

TRIP REPORT  
PANAMA – CANOPY FAMILY TOUR  
November 2016



**Golden-headed Manakin**



**Golden-collared Manakin**

### Introduction

What a colourful tour & great variety of **habitats, birds** and **accommodations!** We hope that the below description and **pictures which we all did during this tour** will give a taste of it.

Although Ecotours Kondor & Worldwide Travel has visited and organized several tours in Panama for more than 10 years by now, this was the first time that we birded different corners of the country with staying everywhere based just solely at Canopy Family properties. **Special thanks for Raúl Arias de Para, owner of Canopy Family** and **Jenn Sinasac, resident biologist guide** for make it possible. This tour was 10-day-long, started on 5thNovember and ended 14thNovember, 2016.

### Fact File

- 10 days in Panama, witnessed the tail-end of the world-famous Raptor migration & visited several National Parks and nature reserves for tropical rainforest birding both in **El Valle & Pacific coast**, the **Central lowland forests in Gamboa** & the Eastern part of the country, including the mysterious **Darien Jungle**; start and finish in Panama City
- using 4 different **accommodations, all Canopy Family properties** each with great on site birding possibilities, each completely different style: **Canopy BB, Canopy Tower, Canopy Lodge & Canopy Luxury Camp**



**Rufous Motmot**



**Buff-throated Saltator**



**Yellow-throated Euphonia**



**Clay-colored Thrush pale form**

### Highlights

- birding at world famous sites such as rainforests of **Pipeline Road & Ammo Ponds, Canopy Tower at Soberanía National Park, El Valle** combined with the **Pacific Lowland & Darien Jungle** in Eastern Panama with its local endemics
- wide variety of birds, plus some mammals, reptiles, butterflies and interesting habitats

### Accommodation

- 2 nights at **Canopy BB Gamboa** very close to Gamboa Resort & Ammo Ponds, Pipeline Road
- 2 nights at **Canopy Lodge, El Valle**
- 2 nights at **Canopy Tower, Soberania National Park**
- 3 nights at **Canopy Luxury Camp Eastern Panama, Darien region**

### Activity level

We had easy to moderate walks; some areas were hot and humid; got some rain, but overall a very pleasant, easy and very rewarding birding

### Guides

At the beginning of the tour from Canopy BB we discovered areas ourselves which we knew very well from previous tours. At El Valle we went on a day tour with a local Canopy Family guide while other birding sites we did again ourselves.

We had Jenn Sinasac with us most of the time at the Canopy Tower. She is a resident biologist and guide there, has a really good knowledge of birds, but butterflies and other wildlife as well. She was very keen, enthusiastic and cheerful. She also accompanied us to the Darien Jungle.



**Chestnut-headed Oropendola**



**Geoffrey's Tamarind Monkey**

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**Blue-black Grosbeak female**



**Yellow-tailed Oriole**

### Conclusions

We think each area we visited offered not just **very different type of accommodation**, but also **very different habitats and thus birding as well**. We have found many interesting species & local specialities:

**Gamboa, Soberania & Canopy Tower area** was fantastic with its great variety of **Antbirds**, displaying male **Purple-throated Fruit-crow, White-throated Crake, Blue-crowned & Golden-collared Manakin, Rosy Bush-tanager, Golden-fronted Greenlet** & many more

**El Valle & the Pacific Coast area** offered so different birds such as **Wedge-tailed Yellow-finch, Verraguan Mango, Lance-tailed Manakin, Ochraceous Wren** or **Savanna Hawk, Straight-billed Woodcreeper, Blue-footed Booby**

**Darien** treated us with **Pale-bellied Hermit, Golden-headed Manakin, Red-throated Caracara, Sooty-headed Tyrannulet, Rufous-crested Coquette, Pied Water-Tyrant, Aplomado Falcon, Chestnut-fronted-, Great Green & Blue-and-Yellow Macaw, Dusky-backed Jacamar, Barred Puffbird, Black-and-White Hawk-Eagle** & plenty of **Blue Cotingas**.

### Itinerary

#### 1st day -5<sup>th</sup> November, 2016

We started on 5th of Nov. from the Old Continent through Paris to Panama city. From the airport we had about an hour long transfer to the **Canopy BB**, which is in Gamboa.

After a fast and light dinner we just went in the rooms and got ready for a nice sleep, so next morning we could start early. :-)



**Doris Longwing, Heliconius doris Cydno Longwing, Heliconius cydno**

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**Slaty-tailed Trogon male and female**

**2nd day - 6<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**

We did everything exactly to our plan, so we went on a pre-breakfast walk till the Gamboa Resort and to the surroundings of the Smithsonian Institute.

The garden feeder at the BB was full with **Green** and **Red-Legged Honeycreepers**, **Red-Crown Woodpeckers** and several colourful Tanagers, like **Crimson-backed**, **Palm**, **Blue-Grey** and **Plain-coloured Tanagers**, but they were all outnumbered by loads of **Brown-throated Parakeets**.

The first Hummingbirds we saw were **White-necked Jacobin** and **Violet-bellied Hummingbird**.

