



**Naturalist Journeys and Caligo Ventures
Panama: Birding, Nature & History
Species List – July 27th – August 3rd, 2019**

Host Guide James P. Smith with local guides Igua Jimenez and Oscar Fria, and ten tour participants: Chris, Kate, Carol, Larry, Jerry, Eileen, June, Dick, Joe and Tracy.

(RS) = Regional specialty
(HO) = heard only
(GO) = guide/leader only

A sensational week with six of the nights being based at the fabulous Canopy Camp in Darien Province. This was a 'green season' trip, rain and humidity to be expected. Fortunately for us, while it rained and rained heavily at times, the weather never disrupted our plans and we skillfully (or perhaps luckily!) skirted around the daily thunderstorms with great success. At the helm we had Igua and Oscar, two fantastic local guides who had grown up locally and knew the area inside out. The impressive species list is testament to the effort put in by the whole group, not just our hard working leaders and we tallied no less 222 species a mere 8 of which were 'heard-only'. The biggest success came in the form of two very large, very rare raptors and to see both Harpy and Crested Eagles in a single trip was almost too good to be true! But, eastern Panama is justly famed for many other range restricted species and it was impressive to say the least to see some of our seasoned World birders enjoying life birds on every single day of the tour. Not only that, the friendly, easy-going nature of the Panamanian people and its local guides made for an extremely pleasant birding experience in a fairly remote part of the World.

Birds (222 species, of which 8 were heard only):

Tinamidae: Tinamous (2)

Great Tinamou *Tinamus major*—(HO) on the Icandi Road just off the Pan-American Highway near Lake Bayano.

Little Tinamou *Crypturellus soui* — heard only on three days but actually seen (briefly) at three sites for the lucky few; on the road to Canopy Camp Darien, in the forest near Nuevo Vigia, and in San Francisco Reserve.

Anatidae: Ducks, Geese and Swans (2)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck *Dendrocygna autumnalis*— daily throughout the tour, usually fly-overs or sometimes observed foraging in wet fields and ponds.

Muscovy Duck *Cairina moschata*— Atmospheric early morning views of a genuinely wild bird teed-up atop a snag along the

banks of the Rio Chucunaque as we headed down river toward the Crested Eagle site.

Cracidae: Guans and Curassows (2)

Gray-headed Chachalaca *Ortalis cinereiceps*—just the one seen, on the Lajas Blancas Road.

Great Curassow *Crax rubra* – (GO) One seen all-too-briefly by sharp-eyed local guide Oscar. It was along the Rio Chucunaque returning from the Crested Eagle site. Not seen by anyone else in the group but certainly worthy of mention.

Columbidae: Pigeons and Doves (7)

Rock Pigeon *Columba livia*— plenty in Panama City but not noticed during our time in the Darien.

Pale-vented Pigeon *Patagioenas cayennensis*— one seen well while the guides loaded up the vehicles at the Riande Hotel and an impressive concentration (c.40) in leafless tree limbs seen from the ‘dump road’ at El Mamey. Smaller numbers seen on two other days of the tour.

Scaled Pigeon *Patagioenas speciosa*— certainly aloof for a species listed as ‘common’ on the checklist with just one ‘heard-only’ from Canopy Camp, and several in flight over the foothills of San Francisco Reserve.

Plain-breasted Ground-Dove *Columbina minuta*— inconspicuous and easy to gloss over. Scope views of a couple of perched birds on the Aligandia Road and a pair unobtrusively hiding behind the dining area at Canopy Camp the following day.

Ruddy Ground-Dove *Columbina talpacoti*— distinctive, common, and noted on every day of the tour.

Blue Ground-Dove *Claravis pretiosa* – the most beautiful of the three ground-doves that we saw with males in the scope at El Mamey and San Francisco Reserve.

White-tipped Dove *Leptotila verreauxi*— always present at Canopy Camp, especially along the entrance road and at the Riande Hotel.

Cuculidae: Cuckoos and Anis (4)

Greater Ani *Crotophaga major*— this large, pale-eyed Ani proved to be pretty widespread after the first at El Mamey early in the trip, showing up at Canopy Camp several times.

Smooth-billed Ani *Crotophaga ani*— very common and fun to watch as they often sat out in the sun drying off after the daily thunderstorms.

Striped Cuckoo *Tapera naevia* – Iguá spotted one from the back of a pick-up at El Real De Santa Maria as we headed home from the Harpy Eagle adventure. Another (GO) seen from the trail behind the school at Nuevo Vigia.

Squirrel Cuckoo *Piaya cayana*—just two sightings for us with singles at El Salto and the forest trail at Nuevo Vigia.

Caprimulgidae: Nightjars (1)

Common Potoo *Nyctibius griseus*—(HO) one heard by Dick during the memorable pre-dawn departure for the Harpy Eagle.

Apodidae: Swifts (3)

White-collared Swift *Streptoprocne zonaris* – Spectacular! This aerial beast was careening about the skies right over the Pan-Am Highway at our very first stop of the tour at Icandi Road, perhaps 25 – 30 of them in all.

Short-tailed Swift *Chaetura brachyuran*— the most frequently seen swift on the trip, usually in murky, overcast conditions over the Rio Chucunaque.

Band-rumped Swift *Chaetura spinicaudus*— about half-a-dozen over the Pan-Am Highway with the White-collared Swifts at Icandi Road.

