

# **Cana and Cerro Pirre, Darién, Panamá**

**20-28 March 2010**



*A pair of Blue-and-yellow Macaws with Cerro Pirre in the background*

**Björn Anderson**

## General

The first time I heard about birding in the Darien Gap was many many years ago. Suddenly I found myself living in Panamá, and the opportunity seemed to stumble upon me. It took however into my second year in Panamá until I was able to find a suitable time to go. Even then it was not without obstacles. The season is fairly short, as a visit to Cana essentially has to be made between December and early April, i.e. during the dry season. Due to work and other commitments, I was set to go in early February. I called my friend Stig-Uno Svensson from Sweden to join, but the scheduled trip was then cancelled by the tour operator. The next chance to go on the longer 8 day trip was in early March, and fortunately it suited both of us well. On March 2 we were packed up and boarded the chartered flight together with another couple. Everything looked great and on the flight we made a final run-through of the key birds that would be under the belt within the next hours. The last bit of the flight went across vast areas of virgin rainforest and it was an awesome sight to see many of the trees in beautiful flowered dresses. Just as we were about to make the final descent, we suddenly hit a rain-storm ahead of us, and the pilots could not even see the grassy landing strip. Operation was aborted and we turned around to another larger airport along the coast. After some conferencing, it was clear that there was no chance that we would be able to make it that day. It was a silent group of birders that disembarked the plane in Panamá City...

The next try was scheduled for the morning after and everything looked great, the weather at Cana was clear. The departure took some time and eventually it was found out that the radio in the aircraft was not working, which meant it was not allowed to leave. After having waited an eternity for the radio to be fixed, it had started to rain again at Cana and operation was once again aborted! Due to the amount of unseasonal rain, the pilots did not want to make a new attempt unless there was a rain-free day. Next try was scheduled two days later, leaving us with extremely limited time for the birding, as all 8 days are needed to make the site justice. It was a nervous wait and checking of satellite weather forecasts, and eventually we were rounded up at the airport for the third time in four days. Again everything looked really good, and from the flight I texted my family that we were airborne in sunny weather. The history repeated itself and with ten minutes left to fly, the Pirre mountain disappeared completely in a rain-storm. Not a word was uttered as the plane banked and headed back for Panamá City...

By now it was clear that my friend had lost all opportunities of going to Cana and even I living in Panamá was worried that this season would be called off due to the unseasonal wet period, perhaps caused by the El Niño year. Ancon Expeditions, who arranged the tours, was very understanding and together we worked out some local rescue activities for the other three participants, whilst I worked out another Cana solution. I would a few weeks later be able to go out on a flight which would pick up another short-staying group, then be birding on my own for 4 days until joining yet another short-staying group. This would enable me to be there for 9 days, as well as climbing Cerro Pirre two times. Time went by and the first short-staying group made it there and eventually I set foot on the grass-strip at Cana, ready for some action.



Over the 9 days I thoroughly enjoyed the absolutely first class birding and saw almost all my wanted specialties. I was fortunate to be able to walk the trails on my own, with just a trail-guide being at my back. I made two visits to the summit of Cerro Pirre, which supports many of the true key birds. All in all, it turned out to be a highly successful trip, although I sorely missed my companion.



*Cana airstrip is the "airport" to the right of Serranía de Pirre, just north of the Colombian border.*

## Highlights

Birding Cana and Pirre were about the same feeling as birding Eaglenest in Eastern Hiamlayas. Birds that are very rare and difficult in neighboring areas in e.g. China, turned about to be easy and numerous once you got to the real heart of it. Darien was the same thing; birds that I had been searching for further west in Panamá, were all lined up at Cana!