As we were walking towards the Gamboa Resort we heard and seen **Red-lore Parrots**, **Gray-headed Chachalacas**, **Green Heron**, **Pale-vented Pigeon**, **Collared Aracaris** and **Keel-billed Toucan**.

The Raptor Migration was still going on, so we had seen a nice kettle of **Turkey Vultures** and **Broad-winged Hawks**.

By 8.30 we went back to the Canopy BB to have our first nice full Panamanian breakfast consisting of different fruits, yoghurts, cereals, toast, sweet bread, eggs and some other typical cooked breakfast.

We also met and chat with Venezuela's best bird guide, David Ascanio who waited for his group arriving from the USA later during the day.

After that, we have spent the whole day at the **World famous Pipeline road**. Even at the very beginning it was amazingly busy with birds. Without making a long list, we would like to mention just the few of those species which we have seen during the day: **Dot-winged Ant-Wren**, **Red-throated Ant-Tanager**, **Scarlet-rumped Cacique**, **Grey-headed Tanager**.



**Prepona sp.**



**Bay Wren**



**Orchard Oriole**



**Summer Tanager**

We also heard **Black-faced Antthrush**. We had a beautiful male **Red-capped Manakin**, but perhaps the most exiting one was a displaying male **Purple-throated Fruit-crow** who managed to attract the female as well and they flew away together.

The most common mammal was Agouti, but we had seen different species of different Neotropical Squirrels, like **Red-tailed Squirrels**, but we also found **Mantled Howler**, **Capuchin** and **Geoffrey's Tamarin Monkeys**.

Around the fork to the **Discovery Center** we bumped into another nice flock of birds: **Southern Bentbill, Fasciated Antshrike, Chestnut-backed Antbird, White-breasted Wood-wren, Spotted Antbird**. Among the large and colourful birds we would mention: **Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, Red-lored Parrot**.

After a nice dinner and a few drinks we discussed the day and the plan for next day.

### **3rd Day - 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**

During our pre breakfast walk, we visited the **Gamboa Resort**. On the trails we had **Bright-rumped Attila, Squirrel Cuckoo, Plain Wren, Long-billed Gnat-wren**. We also had **Diademed Motmot** -formally called **Blue-crowned Motmot, Red-lored Parrot and Mealy Parrot**.

On the way back we used the **Laguna trail**, which crosses an interesting habitat, but it was pretty silent, we felt a big change in the air. So, we returned to have our nice breakfast.



**Orange-chinned Parakeet**



**Brown-capped Tyrannulet**



**Black-cheeked Woodpecker**



**Red-lored Parrot**

After the breakfast we checked the feeder again, but unfortunately strong rain arrived around 10 o'clock. We were transferred to the **Canopy Tower**, but just for a short visit. The whole area was very misty, it was obvious, that it is a perfect place for birds, but not this day! :-( The rain was pouring down crazily, so we could not see too much.

After having lunch with the panoramic view from the Tower around 2pm we started our journey to the **Canopy Lodge in El Valle**, where we arrived at around 4 o'clock. Unfortunately it was raining during the whole day. Still after checking-in to our stylish rooms, we could enjoy a couple of hours birding in the garden at the feeders. The first birds here were including a strange pale form of a **Clay-coloured Thrush**, small group of **Thick-billed Euphonias**, **Snowy-bellied Hummingbirds** and **Buff-throated Saltators**, but the nicest view we had was a very close colourful **Rufous Motmot**. We also had **Tennessee Warblers** and various Tanagers such as: **Crimson-rumped**, **Tawny-faced**, **Blue-grey** and **Palm Tanagers**. At dusk we also heard a **Grey-necked Wood Rail**.

By 6 o'clock it was already totally dark, so we had our dinner at 7.

We went to bed with fingers-crossed, that next day will be without rain!

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Day - 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**

We woke up for a lovely morning!! After an early breakfast at 5.30 we went on a **tour to the Pacific coast**. First we climbed up through the hills towards **La Aquila**. At our first stop at a mountain grassland we looked for **Crested Bobwhite** and **Wedge-tailed Grassfinch**. We also have seen in this area **Gray-headed Chachalacas**, **Ruddy Ground Dove**, **Swainson's Thrush**, **Grey-breasted Martin**, **Blue-Black Grassquit**, **Yellow-headed Caracara**, **Crested Oropendola**, **Diademed Motmot**, **Southern Lapwing** and **White-tipped Dove**.



**Mouse-colored Tyrannulet**



**Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**

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**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**



**Sapphire-throated Hummingbird**

Much lower at a bushy area before Anton we had our 2nd stop, where we had **Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Crimson-backed Tanager, Baltimore Oriole, Garden Emerald hummingbird, Red-crowned Woodpecker, Black-chested Jay**. Not too far we also heard **Little Tinamou** and a few of us photographed **Plain-breasted Ground-Dove, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Southern Beardless & Mouse-coloured Tyrannulet**. We also had both **Western and Eastern Wood-Pewee**. But the most exiting was to try to locate the **Lance-tailed Manakin**. It was very difficult, because it was in the dense vegetation and against the sun, unfortunately. But, we still could see the beautiful red cap on the male contracting with the amazing blue back and the pointy tail of the bird.

