- Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaner *Philydor fuscipennis*: A handsome furnariid and a few were seen with mixed flocks on Pirre and around Cana.
- Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner *Automolus ochrolaemus*: A widespread species, but showing considerable variation in both voice and plumage. At Burbayar and in the Darien the race *pallidigularis* was seen.
- Ruddy Foliage-gleaner *Automolus rubiginosus*: One bird was seen well at Cana, here of the dark race *saturatus*.
- Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*: An agile little bird, encountered regularly.
- Tawny-throated Leaf-tosser *Sclerurus mexicanus*: One bird showed extremely well just a few metres away from us during our Pirre birding.

FURNARIIDAE

DENDROCOLAPTINAE

- Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*: Repeated good views of the race *ridgwayi*, including birds accompanying army ant swarms.
- Ruddy Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla homochroa*: One was heard from Pipeline Road and Daniel saw one individual with an ant swarm that he discovered after having walked through the rain.
- Olivaceous Woodcreeper *Sittasomus griseicapillus*: Good views of one at Metropolitan Park was our only sighting. Here the race *veraguensis*, and it is only a matter of time before the highly variable 'Olivaceous Woodcreeper' will fall apart into a number of vocally and morphologically distinct species.
- Long-tailed Woodcreeper *Deconychura longicauda* (H): A couple of birds were heard in the Darien but would not respond to tape. Here the *darienensis* race of the distinct *typica* subspecies group, in all probability a different species from cis-Andean (= South Am. east of the Andes) birds.
- Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus*: This tiny woodcreeper was seen on several occasions at Burbayar and Cana.
- Northern Barred-Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*: Two birds showed nicely at ant swarms on Pipeline Road and several others were seen in the Darien.
- Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*: One of the more frequently encountered woodcreepers, particularly conspicuous by voice.
- Black-striped Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*: One of the most distinctive species in the family and seen well on a number of occasions.
- Spotted Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus erythropygius*: This fairly large woodcreeper was seen at Burbayar and also on Cerro Pirre.
- Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii*: Oddly this woodcreeper of forest edge and second growth was seen only once on the tour at Cana.
- Spot-crowned Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes affinis*: Three birds were seen in the temperate forest of the Cerro Punta area.
- Brown-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus pusillus*: A few of us managed to see this bird and its spectacular bill, part of a quickly moving flock on the slopes of Cerro Pirre.

THAMNOPHILIDAE

- Fasciated Antshrike *Cymbilaimus lineatus*: Multiple sightings of this sub-canopy antshrike. The name antshrike stems from the incorrect assumption made by early taxonomists who associated the strong, hooked bill of these sub-oscine birds with the shrikes.
- Great Antshrike *Taraba major*: Panama's largest antbird, a male was seen at close range from the mine trail at Cana and Roger had good views of a male off of Cana's back porch.
- Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus* (H): One was heard from the Old Gamboa road.
- Black Antshrike *Thamnophilus nigriceps*: We eventually had good views of a pair near the Bayano reservoir, here at the western limit of the species' range. This one is restricted to the Darien lowlands (023) and Nechí lowlands (037) Endemic Bird Areas.
- Western Slaty-Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*: A common denizen of humid forest understorey, seen/heard in appropriate habitat throughout.
- Russet Antshrike *Thamnistes anabatinus*: Three were seen during our exploration of Cana and a few more were seen with mixed flocks again on Cerro Pirre. Rather reminiscent of a furnariid and the only canopy antshrike in Central America.
- Plain Antwren *Dysithamnus mentalis*: Small numbers were encountered on the slopes of Cerro Pirre.
- Spot-crowned Antwren *Dysithamnus puncticeps*: After working hard to see this one we had absolutely superb views of a male perched in a small sapling over the trail near Burbayar Lodge.
- Moustached Antwren *Myrmotherula ignota*: This tiny bird was seen extremely well perched a few of metres off the ground at the site of Cana's big mine.

- Pacific Antwren *Myrmotherula pacifica*: Numerous around the Cana clearing and airstrip by voice but they did not come out easily for us with not everybody getting very good views.
- Checker-throated Antwren *Myrmotherula fulviventris*: Frequent sightings in mixed understory flocks.
- White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*: Likewise a common member of mixed understory flocks. Here the race *albigula*, more than one species likely being involved.
- Slaty Antwren *Myrmotherula schisticolor*: Replacing the previous two species at higher elevations, this one was seen very well near our Cerro Pirre camp, here the race *albigula*.
- Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*: This canopy species was eventually seen quite well at Cana, here of the race *exiguus*.
- Dot-winged Antwren *Microrhophias quixensis*: A fairly common bird in the lowland forests of central Panama and Darien.
- Rufous-rumped Antwren *Terenura callinota*: A single bird was seen by a few of us with a busy canopy flock on the slopes of Cerro Pirre.
- Dusky Antbird *Cercomacra tyrannina*: We saw both sexes of this common antbird of second growth and dense vegetation.
- Jet Antbird *Cercomacra nigricans*: Good looks at a pair in the scrub of Punta Patiño.
- Bare-crowned Antbird *Gymnocichla nudiceps*: What a stunner! With its electric blue crown and jet black plumage, the male is certainly one of the most desirable birds in the family. We also saw a few females. Sue's runner-up for bird of the trip!
- White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza longipes*: A handsome antbird seen well from the Old Gamboa road, here of the race *panamensis*.
- Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul*: Seen well at Burbayar and in Darien. A pair of the nominate race was seen in Central Panama (no spots on wing coverts), and *cassini* in Darien (clear white spots on wing coverts).
- Dull-mantled Antbird *Myrmeciza laemosticta*: Excellent views of this moisture-loving middle elevation species from Burbayar.
- Immaculate Antbird *Myrmeciza immaculata*: A male was seen with an ant swarm on the lower part of the Pirre trail, here belonging to the race *berlepschi*. Like quite a few other species or subspecies, this one is named after Karl von Berlepsch (1850-1950), German ornithologist and collector specializing in the Neotropics.
- Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides*: A member of the 'faithful trio', a total of 15 individuals of this endearing army-ant swarm follower were seen well at all of the lowland sites we visited.
- Wing-banded Antbird *Myrmornis torquata*: We had to scramble to see a single bird tossing leaves below the Pirre trail but at least we were successful. The only regularly 'leaf-tossing' antbird, and certainly one of the oddest members of the family, here of the race *stictoptera*.
- Bicoloured Antbird *Gymnopithys leucaspis*: An obligate ant swarm following species, or 'professional', seen in good numbers at all of the humid forest sites with up to 15 seen one day on Pipeline Road and similar numbers seen at the swarm near Burbayar.
- Ocellated Antbird *Phaenostictus mcleannani*: We saw this amazing antbird at several locations, usually at antswarms at Pipeline Road, Burbayar and Cana. Dave and Sue's bird-of-the-trip! Often birds will actually roost near army-ant bivouacs in order to be ready for the action the following day! Named after James McLeannan, who in the mid-nineteenth century was stationmaster at Lion Hill on the Panama Railroad (now submerged under Gatun Lake). He collected many birds in the area (Harpy Eagles were not uncommon at the time) and sent them back to leading American and British ornithologists. From these specimens a number of new species were described, chiefly by George Lawrence (who has a thrush and a warbler named after him) and Osbert Salvin (the one honoured in the name of a curassow).

