

PANAMA FEBRUARY 2024 TRIP REPORT

Tour organised by Birding Panama, with guide Moyo and driver Fransisco.

Eight on the tour: Bob, Ella and Rob (Toronto, Canada), Bill (New Jersey, USA), Jon & Stephen (Wales, UK), Jus (Holland) and Wendy (Boston, USA).

Arrival at Summit Rainforest & Golf Resort.

The hotel was surrounded by the golf course and jungle.



Excellent views were obtained of the canopy from the room's balcony. Birds included: Red-crowned Woodpecker (right), Red-legged and Green Honeycreepers, Blue Dacnis, Blue and Grey, Palm, Crimson-backed and Golden Hooded Tanagers, Blue-headed and Yellow-crowned Parrots, Pale-vented Pigeons, Collared Aracari, Keel-billed Toucans, Orange-chinned Parakeets, Tropical Kingbirds, Tropical Mockingbirds and Black & Turkey Vultures.



Red-legged Honeycreeper



Green Honeycreeper



Golden Hooded Tanager



Blue-gray Tanager



Collared Aracari



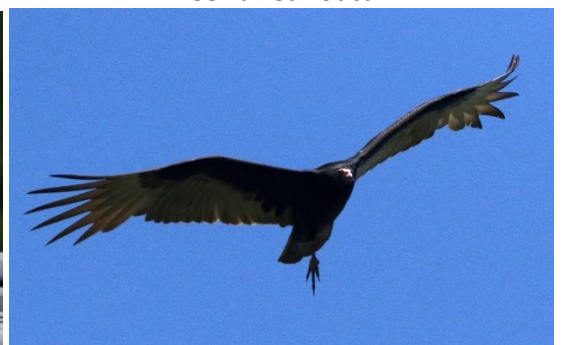
Keel-billed Toucan



Orange-chinned Parakeet



Tropical Mockingbird



Turkey Vulture

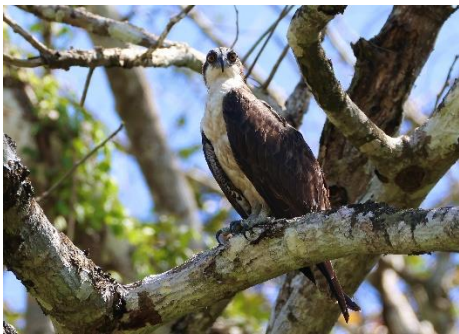
Birding in the surrounding forest proved quite fruitful with both Chestnut-mandibled and several Keel-billed Toucans, Collared Aracari, Slaty-tailed Trogon, Black-cheeked, Red-crowned & Crimson crested Woodpeckers, Osprey, Double-toothed Kite, Short-tailed Hawk, Common Black Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Brown Pelican, Band-rumped and Short-tailed Swifts, Gray-breasted Martins, Mangrove Swallow, Long-billed Hermit, Black Mango, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, Ruddy Ground Dove, Common Tody, Rusty Margined, Social and Streaked Flycatchers, Great Kiskadee, Clay-colored Thrush, Yellow, Prothonotary, Bay-breasted and many Tennessee Warblers, Southern Lapwings, Spotted Sandpiper, Plain-colored Tanager, Streaked & Buff-throated Saltator, Saffron Finch, Variable Seedeater, Yellow-backed and Baltimore Orioles, Yellow-billed, Scarlet-rumped and Yellow-rumped Cacique, Crested and Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Squirrel Cuckoo and Thick-billed Euphonia.



Keel-billed Toucans



Collared Aracari



Osprey



Great Kiskadee



Prothonotary Warbler



Southern Lapwing



Spotted Sandpiper



Saffron Finch



Yellow-backed Oriole

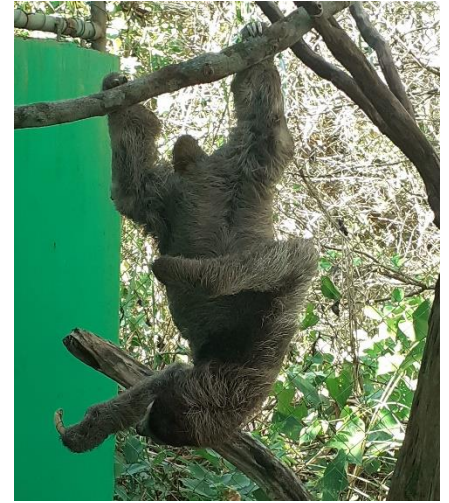
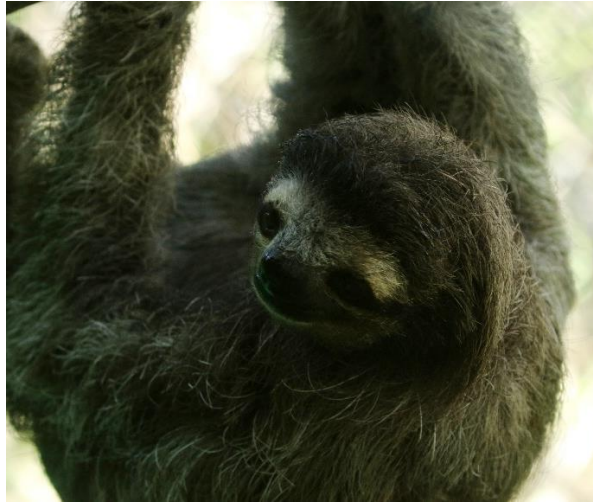