A bit later on we had **Eastern Meadowlark, Squirrel Cuckoo, Brown-throated Parakeet, Yellow-headed Caracara**.

At around Anton we had **Southern-Beardless Tyrannulet** and **Sapphire-throated Hummingbird**. At the top of the communication tower we witnessed a **Peregrine Falcon** having its breakfast, while **Groove-billed Anis** were alarming nearby.

We spent most of the time alongside a dirt road, where we found a long list of birds, including: **Plain-breasted Spinetail, Panama Flycatcher, Rufous-browed Peppershrike, Rufous-capped Warbler, Common Tody Flycatcher, Golden-fronted Greenlet, Scrub Greenlet, Blue-Black Grassquit**. Another new species was **Slate-coloured Grosbeak**.

We also checked the sky and beside the usual **Black and Turkey Vultures**, we enjoyed a really up-close view of a fantastic **Savannah Hawk** and a bit more distance **Common Black Hawk**, plus a **Swainson's Hawk**. Other raptors included **Crested Caracara** and **American Kestrel**. It was also a bit funny to see a **Yellow-headed Caracara** riding a cow! :-)

At more watery patches we had: **Black-bellied Whistling Duck, Little Blue Heron, Anhinga, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Wattled Jacana, Northern Water-thrush** and **Woodstork**.



**Lance-tailed Manakin**



**Yellow-bellied Elaenia**



**Fork-tailed Flycatcher**



**Trumpet Flower**

We enjoyed a spectacular flight show of several hunting **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** up-close, plus there was **Plain-breasted Ground-Dove**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **Grey Kingbird**, **Yellow Warber**, **Greater Ani** and **Groove-billed Ani** around. We also looked for **Verraguan Mango** and **Straight-billed Woodcreeper**. We also heard **Barred Antshrike** and seen **Yellow-crowned Euphonia**.

We had lovely picnic lunch at a beautiful beach at Santa Rita, where from the shade we could see **Willet**, **Whimbrel**, **Sanderling** and **Long-billed Curlew**. **Neotropical Cormorants**, **Magnificent Frigatebirds**, **Brown Pelicans** and **Ospreys** were fishing nearby, while in a distance on a small islet we found as well perched **Blue-footed Boobies**.

Gabor also managed to invite over 2 **Ferruginous Pigmy Owls**. A **Ringed Kingfisher** flew by when we left the area. Finally at **El Chiru Road** we searched **Aplomado Falcon** and **Crested Bobwhite** again. After that we returned to the excellent Canopy Lodge arriving just before dark. During the day we saw **Variegated Squirrel** and **Central American Agouti**.

After a short birding in the garden we prepared ourselves for another tasty dinner accompanied with red wine.

### **5<sup>th</sup> Day - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

This morning we made another pre breakfast walk outside of the lodge's property on a trail. We had found some new species, such as **Black-chested Jay**, a localized **Ochraceous Wren**, **Bay Wren**, **Buff-rumped Warbler**, **Stripe-throated Hermit**, **Rufous-capped Warbler**, **Buff-throated Foliage Greener**, **Chestnut-headed Oropendola**, **Eastern Wood Pewee**, **Brown-throated Parakeets**, **Orchard Oriole** and **Dusky-faced Tanager**. We also heard and finally found a **Black-faced Ant-Thrush**.



**Black-throated Mango female**



**Scaly-breasted Hummingbird**



**White-vented Plumeleteer**



**Blue Cotinga**

After a late breakfast we had a transfer back to the *Canopy Tower*, where we got our rooms and then a nice lunch. After lunch we enjoyed the Tower itself with its amazing views, but since this was the hottest time of the day and without rain finally, we still could not see much.

During the afternoon we went down in an open truck to the *Summit Park*, which is really nearby, so it took us about half an hour to reach it. On the way we stopped once or twice for birds and mammals, such as: **Northern-barred** and **Cocoa Woodcreeper**, **Pale-vented Pigeon** and a family party of **White-nosed Coatis**.

Miraculously the very first bird which one of the group member found on top of a tree was a beautiful male **Blue Cotinga!** :-) We put the scope on it and everybody in the group could enjoy an amazing view of it. Such a wonderful bird and what incredible view!! So amazing just to find it like this, just arriving to the park and he was just there showing himself proudly. :-)

Later on as we walked around we spotted a nice male **Summer Tanager**, **Golden-hooded & Crimson-backed Tanagers**, **Boat-billed Flycatcher**, **Squirrel Cuckoo** and **Greater Ani**. We found nesting **Orange-chinned Parakeets** and **Variable Seed-eaters**, **Red-crowned Woodpecker**, **Baltimore Oriole**, **Fulvous-vented Euphonia**, **Black-chested Jay** as well. We had a short glimpse of a **Scaly-breasted Wren** and a much more cooperating **House Wren**. In the meantime **Short-tailed Swifts**, **Gray-breasted Martins** were flying around. Other colourful birds included **Garthered Trogon**, **Rufous Motmot** and **Keel-billed Toucan**. Warblers were represented by **Bay-breasted** and **Yellow Warbler**.