Trochilidae: Hummingbirds (14)

Scaly-breasted Hummingbird *Phaeochroa cuvierii* – exceptional views at the feeders at Avicar Restaurant in Torti followed by regular sightings at Canopy Camp's feeders.

White-necked Jacobin *Florisuga mellivora*— this beauty graced the feeders at Avicar Restaurant and virtually daily at Canopy Camp.

Long-billed Hermit *Phaethornis longirostris*— spectacular and relatively common being seen daily at Canopy Camp, and on the lunch stops at Avicar Restaurant after the first by the Rio Torti.

(RS) Pale-bellied Hermit *Phaethornis striigularis* – one photographed outside tent #8 at Canopy Camp. Present for just a few minutes one afternoon and only identified after the tour when reviewing images from the trip.

Stripe-throated Hermit *Phaethornis strigularis* - close encounters with two in the forest at Nuevo Vigia but most of us failed to get binoculars on them - one of the quickest avian gems in the forest for sure!

Purple-crowned Fairy *Heliathrix barroti* – two brief sightings the best of which was by the track in San Francisco Reserve.

Black-throated Mango *Anthracothorax nigricollis*— only seen at the feeders at the Avicar Restaurant in Torti but those birds did give exquisite views.

Long-billed Starthroat *Heliomaster longirostris* – exceptionally good views on our first visit to the Avicar Restaurant in Torti.

Garden Emerald *Chlorostilbon assimilis*— a few in the group caught up with this species in the grounds of the Riande Airport Hotel just before the tour started in earnest.

White-vented Plumeleteer *Chalybura buffonii*— almost daily at Canopy Camp and on the visits to the Avicar Restaurant. One feisty male was a regular feature on the deck in the center of the camp.

Blue-chested Hummingbird *Amazilia amabilis*— regular in small numbers at Canopy Camp and at the feeders at Avicar Restaurant.

(RS) Snowy-bellied Hummingbird *Amazilia edward*— only at the feeders at the Avicar Restaurant in Torti. Aptly named and one of the star birds of the trip.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird *Amazilia tzacatl* – consistently encountered at the camp feeders and at the Avicar Restaurant in Torti.

Sapphire-throated Hummingbird *Lepidopyga coeruleogularis* – Two around the feeders during lunch at Avicar Restaurant as we headed east into the Darien.

Rallidae: Rails, Crakes, and Coots (1)

Purple Gallinule *Porphyrio martinica*— adults seen in the wet fields from the ‘dump road’ at El Mamey, and downriver from Yaviza on the Harpy Eagle excursion.

Aramidae: Limpkin (1)

Limpkin *Aramus guarauna*—could have easily been missed on this tour with just two different roadside singles by the Pan-Am Highway and another walking up the Acon forest trail on the way to the Harpy Eagle site.

Charadriidae: Plovers and Lapwings (1)

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*—this gorgeous shorebird was seen on at least on four days of the trip, most easily viewed in wet fields from the Pan-Am Highway at El Mamey.

Jacaniidae: Jacanas (1)

Wattled Jacana *Jacana jacana*—plentiful (c.20) in the wet meadows at El Mamey.

Scolopacidae: Sandpipers and Allies (1)

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*—one of the few genuine migrants on the tour, the first being a very early bird on the Rio Torti on July 28th followed by 2 – 8 individuals on all three of our river trips.

Ciconiidae: Storks (1)

Wood Stork *Mycteria americana*— quite scarce with just three along the Pan-American Highway on July 28th and two perched up along the Rio Chucunaque on August 1st.

Fregatidae: Frigatebirds (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird *Fregata magnificens*—good numbers (25+) cruising over the tidal flats and coastal areas of Panama City for those approaching the Riande Airport Hotel from the west on July 27th.

Phalacrocoracidae: Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*—easily encountered during the three river trips.

Anhingidae: Anhingas (1)

Anhinga *Anhinga anhinga* — Dick spotted one soaring with a mixed kettle of vultures and kites over Icandi Road on July 28th, and another flew down the Rio Chucunaque on August 2nd.

Pelecanidae: Pelicans (1)

Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*—small, seemingly random flocks seen in flight on three days of the tour.

Ardeidae: Herons and Egrets (10)

(RS) Cooi Heron *Ardea cooi*— most easily watched on the three river trips, often giving exquisite views.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*— Found daily but not common by any means and usually only single birds seen.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*—Three along the Rio Chucunaque on August 1st.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*— Seen well on all three river trips.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*— Common, usually close to livestock and/or wetlands.

Green Heron *Butorides virescens*— Scarce, with singles on just four days of the trip though one of these was conveniently situated close to several Striated Herons at the 'Dump Road', El Mamey.

Striated Heron *Butorides striata* – Good scope views of three in the vicinity of the 'Dump Road' near El Mamey on July 29th.

(RS) Capped Heron *Piherodius pileatus*- Two teed up along the Rio Chucunaque as we headed downstream for the Harpy Eagle trek. A delay earlier that morning actually worked in our favor as we would have certainly missed this charismatic heron had we departed from the boat ramp on time!

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax* – A single adult on the Rio Chucunaque on July 30th.

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax violacea* – Scarce, with just 2 – 3 along the Rio Chucunaque on July 30th and August 1st.