Chestnut-headed Oropendola

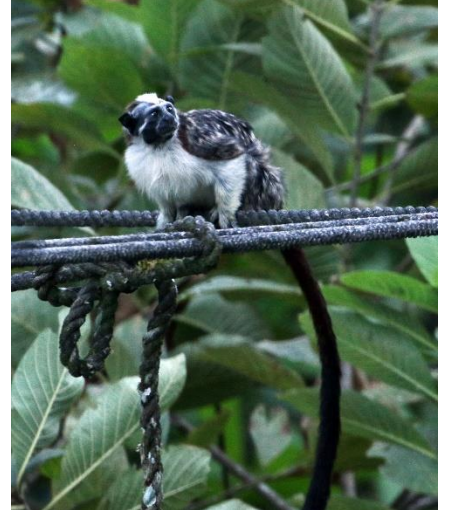
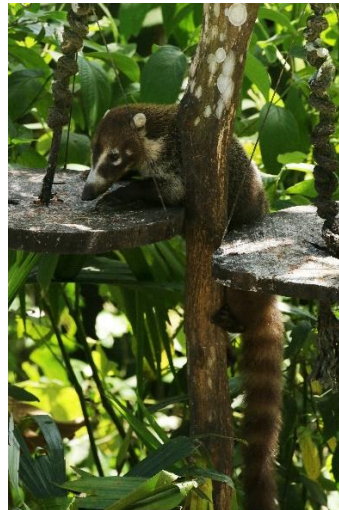


Squirrel Cuckoo

The hotel had its own Butterfly, Frog and Sloth rehabilitation centres.



Other animals seen around the hotel included a Hoffman's Two Toed Sloth, Ring-tailed Coati and Geoffry's Tamarin.



Day 2 – Pipeline Road Gamboa.

Many new birds were seen, and several were missed!

Highlights included: Zone-tailed Hawk, Long-billed Hermit, White-necked Jacobin, Sapphire-throated, Violet-bellied, Rufous-tailed and Blue-checked Hummingbirds, Slaty-tailed Trogons, Blue-crowned (Lesson's) Motmot, White-necked Puffbird, Cocoa & Spotted Woodcreeper, Cinnamon & Lineated Woodpeckers, Fasciated and Black-crowned Antshrikes, Dusky, Bicolored & White-bellied Antbirds, Streak-chested Antpitta, Forest Elaenia, Yellow-crowned Tyranulet, Common Tody-Flycatchers, Yellow-margined, Panama, Social, Streaked & Rusty Margined Flycatchers, Masked Tityra, Golden-collared, Blue-crowned & Red-capped Manakins, Lesser Greenlet, Green Shrike Vireo, Black-bellied Wren, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Tennessee, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black and White, Magnolia, Bay-breasted and Prothonotary Warblers, White-shouldered Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Buff-throated Saltator, Scarlet & Yellow rumped Caciques.



Lesson's Motmot



White-necked Puffbird



Cocoa Woodcreeper



Cinnamon Woodpecker



White-bellied Antbird



Red-capped Manakin

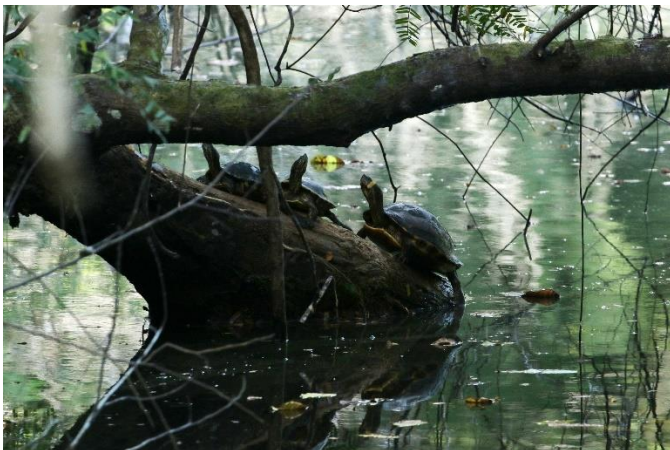


Blue-crowned Manakin



Black and White Warbler

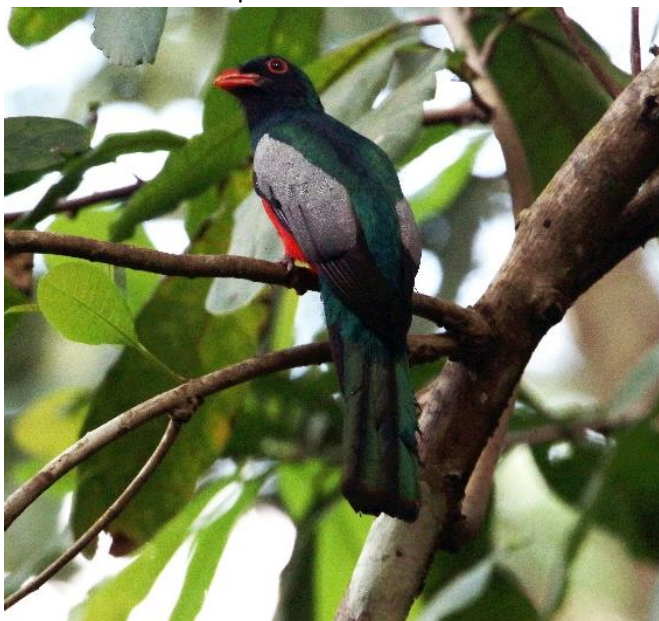
Lunch in Panama City, siesta back at the Summit Hotel, then late afternoon birding at Summit Ponds. Highlights here were Anhinga, Boat-billed and Green Herons, Stripe-throated Hermit, Snowy-bellied Hummingbird, Keel-billed Toucan, Collared Aracari, Masked Tityra, a pair of Slaty-tailed Trogons, Green Kingfisher, White-necked Puffbird, Bright-rumped Attila, Piratic Flycatcher, Crimson-crested Woodpecker, Olivaceous Woodcreeper, Golden-collared Manakin and Summer Tanager.