Although we normally never visit a place with caged birds here we made an exemption for the sake of an exceptional bird: a **Harpy Eagle!!!! Peregrine Found** had a long project with rehabilitating and releasing Harpy Eagles in different Central and South American countries. This female could not live in the wild, so it remained in the Summit Park, but had such a large area that first we actually could not find this huge raptor. Later on it flew up close from her hiding point so we could admire this enormous bird. We **had seen it in the wild last time in January 2016 during our Manu Peru tour hunting on Red-and-Green Macaws**, but still it was a unique experience to see this majestic animal so up close.



**Southern Bentbill**



**Greater Ani**



**Blue-chested Hummingbird**



**Blue-crowned Manakin female**

Before we left the park Jenn also showed us hiding bats, 2 different species: **Jamaican Fruit-eating** and **Common Tent-making Bats**.

Later on we returned to the Canopy Tower.

**White-necked Jacobin, White-vented Plumeleteer, Blue-chested Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed Hummingbird** and **Long-tailed Hermit** were at the feeders just at the main entrance. We heard **Common Nighthawk** after dark. Later during the evening at the dinner just looking out we saw a nice **3-toed Sloth** climbing nicely, slowly around just a few feet away from us. We had a great view and took some nice night shots.

We were also looking around with night lights for night Monkeys, but they were not around this time.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Day - 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

We just couldn't wait to be on the top of the Canopy Tower early morning to spend 2,5hours to listening the nice calls of early morning birds and see the amazing view of the city faraway in the clouds and the mysterious forest around us. The first birds were: **Bay-breasted and Chestnut-sided Warblers, Lesser Greenlet**, than we had a nearby **Keel-billed Toucan** and a **Broad-billed Motmot**. Hummingbirds were represented by: **White-necked Jacobin, Long-billed Hermit, White-vented Plumeleteer, Blue-chested Hummingbird**.

The Tower is always great to see parrots and this morning was fortunately no exception. We had **Brown-hooded, Blue-headed, Red-lored and Mealy Parrots**.

Although **Green Shrike-Vireo** was calling loud from a nearby tree it took several minutes to show it to everybody. We had a perfect view of a very active **Brown-capped & Poultry Tyrannulet** and a female **Fulvous-vented Euphonia**. We also heard **Fasciated** and **Barred Antshrike**, plus **Black-capped Pigmy-Tyrant**.



**Fasciated Antshrike male**



**Rufous-tailed Hummingbird**

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**Chequered-throated Antwren**



**Chestnut-backed Antbird**

Before breakfast we also had **Plain-coloured Tanager, Black-headed Tody Flycatcher, Cinnamon Woodpecker, Pale-vented Pigeon** and **White-breasted Woodwren**. We also heard a **Broad-billed Motmot**. Woodpeckers were represented by **Black-cheeked** and **Cinnamon Woodpeckers**. Everybody could see **Masked Tityra** and a beautiful **Blue Cotinga** again. Some warblers were around, like **Bay-breasted** and **Chestnut-sided**. **Scarlet-rumped Cacique** added a nice colour as well.

In a distance we saw a pale morph of a **Short-tailed Hawk**, which landed on a tree and so we could observe it really well with our Swarovski scope! :-)

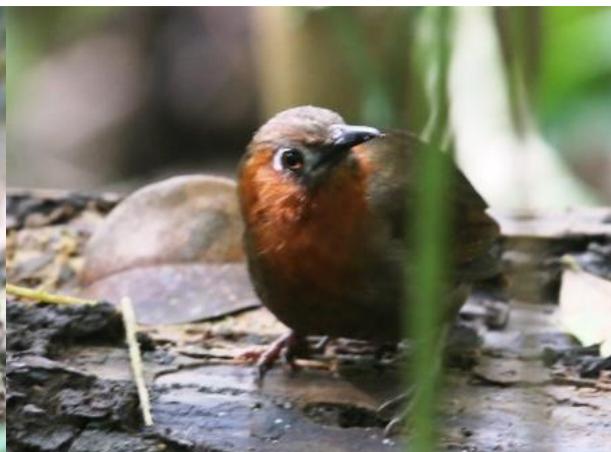
As for mammals we have seen again a **3-toed Sloth** and some **Mantled Howler monkeys** as well, just to colour our experiences. :-)

Then we went down for our delicious breakfast. After this we went back again for the **Pipeline Road**, which is one of the best birding areas of the World, so, never enough of it!:-) But this time we started from a more faraway part, after the fork to the Discovery Center.

The very first birds were: **Ringed Kingfisher** and **Northern Waterthrush**, but we got more excited by a beautiful **Golden-collared Manakin** and a pair of **Blue-crowned Manakins**. This was also the place where we first saw the amazing **Blue-Winged Helicopter Damselfly**. Not much further we bumped into our first ant swarm, which kept us busy for a long time since it attracted various interesting and rare birds. It was a mixed flock of otherwise hard to see birds, such as: **Chestnut-backed Antbird, Spotted Antbird, Black-faced Ant-thrush, Black-crowned Antshrike, Bright-rumped Attila, Song Wren, Red-capped Manakin, Dot-winged Antwren, White-shouldered Tanager, Checkered-throated Antwren**. Higher up in the canopy we have found **Plain Xenops, Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, Scarlet-rumped Cacique, Bay-breasted** and **Tennessee Warblers**.



