

PANAMA TRIP FOR VOLUNTEERS - SUMMARY (2012)

A. INTRODUCTION:

Thank you for participating on our Panama expedition. Thank you also for being such great volunteers – you're wonderful!

We saw and heard a total of 218 species of birds and 6 species of mammals. We also had the opportunity to explore some very beautiful natural areas.

Included in this report are the Top Ten Birds, Trip Highlights, Location Summaries, and Bird and Mammal Checklists.

We look forward to traveling with you again in the near future!

Best Wishes,

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B. TOP TEN BIRDS:

The following ten species of birds were selected by our participants as the Top Ten Birds for the trip.

1. Emerald Tanager
2. Barred Puffbird
3. Ornate Hawk-Eagle
4. Aplomado Falcon
5. Southern Lapwing
6. Savannah Hawk
7. Paltry Tyrannulet
8. White Hawk
9. Bay-headed Tanager
10. Barred Antshrike

C. TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

Our participants also shared their trip highlights. I hope that these highlights bring back happy memories of our trip!

1. Seeing Tino, Daniello, and Alexis again (our International Interns);
2. watching the Great Egret trying to subdue the small snake (rice fields);
3. watching Eliecer and Moyo working together – great guides;

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C. TRIP HIGHLIGHTS:

4. exploring the Caribbean slope in four-wheel drive vehicles;
5. enjoying everything about Canopy Lodge;
6. experiencing the thunderstorm while visiting the produce market in El Valle – what heavy rain! – what noise on the metal roof!;
7. hearing all of the bird songs and other sounds of the rain forest;
8. enjoying the spectacle in the rice fields – at least four Crested Caracaras, Savanna Hawks, Common Black-Hawk, Great Egrets, and swarms of Cattle Egrets;
9. being with a great group of people – so friendly and helpful;
10. hearing the “*scritch, scritch, scritch*” calls of the Keel-billed Toucans;
11. swimming in the Pacific Ocean (Santa Clara beach);
12. being off the beaten path while exploring Rio Indio Road and the Caribbean slope;
13. enjoying the early morning birding from the roof of Canopy Tower;
14. visiting the Panama Canal Visitors Center at Miraflores – watching the ships moving through the locks;
15. having such great views of so many raptors: Ornate Hawk-Eagle, Black Hawk-Eagle, Crane Hawk, Savanna Hawk, Bat Falcon, Plumbeous Kite, White Hawk;
16. escaping to the roof of Canopy Tower after dinner to see the stars overhead and the lights of Panama City in the distance – feeling the cool breeze;
17. walking through the small pasture along Rio Indio Road – seeing so many wonderful birds, including Emerald Tanager and Bay-headed Tanager;
18. walking through the produce market in El Valle de Anton;
19. seeing the Geoffroy’s Tamarin jump across the road (en route to Gamboa and the Ammo Dump Ponds);
20. seeing four life birds in five minutes at Canopy Tower;
21. watching the Blue Morpho butterflies flashing as they flew past us on the trails;
22. watching the leafcutting ants carrying leaf fragments to their colonies;
23. traveling with the Joppa “crew” – I was lucky to be part of the group;
24. watching the sunrise from the roof of Canopy Tower;
25. having the tour of Panama City – the fish market, Church of San Jose (golden altar), Museum of the Panama Canal;
26. watching the Brown-throated Three-toed Sloths in the cecropia trees around Canopy Tower;
27. watching the Magnificent Frigatebirds flying over the fishing boats at Santa Clara Beach;
28. having my first view from the top of Canopy Tower - wonderful;
29. hearing the roars of the Mantled Howler Monkeys (Canopy Tower);
30. finding the very large basilisk lizards in the stream bed at Canopy Lodge;
31. eating good food – lots of good food;
32. putting my hand next to the tarantula; and
33. seeing the people along Rio Indio Road – wondering about their lives.