FORMICARIIDAE

- Black-faced Antthrush *Formicarius analis*: Seen quite well near Cana, here of the race *panamensis*.

- Black-headed Antthrush *Formicarius nigricapillus*: We tried to bushwhack down to a calling bird but only a couple of us saw it before it moved off.
- Rufous-breasted Antthrush *Formicarius rufipectus*: A few of us had only a quick view of a bird beating a hasty retreat on Pirre mountain.

GRALLARIIDAE

- Black-crowned Antpitta *Pittasoma michleri* (H): A very distant heard-only bird at Burbayar Lodge despite my hammering the tape just about everywhere.
- Spectacled Antpitta (Streak-chested A) *Hylopezus perspicillatus*: Thanks to Michael we all had great (and effortless) views of a bird near the Nusagandi road.
- Fulvous-bellied Antpitta (Thicket A) *Hylopezus dives*: A fairly common voice in dense second growth at Cana. It took a bit of work, but eventually we all got fantastic views of this skulker.

RHINOCRYPTIDAE

- Silvery-fronted Tapaculo *Scytalopus argentifrons*: Heard but mostly unresponsive with only a few of us seeing birds on Cerro Colorado (the weather did not help) and below Volcan Baru National Park. Another CR/P highland endemic.

TYRANNIDAE

- Sooty-headed Tyrannulet *Phyllomyias griseiceps*: Heard regularly from the forest canopy and two were seen in the canopy at Cana.
- Paltry Tyrannulet (Mistletoe T) *Zimmerius vilissimus*: A few were seen and many others were heard.
- Brown-capped Tyrannulet *Ornithion brunneicapillum*: Excellent views from the Pipeline Road canopy tower, and heard frequently in humid forest canopy throughout.
- Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet *Camptostoma obsoletum*: Regularly seen and heard in central Panama, and also seen at Mogue and Punta Patiño, here of the *flaviventer* race. The 'Beardless Tyrannulet (B.T.)' group is one of the typical examples of the complex and currently still largely unravelled taxonomic complexities of many Neotropical birds.
- Northern Scrub-Flycatcher *Sublegatus arenarum*: We had good views of a foraging bird at Punta Patiño. A bit reminiscent of a *Myiarchus*, though smaller and with a much shorter bill.
- Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus*: One showed very well at nearly head-height in a small tree at Summit gardens, a second was seen at Mogue and the 'free beer!' call was heard repeatedly in the Canal Area and at Cana.
- Forest Elaenia *Myiopagis gaimardii*: Regular sightings in central Panama and at Cana.
- Grey Elaenia *Myiopagis caniceps*: Pairs were seen (and others were heard) in canopy flocks along Pipeline Road and in Darien.
- Greenish Elaenia *Myiopagis viridicata*: One showed well along the old Gamboa road, and a few were heard at Metropolitan Park.
- Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*: Frequently seen and especially numerous around the Cana clearing, here of the *pallididorsalis* subspecies, an endemic taxon to Panama.
- Mountain Elaenia *Elaenia frantzii*: Four birds showed well in the Cerro Punta below Volcan Baru National Park.
- Olive-striped Flycatcher *Mionectes olivaceus*: A couple of foraging birds were seen at Burbayar and on Pirre where we heard a few males of this species singing on their loosely formed leks. Here the race *hederaceus*. Unlike most other flycatchers, male Olive-stripededs are (like manakins and hummingbirds) completely liberated from parental duties; the fruit they feed on is easily found and gathered by females alone, and one hypothesis argues that heavy nest predation in some tropical frugivores/nectarivores has selected for females to drive males away from nest sites.
- Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus*: Good views of a few birds around Cana. Similar to the previous species, this is also a lekking frugivorous flycatcher.