**Black-faced Ant-thrush**



**Song Wren**



**Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**



**Long-billed Star-throat**

We started to retreat our steps and found a drumming **Crimson-crested Woodpecker**, a male **Fulvous-vented Euphonia** and a calling **Black-Mandibled Toucan**. Some other new species were found like: **Yellow-margined Flycatcher**, **Great-crested Flycatcher** and a beautiful male **Blue-crowned Manakin**. We heard **Scaly-breasted Wren**, **White-breasted Wood-wren** and **Forest Eleania** as well.

New hummingbird species included a female **Violet-crowned Woodnymph** and a female **Violet-bellied Hummingbird**.

We would also mention our good old friend, the Sloth, which we of course seen and quite close. We arrived back to the Canopy Tower about half past noon, so we had time for a refreshing shower before another great lunch with the breathtaking view.:-)

Some of us decided to have a break after lunch, while others spent some time on the viewing deck of the Tower.

During the afternoon we went down again with a local guide to another **trail of the Gamboa Resort**.

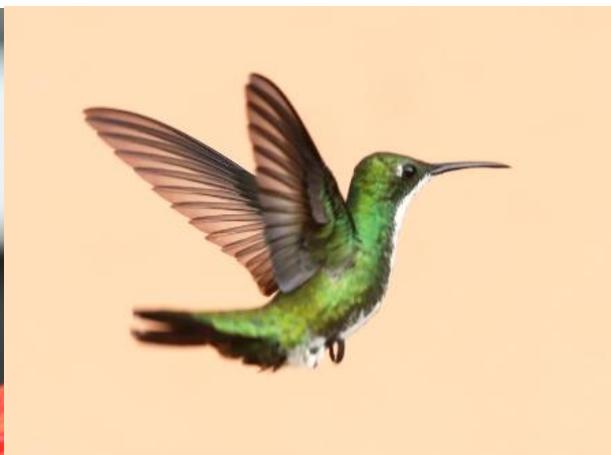
Here we had seen: **Southern Rough-winged Swallow**, **Short-tailed Swift**, **Orange-chinned Parakeet**, **Rusty-margined Flycatcher** and **Flame-rumped Tanager**. At a reedy, grassy habitat we had **Yellow-backed** and **Yellow-tailed Orioles**, **Smooth-billed Ani** and **Gartered Trogon**, formally called **Violaceous Trogon**.

We heard the call of a **White-throated Crake** from the nearby patch of swampy area, so we decided to lure it out. It took several minutes, but finally we all managed to have a glimpse of it. Another new species were **Dot-winged Antwren**, **Golden-fronted Greenlet** and **Southern Beardless Tyrannulet**.

We heard a **Cinnamon Woodpecker** and found **Streaked Flycatcher** and **Variable Seed-eater**.



**Rufous-breasted Hermit**



**Black-throated Mango female**



**Long-billed Starthroat**



**Pale-bellied Hermit**

The female **Blue-black Grosbeak** offered a great photo possibility, but it was outplayed by an amazingly close **Slaty-tailed Trogon**. Soon we were on **Manakin** "hunt" again: this time we had a female **Blue-crowned** and a male **Golden-collared**. We also had very good views of **Rufous Motmot**, **Red-lored Parrot**, **White-shouldered Tanager**, **Cocoa Woodcreeper** and **Cinnamon Becard**. We heard **Great Antshrike**, **Barred Antshrike** and **Rosy Bush-tanager**. We tried really hard to locate the latter species, but unfortunately it was very active in the middle of an unreachable area. So, finally we started our way back and at the place where we parked we had a nice refreshing soda or water, some peanuts and to add some colour to the end of the day we spotted some nice **Flame-rumped** and **Crimson-backed Tanagers** just in front of us on the tree.

After this we started our journey back to the Tower. We arrived in about half an hour, so after that we got ready for the dinner and got o bed relatively early, since next morning we had to start early again, because of course we wanted to be up on the viewing deck to see the morning life again! :-)

### **7<sup>th</sup> Day - 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

We were really exited about this part of the tour, since we started our trip to the famous/infamous **DARIEN JUNGLE!!**:-) But before this at 6 we went on the observation deck. Pretty soon we started to seen the same species as the day before, but some different species as well, like: **White-shouldered Tanager**, **Black-crowned Antshrike**, **Blue-crowned Motmot**, **Eastern Wood Pewee** and a **Plain Xenops**.