Terrapins



Green Kingfisher



Male and female Slaty-tailed Trogons

Day 3 Chagres National Park

Morning was spent wandering along Telegraph Road. The trees were not as high as yesterdays – so giving our necks a bit of a rest, but still many skulkers! The walk started off with displaying Red-lored Parrots overhead. Other highlights included a passing King Vulture, Black-throated & Slaty-tailed Trogons, Collared Aracari, Plain Xerops, White-winged Bacard, Rufous-capped Warbler, Black-bellied and Rufous-breasted Wrens, Orange-billed Sparrow, Red-throated Ant-Tanager, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Yellow-backed & Baltimore Orioles. Better views were obtained of Lance-tailed and Golden-collared Manakin. Little Tinamou and Green Shrike Vireo were both heard, whilst Moyo obtained flight views of Blue Cotinga. We also saw two Three-toed Sloths.



Red-lored Parrot



Golden-collared Manakin



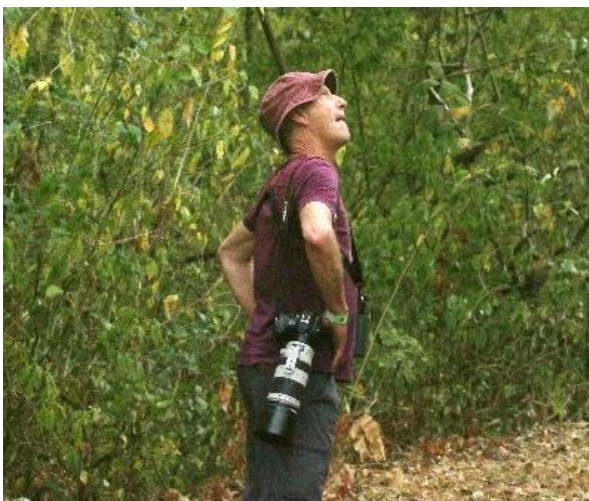
Black-tailed Trogon



Thick-billed Euphonia



Pale-vented Pigeon



Lunch was again in Panama City, followed by afternoon trip to Ammo Dump Ponds, Gamboa, next to the Panama Canal. Excellent views were obtained of at least five Rufescent Tiger Herons in the marsh, alongside Great Blue, Little Blue, Green & Tricolored Herons, Wood Storks, Purple Gallinule and Wattled Jacana. Both Crested and Yellow-headed Caracaras were seen, with Royal Tern and Magnificent Frigatebirds moved along the canal. Next to the marsh, we had good views of Barred Antshrike, Blue-black Grassquit, Variable Seedeater, Yellow-tailed Oriole, Squirrel Cuckoo and Black-throated Mango. On the way back to the hotel Moyo spotted a pair of Bat Falcons on the electricity pylons.



Wood Storks



Rufescent Tiger-Heron



Purple Gallinule



Yellow-tailed Oriole



Little Blue Heron



Crested Caracara



Yellow-headed Caracara



Magnificent Frigatebird

Day 4 Pan-American to El Valle.

A short half hour birding from the hotel balcony, produced the usual array of Red-legged & Green Honeycreepers, Blue Dacnis, Tanagers and Parakeets.

Today was a travelling day, to El Valle, with various stops on the way, the first of which provided us with good views of Roadside Hawk (below middle), Wood Storks and Fork-tailed Flycatchers (below right).



Then came an open agricultural area, which gave us distant views of American Kestrel, Aplomado Falcon, Savanna Hawk, Yellow-headed Caracara, several Fork-tailed Flycatchers and Eastern Meadowlark.

Later we checked a sub-urban area, with excellent views of Ferruginous Pygmy Owl. Also here were Rufous-tailed, Blue-chested, Sapphire-throated and Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds, Stripe-throated Hermit, Boat-billed Flycatcher and Yellow-green Vireo.

The last stop was for a Tody Motmot, which eventually showed itself.



The hotel had a nice garden along with banana feeder, which attracted up to three Squirrels, Crimson-backed & Blue-gray Tanagers, Red-crowned Woodpeckers and a Gray-necked Rail.



Squirrels



Clay-coloured Thrushes



Gray-necked Rail



Crimson-backed Tanager



Blue-gray Tanager

The late afternoon walk along El Matoto Road was probably the best couple of hours of intense birding we had – with birds left, right and centre. You just didn't know which way to look.