- Slaty-capped Flycatcher *Leptopogon superciliaris*: Small numbers were seen in Darien, here of the race *transandinus*.
- Yellow Tyrannulet *Capsiempis flaveola*: A single bird responded was seen from the old Gamboa road, here of the race *semiflava*.
- Yellow-green Tyrannulet *Phylloscartes flavovirens*: We struggled with this one at Metropolitan Park where a calling bird came in very quickly and was seen by me and Dave but then it just as quickly moved off. A second bird on the slopes of Cerro Pirre showed to more of us but would be our last sighting as a third bird heard with a mixed flock refused to show. So far still known as a Panama endemic, but it occurs in Darien very near the Colombian border, and probably occurs on the Colombian side of the Pirre massif as well (where very few ornithologists have gone before).
- Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant *Myiornis atricapillus*: Stunning looks at this tiny creature at Burbayar Lodge. Together with the closely related Short-tailed Pygmy-Tyrant *M. ecaudatus* (with which it used to be lumped), the smallest passerine.
- Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant *Lophotriccus pileatus*: Sue spotted a bird responding to playback on Cerro Pirre which a few of us managed to get on.
- Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant *Atalotriccus pilaris*: A smart little flycatcher of drier woodland, seen well by part of the group in the Canal Area.
- Southern Bentbill *Oncostoma olivaceum*: An odd little flycatcher, often heard giving its purring trills, and seen well several times.
- Slate-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum sylvia* (H): One was heard at David but refused to be pulled in to the tape.
- Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*: Common in second-growth in the Canal Area and around Cana. A typical garden bird in the humid Neotropics.
- Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum nigriceps*: One was seen by Daniel at Mogue and we otherwise only heard a couple of birds in the Darien.
- Brownish Twistwing (B Flycatcher) *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*: Excellent views of this weird flycatcher. The adult male has stiffened and particularly twisted outer primaries, the function of which is unknown, but which could perhaps have something to do with some of the strange 'mechanical' sounds this species makes.
- Eye-ringed Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus brevirostris*: One was glimpsed over the trail on Pirre but disappeared before anyone could get on it.
- Olivaceous Flatbill *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*: Heard in humid forest throughout the tour and seen well on Pipeline Road.
- Yellow-olive Flycatcher (Y-o Flatbill) *Tolmomyias sulphurescens*: A bird of drier forests, seen along the old Gamboa road. More than one species is certainly involved, with our birds belonging to the race *flavoolivaceus*.
- Yellow-margined Flycatcher (Y-m Flatbill) *Tolmomyias flavotectus*: We had a couple of good sightings with this typical canopy flock member from the canopy tower.
- White-throated Spadebill *Platyrinchus mystaceus*: A bird showed only briefly to some of us on Cerro Pirre.
- Golden-crowned Spadebill *Platyrinchus coronatus*: This shy, understory flycatcher was seen brilliantly on the lower slopes of Cerro Pirre with two birds involved in what appeared to be courtship.
- Northern Royal-Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus mexicanus*: This was a great find for the Canal Area and after some flying about it finally showed quite well.
- Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus*: Regular sightings. A cute little bird, and one of the most acrobatic of all flycatchers.
- Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher *Myiobius sulphureipygius*: One at Pipeline Road, and regularly seen in understory flocks at Cana, here of the race *aureatus*.
- Black-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius atricaudus*: A relative of the previous species, this one showed nicely along the old Gamboa road.

Black-billed Flycatcher *Aphanotriccus audax*: We all had superb views of this rare bird at Cana. Classified as Near-threatened, this is one of the three species restricted to both the Darien lowlands (023) and Nechí lowlands (037) Endemic Bird Areas.

Common Tufted-Flycatcher *Mitrephanes phaeocercus*: Nice close-ups of this endearing montane flycatcher near Cerro Punta.

Olive-sided Flycatcher *Contopus cooperi*: This species is mostly a transient migrant through Panama and a rare winter resident, we had good views of one at Cana.

Eastern Wood-Pewee *Contopus virens* (H): One was heard at Cana.

Acadian Flycatcher *Empidonax virens*: Numerous by voice (with a few birds seen) and one of the most common North American visitors.

Yellowish Flycatcher *Empidonax flavescens*: A bird was seen perched low near the track by some of us from the vehicles at Los Quetzales.

Black Phoebe *Sayornis nigricans*: This water-loving flycatcher was seen on several occasions in the cooler climes of the west.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus*: Numerous sightings of this attractive flycatcher in Darien.

Flammulated Attila *Attila flammulatus*: We eventually saw this fierce-looking flycatcher along the old Gamboa road and also at Metropolitan Park. Note that also Attila's brother (killed by Attila himself) has been made eternal in a bird name, namely in the African genus *Bleda* (bristlebills).

Speckled Mourner *Laniocera rufescens*: We all had superb views of singing birds on their loosely formed leks at Mogue and Cana.

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra*: Nice views along Pipeline Road and in Darien, and also seen at Nusagandí. May be a mimic of the larger Rufous Piha.

Western Sirystes *Sirystes albogriseus*: We had excellent close-ups of a bird perched quite low from the mine trail at Cana.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer*: Frequently heard and seen, this resident, nesting flycatcher is one of the most widely distributed in the family.

Panama Flycatcher *Myiarchus panamensis*: Excellent views of several birds at Punta Patiño, here of the nominate race.

Great Crested Flycatcher *Myiarchus crinitus*: Another wintering flycatcher, several of which were seen, with quite a few others heard giving their characteristic, inflected 'wheep'.

Lesser Kiskadee *Philohydor lictor*: Nice looks at this water-loving flycatcher at both Punta Patiño and Summit Ponds. Formerly placed in the genus *Pitangus*, and placed by a recent author in a new, monotypic genus *Philohydor*, based on its different syrinx and its cup-shaped nest, the latter very different from the Great Kiskadee's large globular nest with a side entrance.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*: Ubiquitous in central and western Panama, but absent from Cana, where the airstrip and adjacent second growth form a little island in an ocean of verdant forests.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis*: Daily sightings around the Cana 'lodge', and good comparisons between this and the next species in the Canal area.

Social Flycatcher *Myiozetetes similis*: Small numbers were seen in the Canal Area and in the west. Conspicuously absent at Cana.

Grey-capped Flycatcher *Myiozetetes granadensis*: Two from the airstrip at Cana one evening as we waited for the crane was our only sighting. Named after New Granada, a former republic of South America (early 19th century), variously incorporating Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador.

White-ringed Flycatcher *Conopias albobittata*: Good views of this forest canopy flycatcher on the slopes of Cerro Pirre mobbing the Tiny Hawk

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes maculatus*: Regularly sightings.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus*: Ditto. A small but vigorous flycatcher, so-called because of its habit of appropriating another bird's nest.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*: Ubiquitous in open areas.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*: Scattered sightings in more open country in central and western Panama.

OXYRUNCIDAE

Sharpbill *Oxyruncus cristatus*: One was eventually seen well on the slopes of Cerro Pirre and a second was seen very well through the scope by a few of us from the mine trail. For the time being *Oxyruncus* remains in its own monotypic family until its undecided relationships are resolved.

COTINGIDAE

Rufous Piha *Lipaugus unirufus*: Great looks through the scope at a close bird near Burbayar Lodge and especially common by voice on the slopes of Cerro Pirre, where we saw one individual. Here the nominate race.