Threskiornithidae: Ibis and Spoonbills (3)

White Ibis *Eudocimus albus*— Seen on only two days of the tour, the best views being on the return leg from the Crested Eagle site along the Rio Chucunaque.

(RS) Green Ibis *Mesembrinibis cayennensis*- Two birds, calling but frustratingly well hidden in the muggy forest canopy near the 'lagoon' at Nuevo Vigia on August 2nd. Igua managed to scope one of them for some of the group.

Roseate Spoonbill *Platalea ajaja* – Just the one sighting, a single perched up along the Rio Chucunaque on July 30th.

Cathartidae: New World Vultures (4)

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*—Quite possibly the most abundant bird of the trip. Seen every day in numbers throughout the tour.

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura*— Observed daily throughout though certainly less common than Black Vulture.

Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture *Cathartes burrovianus* – Wonderful, prolonged studies of a single bird quartering low over the Aligandi Road on July 31st allowing for comparisons with the very closely related Turkey Vultures. We couldn't have wished for better views!

King Vulture *Sacoramphus papa* – What a stellar tour for this majestic species with 2 – 7 birds seen on four days of the trip! A

trip highlight for some.

Accipitridae: Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (16)

Pearl Kite *Gampsonyx swainsoni* – Fantastic views of one perched on roadside wires by the Pan-Am Highway at Ipeti Kuna, between Panama City and Darien Province. Remarkably the same bird was perched in same spot on the return journey to the airport. Certainly a trip highlight.

White-tailed Kite *Elanus leucurus*— One seen from the grounds of the Riande Airport Hotel on July 27th, and another well watched from the Aligandi Road on July 31st.

Swallow-tailed Kite *Elanoides forficatus* – Seen on four days of the tour, this most beautiful raptor could often be watched right over Canopy Camp, sometimes in small flocks.

Plumbeous Kite *Ictinia plumbea* – This slender, falcon-like raptor was seen on six days; from the Lake Bayano region eastwards to Yaviza with 10 – 15 birds over La Penita boat ramp providing the best views of the tour.

(RS) Crested Eagle *Morphnus guianensis* – A dark morph adult was spotted by Oscar from a boat on the Rio Chucunaque on the very morning that we'd dedicated to search for this ultra-rare rainforest raptor. Not only a brilliant find by Oscar but some extremely skilled maneuvering by our boatmen provided everyone with excellent views as the magnificent beast mantled a prey item on a partially obscured beam. Undoubtedly a trip highlight.

(RS) Harpy Eagle *Harpia harpyja* – Prolonged views of a juvenile in sunlight after a never-to-be-forgotten hike in the pouring rain, a just reward for those committed to a venture that began at Canopy Camp with a 4 am breakfast. The juvenile lingered near the nest site waiting to be fed by its parents, an event which apparently only takes place every three or four days! Beautiful views at a safe distance for the bird and an opportunity for Oscar to show off his phone-scoping skills to the delight of our group. A trip highlight for sure.

Black Hawk-Eagle *Spizaetus tyrannus* – an adult seen very briefly on the forest trail at Nuevo Vigia, spotted by Igua through the narrowest window in the canopy – how does he do it!

Crane Hawk *Geranoospiza caerulescens*— only two singles, and rather brief singles at that, on the El Salto Road and along the Chucunaque River.

Black-collared Hawk *Busarellus nigricollis* – only seen on the one day but remarkably good views of about five along the Rio Chucunaque during the river trip to see Crested Eagle.

Common Black Hawk *Buteogallus anthracinus*— rather scarce but most obvious on the river trips along the Rio Chucunaque including a nice tally of eight during the Crested Eagle excursion.

Savanna Hawk *Buteogallus meridionalis*— one on the El Salto Road initially provided good binocular views but moved on when we tried to scope it. Quite rare in Darien Province.

Great Black Hawk *Buteogallus urubitinga* – two ‘black hawks’ consorting and exhibiting courtship behavior along the El Salto Road. Initially some confusion ensued as they were taken to be Common Black Hawks. However, a thorough review of photos taken at the scene showed the species in question to be Great Black Hawk, the only sighting of the tour.

Roadside Hawk *Rupornis magnirostris*— the most frequently encountered broad-winged raptor, though never numerous, often provided good perched views.

Gray-lined Hawk *Buteo nitidus*— excellent views of a pair in Filo Del Tallo followed by more fine views of an adult on the approach (by piragua) to Nuevo Vigia.

Short-tailed Hawk *Buteo brachyurus*— two light morph adults, both seen in the same day. One over Icandi Road near Lake Bayano and another during an afternoon bird walk at Canopy Camp.

Zone-tailed Hawk *Buteo albonotatus* – the ultimate Turkey Vulture mimic appeared over Icandi Road near Lake Bayano, and during the first afternoon bird walk at Canopy Camp. Not seen thereafter despite plenty of scanning.

Strigidae: Owls (1)

Black-and-white Owl *Ciccaba nigrolineata* – (HO) one called for an extended period during the reading of the checklist on the first evening at Canopy Camp. The only owl of the entire tour.

Trogonidae: Trogons (5)

Slaty-tailed Trogon *Trogon Massena* – Good views of about three in Filo Del Tallo with others at Lajas Blancas and San Francisco Reserve.

