

***Birds of the Isthmus of Panama
Trip Report, February 11 – 24, 2009***



Ornate Hawk-Eagle

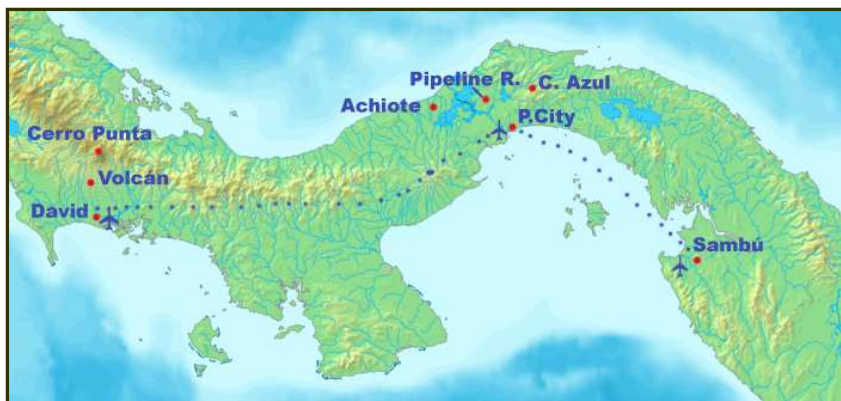
Leaders: Mahelis Rodriguez, with the assistance of local guides: Nariño Aizpurua and Igua

Participants: Philip Plenckers, Louis & Albert Bingley, Clide Carter, Tzung-Su DING

Places:

CP = Central Panama

Pipeline Road
Ammo Dumps
Old Gamboa Road
Plantation Road
Summit Gardens
Birders' View
Maipo



CH = Chiriqui (Western Panama)

David Airport
Querevalo Road
Cielito Sur
Volcan Lakes
Los Quetzales Trail
La Amistad I.P
Finca Hartmman
Finca Dracula
Cerro Punta

D = Darien Lowlands

Endemic birds = *
Heard = *h*

Bird list

Tinamous (2)

Great Tinamou – CP; *h*
Little Tinamou – CP; *h*

Ducks, Swans, and Geese (3)

Black-bellied Whistling-Duck - CP
Muscovy Duck - CP
Masked Duck – CH; *fantastic views of this scarce duck at Volcan Lakes*

Guans and Chachalacas (2)

Gray-headed Chachalaca - CP
*Black Guan – CH; *one found in the mountain forests of Chiriqui, this is a globally threatened species*

New World Quail (1)

Spotted Wood-Quail – CH; *a convoy of five went across the trail near Volcan lakes*

Grebes (2)

Least Grebe – CH
Pied-billed Grebe – CH; *two were seen at Volcan lakes*

Pelicans (1)

Brown Pelican – CP, CH, D; *regularly recorded throughout*

Cormorants (1)

Neotropic Cormorant – CP, D

Darters (1)

Anhinga – CP, CH, D; *seen several times, one was seen at the summit ponds devouring a fish*

Frigatebirds (1)

Magnificent Frigatebird – CP, CH, D; *regularly recorded throughout*

Hérons (11)

Rufescent Tiger-Heron – CP, D; *seen and scoped at the Ammo Dumps near Gamboa*

Great Blue Heron – CP, CH, D

Great Egret – CP, CH, D

Snowy Egret – CP, CH, D

Little Blue Heron - CP

Cattle Egret – CP, CH, D

Green Heron – CP, CH

Boat-billed Heron – CP; *nesting at the Summit Ponds*

Cocoi Heron – D; *attractive heron found in Darien, ranges from Central Panama to Argentina*

Striated Heron – D

Agami Heron – D; *great views of this exotic looking heron, rare and not usually found on bird tours*

Ibises (2)

White Ibis -D

Glossy Ibis -D

Storks (1)

Wood Stork – CH; *a single bird was seen flying over Querevalo Road (Chiriqui lowlands)*