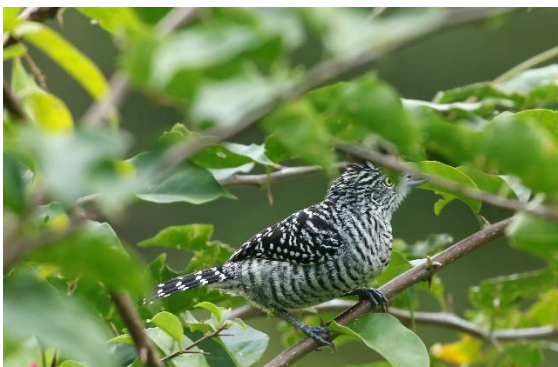
We started off with good views of Three-toed Sloths, then White Hawk, two Rufous-crested Coquettes, Purple-crowned Fairies, Keel-billed Toucans, Cocoa Woodcreeper, Barred Antshrike, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Lesser Elaenia, Common Tody-Flycatcher, Panama Flycatcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Bay Wrens, warblers, tanagers etc.



Three-toed Sloth



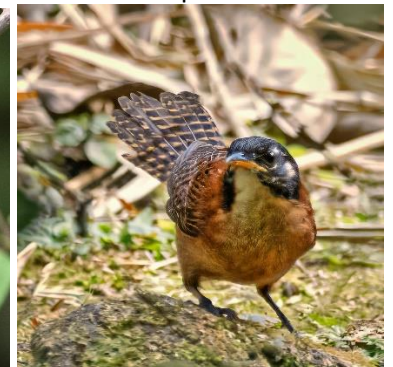
Rufous-crested Coquette



Barred Antshrike



Common Tody-Flycatcher



Bay Wren

Day 5 El Valle area.

Our second day in the El Valle area, starting further up the road we walked yesterday, Mera, at the edge of the forest, crossing the divide from the Pacific slope onto the Caribbean slope.

The birds came thick and fast, starting with Ringed Kingfisher, Flame-rumped Tanagers, Keel-billed Toucans, Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Barred Antshrike, Rufous-capped Warbler, Blue-headed Parrots, Spot-crowned Barbet, Olive-striped Flycatcher, Black-chested Jay, Rufous and White Wren, Violet-crowned Woodnymph, Purple-crowned Fairy, Silver-throated, Bay-headed, Tawny-crested, Summer and Red-crowned Ant Tanagers. Warblers included Chestnut-sided, Tennessee, Bay-breasted and a very brief glimpse of Mourning.



Above: Ringed Kingfisher Below: Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Social Flycatcher



Further up the trail, near the chicken sheds there were flocks of Southern Lapwing. It was in this area that we had good views of Blue-throated Toucanet, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-tailed Trogon, Bat Falcon, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Black Hawk Eagle and Broad-winged Hawk.



Blue-throated Toucanet

Black Hawk Eagle

Bat Falcon

More time was spent watching the garden after lunch, with the same species seen as yesterday.



Rufous-tailed Hummingbird



Gray-headed Chachalacas

The afternoon was spent along the Watercress Trail, not as productive as yesterdays, but the highlights were Chestnut-backed Antbird, a Gray-necked Rail, Rufous-capped Warbler, a Rufous Motmot in deep cover, but whilst watching that, a Tody Motmot appeared. Then came the highlight of the trip so far, three Spectacled Owls, in a small, wooded area just outside town.



Rufous Motmot



Tody Motmot



Spectacled Owl

Day 6 Pan-American highway to the Chiriqui Highlands.

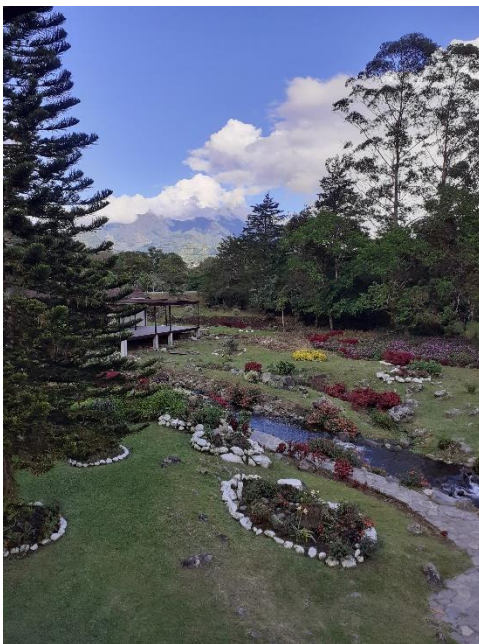
Our big travelling day, this time 10 hours to get to the Chiriqui Highlands and our Hotel, the Hotel Dos Rios in Volcan. The first stop along the Pan-American Highway was an area of rough pasture/agricultural land. Several fields had been recently burnt but this attracted many Fork-tailed Flycatchers (photo right). Several species of raptor were seen, including White-tailed Kite, Crested and Yellow-headed Caracara, Savanna Hawks (photo below left), Aplomado Falcons, many Black & Turkey Vultures, amongst which was one Lesser Yellow-headed Vulture.

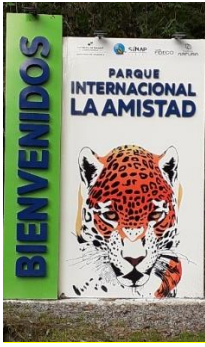
Other species included both Smooth-billed and Groove-billed Ani, Eastern Meadowlark and Brown-throated Parakeets (photo below middle).



One final stop on the section between David City and Volcan was at a roadside café. Here we saw a couple of Swallow-tailed Kites (photo above right).