Black-tailed Trogon *Trogon melanotus* – The most broadly distributed of the family with birds found at four sites after the first on the Icandi Road near Lake Bayano.

White-tailed Trogon *Trogon chionurus* – Scarce but frequently given away by its distinctive voice, Canopy Camp having at least one roaming around tents #8 and #6, sometimes visible from the communal area in the center of camp.

Gartered Trogon *Trogon caligatus*— Heard then seen towards the end of our Harpy Eagle adventure in the Acon Forest.

Despite being perched by the track we would have certainly missed this one had it not been for Igua's sharp ears and field skills. Another was heard in Filo Del Tallo.

Black-throated Trogon *Trogon rufus*— Three put on a nice show on the last day in the mid-forest of San Francisco Reserve.

Momotidae: Motmots (2)

Whooping Motmot *Momotus subrufescens*— consistently present in and around Canopy Camp. Much more often heard than seen, the distinctive, booming 'whoop' notes being a frequent feature of the dawn chorus. Fortunately, we had good views by the Rio Torti well before we even reached the camp.

Broad-billed Motmot *Electron platyrhynchum*—Two birds at San Francisco Reserve ended up being one of the last additions to the tour list before we headed for Panama City.

Alcedinidae: Kingfishers (4)

Ringed Kingfisher *Megaceryle alcyon*— Most frequent on the Rio Chucunaque but also noted on some of the drives between sites, 1- 4 seen on five days of the trip.

Amazon Kingfisher *Chloroceryle amazona*— at least five on the Rio Chucunaque as we headed upriver by dug-out canoe to Nuevo Vigia. Seen well by both boats.

Green Kingfisher *Chloroceryle americana*— very good scope views on the Rio Torti plus others at El Mamey and on the Rio Chucunaque.

American Pygmy Kingfisher *Chloroceryle aenea*—one deep in the shadows at the Ibis lagoon at Nuevo Vigia remained well hidden. The harder we tried, the more difficult it was to see but most of the group eventually saw most of its features.

Bucconidae: Puffbirds (6)

(RS) Barred Puffbird *Nystalus radiates* – One on Icandi Road near Lake Bayano gave prolonged scope views, unfortunately for us, the only one of the entire tour.

White-necked Puffbird *Notharchus hyperrhynchus* – a pair on the Aligandi Road, with pairs then seen on each of the following two days.

(RS) Black-breasted Puffbird *Notharchus pectoralis*— one teed-up high in San Francisco Reserve allowing scope views for all on the last day. The fourth species of puffbird for the tour.

Pied Puffbird *Notharchus tectus*— Iguá spotted the first from the back of a moving pick-up at El Real de Santa María.....and then he spotted another from the Lajas Blancas Road two days later.

(RS) Gray-cheeked Nunlet *Nonnula frontalis* – the guides couldn't conjure one up at their favorite spot in Canopy Camp but the following day couldn't have been more contrasting when Chris spotted one at eye-level just a matter of feet from the roadside at El Salto. Beautiful views and a trip highlight for many.

White-fronted Nunbird *Monasa morphoeus* – sensational views of one foraging at eye-level in the mid-level forest of San Francisco Reserve.

Galbulidae: Jacamars (3)

(RS) Dusky-backed Jacamar *Brachygalba salmoni* – Iguá found one at a jacamar hotspot just up river from Nuevo Vigía. You know it's a rare bird when the local guide gets visibly excited!!

(RS) Rufous-tailed Jacamar *Galbuda ruficauda* – A calling bird teased the group at El Salto but couldn't be coaxed into view before the heat of the day became too much. It was a relief, therefore, to have scope views of a pair at the jacamar hotspot just up river from Nuevo Vigía.

Great Jacamar *Jacamerops aureus* – (HO) Clear, unambiguous calls were heard for some time in the mid-level forest at San Francisco Reserve on the last day but, alas, the bird just wouldn't come into view.

Capitonidae: New World Barbets (1)

Spot-crowned Barbet *Capito maculicoronatus*— a delightful pair at Canopy Camp entertained the group on the first afternoon bird walk and were seen again two days later.

Ramphastidae: Toucans (3)

Collared Aracari *Pteroglossus torquatus*— seen on four days of the trip but pretty difficult to see well. Most numerous along Rio Chucunaque

Yellow-throated Toucan *Ramphastos ambiguus*— seen on four days of the tour, mainly singles from Canopy Camp.

Keel-billed Toucan *Ramphastos sulfuratus*— the most regularly seen toucan, the Canopy Camp area being especially reliable

and along the wooded edges of the Rio Chucunaque.

Picidae: Woodpeckers (8)

Olivaceous Piculet *Picumnus olivaceus* – One turned up around the communal area at Canopy Camp during the lunch hour and caused quite a stir. Two days later all of the group had close-up views along the forest trail at Nuevo Vigia.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker *Melanerpes pucherani*— seen on four days, Canopy Camp being the best place to catch up with them.

Red-crowned Woodpecker *Melanerpes rubricapillus*— the most frequently encountered woodpecker of the tour.

(RS) Red-rumped Woodpecker *Dryobates kirkii* – things got off to racing start at Canopy Camp with a pair showing incredibly well for a short time before promptly disappearing, ultimately proving to be the only sighting of the tour.