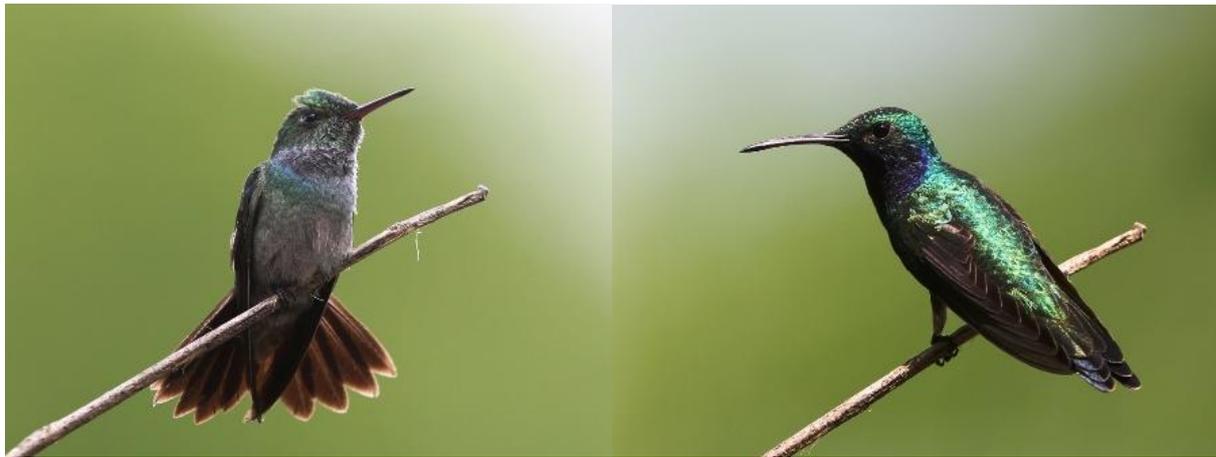
Then we had our breakfast, packed in a confirmable van and started a relatively long journey toward the east to the Colombian border! :-)

During the way alongside the road we saw a **White-tailed Kite**, **Roadside Hawk** and **Broad-winged Hawk** just to mention some of the good old raptor species.



**White-vented Plumeleteer**





**Blue-chested Hummingbird**

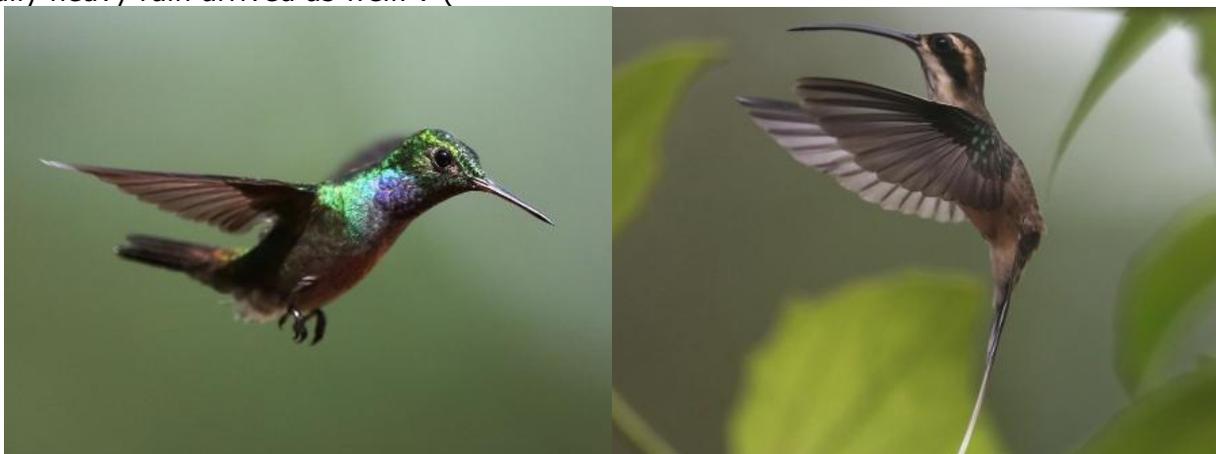
**Sapphire-throated Hummingbird**

We broke the journey around 1 o'clock at the village of Torti at a nice restaurant, which had several feeders, so before getting our lunch what we preordered not to waste time, we enjoyed some new and already seen species of hummingbirds, such as: **Rufous-tailed, Snowy-bellied, Sapphire-throated, Scaly-breasted Hummingbirds, Long-billed Starthroat, Black-throated Mango, Rufous-breasted Hermit**. And we also had seen a female **Black-crowned Antshrike, a Yellow-bellied Elaenia and a Blue-crowned Manakin**.

We continued our journey and at about 3.30 we arrived to the **Canopy Camp in Darien!!** It is important to emphasize, that the name is Camp, but, it is not a real camp, or let's say, these are kind of "luxurious" tents with bathrooms beside, but each tent is en-suite, having a fully equipped bathroom attached to it. In the tents you have furniture, lamps, so it is comfortable and the most beautiful thing about these kind of tents, that you can hear the sound of the jungle so well, since windows are just mosquito nets.:-)

So, this afternoon after arriving to this beautiful place we just enjoyed a bit more of the hummingbirds at the feeders and it was so great to see that at a large tree in the middle of the open part of the property there were lot of nests of the **Wagler's Oropendulas or Chestnut-headed Oropendulas**. They were very active in building their nests at that moment and since there were feeders not only for hummingbirds, Oropendulas were always around in large numbers feeding on bananas, papayas... It made it easy to see them well and even photograph them.