We arrived at the hotel mid-afternoon. The rest of the day was spend birding the hotel grounds. A couple of Black Phoebes were around the hotel and its stream. The trees at the back of the hotel proved quite productive, with Summer Tanagers, White-throated Thrush, Black and White, Chestnut-sided, Blackburnian Warblers, American and Collared Redstarts and Yellow-crowned Euphonia.





Day 7 Amistad National Park.

Our first full day in the highlands, starting off at the Amistad National Park. A distinctly different mix of species were seen compared to the previous days. There was lots of bird activity by the park's gates, including Torrent Tyrannulet, Black and White Swallows, Prong-billed Barbet, Forest, Yellow-bellied and Mountain Elaenias, Orange-billed and Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrushes, White-throated Thrush, Slaty Flower piercer, Flame-coloured Tanager and Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers.



Torrent Tyrannulet



Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrush



Flame-colored Tanager

Once into the park, birds became more difficult to see, with much neck exercise.



There were a few new hummingbirds zipping around, Stripe-tailed, White-throated and White-bellied Mountain-gems, Magenta-throated Woodstar, Scintillant and Talamanca.

The highlight of the day was a pair of Resplendent Quetzal, although they were quite difficult to see, high up and only for short periods of time.



White-throated Mountain-gem



Magenta-throated Woodstar



male Resplendent Quetzal

Moyo had only his third and best view of Wrenthrush – a very good bird to see so well.

Other species included Hairy Woodpeckers, Black-cheeked, Blackburnian and Black-throated Green Warblers, Collared Redstarts, Scarlet-rumped Tanager and Tawny-capped Euphonia.



Wrenthrush



Hairy Woodpecker



Collared Redstart



Gray-breasted Wood-Wren



Back to Castrejon Restaurant for lunch followed by a short siesta in the hotel grounds.



The afternoon was very hot indeed and was spent at Lagunas, an area of open rough pasture and woodland. We started off with Tropical Parula, Wilson's and Black & White Warblers and Acadian Flycatcher. We heard a couple of different Spinetail species, eventually both Pale-breasted and Red-faced were enticed out into the open. Once in the woodland we found a pair of Collared Trogons and a helpful, Orange-billed Nightingale Thrush. Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot and Blue-winged Teal could just be made out on a distant lake.



Just before dusk, a visit to the pond by the hotel, added Snowy Egret to the trip list. Other birds included Red-faced Spinetail, Pied-billed Grebe and both Ringed and Green Kingfishers.



Male Collared Trogon



Black and White Warbler



Red-faced Spinetail

Day 8 Volcan Baru National Park.

Our second full day in the highlands, starting at Volcan Baru National Park and the Los Quetzales Trail. As it says on the tin, the trail did not disappoint, with at least a male and two female Resplendent Quetzals seen, giving much better views than yesterday.



Many hummingbirds were to be seen, including White-throated, White-bellied & Purple-throated Mountain-gems, Green Violetear (Brown Violetear was also heard), Magenta-throated Woodstar and several obliging Talamancas.



Talamanca Hummingbird



Barred Becard

Cocoa Woodcreeper, more Hairy Woodpeckers, Tufted Flycatchers, Barred Becard, Mountain & White-throated Thrushes, Long-tailed Silky Flycatchers, Orange-billed & Ruddy-capped Nightingale Thrushes and Yellow-thighed Finch. Warblers included Golden-winged, Flame-throated, Wilson's, Black & White, Black-throated Green, Collared & Slate-throated Redstarts and Northern Waterthrush. Tanagers included Flame-coloured, Common Bush & Sooty-capped Bush. Once out into the open, we saw several Yellow-bellied Siskins, Yellow-faced Grassquit and Rufous-collared Sparrow.



Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher



Rufous-collared Sparrow



Yellow-faced Grassquit

Again, a hot afternoon, during which we walked up Beanya Road. A drier area of open pasture in a wooded valley. The highlight was a Olivaceous Piculet which came in, showed itself for a few minutes before disappearing again. We also saw Elegant Euphonia (without doubt the best looking one of that family), Black-striped Sparrow, Chestnut-capped Brushfinch, Mourning Warbler, Red-faced Spinetail and a flock of 60 Red-fronted Parrotlets. Several hummers zipped around, with Green Hermit and Violet Sabrewing the pick of the bunch.