(RS) Spot-breasted Woodpecker *Calaptres punctigula* – we were exceptionally lucky to see this very localized species on the tour; a pair scoped from the ‘dump road’ in El Mamey, and great views of another at Lajas Blancas.

Cinnamon Woodpecker *Celeus loricatus*— wonderful views of a pair on the El Salto Road and another reported at Canopy Camp the next day.

Lineated Woodpecker *Dryocopus lineatus*— Icandi Road, El Salto Road and Canopy Camp all had 1 -2 individuals with one drumming right over tent #6 at the camp.

Crimson-crested Woodpecker *Campephilus melanoleucos*—recorded on four days with some of the best views being in Acon forest not too far from Harpy Eagle nest site.

Falconidae: Falcons and Caracaras (6)

Laughing Falcon *Herpetotheres cachinanns* – stunning views of a ‘laughing’, calling pair at Filo del Tallo, teed up and in the scopes for everyone to enjoy.

Red-throated Caracara *Ibycter americanus* – Like scenes from Jurassic World, this bizarre raptor greeted us with raucous screams on four days of the tour, the best (and first) sightings being on the El Salto Road.

Crested Caracara *Caracara cheriway*— (GO) one flew across the highway at El Llano en route to Torti on the first full day of the trip. Otherwise, curiously absent during the rest of the tour.

Yellow-headed Caracara *Milvago chimachima*—appeared on at least four days of the tour, usually at the roadside and including a nice pre-roost gathering of six at Lajas Blancas on August 2nd.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius* – singles noticed on roadside wires on five days of the trips, with six seen on the Aligandi Road on July 31st.

Bat Falcon *Falco ruficularis*—relatively good views by the Rio Chucunaque on two of the river trips, plus one in flight over Lajas Blancas.

Psittacidae: Parrots (5)

(RS) Spectacled Parrotlet *Forpus conspicillatus* – wonderful views of this perky little *psittacid* calling from the top of the tallest trees in Yaviza Cemetery.

Orange-chinned Parakeet *Brotogeris jugularis*— daily fare, pretty common throughout occasionally obliging us with good scope views.

Blue-headed Parrot *Pionus menstruus*—daily, seemingly common throughout the Darien.

Red-lored Parrot *Amazona autumnalis*— daily, common throughout. Best observed at Canopy Camp.

Mealy Parrot *Amazona farinosa*— less frequent than other large parrots but good views enjoyed by the group on El Salto Road and Aligandi Road.

Thamnophilidae: Antbirds (10)

Great Antshrike *Taraba major* – (GO) an adult male photographed during the heat of the jacamar commotion just upriver from Nuevo Vigia. Unfortunately, the bird was long gone by the time everyone had seen the Dusky-backed and Rufous-tailed Jacamars on view in the exact same spot.

Barred Antshrike *Thamnophilus doliatus*— a female beautifully photographed by Larry at the Avicar Restaurant in Torti, the final lunch stop of the tour.

(RS) Black Antshrike - *Thamnophilus atrinucha* – 1 - 4 seen at four locations after the first at Icandi Road.

Black-crowned Antshrike *Thamnophilus atrinucha*— not recorded until the fifth day but 2 – 8 daily after that making it the most frequently found Antbird on the trip.

White-flanked Antwren *Myrmotherula axillaris*—a pair in San Fransisco Reserve on the last day, only seen by those who crossed the river bed and made the steep trek up into the mid-level forest.

(RS) Rufous-winged Antwren *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus* – (HO) Igua's sharp ears picked this one out at the spot where we should have docked for the hike to the Crested Eagle nest site. Having seen an adult Crested Eagle without having to leave

the boats we elected to try for the Antwren in the same manner but alas, it couldn't coax into view. A shame because it looks like a cracking little bird in the field guide!

White-bellied Antbird *Myrmeciza laemosticta* – reasonable views of at least two on the forest trail at Nuevo Vigia.

Chestnut-backed Antbird *Myrmeciza exsul*— One of the more co-operative of the clan, good views enjoyed on the Acon forest road on returning from the Harpy Eagle site, and again the following day at the forest reserve of Filo del Tallo.

Spotted Antbird *Hylophylax naevioides* – good views of a pair during the hike in Filo Del Tallo.

Bicolored Antbird *Gymnopithys bicolor* – (HO) near the Embera Village of Nuevo Vigia.

Grallariidae: Antpittas (1)

Black-crowned Antpitta *Hylopezus perspicillatus* – (HO) one sang for a sustained period close to the Harpy Eagle nest location but wouldn't come any closer to our group. Even so, the remarkably distinctive drawn out song of this species was a joy to hear coming straight after wonderful views of the juvenile Harpy Eagle.

Furnariidae: Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers, and Allies (7)

Plain-brown Woodcreeper *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*—singles in the forest at Filo Del Tallo and Nuevo Vigia.

Wedge-billed Woodcreeper *Glyphorhynchus spirurus* – one of the more readily identifiable of the group, a single was well watched in Filo Del Tallo.

Northern Barred Woodcreeper *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*—excellent views of a single on the return leg through the forest at Nuevo Vigia.

Cocoa Woodcreeper *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*—much more often heard than seen but present most days around Canopy Camp.