At the hummingbird feeders we have seen several of those species which we had at our lunch, but we could also add an Eastern Darian specialty: **Pale-bellied Hermit** and some other species like **White-vented Plumeleteer and Blue-chested Hummingbird**. We also saw some **Bananaquits**. It started to get dark and rain was in the air, so we decided to get back to our tents and get changed for dinner! Of course, a lovely dinner again was served for us and after chatting about our day we went for a nice sleep with the sound of the jungle and later a really heavy rain arrived as well! :-)



**Blue-chested Hummingbird**

**Pale-bellied Hermit**



**Golden-collared Manakin female**



**Red-throated Caracara**

**8<sup>th</sup> Day - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

We had an early breakfast at 6.00 and we decided to stay just a bit at the feeders to admire the beautiful and colourful hummingbirds. Some of us practiced to take a sharp and perfect photo of the buzzing little birds...:-) Sometimes with success, sometimes not really.. Then we headed out for a nice walk in a forest trail still in the property with some ups and downs, passing beautiful old trees to look for some more new species. It was a mixture of a bit of primary and secondary forest. At the beginning we crossed a river on rocks, but it was not too difficult. Our main goal was to find the **Golden-headed Manakin**, which we actually had seen pretty well and not only one! One of them was feeding on some berries, really up close. We also found the more widespread **Golden-collared Manakin**. Gabor was fascinated to find and show the **Red-throated Caracaras**, which were calling from the forest. Other colourful birds in the forest were **Collared Aracaris**, **Keel-billed** and **Black-mandibled Toucans** (called also before Chestnut Mandibled and Yellow-throated).

We returned later in the centre area of the "Camp" and had a walk around the property and a bit lower on another trail. We found **Squirrel Cuckoo**, **Greater Ani**, **Vedge-billed** and **Cocoa Woodcreepers**, **Forest Elaenia**, **Sooty-headed Tyrannulet**, **Ochre-bellied**, **Boat-billed** and **Rusty-margined Flycatchers**, **Cinnamon Becard**, **Norhern Waterthrush** and **Buff-rumped Warbler**.

Arriving back to the Hummingbird feeders we had again several species, but real bonus was at a nearby flowering bush: a female **Rufous-crested Coquette**!!

As usual we had a fantastic lunch followed by a short siesta and we were excited to go out again to a different area.



**Ruddy-breasted Seed-eater**



**Pied Water-Tyrant**



**Striped Cuckoo**



**Aplomado Falcon**

We were driving out on **a road towards Yaviza**. We stopped alongside the main road and found **Pied Water-Tyrant** and **Ruddy-breasted Seedeater**. Our local guide tried to call **Striped Cuckoo** and soon we saw it flying out to a not too far tree, where it also landed. Those who had big lenses could take great photos, but everybody could see the bird really well though our scopes!:-) And later on it came even closer to give an even better view. It was calling back excitedly rising its crest each time. As soon as we stopped at another dirt road we saw 2 **Aplomado Falcons** flying just above our heads and to our luck they landed on the top of a tree, so we could all enjoy this beautiful pair. We also saw two **Plumbeous Kites**.

This dirt road was perfect not only for birds but also was full with **dragonflies and butterflies**. In the sky we saw a disappearing **Great-Black Hawk** and plenty of **Band-rumped Swifts**. We felt the rain was coming from somewhere but still we were lucky. :-) This road was also amazing for parrots, we had **Blue-headed** and **Red-lored Parrots, Orange-chinned Parakeets**, but the main highlights were **Great Green Macaw** and **Blue-and-Yellow Macaw**.

Another new species was the **Crested Oropendola, Yellow-bellied Elaenia, Dusky-capped Flycatcher, Yellow-crowned Euphonia**. We also had a good view of **Yellow-tailed and Orchard Orioles**, plus a few **Fork-tailed Flycatchers** and a beautifully posing **Rufescent Tiger Heron** on a tree. **Great Blue Heron, Southern Lapwing** and **Wattled Jacana** was common around here as well. From a distance we heard **Little Tinamu** again.

Finally as we drove back to the canopy Camp we had several **Common Pauraques** jumping off the road. After returning back to the Camp we had a nice shower and then had again a tasty dinner with no rain this time! :-)



**Rufescent Tiger-heron**



**Chestnut-fronted Macaw**



**Chestnut-fronted Macaw**



**Amazon Kingfisher**

**9<sup>th</sup> Day - 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

At 6.00 we had our breakfast again and started to go out at 7.00.