Blue Cotinga *Cotinga nattererii*: We had good views of a male from the canopy tower on Pipeline but most remarkable was the sight of 6 male birds at once in the fruiting tree behind 'the lodge' at Cana. seemingly the best place in the country to see this unreal species. A female was also seen at Mogue. A member of one of the most splendid Neotropical genera, this species ranging from Panama into northwestern Ecuador.

Black-tipped Cotinga (White C) *Carpodectes hopkei*: Near daily sightings of this otherworldly species from around Cana, possibly of the same individual. Named for Gustav Hopke, a German ornithologist who collected birds along the Dagua and Putumayo rivers in southern Colombia.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*: Regularly encountered in humid lowland forest, with good views of excited males flaring their purple throats.

PIPRIDAE

Green Manakin *Chloropipo holochlora*: An excellent find at Cana that puzzled us for a moment but hearing its voice in response to tape clinched the identification. A very cool bird!

Golden-collared Manakin *Manacus vitellinus*: Good views of displaying males on Pipeline Road and also at Cana.

White-ruffed Manakin *Corapipo altera*: Numerous on the slopes of Cerro Pirre where we saw a male comically displaying on his mossy log and small numbers were also seen at Burbayar and Cerro Azul.

Lance-tailed Manakin *Chiroxiphia lanceolata*: We had good views of displaying males at Punta Patiño and at Metropolitan Park.

Blue-crowned Manakin *Pipra coronata*: We had a great view through the scope of an adult male at Burbayar and more were seen in the Darien.

Golden-headed Manakin *Pipra erythrocephala*: A very smart bird, common in Darien, with nice views of both foraging and displaying males at a lek. Males were a common sight in the pink flowering *Hamelia* shrubs that dominated the garden outside the Cana lodge.

Red-capped Manakin *Pipra mentalis*: Replacing the previous in central Panama, where it was seen on Pipeline Road and also at Burbayar.

TITYRIDAE

Thrush-like Mourner (T-I Schiffornis) *Schiffornis turdinus*: An unmistakable forest sound in Darien, and we all finally had good close-ups of two birds. We encountered the race *panamensis*, which is actually lumped in Slender-billed Schiffornis *S. stenorhyncha* in the recent paper by Arpad Nyári that attempts to revise the entire genus, proposing that subspecies *veraepacis*, *stenorhyncha*, *olivacea*, *aenea*, *amazona* and *turdina* be elevated to species rank, and though his analysis still lacks considerable work, many believe it is a start in the right direction (except for the South American Checklist Committee). Morphological and genetic data indicate that *Schiffornis* does not belong in the Pipridae but rather forms a group with the Tityras and Becards.

- Brown Schiffornis *Schiffornis veraepacis* (H): This form was heard at Cerro Azul but would not come out for us.
- Barred Becard *Pachyramphus versicolor*: One of the many write-ins that we saw at the base of Volcan Baru National Park.
- Cinereous Becard *Pachyramphus rufus*: A pair nesting outside the Cana lodge was one of the highlights of this year's tour.
- Cinnamon Becard *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*: One was seen on Pipeline road and they were fairly common in Cana.
- White-winged Becard *Pachyramphus polychopterus* (H): Several individuals were heard in the Canal Area and in the Darien.
- One-coloured Becard *Pachyramphus homochrous*: We first saw this species at Mogue and had a couple more at Cana.
- Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*: Regular sightings.
- Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*: A pair near the Mogue village was a lovely sight in great light perched in that yellow flowering tree that was so common in the area.

HIRUNDINIDAE

- Grey-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*: Small numbers around Mogue, Punta Patiño and in the Canal Area.
- Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*: Small numbers in the Canal Area and only at Mogue did we see it near mangroves.
- Blue-and-white Swallow *Notiochelidon cyanoleuca*: Seen at middle-elevations in the west.
- White-thighed Swallow *Neochelidon tibialis*: A common sight at Cana this tour, they were a common sight on the airstrip and Dave located one of their perches allowing us superb scope studies.
- Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*: Regularly seen throughout.
- Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*: A few in the Canal Area and at La Palma.

CORVIDAE

- Black-chested Jay *Cyanocorax affinis*: We had great views from the old Gamboa road and also numerous in the Darien lowlands.

TROGLODYTIDAE

- White-headed Wren *Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*: Small numbers in Darien, including a pair as high as the Pirre mountain camp.
- Sooty-headed Wren *Thryothorus spadix*: This restricted-range species showed very well on Cerro Pirre.
- Black-bellied Wren *Thryothorus fasciatoventris*: We saw this skulker at Mogue, and it was also heard regularly in tangled second growth at Cana.
- Bay Wren *Thryothorus nigricapillus*: One was seen by some of us at Burbayar in central Panama (the *castaneus* subspecies group) and seen at Cana (where of the *nigricapillus* subspecies group). The latter differ quite conspicuously in the dense barring below.
- Stripe-throated Wren *Thryothorus leucopogon*: After chasing them around at Burbayar and Cana for days, I finally got some tape of a bird that instantly brought it out to sing on a branch right over our heads for excellent views.
- Rufous-breasted Wren *Thryothorus rutilus*: Common in drier forests in the Canal Area and seen on the old Gamboa road.
- Rufous-and-white Wren *Thryothorus rufalbus*: This good-looking wren mostly eluded us with a few having either a brief view or a glimpse at Metropolitan Park.
- Buff-breasted Wren *Thryothorus leucotis*: Good views at old Gamboa road and one was seen at Punta Patiño.