Highlights were of course many, but what sticks out were the

- sheer beauty of the untouched vast forests
- afternoon flight of four species of Macaw at the door-step
- final eyeball-to-eyeball encounter with a Russet-crowned Quail-Dove
- pair of Beautiful Treerunners in the mossy cloud-forest
- pair of Crimson-bellied Woodpeckers that surprisingly appeared at point-blank distance
- subtly smart-looking Gray-and-gold Tanagers
- glowing Black-tipped Cotinga
- inquisitive Chocó Tapaculo that almost hopped on my show-laces
- incredibly bizarre Wing-banded Antbird singing from the top of a log
- curious Chocó Tinamou that finally entered the field of view
- electric Viridian Dacnis and Yellow-collared Chlorophonia
- tanagers like Scarlet-browed, Green-naped and Lemon-spectacled
- Pirre endemics such as Pirre Warbler and Pirre Bush-Tanager

## Itinerary

Around Cana, I spent most time walking the Las Minas and Paeton Trails, as well as spending significant amount of time hanging around the lodge and airstrip with the scope within close reach. Many of the key birds are actually seen from the door-step. Twice I walked up the ridge trail to Pirre camp & summit and spent two plus one night at that camp.



*Cana Lodge*



From Cana Lodge there is a trail that climbs some 1000 meters to Cerro Pirre. The walk to Pirre camp takes anything between three and six hours depending on the birding and walking pace. The trail leads along a ridge all the way and the climb is rather gentle, with only a few steeper parts.



Next to the Pirre camp is a mirador with a view over the forest valley. I did not find it particularly good during my visit, but a key bird is the Chocó Tapaculo that resides just below the fence.

## **Weather**

Apart from a one early morning of rain at Cana and a quick shower on Pirre, the weather was beautiful, often with a bit of overcast conditions.



*Yours truly enjoying a cold Balboa*

## **Logistics**

The only way to get to Cana is to go with Ancon Expeditions, Phone: +(507) 269-9415 - Fax +(507) 264-3713 [www.anconexpeditions.com](http://www.anconexpeditions.com), who runs the lodge. It is not exactly cheap, but the birding is fantastic. Ancon arranges two types of trips, one is the regular 4n/5d with one night at Pirre camp. The other is called the birding extravaganza and is 7n/8d, and this is the one recommended for the keen birder. After initially struggling to get to Cana at all, I was eventually lucky to be able to stay 8n/9d. All visitors are requested to walk with a guide, although I had the pleasure of being able to go birding on my own, with just a trail-finder. A guide was not really necessary, as the trails are well maintained and very easy to follow. However,

it might be a wise idea of having company in the forest in case of emergencies like snake-bites, as it is a looong way to any kind of assistance.



Apart from a 2 day walk from a river, the only way to get to Cana is by a charter flight. The airstrip is also a good place to watch birds and I saw a pair of Viridian Dacnis in the big tree behind the aircraft and Dusky-backed Jacamar in the big tree to the left.



*The Cana airport terminal building.*



The Pirre camp is quite comfortable with fixed tents and mattresses. There is no electricity, but the cook manages to produce some real good food anyway.



Besides the tent-shelter, the Pirre camp consists of a cooking shelter and a dining shelter. The clearing is surrounded by tall trees that are excellent for birds like Chlorophonia, Pirre Bush-Tanager, Gray-and-gold Tanager, Pirre Hummingbird, White-headed Wren and Spectacled Owl. One afternoon there was a pair of Crimson-bellied Woodpecker hanging around the clearing and another time there were a few Violet-throated and Yellow-eared Toucanets.

### Site descriptions



Cana is the site of an old gold mine that was deserted some 100 years ago. The overgrown locomotive reminded me very much of “The Last Train to Nowhere” at Nome in Alaska.



Cerro Pirre viewed from the aircraft.

Around Cana Lodge there are a few very well maintained trails that are excellent for birding. The most productive turned out to be Paleton and Las Minas, where many mixed flocks were encountered. These two trails are also connected and make a perfect looped walk. There is also a very short Locomotora trail and another trail along the small stream call Seteganti trail. Boca Cupe trail leads through some more open forest and is excellent for a different variety of birds, e.g. Gray-cheeked Nunlet. The Pirre trail is worth birding all the way to the top. Last, but not least, the birding around Cana Lodge and the airstrip is excellent for goodies such as Black-tipped Cotinga, Viridian Dacnis, Dusky-backed Jacamar, hummingbirds, raptors, etc.