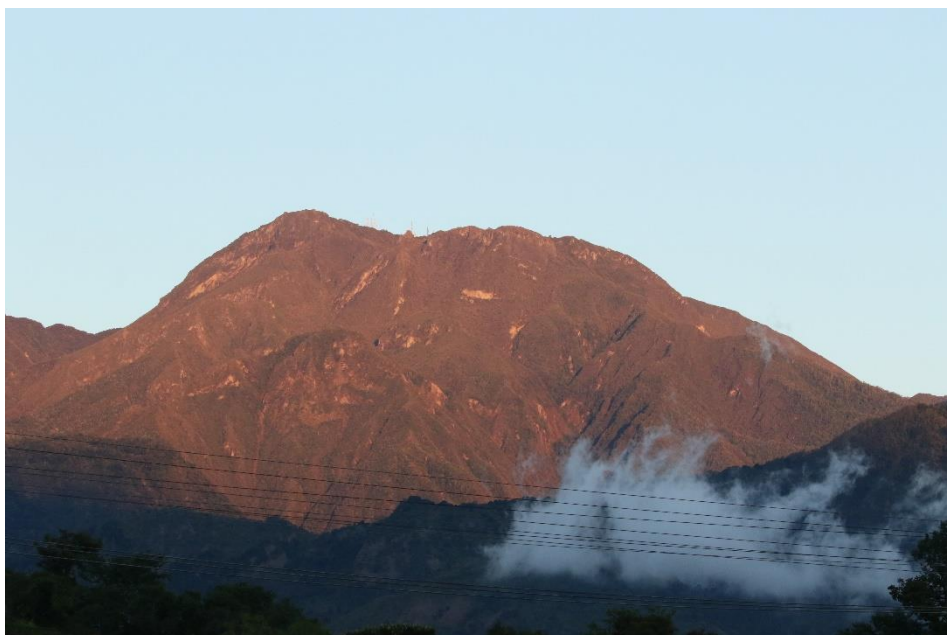


Violet Sabrewing



Summer Tanager

Back at the hotel, Summer Tanager and Blackburnian Warbler were seen in the garden and four Fiery-billed Aracari next door.



Day 9 Last Day in the Highlands, then flight from David to Panama City.

The morning got off to a good start with a Whooping Motmot (photo right) in the Hotel's car park.

Then off we went, along Beanya Road, the last birding in the Highlands before we head off to David and an afternoon flight back to Panama City.



There was plenty of bird activity along the road, plenty of Tanagers (Summer, Scarlet-rumped, Bay-headed, Golden-hooded), Warblers (Wilson's, Black & White, Bay-breasted, Blackburnian, Chestnut-sided, Tennessee) and Flycatchers (Yellow Tyrannulet, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Slaty-capped, Common Tody, Dusky-capped, Gray-capped) visiting the fruiting trees. Amongst which there was also Acorn Woodpecker, Blue-throated Toucanet, Slaty Spinetail, Masked Tityra, Yellow-throated & Philadelphia Vireos, Rufous-breasted & House Wrens, Bananaquit, Buff-throated Saltator, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Elegant & Thick-billed Euphonia and Lesser Goldfinch. In the sky, several groups of Blue-headed Parrots, White-collared Swift, Red-tailed and Broad-winged Hawk.



Acorn Woodpecker



Common Tody-Flycatcher



Philadelphia Vireo

Lunch then back to the hotel, a walk in the grounds and along the stream produced Waterthrush, two Buff-throated Warblers along with Tennessee and Prothonotary.

Leaving the highlands behind, we set off for the city of David. First stop was “Birding Paradise” – a garden, with plenty of hummingbird & banana feeders. We spent a couple of productive hours here, getting great views of the hummers. Species included Brown Violetear, Scaly-breasted, Rufous-tailed, Snowy-bellied, White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Starthroat and a Garden Emerald. Also in the garden, were Gray-headed Chachalaca, Scarlet-rumped Tanagers and Smooth-billed Ani.



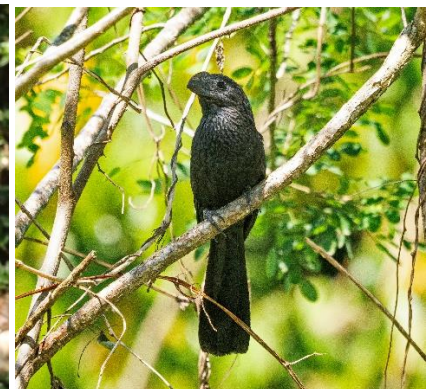
Rufous-tailed Hummingbirds

Long-billed Starthroat



Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds

female White-necked Jacobin



Scarlet-rumped (Passerini's) Tanager

Gray-headed Chachalaca

Smooth-billed Ani

Our final stop before reaching David was the roadside Café we visited the other day. Good views were had of a pair of Swallow-tailed Kites at the back of the café. Whilst awaiting our flight, lots of Parrots could be seen flying over in the distance, American Kestrels sat on the tail of an aircraft and several Southern Lapwing were on the side of the runway.

Day 10 Pan-American Highway towards the Darien.

We said our good-byes to Wendy and Rob who were leaving us today, whilst the rest of us headed down the Pan-American towards the Darien. We made several stops to check the birds on the wires and suitable habitat. Birds included Red-lored Parrots, White-tailed Kite, Swallow-tailed Kites and Yellow-headed Caracara.



One stop-off produced Striped Cuckoo, several Fork-tailed Flycatchers, Blue-black Grassquit and two White-collared Puffbirds. The next stop was for Barred Puffbird, in someone's garden.

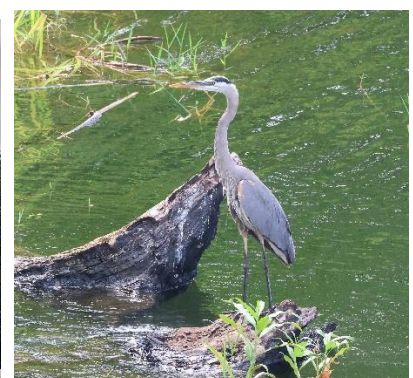


Striped Cuckoo



Barred Puffbird

After an hour or two's driving, we came to Bayano Reservoir. Birding from the bridge produced Neotropical Cormorant, a couple of Ospreys, Common Black Hawk, Limpkin, Great Egret, Purple Gallinule and Pied Water Tyrant.