- Plain Wren *Thryothorus modestus*: A few were seen. Of the Panamanian members of this genus, the Plain Wren is the one that's least tied to forest, in fact often occurring in tall grass and shrubbery. Its overall numbers must have increased greatly with deforestation.
- House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*: Several sightings.
- Ochraceous Wren *Troglodytes ochraceus*: Heard regularly at upper elevations but only a few of us saw a bird near the top of Cerro Pirre (*festinus*). This species is currently known only from Costa Rica to Eastern Panama (restricted to the Costa Rica and Panama highlands and Darien highlands EBAs) but probably also occurs across the border in Colombia where it would be an addition to the South America list.
- White-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucosticta*: This is the lowland counterpart of the following species, seen at Cerro Azul and a half-dozen more were seen in the Darien (of the restricted *darienensis* taxon) up to just below the Pirre camp. Expect there to be various splits to current *Henicorhina* species in the future. A recent molecular study suggested splitting *H. leucosticta* into at least three taxa: a Central American *prosthaleuca* group (to which our birds belong to); a Chocó *inornata* group; and an Amazonian *leucosticta* group. In addition, a second author suggested that taxa within the Central American *prosthaleuca* group warrant species status. Keep watching this space!
- Grey-breasted Wood-Wren *Henicorhina leucophrys*: The highland wood-wren seen well at Cerro Punta and Cerro Pirre. More than one species is likely involved, the birds we saw belonging to the nominate race.
- Southern Nightingale Wren (Scaly-breasted W) *Microcerculus marginatus*: This one gave us some trouble this tour with only poor views for a few of us.
- Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*: We had numerous great views of several small family groups along Pipeline Road (12 in one day). Others were seen at Burbayar.

POLIOPTILIDAE

- Tawny-faced Gnatwren *Microbatas cinereiventris*: A pretty inhabitant of humid foothills, seen superbly hitching up a trunk at Cana (to the sound of John breathing a sigh of relief).
- Long-billed Gnatwren *Ramphocaenus melanurus*: This vine-tangle skulker was seen fairly easily this tour at several sites across the country.
- Tropical Gnatcatcher *Polioptila plumbea*: Regular sightings in central Panama, here the race *superciliaris*, in which males have the white extending up over the cheeks and face to above the eyes.
- Slate-throated Gnatcatcher *Polioptila schistaceigula*: There were a couple of leader-only sightings high in the canopy of Cerro Pirre and the mine trail that eluded us with only Daniel getting good views.

TURDIDAE

- Black-faced Solitaire *Myadestes melanops*: At the base of Volcan Baru National Park we had great views of foraging birds, one of the birds requested by Denzil. Another CR/P highlands endemic.
- Varied Solitaire *Myadestes coloratus*: A lovely Darien endemic, seen well near the top of Cerro Pirre, where the beautiful songs of this species was one of the most memorable sounds.
- Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus gracilirostris*: Only glimpsed before quickly moving into the forest below Volcan Baru. Another CR/P highlands endemic.
- Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus aurantirostris*: One eventually showed fairly well on the lower slopes of Cerro Colorado.
- Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus fuscater*: Seen well on several occasions, sometimes nearly at our feet at the Pirre mountain camp, here of the handsome race *mirabilis*, a form endemic to the Serranía de Pirre.
- Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush *Catharus frantzii*: Good views on the track below Volcan Baru.
- Mountain Thrush *Turdus plebejus*: One was seen in Fortuna and several more were seen in the Cerro Punta area.

Pale-vented Thrush *Turdus obsoletus* (H): One heard on Cerro Pirre.
Clay-coloured Thrush (C-c Robin) *Turdus grayi*: Seen frequently in western and central Panama. Costa Rica's sentiment for its national bird originates from this species' far-carrying song heard throughout the country just before the coming rainy season.
Dagua Thrush *Turdus daguae*: Superb close-ups at Cana.

MIMIDAE

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*: A handful of sightings from the Canal Area. This species seems to have been introduced from Colombia into Panama. It is now fairly common in some residential and cleared areas, and has now spread into Costa Rica.

PTILOGONATIDAE

Black-and-Yellow Silky-Flycatcher (B&Y Phainoptila) *Phainoptila melanoxantha*: A few were seen on Cerro Colorado and then below Volcan Baru we watched a bird feeding in a bush just a few feet away. Another CR/P highlands endemic. The 'silkie' are fairly closely related to the waxwings, and Sibley actually places them all in one family, together with the Palmchat of Hispaniola.

Long-tailed Silky-Flycatcher *Ptilogonys caudatus*: We chased these lovely birds around for a time below Volcan Baru and eventually we all had good views. Another CR/P highlands endemic.

VIREONIDAE

Yellow-throated Vireo *Vireo flavifrons*: We had a couple of good sightings of this migrant in the Darien.

Yellow-winged Vireo *Vireo carmioli*: A pair of this CR/P highlands endemic was seen very well below Volcan Baru.

Brown-capped Vireo *Vireo leucophrys*: Two birds gave us good views in the Volcan Baru area.

Red-eyed Vireo *Vireo olivaceus*: Two birds were seen from the old Gamboa road. This species mainly occurs in Panama as a transient (we were too early for most of them).

Yellow-green Vireo *Vireo flavoviridis*: We had good views of a singing bird at Punta Patiño. A breeding bird in Panama (with full numbers likely not having arrived yet).

Golden-fronted Greenlet *Hylophilus aurantiifrons*: Small numbers in central Panama, largely replacing the next species in drier forest and woodland (though with a fair amount of overlap, e.g. we found both species at Metropolitan Park).

Lesser Greenlet *Hylophilus decurtatus*: Numerous and widespread.

Green Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanus pulchellus*: We had good views of two birds from the canopy tower on Pipeline Road. Also regularly heard and seen elsewhere in the Canal Area.

Yellow-browed Shrike-Vireo *Vireolanus eximius*: This one replaces the previous species in Darien, and though at times we could have used a canopy tower, thanks to the group's perseverance we all had several good views of this notoriously difficult species.

Rufous-browed Peppershrike *Cyclarhis gujanensis*: One was seen in the west below Volcan Baru.

PARULIDAE

Golden-winged Warbler *Vermivora chrysoptera*: Two sightings of this superb little boreal migrant. Apparently this species is slowly being replaced on its breeding grounds by Blue-winged Warbler *V. pinus*.

Tennessee Warbler *Vermivora peregrina*: One of the most frequently encountered wintering warblers. Note that *peregrinus* is Latin for 'wanderer'. This species breeds mainly in Alaska and Canada, and was described from a migrant specimen collected in Tennessee!

Flame-throated Warbler *Parula gutturalis*: A lovely bird seen very well in a mixed flock in the alder trees below Volcan Baru.

Tropical Parula *Parula pitiauyumi*: A few encounters in Darien, and one was also seen in David.