## Birds

Great Tinamou, *Tinamus major*

A few heard and two seen at Cana and on the Pirre slope.

Little Tinamou, *Crypturellus soui*

A few heard at Cana.

Chocó Tinamou, *Crypturellus kerriae*

Three heard and one seen halfway down from Pirre Camp, and one heard at Paleton Trail at Cana. The seen bird required some hard work a bit off trail down the ridge-side, but eventually it came in a stood motionlessly on a log for several minutes. It is a smallish slate-colored Tinamou with red legs. No white throat as stated in some literature.

Black Vulture, *Coragyps atratus*

Several at Cana.

Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*

Many at Cana incl good migration.

King Vulture, *Sarcoramphus papa*

Many sightings at Cana and on Pirre slope with up to three adults and two immatures.

Osprey, *Pandion haliaetus*

Three presumably migrating at Cana.

Gray-headed Kite, *Leptodon cayanensis*

One perched distantly at Boca Cupe Trail at Cana.

Hook-billed Kite, *Chondrohierax uncinatus*

One dark phase at Cana the last morning.

Swallow-tailed Kite, *Elanoides forficatus*

Many migrating at Cana one day and one at Pirre.

Double-toothed Kite, *Harpagus bidentatus*

Two at Cana.

Plumbeous Kite, *Ictinia plumbea*

Many migrating at Cana on some days.

White Hawk, *Leucopternis albicollis*

Two sightings at Pirre and many sightings of up to three at Cana.

Great Black-Hawk, *Buteogallus urubitinga*

Many sightings of at least three at Cana.



Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*

Good migration at Cana the first day w perhaps 500+, about 500 on 25<sup>th</sup>, and a few thousands on 28th.

Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni*

Good migration at Cana the first day w perhaps 500+, a few seen elsewhere and then a large flock of several hundreds at Cana on 25th.

Black-and-white Hawk-Eagle, *Spizastur melanoleucus*

One at Cana the last morning completeing the Hawk-Eagle hat-trick within hours.

Black Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus tyrannus*

One seen and heard a couple of times at Pirre, and two sightings at Cana the last morning.

Ornate Hawk-Eagle, *Spizaetus ornatus*

Two together at Cana the last morning.

Red-throated Caracara, *Ibycter americanus*

A pair seen and also heard at Cana.

Laughing Falcon, *Herpetotheres cachinnans*

One immature at Cana.

Barred Forest-Falcon, *Micrastur ruficollis*

One above Pirre Camp and one heard at Cana.

Bat Falcon/Peregrine, *Falco rufigularis/peregrinus*

One distantly at Cana.

Gray-headed Chachalaca, *Ortalis cinereiceps*

One at Cana.

Crested Guan, *Penelope purpurascens*

Many sightings at both Cana and Pirre.



*Crested Guan*

Great Curassow, *Crax rubra*

Two sightings on Pirre slope, a pair on Las Minas Trail at Cana.

Marbled Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus gujanensis*

Three pairs heard at Cana, mostly in the evenings. One stalked and seen well at Paleton Trail start and one seen nicely at Boca Cupe Trail, and another was seen twice at Paleton Trail.



*Marbled Wood-Quail*

Black-eared Wood-Quail, *Odontophorus melanotis*

Heard from below Pirre camp and a covey flushed from the Pirre slope.

Scaled Pigeon, *Patagioenas speciosa*

A few at Cana.

Plumbeous Pigeon

Many at Pirre and on the slopes.

Ruddy Pigeon, *Patagioenas subvinacea*

Several at Cana.

White-tipped Dove, *Leptotila verreauxi*  
Many at Cana.

Gray-chested Dove, *Leptotila cassini*  
One at Paleton Trail at Cana.

Russet-crowned Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon goldmani*  
6-10 heard above Pirre camp, but mostly too distant down the slopes. One bird was seen briefly when stalked, as it flew down to the ground and vanished. Eventually on the second visit to Pirre I came close to a bird and it was seen nicely on the ground whilst preening on a log. Bingo!

Olive-backed Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon veraguensis*  
One seen exceedingly well at Paleton Trail at Cana.