Vultures (2)

Black Vulture – CP, CH, D

Turkey Vulture – CP, CH, D

Hawks, Eagles, and Kites (18)

Osprey – CP, CH

Gray-headed Kite – CP

Swallow-tailed Kite – CP, CH

White-tailed Kite – CH; *one of this elegant kites was seen hovering over the open country (Chiriqui lowlands)*

Snail Kite – CP; *seen at Gatun Lake, next to the Soberania National Park*

Double-toothed Kite – CP, CH

Mississippi Kite - CP

Semiplumbeous Hawk – CP; *Ding found this great raptor perched in the canopy on Pipeline Road*

White Hawk – CP; *the group had excellent views at Achiotte Road (Atlantic side of the Canal)*

Gray Hawk - CP

Common Black-Hawk - CP

Savanna Hawk – CP; *seen well on the grassy areas near the Gatun spillway (Atlantic side of the Canal)*

Roadside Hawk – CP, CH, D; *regularly recorded throughout*

Broad-winged Hawk – CP, CH
Short-tailed Hawk – CP, CH
Red-tailed Hawk – CH
Black-collared Hawk – D; *nice views of this rare bird; this species is in decline in Panama*
Black Hawk-Eagle – CP; *good views of one adult flying over the Pipeline Road*
Ornate Hawk-Eagle – D; *fantastic views of this Hawk-Eagle in the lowlands of Darien*

Falcons and Caracaras (4)

Crested Caracara – CH; *very common on Querevalo Road, Chiriqui Lowlands*
Yellow-headed Caracara – CP, CH
American Kestrel - CP
Bat Falcon – CP; *seen on a nest near Gamboa town*

Rails and Gallinules (4)

White-throated Crake – CP; *h*
Purple Gallinule – CP, CH; *seen several times, common on the Chagres River shores*
Common Moorhen – CP, CH
American Coot - CH

Plovers and Lapwings (1)

Southern Lapwing – CP, D

Jacanas (2)

Northern Jacana – CH; *five were seen at Volcan Lakes*
Wattled Jacana – CP, D; *good numbers were seen on aquatic habitats of Central Panama and Darien*

Sandpipers and Allies (1)

Spotted Sandpiper – CP, CH

Gulls, Terns, and Allies (1)

Laughing Gull - CP

Pigeons and Doves (12)

Rock Pigeon - CP
Pale-vented Pigeon – CP
Scaled Pigeon – CP; *seen from the Canopy Tower at the Discovery Center, near Pipeline Road*
Short-billed Pigeon - CP (h)
Mourning Dove - CH
Plain-breasted Ground-Dove- CH; *found in the Chiriqui lowlands*
Ruddy Ground-Dove – CP, CH
Blue-ground Dove - D
White-tipped Dove – CP, CH
Gray-chested Dove - CP
*Purplish-backed Quail-Dove – CP; *h*
*Buff-fronted Quail-Dove- CH; *Nariño found this regional endemic near Volcan Baru National Park*

Parrots (6)

*Sulphur-winged Parakeet – CH; *seen on the mountain forest of Chiriqui*
Brown-throated Parakeet – CH
Orange-chinned Parakeet – CP, D; *several noisy flocks were seen on the lowlands*
Blue-headed Parrot – CP, CH, D; *fairly common and widespread in the lowlands*

Red-ored Parrot – CP, CH; *at least 25 were seen, quite common and vocal near Gamboa*
Mealy Parrot – CP

Cuckoos (4)

Mangrove Cuckoo – CH; *found near Querevalo road, Chiriqui lowlands*

Squirrel Cuckoo – CP, CH, D; *a nice bird to watch; fairly common and easy to find at different locations*

Greater Ani – CP, D

Smooth-billed Ani – CP, CH

Typical Owls (1)

Spectacled Owl – CP; *localized at Old Gamboa Road*

Swifts (2)