Yellow Warbler *Dendroica petechia*: Frequent sightings of wintering birds, which belong to the northern *aestiva* group, and we also had good views of the red-headed male Mangrove Warblers *D. petechia*.

Chestnut-sided Warbler *Dendroica pensylvanica*: A few. This wintering warbler seems much more numerous in Costa Rica.

Magnolia Warbler *Dendroica magnolia*: A good find near Lake Bayano, a rather uncommon winter resident.

Black-throated Green Warbler *Dendroica virens*: A couple of sightings of this very attractive winter resident.

Blackburnian Warbler *Dendroica fusca*: A few at higher elevations.

Palm Warbler *Dendroica palmarum*: A strange find at Cerro Azul but seen very well nonetheless.

Bay-breasted Warbler *Dendroica castanea*: Another common wintering warbler, all of them still in their grotty non-breeding plumage.

Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*: Almost daily sightings in Darien, and a few elsewhere. This handsome warbler is placed in its own genus, and its foraging behaviour is certainly different from all other parulids.

American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*: A single bird was seen on Cerro Pirre.

Prothonotary Warbler *Protonotaria citrea*: A little stunner, seen repeatedly at Punta Patiño, all of which were likely wintering there.

Northern Waterthrush *Seiurus noveboracensis*: Small numbers in central Panama.

Kentucky Warbler *Oporornis formosus* (NL): One was seen by a few members in the group on our last morning at Cana.

Mourning Warbler *Oporornis philadelphia*: Good views in the thickets at the edge of the Cana airstrip, where fairly common though secretive.

Chiriqui Yellowthroat *Geothlypis chiriquensis*: It took some work but eventually we nailed this one, getting good scope views. The new Ecuador field guide considers this disjunct, restricted-range form as a species separate from Masked Yellowthroat *G. aequinoctialis*.

Wilson's Warbler *Wilsonia pusilla*: A common bird in the highland forests around Cerro Punta where we had up to 10 individuals

Canada Warbler *Wilsonia canadensis*: One bird was seen by most above the Pirre mountain camp.

Slate-throated Redstart (S-t Whitestart) *Myioborus miniatus*: Seen on Cerro Pirre and again in western Panama.

Collared Redstart *Myioborus torquatus*: Excellent views from the Cerro Punta area. Another CR/P highlands endemic.

Chestnut-capped Warbler *Basileuterus culicivorus*: Excellent views in the second-growth below Cerro Colorado.

Black-cheeked Warbler *Basileuterus melanogenys*: Several groups of this CR/P endemic were seen very well in the Cerro Punta area.

Pirre Warbler *Basileuterus ignotus*: We were treated to excellent views of this very restricted-range Darien endemic. Indeed, its range is estimated to only total c. 72 sq km and thus its classification as Vulnerable.

Three-striped Warbler *Basileuterus tristriatus*: A couple were seen at upper elevations of the Fortuna road.

Buff-rumped Warbler *Basileuterus fulvicauda*: A pretty streamside bird, one was seen well pumping its tail and walking on the trail at Cana.

Wrenthrush (Zeledonia) *Zeledonia coronata*: Our views of this species were outstanding and this was surely one of the highlights from our birding in western Panama. One of Dave's favourites. A CR/P highlands endemic.

THRAUPIDAE

- Plain-coloured Tanager *Tangara inornata*: Small numbers were encountered in central Panama and at Cana. The duller in the genus, but nonetheless very pretty when seen at close range. Of all the Neotropical bird genera, *Tangara* is the most diverse with 49 species, the majority of which are found at middle elevations along the eastern slope of the Andes.
- Emerald Tanager *Tangara florida*: This superb foothill species showed extremely well at Fortuna. The scientific name bears no reference to the American state of the same name. *Florida* is Latin for 'flowery, blooming' and refers to the gaudy plumage of this species. The name of Florida state is derived from the Spanish *Pascua florida* or Easter, the time of year when the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León discovered the area in 1513.
- Silver-throated Tanager *Tangara icterocephala*: We found several birds near the Pirre mountain camp as well as Cerro Colorado and the Fortuna road.
- Speckled Tanager *Tangara guttata*: Another foothill species, found in small numbers on the slopes of Cerro Pirre and Cerro Azul.
- Bay-headed Tanager *Tangara gyrola*: Fairly common on Cerro Pirre and otherwise seen at Chago's fig tree near Boquete.
- Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*: Numerous and widespread in lowlands and lower foothills. 'Larvatus' is Latin for masked.
- Spangle-cheeked Tanager *Tangara dowii*: We enjoyed fantastic close-ups of this CR/P highland endemic at Fortuna.
- Green-naped Tanager *Tangara fucosa*: We saw good numbers feeding at the fruiting melastomes during our two days near the top of Cerro Pirre. A Darien endemic and close relative of the previous, and in fact one would have to split a lot of the Andean *Tangara* tanagers if using the same criteria! Classified as Near-Threatened due to its extremely small range.
- Swallow-Tanager *Tersina viridis*: Daily views around the Cana clearing. This gaudy bird was formerly placed in its own family, the Tersinidae.
- Scarlet-thighed Dacnis *Dacnis venusta*: Repeated sightings of males at Burbayar and Cerro Azul.
- Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*: Many good views, here of the rather deep blue race *ultramarina*.
- Viridian Dacnis *Dacnis viguieri*: We all had good scope views on our first day at Cana followed by leisurely views of a pair and finally one last male was seen from the airstrip towards the end of our stay at Cana. This restricted-range Darien endemic is classified as Near-threatened.
- Green Honeycreeper *Chlorophanes spiza*: Small numbers seen throughout the trip.
- Shining Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes lucidus*: Excellent views of several birds at Cerro Azul and a female was seen at Cana.
- Purple Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes caeruleus*: We had diagnostic looks at both sexes during our birding at Cana.
- Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*: The sight of all those males crowded around that nectar feeder was one of the great tour spectacles!
- Blue-grey Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*: Numerous and widespread in secondary areas. The scientific name is derived from the 'episcopal blue' plumage.
- Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*: Another one that was found throughout the country, and we had daily views at Cana.
- Blue-and-gold Tanager *Bangsia arcaei*: We had excellent views of three birds in the Fortuna area, surely the best place to see this species. This gaudy tanager, restricted to the Costa Rica and Panama highlands and (western part of) Darien highlands EBAs, is sometimes placed in the genus *Buthraupis*, in which it certainly does not seem to belong.
- Grey-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*: Like some antbirds, this understory tanager has a penchant for following army-ants to forage on the larger, fleeing insects. We had great views of several birds on Pipeline Road.
- Sulphur-rumped Tanager *Heterospingus rubrifrons*: Excellent scope views from Burbayar. A near-endemic and close relative of the next species, but with both sexes resembling the Scarlet-browed Tanager's female.