MASSACHUSETTS AUDUBON SOCIETY

PANAMA TRIP - LOCATION SUMMARIES (2012)

Column Notations on Checklists:

7/14

This column includes all species seen en route from Tocumen International Airport (Panama City) to Canopy Tower and during our late afternoon/early evening birding from the top of the tower. (3:30 p.m. to dark)

7/15

This column includes all species seen starting pre-dawn at Canopy Tower; during our morning visit to the Miraflores Visitor Center at the Panama Canal, during our tour of the fish market and old section of Panama City, and en route back to Canopy Tower arriving at 2:30 p.m. In the afternoon, it includes all species seen in the vicinity of the Summit Ponds along the Old Gamboa Road (3:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m.)

7/16

This column includes all species seen starting pre-dawn at Canopy Tower, during our visit to the Ammo Dump Ponds (8:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.), during our walk down Semaphore Hill (11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.), and during our drive to El Valle and Canopy Lodge (2:45 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.).

7/17

This column includes all species seen starting pre-dawn from the verandah of Canopy Lodge; during our visit to the Las Minas area (7:30 a.m. to noon), and during our walk at Carra Iguana (3 p.m. to 5 p.m.)

7/18

This column includes all species seen during our visit to the Pacific coastal plain and rice fields (6 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.), during our midday break at Santa Clara beach until 3:30 p.m., during our return trip to Canopy Lodge arriving at 5:00 p.m., and on the grounds of the lodge.

7/19

This column includes all species seen starting pre-dawn from the verandah of Canopy Lodge and during our visit to the Las Mesa area and Rio Indio Road (8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.). In the afternoon, it includes our visit to the El Valle produce market and during our walk through El Nispero Zoo (2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.)

7/20

This column includes all species seen during our drive down Rio Indio Road onto the Caribbean slope (6:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.) and during free time during the afternoon.

Notes on the Following Checklists:

C = Commonly seen in the place(s) indicated.

H = Heard only

PANAMA TRIP FOR VOLUNTEERS - JULY 2012

PANAMA TRIP LIST - 2012

BIRD AND MAMMAL CHECKLISTS

Dates:	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
Tinamou, Great	H	H					
Tinamou, Little							H
Whistling-Duck, Black-bellied		2			8		
Chachalaca, Gray-headed				4		8	
Bobwhite, Crested					1		
Stork, Wood	16	1			10		
Frigatebird, Magnificent	C	C	C		C		
Booby, Brown					5		
Cormorant, Neotropic	C			1	6		
Pelican, Brown	C	C	6		C		
Heron, Coccoi	1						
Egret, Great	6	2	1		C		
Egret, Snowy		2			C		
Heron, Little Blue	2				12	1	
Egret, Cattle	12				C		
Heron, Green					10		
Night-Heron, Black-crowned		1			2		
Heron, Boat-billed		1			2		
Ibis, White					C		
Vulture, Black	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Vulture, Turkey	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Vulture, Lesser Yellow-headed					C		
Osprey	1	2					
Kite, Swallow-tailed				10		15	C
Kite, Plumbeous							3
Hawk, Crane			1				
Hawk, White			1	1			1
Black-Hawk, Common					1		
Hawk, Savanna					4		
Hawk, Roadside	2			1			
Hawk, Short-tailed	1	2		1		1	
Hawk-Eagle, Black							1
Hawk-Eagle, Ornate				1			
Caracara, Crested					12		
Caracara, Yellow-headed		1	2		4		
Kestrel, American				1	4		
Falcon, Aplomado					3		
Falcon, Bat				1			4
Wood-Rail, Gray-necked					2	3	
Gallinule, Purple					1		