Short-tailed Swift - CP

Band-rumped Swift - CP

Hummingbirds (24)

Green Hermit - CH

Long-billed Hermit – CP; *quite common at the feeders of the Discovery Center near Pipeline*

Stripe-throated Hermit - CP

Violet Sabrewing – CH; *spectacular males and females were observed several times on the Highlands*

White-necked Jacobin – CP; *very common at the feeders of the Discovery Center (Pipeline)*

Green Violet-ear – CH; *seen every day in the Chiriqui Highlands*

Black-throated Mango – CP, D

*Veraguan Mango – CH; *great found of this National Endemic near la Barqueta Beach*

Violet-headed Hummingbird - CP

Rufous-crested Coquette – CP; *one of the highlights of the trip, close views at Birders' View*

Violet-crowned Woodnymph - CP

*Violet-capped Hummingbird – CP; *scarce, at least two females were seen at the feeders of Cerro Azul*

Blue-chested Hummingbird - CP

Snowy-bellied Hummingbird – CP, CH; *quite common around the different feeders*

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird – CP, CH; *the more widespread hummingbird in Panama*

Stripe-tailed Hummingbird – CH; *fairly common at the feeders of Cielito Sur (Chiriqui Highlands)*

*White-tailed Emerald – CH; *seen at Volcan Lakes*

White-vented Plumeleteer - CP

Bronze-tailed Plumeleteer – CP; *very common at the feeders of Birder's View (Cerro Azul)*

*White-throated Mountain-gem - CH

Magnificent Hummingbird - CH

Long-billed Starthroat – CH

*Volcano Hummingbird – CH; *excellent views of this "bee size" hummer*

*Scintillant Hummingbird- CH

Trogon (6)

Violaceous Trogon – CP, D; *found and scoped several times at Pipeline Road*

Black-throated Trogon – CP, D; *scoped at several locations*

Black-tailed Trogon – CP

White-tailed Trogon - D

Slaty-tailed Trogon – CP, D; *a common trogon of the lowlands forest of the Panama Canal*

Resplendent Quetzal – CH; *stunning views of several males and females. Good photographs were taken near Cerro Punta. This was one of the target birds of the tour*

Motmots (3)

Blue-crowned Motmot – CP, CH; *relatively common in the Panama Canal Rainforests*

Rufous Motmot – CP; *one was seen at Plantation Road*

Broad-billed Motmot – CP; *a single one seen at Plantation Road*

Kingfishers (4)

Ringed Kingfisher – CP; *seen at the Summit Ponds*

Green Kingfisher – CP

Green-and-rufous Kingfisher – D

Amazon Kingfisher - CP

Puffbirds (2)

White-necked Puffbird – CP; *a lethargic bird was found on the canopy borders of Pipeline Road*

Gray-cheeked Nunlet - D

Jacamars (1)

Great Jacamar – D; *excellent views, watched for several minutes, digiscoped!*

Barbets and Toucans (7)

*Blue-throated Toucanet – CH; *seen well at Cielito Sur; splited in several forms. Blue-throated Toucanet is found from Costa Rica to Western and Central Panama. Violet-throated Toucanet from Eastern Panama to Colombia*

Collared Aracari – CP, D; *common and vocal around Central Panama and Darien*

*Fiery-billed Aracari – CH; *fantastic views of this regional endemic at Finca Hartmman*

Yellow-eared Toucanet – CA; *Philip found this Toucanet at Cerro Azul*

Keel-billed Toucan – CP, D; *quite common in the lowland forests*

Chestnut-mandibled Toucan – CP; *fairly common in the humid and wet forest of the Canal Corridor*

Spot-crowned Barbet – D; *great views, this species is found in Panama and Colombia*

Woodpeckers (11)

Olivaceous Piculet – CP; *one individual was found in the lighter woodland near Gamboa. This is the smallest woodpecker in Panama*