Scarlet-browed Tanager *Heterospingus xanthopygius*: This one performed well this year, allowing for good views of several males at Cana.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*: Birds of the race *panamensis* were regularly encountered in both central and eastern Panama.

Tawny-crested Tanager *Tachyphonus delatrii*: We saw some impressive numbers of this species near Burbayar where some flocks numbered up to 20 individuals pouring through the woods.

Crimson-backed Tanager *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*: A colourful species that has - of all places - been introduced into Tahiti.

Passerini's Tanager *Ramphocelus passerinii*: Small numbers were seen in the Bocas del Toro foothills.

Yellow-rumped Tanager (Lemon-r T) *Ramphocelus icteronotus*: Replacing the former in central (Caribbean slope and lowlands where we didn't go) and eastern Panama, where we found it to be numerous around the Cana clearing and airstrip.

Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*: An understory tanager going around in roving flocks, seen well in the stream valley at Cana. It was also seen near Burbayar.

Yellow-backed Tanager *Hemithraupis flavicollis*: Two males were seen from Cana.

Black-and-yellow Tanager *Chrysothlypis chrysomelas*: Many good views in mountainous areas throughout the country. Another species found in both the Costa Rica and Panama highland and Darien highland EBAs. We encountered both races.

Slaty Flowerpiercer *Diglossa plumbea*: Many good views in the highlands of western Panama (a CR/P highlands endemic).

INCERTAE SEDIS

Common Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus ophthalmicus*: Common on Cerro Colorado and the Fortuna Road, here of the race *novicius*.

Pirre Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus inornatus*: This Darien endemic was numerous on the higher slopes of Cerro Pirre.

Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager *Chlorospingus pileatus*: A species of higher elevations that we had nice views of at Cerro Punta. A CR/P highlands endemic.

Rosy Thrush-Tanager (Rose-breasted T-T) *Rhodinocichla rosea*: Only some of us had any luck with this secretive understory denizen in the Canal Area.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*: Regular encounters.

Yellow-faced Grassquit *Tiaris olivacea*: Several birds were seen in the Volcan/Cerro Punta area and there was also an individual seen at Cerro Azul/Jefe.

Streaked Saltator *Saltator striatipectus*: Up to three birds were observed on different occasions at the David airport.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*: Seen regularly throughout the country. The race *iungens*, which has the black restricted to just a malar stripe (typical for South American birds), was regularly seen in Darien. In the Bocas del Toro foothills we saw *magnoides* which has the black surrounding the buff throat forming a broad collar. We also had several birds in the Canal area, which must have been intermediate and/or variable, though we didn't study them in detail. They likely are an unnamed, intermediate population, birds here known to be variable in the amount of black. The black-collared birds in the west resemble the Black-headed Saltator *S. atriceps* in this feature. Mimicry or coincidence?

Slate-coloured Grosbeak *Pitylus grossus*: Three birds were seen flying across the track at Cerro Azul and then we had great scope views of a couple more at Cana. Note that nowadays this genus is usually lumped into *Saltator*.

EMBERIZIDAE

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*: Scattered sightings.

Slate-coloured Seedeater *Sporophila schistacea* (H): One was heard deep in some bamboo at Metropolitan Park, this bird is very nomadic in its occurrence.

- Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*: Birds of the race *hicksii* were regularly seen in both central Panama and Darien, being especially numerous around the Cana clearing and airstrip.
- Thick-billed Seed-Finch *Oryzoborus funereus*: We had good looks at this species on the old Gamboa road and also from the Lake Bayano area as well as at Cana. The AOU continues to maintain this form's full species status.
- Yellow-thighed Finch *Pselliophorus tibialis*: At least five birds were seen very well in the Cerro Punta area. A CR/P highland endemic.
- Yellow-green Finch *Pselliophorus luteoviridis*: The weather up on Cerro Colorado was atrocious and only a few of us saw this Panama endemic before it dived into impenetrable greenery never to return.
- Large-footed Finch *Pezopetes capitalis*: This species is usually more numerous at Los Quetzales but maybe there were just too many of us standing around the feeders as Daniel later had two birds while enjoying a quiet moment by himself. A CR/P highland endemic.
- Black-striped Sparrow *Arremonops conirostris*: Small numbers were found around the Cana airstrip, and a few were heard/seen elsewhere.
- Orange-billed Sparrow *Arremon aurantirostris*: Several sightings at Cana where we came across the race *strictocollaris*.
- Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch *Arremon brunneinuchus*: Many good looks at the race *frontalis* on Cerro Pirre, where this species was common above the mountain camp.
- White-naped Brush-Finch *Atlapetes albinucha*: This species was found in the Fortuna and Boquete areas where it favours brushy edge growth. Similarly, this species also favours coffee plantations.
- Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*: Numerous in the west around Volcan.