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BIRD AND MAMMAL CHECKLISTS

Dates:	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
Lapwing, Southern					C	C	12
Stilt, Black-necked					C		
Jacana, Wattled			1		6		
Sandpiper, Spotted					1		
Yellowlegs, Greater					40		
Yellowlegs, Lesser					30		
Gull, Laughing	2	C			2		
Gull, Herring		2					
Tern, Royal		1					
Pigeon, Rock	C	C	C	C	C	C	2
Pigeon, Pale-vented		H		2			
Pigeon, Scaled		1	1	2		2	2
Dove, Mourning					1		
Ground-Dove, Plain-breasted					4		
Ground-Dove, Ruddy				C	C	C	2
Dove, White-tipped				2	6	8	4
Parakeet, Brown-throated			2		10	4	10
Parrot, Brown-hooded		5	4				15
Parrot, Blue-headed			2				
Parrot, Red-lored	3	C	8				
Parrot, Mealy			2				
Parrot, Yellow-crowned					2		
Cuckoo, Squirrel						2	2
Ground-Cuckoo, Rufous-vented							1
Ani, Greater		2	2		1		
Ani, Smooth-billed			1		6		
Ani, Groove-billed					C		
Owl, Spectacled		1					
Pygmy-Owl, Ferruginous					1		
Owl, Mottled				1			
Swift, Short-tailed	2	2					
Swift, Band-rumped	6						10
Swift, Lesser Swallow-tailed	3	1					
Hermit, Rufous-breasted							2
Hermit, Green						1	
Hermit, Long-billed		1					
Hermit, Stripe-throated						1	
Hummingbird, Scaly-breasted					2		
Jacobin, White-necked						1	
Hummingbird, Violet-headed			1	2	2		

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Dates:	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
Woodnymph, Violet-crowned					2	2	
Hummingbird, Violet-bellied	1	1	2				
H'bird, Sapphire-throated					2		
Hummingbird, Blue-chested	6	6	5				
Hummingbird, Snowy-bellied			1	2	1		2
Hummingbird, Rufous-tailed			1	3		5	6
Plumeleteer, White-vented	2	3	2				
Plumeleteer, Bronze-tailed			1	2			
Starthroat, Long-billed				1		1	
Trogon, Gartered (Violaceous)		2	2				
Trogon, Orange-bellied				1		4	
Motmot, Tody				2			
Motmot, Blue-crowned				1	H		
Motmot, Rufous		H	2			4	3
Motmot, Broad-billed	H		1				
Kingfisher, Ringed		1			1		
Kingfisher, Amazon							2
Kingfisher, Green				2			
Puffbird, Barred							3
Puffbird, White-necked		H					
Barbet, Spot-crowned						2	
Aracari, Collared		5	4			2	2
Toucan, Keel-billed	2	4	4	H		3	5
Woodpecker, Red-crowned		6	6	4	4	2	4
Woodpecker, Cinnamon		H					
Woodpecker, Lineated			1	1			
Antshrike, Barred			4	1	2	2	
Slaty-Antshrike, Western	H	H	2				
Antvireo, Plain				2		1	
Antvireo, Spot-crowned				2			
Antwren, Pacific							1
Antbird, Dusky			1				
Antbird, White-bellied		H		H		H	H
Antbird, Chestnut-backed			H	H			
Antthrush, Black-faced		4	H			1	1
Spinetail, Pale-breasted					1		
Xenops, Plain			1	1			
Woodcreeper, Plain-brown							1
Woodcreeper, Wedge-billed						1	2
Woodcreeper, Cocoa		2		H	2	2	2

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Dates:	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
Woodcreeper, Spotted				1			
Tyrannulet, Brown-capped			2				
Tyrannulet, Mouse-colored					1		
Elaenia, Forest			H				
Elaenia, Yellow-bellied		1		2	2	2	2
Elaenia, Lesser				3		1	
Flycatcher, Olive-striped				1			
Flycatcher, Sepia-capped				H		1	
Tyrannulet, Paltry			H	1		1	3
Pygmy-Tyrant, Scale-crested				H			
Tody-Flycatcher, Common				2	4	4	2
Pewee, Tropical				1			2
Tyrant, Long-tailed							1
Flycatcher, Dusky-capped			1	1		2	2
Flycatcher, Panama						1	1
Kiskadee, Lesser		2	1		2		
Kiskadee, Great			4		4	2	2
Flycatcher, Boat-billed		2		1			
Flycatcher, Rusty-margined			2				
Flycatcher, Social			10	2	4	6	C
Flycatcher, Streaked				1			
Flycatcher, Piratic		H		1			1
Kingbird, Tropical	2	5	C	C	C	C	C
Flycatcher, Fork-tailed			5		C		
Tityra, Masked		1		2			1
Manakin, Lance-tailed				1			
Manakin, Red-capped			4				
Vireo, Yellow-green					2	1	
Greenlet, Scrub			1				
Peppershrike, Rufous-browed					1		
Jay, Black-chested				3		2	10
Martin, Gray-breasted		C	C	C	C	C	
Swallow, Mangrove			C				
Swallow, Blue-and-white						5	
Swallow, S. Rough-winged			6				
Wren, Black-bellied		H					
Wren, Bay		H				H	2
Wren, Rufous-breasted				2		1	
Wren, Rufous-and white				H			1
Wren, Buff-breasted			H				