Acorn Woodpecker - CH

Black-cheeked Woodpecker - CP

Red-crowned Woodpecker – CP, CH; *a common woodpecker of open areas*

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker – CP; *this was a lifebird for the resident guide, this is a very rare migrant for Panama*

Hairy Woodpecker - CH

*Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker – CP; *one of the key birds of the trip; one of the twelve national endemics in Panama*

Cinnamon Woodpecker – CP; *a pair was seen at Pipeline Road*

Lineated Woodpecker – CP, CH, D

Crimson-crested Woodpecker – CP, D

Spot-breasted Woodpecker - D

Ovenbirds, Woodcreepers and Allies (11)

Red-faced Spinetail - CH

*Ruddy Treerunner – CH; *seen well, this is a regional endemic of the Costa Rica and Panamanian Highlands (Endemic Bird Area)*

*Streak-breasted Treehunter - CH

Plain Xenops – CP, CH; *a tiny “minutus” ovenbird, found most of the time hanging upside-down*
Plain-brown Woodcreeper - CP
Olivaceous Woodcreeper – CP; *one seen at Old Gamboa Road*
Wedge-billed Woodcreeper - CP
Straight-billed Woodcreeper – CP; *found near Panama City, Diablo Mangroves area*
Cocoa Woodcreeper - CP
Streak-headed Woodcreeper - CP
Spot-crowned Woodcreeper - CH

Antbirds (14)

Great Antshrike - D
Black Antshrike – D; *one of the specialties of the Darien lowlands*
Fasciated Antshrike – CP, D
Barred Antshrike - CP
*Black-hooded Antshrike – CH; *nice views of this regional endemic of the Western Pacific Lowlands*
Western Slaty-Antshrike – CP; *seen well at Pipeline Road; the bird is quite common*
Checker-throated Antwren - CP
White-flanked Antwren - CP
Dot-winged Antwren - CP
Dusky Antbird - CP
White-bellied Antbird - CP
Chestnut-backed Antbird – CP; *a pair was seen near Achiote Road*
Spotted Antbird – CP; *Mahelis found an army ant-swarm with this Antbird*
Bare-crowned Antbird - D

Antthrushes and Antpittas (2)

Black-faced Antthrush – CP; *very vocal but hard to see well*
Streak-chested Antpitta – CP; *superb views at Pipeline Road, the bird came just few meters away from our small group*

Tapaculos (1)

*Silvery-fronted Tapaculo – CH; *responsive and seen well at La Amistad International Park*

Tyrant Flycatchers (37)

Yellow-bellied Tyrannulet - CH
Brown-capped Tyrannulet – CP; *h*
Southern Beardless-Tyrannulet - CP
Yellow-crowned Tyrannulet - CP
Forest Elaenia – CP
Greenish Elaenia - CP
Yellow-bellied Elaenia – CP
Lesser Elaenia - CP
Mountain Elaenia - CH
Torrent Tyrannulet - CH
Paltry Tyrannulet - CP
Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant - CP
Pale-eyed Pygmy-Tyrant - CP
Black-capped Pygmy-Tyrant; *h*
Common Tody-Flycatcher – CP, CH
Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher - D
Olivaceous Flatbill – CP, CH

Yellow-margined Flycatcher – CP, CH
Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher - CP
Black-tailed Flycatcher - CP
*Dark Pewee – CH; *seen well at Cielito Sur*
Tropical Pewee - CP
Yellowish Flycatcher - CH
Black Phoebe – CP, CH
Bright-rumped Attila – CP; *h*
Dusky-capped Flycatcher - CP
Panama Flycatcher – CP, CH
Great Crested Flycatcher - CP
Lesser Kiskadee – CP, D
Great Kiskadee – CP, CH
Rusty-margined Flycatcher - CP
Social Flycatcher – CP, CH, D
Streaked Flycatcher – CP, D
Piratic Flycatcher - CP
Tropical Kingbird – CP, CH, D; *common and widespread*
Fork-tailed Flycatcher – CP, CH