(RS) Red-billed Scythebill *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris* – Awesome! Found by Igua as we returned from the 'lagoon' at Nuevo Vigia. Quite remarkable to see a woodcreeper with a red, decurved, curlew-like bill. One of the star birds of the tour.

Streak-headed Woodcreeper *Lepidocolaptes souleyetii* – found almost daily within the confines of Canopy Camp.

Plain Xenops *Xenops minutus*—a well seen individual on Icandi Road near Lake Bayano was only one of the trip.

Pipridae: Manakins (2)

Golden-collared Manakin *Manacus vitellinus*—good views of males by the Rio Torti and in the forest near Nuevo Vigia.

Golden-headed Manakin *Ceratopira erythrocephala* – Three (2 males and a female) provided a temporary but dazzling distraction from the rigors of the Harpy Eagle trek, perhaps less than half a mile from the Harpy nest site.

Cotingidae: Cotingas and Allies (2)

Purple-throated Fruitcrow *Querula purpurata*—this species graced our woodland walks on at least four occasions, their distinctive fluty calls ringing through the forest. Scope views were had by all.

Blue Cotinga *Cotinga nattererii*— a pair put on quite the show on the El Slato Road, allowing for prolonged scope views and even a few phone-scoped images by our expert local guides. Initially spotted by Oscar from his vehicle, the birds really didn't seem to mind the commotion taking place on the road below them. A much-desired species and a trip highlight for many.

Tityridae: Becards and Tityras (3)

Rufous-winged Schiffornis *Schiffornis stenorhyncha* – (HO) a tricky one since it was certainly heard very well on the Harpy Eagle trek and in Filo Del Tallo. How well they were seen was a different matter with views being limited to a small brown blur bolting across the track in front of us.

Black-crowned Tityra *Tityra inquisitor*— one scoped on the first morning at Icandi Road, and better views of three in much more satisfactory light along the Rio Chucunaque upon returning from the Crested Eagle site.

Masked Tityra *Tityra semifasciata*—one on Icandi Road provided a good comparison with a Black-crowned Tityra, and a further three seen along the Rio Chucunaque on August 1st.

Tyrannidae: Tyrant Flycatchers (23)

Royal Flycatcher *Onychorhynchus coronatus* – good views of a pair found by the muggy lagoon in the forest at Nuevo Vigia. The male was even courteous enough to flare his crest on occasion.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher *Terenotriccus erythrurus* – singles of this shy, furtive, fast moving flycatcher were seen at El Salto Road and San Francisco Reserve.

Black-tailed Flycatcher *Myiobius atricaudus* – a single found by the lagoon at Nuevo Vigia, and two upslope at San Francisco

Reserve.

Ochre-bellied Flycatcher *Mionectes oleagineus* – Carol found one at Canopy Camp on July 31st.

Brown-capped Tyrannulet *Ornithion brunneicapillus*— a single in a mixed flock at ‘the magic tree’ by the Rio Torti was only one of the tour.

Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet *Tyrannulus elatus*— a single during the Harpy Eagle trek was only one of the tour.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia *Elaenia flavogaster*— 1 - 2 individuals at the Rio Torti, Aligandi Road and by the school at Nuevo Vigia.

Lesser Elaenia *Elaenia chiriquensis*— a major scoop for Joe as he found one by the vehicles with Oscar at San Francisco

Reserve.

Bright-rumped Attila *Attila spadiceus* – just the one individual, but well seen by most in Filo Del Tallo.

Rufous Mourner *Rhytipterna holerythra* – one showed well in mid-level forest at San Francisco Reserve on the last day.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher *Myiarchus tuberculifer* – frequently heard around Canopy Camp but only seen well and scoped on our first afternoon there.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher *Myiozetetes cayanensis* – daily, reliably seen around the camp and often on view during meals – quite lovely to have them on view all the time.

Streaked Flycatcher *Myiodynastes luteiventris* – good views and numbers by the Rio Torti - almost daily after that.

Piratic Flycatcher *Legatus leucophaeus* – small, dark, streaky flycatcher seemingly comfortable around people with birds present at Canopy Camp, Yaviza Cemetery and even nest building over the public boat ramp at Yaviza.

Common Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum*—seen on the first and last days of the tour with most of the group catching up with this cutie in the gardens of the Riande Airport Hotel.

(RS) Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher *Todirostrum cinereum* – the first on the Aligandi Road allowed most of the group to catch up with this feisty-looking species followed by singles on two other days of the trip.

(RS) Yellow-breasted Flycatcher *Tolmomyias flaviventris* – a very good trip for this range restricted species with excellent views of a pair on the El Salto Road followed by singles at the Aligandi Road and Nuevo Vigia.

Great Kiskadee *Pitangus sulphuratus*—almost daily but apparently not that common with only singles recorded.

(RS) Cattle Tyrant *Machetornis rixosa* – a pair ‘dancing’ around the log piles at El Mamey. A little distant perhaps but adequate scope views for all from the Pan-Am Highway.

Boat-billed Flycatcher *Megarynchus pitangua*— it would have been nice to see a bit more of this species but we only had the one individual - scope views on Icandi Road, our first major birding stop of the tour.

Tropical Kingbird *Tyrannus melancholicus*— Difficult to miss. Seen in numbers on each day, usually on roadside wires.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher *Tyrannus savana*— 6 – 10 foraging low amid rank grassland from the ‘dump road’ at El Mamey.