Today we had a different journey then before, this time we aimed a **special boat tour on the Chucanaque River**. We were slightly delayed to embark into our specially made dug-out boats because the border patrol was a bit overwhelmed by a large group of immigrants from Africa and Asia. But finally we got our seats which were somewhat between a wooden bed and an armchair, so with laying down you could scan the sky for raptors or just with some tricks we could use it more properly for watching in a normal way as well.:)

Once we were on the boats it was a smooth ride with several extremely excited new species, some of them can be found only in this corner of Panama. First we had a **Grey-lined Hawk**, a **Black-tailed Trogon** and a **White-necked Puffbird**. But one of the main highlights was to find the **Dusky-backed Jacamar**. At the same riverside location we also heard **Rufous-tailed Jacamar**. Close to the jacamars we had seen on top of a tree another attractive new species, a **Long-Tailed Tyrant**. Within a short distance we amazingly had 4 different woodpecker species, which included: **Black-cheeked, Cinnamon, Lineated and Crimson-crested Woodpeckers**. Suddenly a beautiful pair of **Chestnut-fronted Macaw** flew above us. Both **Laughing Falcon** and **Blue-headed Parrot** were seen perched alongside the river. We tried hard to find a **Red-billed Scythebill** and we succeed! :-)) Also we had **Flame-rumped Tanager**, a very tame **Amazon Kingfisher** and a more flighty **Ringed Kingfisher**. At another stop we got out of the boat again at Nuevo Vigia, where we had the chance to buy from local people some nice presents like parrot, aracari or owl designed artifacts. As we were travelling back on the boats incredibly we found at least 5 different **Blue Cotingas**, sometimes really up-close. We also heard **Purple-throated FruitCrow** and **Buff-breasted Wren**.



**Dusky-backed Jacamar**



**Black Oropendola**



**Red-billed Scythebill**



**Dusky-backed Jacamar**

On the way we also paid a special attention to find the **Black Oropendola**, which is another local specialty. Finally beside **Crested and Chestnut-headed Oropendolas** we saw also some of the **Black** ones as well. Around 13 o'clock we were back to the Camp and again a lovely lunch waited for us, then a short siesta. :-) During the afternoon we went out on **the El Salto road**, which was undulating like a frozen sea! :-) Bird activity was really great, perhaps because they all felt a big storm coming... again! :-) So, we didn't go too far, but still we had: **Black-crowned Antshrike, Blue-headed Parrots, Green-crowned Woodnymph, Checker-throated Antwren and White-bellied Antbird.**

We had 3 different **Woodcreeper** species including **Cocoa, Streak-headed** and **Olivaceous**. 2 **Tyrannulet** species were also present, **Brown-capped** and **Paultry**.

As we went back to the van just before the storm arrived we had **Black-chested Jay, White-Shouldered** and **Crimson-backed Tanagers** and a very attractive **White-headed Wren**.

before we arrived back to the Camp, we had seen 2 other creatures a **Common Basilisk Lizard** and a **Common Opossum** as well.

In the evening sadly we had our farewell dinner, which was absolutely tasty, packed for the next day departure and went to sleep.



**Barred Puffbird**



**Black Antshrike female**

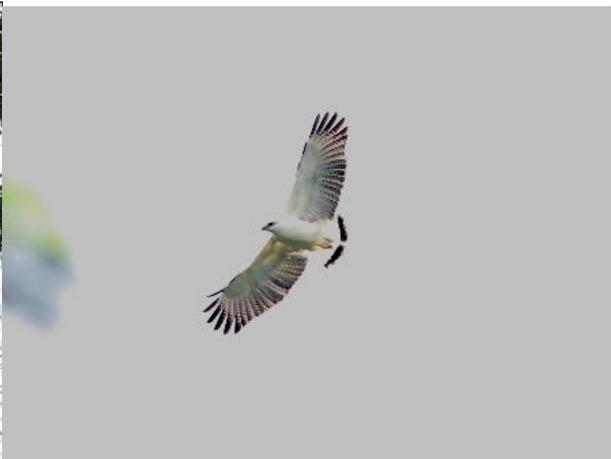
### 10<sup>th</sup> Day - 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016

This morning we started even earlier than before having our breakfast at 5.30 and starting our way at 6.00. Around at 8 o'clock we stopped again at the roadside restaurant ordered our food for lunch and went on driving on to the nearby San Francisco reserve. Miraculously as soon as we got out of the vans one of our main target birds – **Barred Puffbird**- came up showing

himself pretty well on a tree brunch. Later on we walked a bit and we spotted **2 Black-and-White Hawk-Eagles** on the sky flying around and then landing on a distant tree.



**Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle**



**White Hawk**

We could observe them very well through the scopes and all of us had great view of them! :-)  
We could also witness interaction between the couple. Another new raptor in the area was **White Hawk**. In the bushes and the canopy of the trees there were several other birds to find, such as: **Rusty-margined Flycatcher, Cinnamon Becard, Golden-hooded Tanager, Blue Dacnis**. We also checked a trail alongside the stream where we had **Great Jacamar, Sulphur-rumped Tanager, Buff-rumped Warbler** and **Bay-breasted Warbler**. The most colourful birds were **Golden-collared Manakin, Purple-crowned Fairy and Blue Cotinga** again! :-) We also found **Southern Bentbill, Chestnut-backed Antbird**, a female **Black Antshrike, Black-crowned Antshrike** and **Fasciated Antshrike**.

As we were driving back toward the restaurant we also saw an Immature **King Vulture**. After lunch within a few hours we arrived to the airport and said goodbye to this Amazing Central American country full with birds and wildlife...

**Hasta la Vista Panama & Canopy Family, we hope to return soon! :-)**



**Cinnamon Becard**



**Rusty-margined Flycatcher**

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