Tyrant Flycatcher Allies (5)

One-colored Becard
Rose-throated Becard – CH; *nice views of this uncommon bird at Volcan Lakes*
Cinnamon Becard - CP
White-winged Becard - CP
Masked Tityra – CP, CH

Cotingas (2)

Blue Cotinga – CP; *seen from the Canopy Tower of the Discovery Center near Pipeline Road*
Purple-throated Fruitcrow – CP; *several of these birds were seen at Pipeline Road*

Manakins (5)

Golden-collared Manakin – CP; *an active “lek” was found near Pipeline Road*
White-ruffed Manakin - CH
Lance-tailed Manakin - CP
Blue-crowned Manakin - CP
Red-capped Manakin - CP

Vireos (8)

Yellow-throated Vireo - CH
Brown-capped Vireo - CH
Philadelphia Vireo - CH
Lesser Greenlet – CP
Golden-fronted Greenlet - CP
Scrub Greenlet- CP
Rufous-browed Peppershrike - CH
Green Shrike-Vireo – CP; *h*

Jays and Crows (1)

Black-chested Jay – CP, D; *several conspicuous birds were seen on the wild figs of Pipeline Road*

Swallows (6)

Gray-breasted Martin – CP, CH

Mangrove Swallow – CP; *at least 10 were seen at several locations, common on the Chagres River*

Blue-and-white Swallow - CH

Northern Rough-winged Swallow - CP

Southern Rough-winged Swallow - CP

Barn Swallow - CP

Donacobius (1)

Black-capped Donacobius – D; *found near Sambú town, in Panama this bird is only known from Darien*

Wrens (11)

White-headed Wren – CP; *nice canopy wren! It was seen at Achiote Road*

Black-bellied Wren – CP

Bay Wren - CP

Rufous-breasted Wren – CP; *seen on the canopy borders of the Old Gamboa Road*

Buff-breasted Wren - CP

Plain Wren - CP

House Wren – CP, CH

*Ochraceous Wren – CH; *Nariño found two individuals at Finca Dracula*

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren – CH

White-breasted Wood-Wren - CP

Song Wren - CP

Old World Warblers (2)

Long-billed Gnatwren - CP

Tropical Gnatcatcher – CP, CH

Thrushes (6)

*Black-faced Solitaire - CH (h); *this regional endemic was found at La Amistad International Park*

*Black-billed Nightingale-Thrush – CH; *very common on the Western Highlands*

Orange-billed Nightingale-Thrush - CH

Ruddy-capped Nightingale-Thrush - CH

Mountain Thrush - CH

Clay-colored Thrush – CP, CH

Mockingbirds and Allies (1)

Tropical Mockingbird – CP, CH

Silky-Flycatchers (2)

*Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher – CH; *less common than the latter species this bird was seen at the Chiriqui Highlands*

*Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher – CH; *this highland endemic was among the favourite birds of the tour*

Wood-Warblers (22)

Golden-winged Warbler - CP

Tennessee Warbler - CH

*Flame-throated Warbler – CH; *seen near Volcan Baru National Park*

Tropical Parula - CH

Yellow Warbler – CP, CH

Chestnut-sided Warbler – CP, CH

Black-throated Green Warbler - CH
 Blackburnian Warbler - CH
 Bay-breasted Warbler – CP, CH
 Black-and-white Warbler – CP, CH
 American Redstart - CH
 Prothonotary Warbler – CP, D
 Northern Waterthrush - CP
 Kentucky Warbler - CH
 Mourning Warbler - CH
 Wilson’s Warbler – CH; *all over the Chiriqui Highlands*
 Slate-throated Redstart - CH
 *Collared Redstart – CH; *a very common highland bird*
 Rufous-capped Warbler – CP, D
 *Black-cheeked Warbler – CH
 Buff-rumped Warbler - CH
 *Wrenthrush - CH; *found at La Amistad International Park. This Highland endemic is rare in dense undergrowth but it came right close to the group after playing the song*