Great Blue Heron

At lunchtime we arrived at our hotel at Portal Avicar. By the side of the restaurant were several hummingbird feeders. Female Black-throated Mangos ruled the roost, with others just darting in when they could, including male Black-throated Mangos, Rufous-tailed, Snowy-bellied, White-necked Jacobin, Scaly-breasted and Sapphire-throated.



Black-throated Mangos



Snowy-bellied Hummingbird

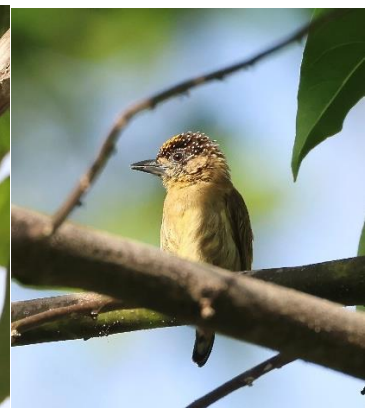
Rufous-tailed Hummingbird

White-necked Jacobin

In the afternoon we birded the Torti River. Highlights were a group of Great Ani, Crimson-headed Woodpecker, Cinnamon Becard, Royal Flycatcher, another Olivaceous Piculet, excellent views of a male Golden-naped Manakin, Amazon & Green Kingfishers, Green Hermit, White-vented Plumeteer and a Louisiana Waterthrush.



Golden-naped Manakin



Louisiana Waterthrush

Royal Flycatcher

Cinnamon Becard

Olivaceous Piculet

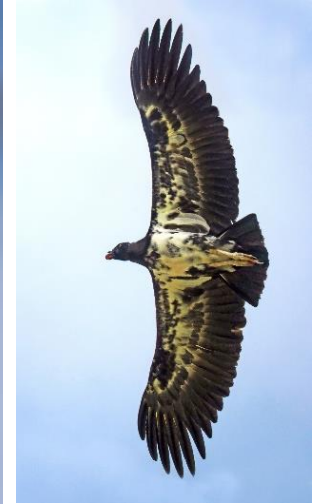
Day 11 Into the Darien.

Leaving the hummingbirds & Whooping Motmot behind we set off along the Pan-American into the Darien. First stop was for a pair of Pearl Kites, nesting by the side of the road (photo below right).

Once through the checkpoint, we entered the Darien – the last part of the Pan-American, before it breaks – forming the “Darien Gap”, heading for the town of Meteti, arriving before lunch & check-in.



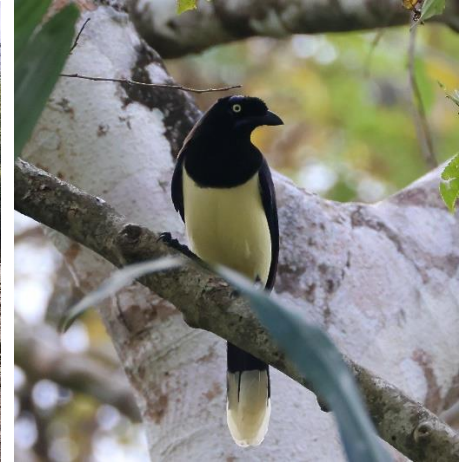
With time on our hands, we visited a couple of Moyo's sites. First stop was for a vulture fest by the side of the road, many Black & Turkeys, with a couple of adult and immature King Vultures (photos below).



In a ditch just around the corner was a delightful Capped Heron (below left), along with a couple of small Caiman and a Gray-necked Wood-Rail (below right).



Next stop, beside a small river, produced Black-headed Tody-Flycatcher, Green Kingfisher, Limpkin, Ruddy-breasted Seedfinch, Boad-billed Flycatcher, Black-chested Jay (photo below right) and a pair of Rufous-tailed Jacamar.



Another stop by the edge of mangrove swamp produced Streak-billed Woodcreeper and White-naped Nunbird. The final stop was for a Golden-headed Manakin by the side of the road and a Double-toothed Kite.



White-naped Nunbird



Golden-headed Manakin



Double-toothed Kite

A siesta in the delightful Meteti Town hotel, with lots of vultures and a Short-tailed Hawk overhead. In the afternoon we headed towards the end of the Pan-American highway, with plenty of birding along the main road.



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It turned into a woodpecker filled couple of hours, with Cinnamon, Red-crowned, Black-cheeked and Lineated but the star of the show was a Spot-breasted.



Spot-breasted Woodpecker



Cinnamon Woodpecker



Lineated Woodpecker

Other birds included Streak-headed Woodcreeper, Black-crowned Tityra, a pair of Black Antshrike, Great Crested, Streaked and Ochre-bellied Flycatchers, Spot-crowned Barbet, Keel-billed Toucans, Red-lored & Yellow-crowned Parrots, Crested & Chestnut-headed Oropendola, Tropical Gnatcatcher, Shiny Cowbird, Band-rumped Swift, Common Black Hawk, Bat Hawk and c20 Spectacled Parrotlets. Several Geoffroy's Tamarins were also seen.