CARDINALIDAE

- Highland Hepatic-Tanager *Piranga lutea*: We had good views of both sexes of this species at both Fortuna and Cerro Azul/Jefe. Note that recent genetic research indicates that *Piranga*, *Habia* and *Chlorothraupis* do not really belong with the tanagers, and that they are more closely allied to the cardinal grosbeaks, a change adopted by the AOU.
- Summer Tanager *Piranga rubra*: Quite a few observations of this wintering tanager.
- Red-crowned Ant-Tanager *Habia rubica*: We saw a small group of this species at Metropolitan Park, where they seem to have multiplied in recent years, here of the race *vinacea* (birds sounding quite different from those in e.g. Amazonian Ecuador and Peru).
- Red-throated Ant-Tanager *Habia fuscicauda*: Several good views at both sexes of the race *willisi*. This species replaces the previous species in more humid areas, but is conspicuously absent at Cana, where none of the two ant-tanager species is found. Interestingly the Red-throated Ant-Tanager is not known to occur anywhere in far eastern Panama, though it re-appears on the Caribbean coast of northern Colombia (*erythrolaema*).
- Carmioli's Tanager *Chlorothraupis carmioli*: Small numbers were seen at Nusagandi and a group was seen moving rapidly across the track at Cerro Azul/Jefe.
- Lemon-spectacled Tanager (L-browed T) *Chlorothraupis olivacea*: A close relative of the previous, replacing it in Darien where it granted many good views.
- Yellow-green Grosbeak *Caryothraustes canadensis*: Very scarce this tour and John was the only one to see the pair that showed briefly on Cerro Pirre.
- Blue-black Grosbeak *Cyanocompsa cyanooides*: Regular encounters.

ICTERIDAE

- Eastern Meadowlark *Sturnella magna*: Four of this species made a lovely sight near Volcan. Panamanian birds, of the rather small and dark race *subulata*, may rather belong with 'Lilian's Meadowlark' (*S. lilianae*) though more study is needed.
- Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*: Numerous in open country, this species has undergone a population explosion in response to man-made environments.

- Giant Cowbird *Scaphidura oryzivora*: Another one that was seen frequently, particularly at Cana. A brood parasite on oropendolas.
- Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*: Excellent views at old Gamboa road and Summit.
- Orange-crowned Oriole *Icterus auricapillus*: We had good views through the scope of three males during our short time at Punta Patiño.
- Yellow-tailed Oriole *Icterus mesomelas*: This one showed well at Cana. Here the race *carrikeri*, lacking the white in the wings seen on birds in Ecuador. This subspecies is named after M. A. Carriker, who co-authored "Birds of the Santa Marta Region of Colombia" (1922).
- Baltimore Oriole *Icterus galbula*: Scattered sightings.
- Yellow-billed Cacique *Amblycercus holosericeus*: A vocal but hard-to-see skulker of dense thickets, seen only by Daniel at Cana. The nest being a cup rather than a pendant basket as in the *Cacicus* species and in oropendolas, it is only distantly related to both of the latter (which was recently confirmed by DNA-sequence data).
- Scarlet-rumped Cacique *Cacicus microrhynchus*: Small numbers were found at Burbayar and the Canal area.
- Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*: Small numbers from the Darien and the Canal Area, here the race *vitellinus*.
- Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus*: Great views of a displaying male at Cana.
- Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*: Scattered sightings in central Panama and Darien. Often placed in the monotypic genus *Zarhynchus*.
- Black Oropendola *Psarocolius guatimozinus*: Another very memorable sighting watching those three displaying males together with the nesting females at Mogue. Our third and final species restricted to both the Darien lowlands (023) and Nechí lowlands (037) Endemic Bird Areas.

FRINGILLIDAE

FRINGILLINAE

- Yellow-bellied Siskin *Carduelis xanthogaster*: Good views of both sexes from the Cerro Punta area.
- Lesser Goldfinch *Carduelis psaltria*: Fairly common on the lower slopes of Cerro Colorado and the Cerro Punta area.

EUPHONIINAE

- Yellow-collared Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia flavirostris* (H): A distant bird was frustratingly heard at Pirre but was impossible to find. Recent genetic research indicates that chlorophonias and euphonias don't belong with the tanagers, but rather with cardueline finches.
- Golden-browed Chlorophonia *Chlorophonia callophrys*: One of the highlights of our birding in western Panama, to be able to watch a pair for as long as we did in such perfect conditions was really special. A CR/P highland endemic.
- Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*: Regularly seen in central and western Panama. None were found in Darien, where it is a localized species at the eastern edge of its range (there are no records from Colombia).
- Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris*: The most frequently seen euphonia in central Panama.
- Fulvous-vented Euphonia *Euphonia fulvicrissa*: Scattered encounters in the humid lowland and foothill forests of central Panama and Darien.
- White-vented Euphonia *Euphonia minuta*: We had numerous good views of this species at Burbayar. They appeared to be preparing to roost.
- Tawny-capped Euphonia *Euphonia annae*: Great views of males in western Panama and more good views from Burbayar and also at Cerro Azul.
- Orange-bellied Euphonia *Euphonia xanthogaster*: Several sightings from the slopes of Cerro Pirre and the Boca trail.

PASSERIDAE

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*: This Old World species was seen at nearly the eleventh hour in Panama City to everyone's relief!

MAMMALS

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth (B-t S) *Bradypus variegatus*: Regular sightings of this extraordinary animal.

Common Opossum *Didelphis marsupialis*: One was seen from Pipeline Road.

Geoffroy's Tamarin (Red-crested Bare-face T, Red-naped T) *Saguinus geoffroyi*: Several sightings of this near-endemic from Burbayar, the Canal Area and Cana.

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capucinus*: We had just one encounter but it was a good one with a troop of 8 individuals on Pipeline.

Mantled Howler (M H Monkey) *Alouatta palliata*: Repeated observations of this impressive monkey, and the legendary 'howling' was a characteristic forest sound.

Brown-headed Spider Monkey (Colombian S M) *Ateles fusciceps*: We had a few encounters on the slopes of Cerro Pirre and at Cana where they are usually much more numerous. This form is sometimes lumped in Central American Spider Monkey *A. geoffroyi*.

Variegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides*: Some good looks at several in the Canal Area.

Red-tailed Squirrel (Tropical Red Squirrel) *Sciurus granatensis*: A few.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*: About a dozen sightings.

Grey Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*: A visitor to the clearing at Cana on only one evening.

White-nosed Coati *Nasua narica*: Lots of these from the Canal Area.

Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*: Approximately 5 individuals were seen during our boat journey from Mogue.

[Baird's Tapir *Tapirus bairdii*: Footprints were found in Darien].

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Meso-American Slider *Trachemys scripta*

Striped Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus*

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*

Vine Snake *Oxybelis platurus*

Pirre Mountain Frog *Atelopus glyphus*