Bananaquit (1)

Bananaquit - CP

Tanagers (24)

Common Bush-Tanager - CH
 Sooty-capped Bush-Tanager - CH
 White-shouldered Tanager – CP; *widespread and common in Central Panama*
 White-lined Tanager - CP
 Red-throated Ant-Tanager - CP
 Hepatic Tanager – CP; *seen well on the eastern foothills of Cerro Azul*
 Summer Tanager – CP, CH, D
 Flame-colored Tanager - CH
 White-winged Tanager - CH
 Crimson-backed Tanager – CP, D; *a striking tanager who is known in Panama as “Sangre de Toro”*
 Cherrie’s Tanager - CH
 Blue-gray Tanager – CP, CH, D; *fairly common and widespread*
 Palm Tanager – CP, CH, D; *good numbers were seen every day*
 Blue-and-gold Tanager - CH
 Plain-colored Tanager – CP, CH, D
 Emerald Tanager – CP; *two individuals were seen very close at Cerro Azul*
 Silver-throated Tanager – CH; *common on the Western Foothills of Panama*
 Speckled Tanager – CP, CH; *two were seen feeding on the miconia trees at Cerro Azul*
 Bay-headed Tanager – CP, CH; *small numbers regularly seen in the foothills*
 Rufous-winged Tanager – CP; *seen at Cerro Azul*
 Golden-hooded Tanager – CP, CH; *relatively common*
 Blue Dacnis - CP
 Green Honeycreeper - CP
 Red-legged Honeycreeper – CP; *seen every day in Central Panama*

Buntings and Allies (11)

Variable Seedeater – CP, CH; *abundant in proper habitat*
 Yellow-bellied Seedeater - CP
 Lesser Seed-Finch - CP

Yellow-faced Grassquit – CP, CH

Slaty Finch - CH

*Slaty Flowerpiercer – CH; *seen well, common around the gardens of Los Quetzales Lodge*

*Yellow-thighed Finch – CH; *good numbers were seen at La Amistad International Park*

*Large-footed Finch – CH; *one individual seen at La Amistad International Park*

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch - CH

Black-striped Sparrow - CP

Rufous-collared Sparrow - CH

Cardinals and Allies (5)

Streaked Saltator - CP

Buff-throated Saltator – CP, CH, D; *common and widespread*

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - CP, CH

Blue-black Grosbeak – CP, CH

Indigo Bunting - CH; *a single individual, this migrant is not common in Panama*

American Blackbirds (14)

Red-breasted Blackbird - CP

Eastern Meadowlark - CH

Giant Cowbird - D

Great-tailed Grackle – CP, CH

Orchard Oriole – CH, D

Yellow-backed Oriole – CP, D

Yellow-tailed Oriole – CP; *seen at the Ammo-Dumps near Pipeline Road*

Orange-crowned Oriole – D; *one of the Darien specialties*

Baltimore Oriole – CP, CH, D

Scarlet-rumped Cacique - CP

Yellow-rumped Cacique - CP

Crested Oropendola - CP

Chestnut-headed Oropendola – CP; *an active colony was found near Cerro Azul*

*Black Oropendola – D; *Igua found a breeding colony of this bird, this a restricted range species of the Darien Lowlands and North Choco (Endemic Bird Area)*

Goldfinches and Allies (5)

Yellow-crowned Euphonia – CP, D

Thick-billed Euphonia – CP, D

Fulvous-vented Euphonia - CP

White-vented Euphonia - CP

Yellow-bellied Siskin - CH

Mammals

Geoffroy's Tamarin

Black-mantled Howler Monkey

White-faced Capuchin Monkey

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth

Red-tailed Squirrel

Variegated Squirrel

Central American Agouti

White-nosed Coati

Nine-banded Armadillo