Tropical Pewee *Cantopus cinereus* – A lone, non-calling bird on the Aligandi Road was thought to be this species as late July appeared to be way too early for either of the two migrant wood-pewees.

Long-tailed Tyrant *Colonia colonus* – a wonderful trip for this spectacular flycatcher. Seen on four days with unbelievable views at San Francisco Reserve on our last full day.

Corvidae: Crows and Jays (1)

Black-chested Jay *Cyanocorax affinis*— the only ‘corvid’ seen on the tour. Shy and difficult to see well, we came across 2-3 at El Salto, Rio Chucunaque and Nuevo Vigia.

Hirundinidae: Swallows and Martins (5)

Gray-breasted Martin *Progne chalybea*— daily, most easily seen in urban situations, parking lots, gas stations, etc.

Brown-headed Martin *Progne tapera* – 1 – 2 on the drive up to San Francisco Reserve, spotted by the folks in Oscar’s vehicle but missed altogether by the lead vehicle.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*— daily, similar to Gray-breasted Martin though slightly less conspicuous.

Mangrove Swallow *Tachycineta albilinea*—small numbers on all three river trips often hawking low over the water close to the boat but also perching on twigs and floating debris offering very good views.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*— an early migrant hawking around the boat ramp area at Yaviza on August 1st.

Troglodytidae: Wrens (6)

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*—daily, found in multiple locations throughout the trip.

White-headed Wren *Campylorhynchus albobrunneus* – after one was heard on the El Slatto Road this spectacular wren showed itself to the lucky few on two consecutive days at Canopy Camp.

Bicolored Wren *Campylorhynchus griseus* – three found without too much effort on a memorable afternoon in Yaviza Cemetery.

Black-bellied Wren *Pheugopedius fasciatoventris*—beautiful views at eye-level of a singing bird on Icandi Road. Two others heard but not seen in the Darien.

Bay Wren *Cantorchilus nigricapillus*— a pair near the stream crossing in San Francisco Reserve on the last day.

Song Wren *Cyphorhinus phaeocephalus*— a family group of at least three in Filo Del Tallo Reserve. Weirdly distinctive but tricky to see well.

Poliptilidae: Gnatcatchers (1)

Tropical Gnatcatcher *Poliptila plumbea*—1 – 2 at several locations on the last four days of the tour. Often foraging high, loosely associating with mixed feeding flocks.

Turdidae: Thrushes (1)

Clay-colored Thrush *Turdus grayi*—daily, sometimes in small flocks and consistently present at Canopy Camp as well the gardens of the Riande.

Mimidae: Mockingbirds and Thrashers (1)

Tropical Mockingbird *Mimus gilvus*—most of the group connected with this species at the Riande Airport Hotel but 1 – 2 seen throughout the Darien, usually in or near villages and dwellings.

Passeridae: Old World Sparrows (1)

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*—a male came to greet us during lunch at the Avicar Restaurant on the first day followed by small numbers, always in urban situations and mostly during our visits to Yaviza.

Fringillidae: Finches and Euphonias (2)

Yellow-crowned Euphonia *Euphonia luteicapilla*—first detected by Igua on the Aligandi Road after which we came across several more including at our base at Canopy Camp.

Thick-billed Euphonia *Euphonia laniirostris* – enjoyed around feeders throughout the tour.

Icteridae: New World Blackbirds (12)

Red-breasted Meadowlark *Sturnella militaris*—very nearly missed on this tour. We eventually stumbled across eight or more in the meadows at San Francisco Reserve.

Crested Oropendola *Psarocolius decumanus* – quite scarce with only small numbers found at El Salto, Pan-Am Highway near Yaviza, and Nuevo Vigia.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola *Psarocolius wagleri*—the most frequently seen of the clan and quite often present around Canopy Camp.

(RS) Black Oropendola *Psarocolius guatimozinus* – the most localized of the three Oropendolas and a key bird for this trip. We had great views on the El Salto Road, the Pan-Am Highway near Yaviza and on the river trip to Nuevo Vigia.

Yellow-rumped Cacique *Cacicus cela*— several large, fast moving flocks were seen on the river trip to Nuevo Vigia after two briefly appeared at El Salto earlier in the trip.

Yellow-backed Oriole *Icterus chrysater*— a singing male put in an all-too-brief appearance on the El Salto Road on July 29th.

(RS) Orange-crowned Oriole *Icterus auricapillus* – most certainly a species that exudes the ‘wow’ factor, this crowd pleaser was seen well at Icandi Road, El Salto, Aligandi and Lajas Blancas.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*—reported among blackbird flocks on two of the river trips along the Rio Chucunaque but not seen by the whole group.

Giant Cowbird *Molothrus oryzivorus*— a handful seen amid mixed blackbird flocks along the Rio Chucunaque.

Great-tailed Grackle *Quiscalus mexicanus*—plentiful in urban situations such as Panama City and Yaviza but much scarcer in rural areas and missed altogether on some days of the tour.

(RS) Carib Grackle *Quiscalus lugubris* – a relatively new addition to the avifauna of the Darien (and Panama), we found this distinctive grackle on at least three days of the trip during visits to Yaviza and the Rio Chucunaque.