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Dates:	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
Wren, Plain				2	1	3	
Wren, House			1	6	2	C	C
Wood-Wren, White-breasted	H			H		H	H
Gnatwren, Tawny-faced				1			
Gnatcatcher, Tropical			4				
Thrush, Clay-colored	C	20	6	C	C	C	C
Mockingbird, Tropical	6	3	8		4		
Warbler, Buff-rumped							4
Warbler, Rufous-capped				4		3	2
Bananaquit				8		10	10
Thrush-Tanager, Rosy				H			
Tanager, Dusky-faced			1	2		2	2
Tanager, Sulphur-rumped							2
Tanager, White-shouldered			2				2
Tanager, Tawny-crested				1		5	
Tanager, White-lined			2	2		6	4
Tanager, Crimson-backed		4	3	C	3	C	C
Tanager, Flame-rumped				6		C	C
Tanager, Blue-gray		6	3	12	4	C	C
Tanager, Palm	4	6	6	3	2	2	C
Tanager, Golden-hooded	5	10	15	4		6	6
Tanager, Plain-colored	2	12	6	8	2	4	4
Tanager, Bay-headed				2		1	6
Tanager, Emerald							3
Tanager, Silver-throated				4		3	
Dacnis, Scarlet-thighed				2			2
Dacnis, Blue	4	4	4				
Honeycreeper, Green	5	8	6				2
Honeycreeper, Red-legged			3	6	2	5	2
Saltator, Streaked				2	1	4	2
Saltator, Buff-throated		1		3		4	6
Saltator, Black-headed							4
Grosbeak, Slate-colored			4				
Grassquit, Blue-black					C		
Seed eater, Variable		1	3	C	4	2	2
Seed eater, Yellow-bellied				2		1	
Seed eater, Ruddy-breasted					4		
Grassquit, Yellow-faced				10		C	6
Sparrow, Orange-billed			H			1	
Sparrow, Black-striped				6		4	6

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Dates:	7/14	7/15	7/16	7/17	7/18	7/19	7/20
Ant-Tanager, Red-crowned			1	3		4	2
Ant-Tanager, Red-throated		2	2				
Grosbeak, Blue-black							1
Meadowlark, Eastern					1		
Grackle, Great-tailed	C	C	C	C	C	C	
Cowbird, Shiny				6			1
Cowbird, Bronzed	5						
Cowbird, Giant						1	
Cacique, Scarlet-rumped		2	2				
Oriole, Yellow-tailed			1				
Cacique, Yellow-rumped				2			
Oropendola, Crested							1
Oropendola, Chestnut-headed				C		C	C
Euphonia, Yellow-crowned				8			
Euphonia, Thick-billed		1	2	C	C	C	C
Euphonia, Fulvous-vented	2	2	2				
Euphonia, Tawny-capped				2		2	2
Sparrow, House					1		

TOTAL BIRD SPECIES - 218

MAMMALS

Sloth, Brown-thr. Three-toed	2	3	3	1		2	2
Tamarin, Geoffroy's			6				
Monkey, Mantled Howler	H	1	H				
Squirrel, Red-tailed	1			1		1	
Squirrel, Variegated						2	
Agouti, Central American		1		1		2	

TOTAL MAMMAL SPECIES - 6