Spot-crowned Barbet



Common Black Hawk



Streaked Flycatcher



Streak-headed Woodcreeper



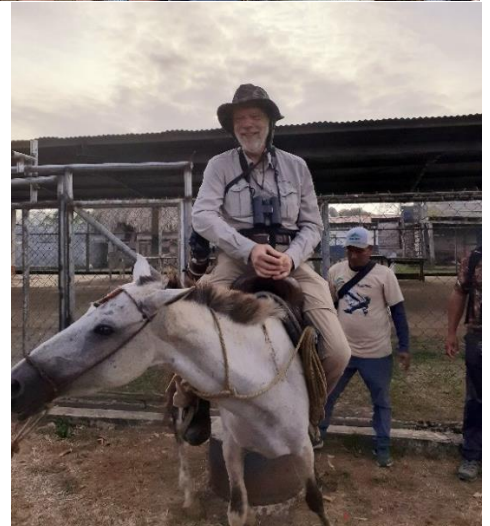
Spectacled Parrotlet



Geoffroy's Tamarin

Day 12 Harpy Eagle Quest

Half an hour out from Meteti we came to the Native Panamanian Village, our hosts for the day. Here we went on horseback for one and a half hours into the jungle to the Harpy Eagle nest. The nest was 100m or so away, up in the fork of a big tree. Although we could see the nest, we couldn't see the one-month-old chick.



Not long after arriving at the nest, the female Harpy started to call nearby. The villagers-spotters soon located her, and we had good views of her sat up in a tree, calling to her chick, telling it, food is on the way.



After quarter of an hour she took off, with a young sloth in her talons, to feed the chick.





We watched for a further hour or so, until she finished feeding and set off back to the village for lunch.



Other birds seen this morning included Purple Fruitcrow (below left), Sapphire-throated Hummingbird, Black Hawk Eagle, Blue and Yellow Macaw, White-shouldered Tanager, White-headed Wren, Black-tailed Trogon (below middle), Dot-winged Antwren (below right), Great Ani and Collared Aracari.



On leaving the village, in the heat of the mid-day, we saw two Solitary Sandpipers (below right), Pied Puffbird, Black-capped Tityra, Orange-crowned Oriole and Lesser Swallow-tailed Swift.

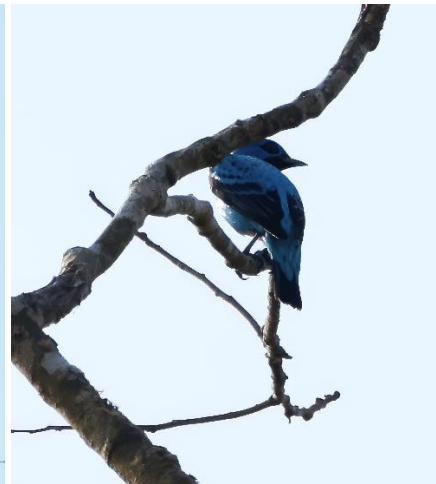


Day 13 Departing the Darien back to Summit.

We started off birding near Meteti before heading back out of the Darien to the Portal Avicar hotel. There was a good variety of birds including more Purple-throated Fruitcrows, Swallow-tailed Kites, Black-tailed Trogon, Pied Puffbird (better views today than yesterday), Keel-billed Toucan, Olivaceous Piculet, Masked Tityra, Black-chested Jay, White-shouldered Tanager, Acadian Flycatcher, Yellow-rumped Casique and Blue-headed Parrots. Several new birds were added to the trip list: Pale-bellied Hermit, Grey-cheeked Nunlet, Red-rumped Woodpecker, Double-banded Graytail and Sirystes but the highlight was a Blue Cotinga. Several Howler Monkeys were also seen.



Gray-headed Chachalaca



Blue Cotinga



Swallow-tailed Kite

Lunch with the hummers at Portal Avicar – Black-throated Mango, Snowy-bellied, White-necked Jacobin & Rufous-tailed.



Snowy-bellied Hummingbird



White-necked Jacobin



Rufous-tailed Hummingbird

Then the drive back to the canal zone, stopping briefly at the bridge over the Bayano Reservoir, three Limpkins today and a very distant immature Ornate Hawk Eagle. One final stop – for a Great Potoo by the side of the road (photo right).



Back at Summit we said our goodbyes to Moyo and Francisco.

Both were excellent in their own ways.

Moyo being one of the best guides we have had.



We rounded off the day with an hour checking the canopy from our balcony, producing the now familiar Red-legged (photo below left) & Green Honeycreepers, Blue Dacnis, Golden-hooded, Palm, Blue-gray, Pale-coloured & Crimson-backed Tanagers, Baltimore & Yellow-backed Orioles, Orange-chinned Parakeets and a Black Hawk Eagle (photo below right).

After dinner we ventured out looking for owls and nightjars, none of the former but a couple of Common Pauragues were hunting around the golf course.



Day 14 Final morning's birding around the Summit Hotel.

Last chance to see the birds of the Summit Hotel. Keel-billed Toucans, Lesson's (Blue-headed) Momot, Gray-chested Martins, Southern Rough-winged Swallows, Mangrove Swallows, Thick-billed Euphonia, Buff-throated Saltator, Short-winged Hawk, Black Hawk Eagle, Saffron Finch, American Kestrel, Tennessee, Yellow, Prothonotary Warblers, Wattled Jacana, Southern Lapwing, Magnificent Frigatebirds, Tanagers, Variable Seedeater, Barred Antshrike and Scaly-bellied Hummingbirds. New for the trip was a male Rosy Thrush-Tanager (although heard several times on the trip, finally one showed itself).



Keel-billed Toucan



Barred Antshrike



Rosy Thrush-Tanager

Overall, nearly 370 species were seen or heard during the two weeks.

It was an excellent tour, well organised, good hotels, good food (and much more of it than expected), lots of interesting places visited, fantastic guide and driver, good group, great birds and a Harpy!