(RS) Yellow-hooded Blackbird *Chrysomus icterocephalus* –albeit distant, we had excellent scope views of 2 – 3 males in damp fields off the ‘dump road’ at El Mamey.

Parulidae: Wood-warblers (1)

Buff-rumped Warbler *Basileuterus rufifrons*—splendid views of this beautiful wood-warbler along the Rio Torti and in San Francisco Reserve.

Mitrospingidae: Mitrospingid Tanagers (1)

Dusky-faced Tanager *Mitrospingus cassinii*— saved until the last day with good views of two by the stream crossing in San Francisco Reserve.

Thraupidae: Tanagers and Allies (19)

Gray-headed Tanager *Eucometis penicillata*—scarce with singles at Canopy Camp and the Acon forest being the only individuals recorded.

White-shouldered Tanager *Tachyphonus luctuosus*—nice views of a small group (3-4) in Filo Del Tallo and on the forest trail at Nuevo Vigia.

Flame-rumped Tanager *Ramphocelus flammigerus*—one seen during a very busy start to our morning on the El Salto Road.

Crimson-backed Tanager *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*— although the females were always nice to see it was the crisply plumaged males that captured most of our attention with good views on the Aligandi Road, Lajas Blancas and Nuevo Vigia.

Blue-gray Tanager *Thraupis episcopus*—seen every day, most consistently from Canopy Camp.

Palm Tanager *Thraupis palmarum*—daily at Canopy Camp where several pairs had taken to nesting in the decorative hanging baskets.

Golden-hooded Tanager *Tangara larvata*— daily at Canopy Camp and a joy to watch.

Plain-colored Tanager *Tangara inorata*—plenty around Canopy Camp during the afternoon of orientation but inexplicably scarce after that.

(RS) White-eared Conebill *Conirostrum leucogenys* – a small flock, perhaps a family group of about four, working the canopy with a mixed feeding flock on the Lajas Blancas Road. Tiny, busy and active but cooperative enough for nice scope views including a white eared male. And we found another in San Francisco Reserve on the last day.

(RS) Sulphur-rumped Tanager *Heferospingus rubrifrons* – an unexpected but very welcome find by local guide Moyo in the San Francisco Reserve near Torti. A very obliging bird with extended scope views for all and phone-scope images taken. A Central American endemic.

Blue Dacnis *Dacnis cayana*—scarce, or at least on our tour, with just 1 – 2 seen of four days of the trip.

Red-legged Honeycreeper *Cyanerpes cyaneus*—one was well watched in a feeding flock by the Rio Torti.

Blue-black Grassquit *Volatinia jacarina*—commonly seen in areas with rank grass, the males often entertaining us with their bizarre little display flight shooting vertically up and then fluttering back down.

(RS) Large-billed Seed-finch *Sporophila crassirostris* - a male on the Aligandi Road in the heat of a tropical afternoon probably didn't get the attention it deserved.

Ruddy-breasted Seedeater *Sporophila minuta*— a handsome, well named little seedeater, found just the once at the bus stop at El Mamey.

Variable Seedeater *Sporophila corvina*— in many respects the default seedeater. Pretty common amid rank grasses just about anywhere.

Yellow-bellied Seedeater *Sporophila nigricollis*—good views of a single singing male at Lajas Blancas.

Bananaquit *Coereba flaveola*— seen fairly frequently, and often in association with other species, most often at the camp.

Buff-throated Saltator *Saltator maximus*— rather brief views of a single at Lajas Blancas.

MAMMALS

Northern Tamandua *Tamandua Mexicana* – Dick observed one outside his tent on the penultimate morning of the tour.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegates* – Seen wild birding at El Salto Road, Filo Del Tallo and Lajas Blancas at the very least.

Geoffroy's Tamarin *Sanguinus geoffroyi* – often present and active right at the Camp, and a delight to have the around.

White-faced Capuchin *Cebus capucinus* – a small group, perhaps half-a-dozen or so, hanging around the camp for two consecutive days.

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata* – heard almost daily, and most active around Camp. Fantastic atmosphere as they seemed to be especially loud just before a thunderstorm. Seen well at other locations such as Aligandi Road. A trip highlight for some.

Variiegated Squirrel *Sciurus variegatoides* – present in the gardens of the Rainde Hotel, Panama City.

Red-tailed Squirrel *Sciurus granatensis* – daily, mostly seen around Camp.

Forest Rabbit *Sylvilagus gabbi* – one was seen along the driveway at Canopy Camp.

Gray Fox *Urocyon cinereoargenteus* – two seen in the same day, one crossing the Pan-Am Highway near Yaviza and another crossing the dirt road at El Real De Santa Maria.

Various bats, not known to species...but at least a couple of them not shy about roosting in the guest's tents.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

House Gecko *Hemidactylus frenatus* – a few of us had these for company in our bathrooms at camp.

Black-and-green Poison Dart Frog *Dendrobates auratus* – Jerry showed us beautiful photos of one just outside his and Eileen’s tent.

American Crocodile *Crocodylus acutus* – one, initially thought to be a Cayman, basking on a mud bar along the Rio Chuncunague and identified by Igua as a croc. Another seen by one of the boats near Nuevo Vigia.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana* – this monster was basking way up high on a tree limb. The finder, Oscar, wasn’t surprised and just said “he always there”.

BUTTERFLIES

Several species to come and listed pending photo review.....