Ruddy Quail-Dove, *Geotrygon montana*  
One at Paleton Trail at Cana.

Blue-and-yellow Macaw, *Ara ararauna*  
Many sightings at Cana.



*Blue-and-yellow Macaw*

Great Green Macaw, *Ara ambigua*

Up to four seen at the same time at Cana, where they were regularly seen, mostly in the late afternoons.



*Great Green Macaws*

Red-and-green Macaw, *Ara chloroptera*  
Several pairs at Cana and frequently seen.

Chestnut-fronted Macaw, *Ara severa*  
Many sightings of a single or pair at Cana.

Orange-chinned Parakeet, *Brotogeris jugularis*  
Many at Cana.

Blue-fronted Parrotlet, *Touit dilectissima*  
One brief sighting as a couple of birds landed in a tree above Pirre camp, and also heard once below Pirre camp.

Blue-headed Parrot, *Pionus menstruus*  
Many at Cana and Pirre.

Mealy Parrot, *Amazona farinosa*  
Many at Cana and Pirre.

Yellow-billed Cuckoo, *Coccyzus americanus*  
One at Las Minas at Cana.

Squirrel Cuckoo, *Piaya cayana*  
A few at Cana and one at Pirre.

Little Cuckoo, *Piaya minuta*  
One at Cana.



*Little Cuckoo*

Smooth-billed Ani, *Crotophaga ani*  
Many at Cana.

Chocó Screech-Owl, *Megascops centralis*

Three seen at Locomotora Trail at Cana and several heard around the airstrip.



Two different Chocó Screech-Owls

Mottled Owl, *Ciccaba virgata*

One heard at Pirre camp and one heard at Cana.

Spectacled Owl, *Pulsatrix perspicillata*

Heard at dawn and dusk and seen once at Pirre camp.

Central American Pygmy-Owl, *Glaucidium griseiceps*

One heard at very close distance during three visits near Las Minas, but its ventriloquial call made it impossible to locate.

Common Potoo, *Nyctibius griseus*

One heard at Cana in the evenings and seen once.



*Common Potoo*

Pauraque, *Nyctidromus albicollis*

Seeveral at Cana.

White-collared Swift, *Streptoprocne zonaris*

Many at Cana and Pirre.

Band-rumped Swift, *Chaetura spinicaudus*

Many at Cana, presumably this species, but also a few swifts that glided much more and were larger with a larger pale gray rump-patch continuing down the tail.

Green Hermit, *Phaethornis guy*

One at Pirre camp.

Stripe-throated Hermit, *Phaethornis striigularis*

One at Cana and two at Pirre.

Tooth-billed Hummingbird, *Androdon aequatorialis*

On my second visit to Pirre, this odd hummer was finally tracked down with one seen twice, roughly halfway between Pirre camp and Pirre summit. The other group of birders could even twitch it. Apparently it is feeding on a deep pinkish tubular flower inside the forest.

White-necked Jacobin, *Florisuga mellivora*

A few at Cana.

Black-throated Mango, *Anthracothorax nigricollis*

One at Cana.

Violet-headed Hummingbird, *Klais guimeti*

One pair at Pirre camp.

Rufous-crested Coquette, *Lophornis delattrei*

One pair at a big tree with red flowers (*Erythrina*) at Cana.

Green Thorntail, *Discosura conversii*

Two seen at the same *Erythrina* tree as the Coquettes.

Rufous-cheeked Hummingbird, *Goethalsia bella*

A total of four around Pirre camp and a few more in the forest above the camp. Feeding on the hot-lips flowers.

Green-crowned Woodnymph, *Thalurania fannyi*

Several at Cana.

Rufous-tailed Hummingbird, *Amazilia tzacatl*

One at Cana.

Blue-chested Hummingbird, *Polyerata amabilis*

One at Pirre camp and one at Cana.

White-vented Plumeleteer, *Chalybura buffonii*

Two at Cana.

Greenish Puffleg, *Haplophaedia aureliae*

Many around Pirre camp and above. The most common hummingbird at high altitude.



*Greenish Puffleg*

Purple-crowned Fairy, *Heliophryx barroti*

One at Cana and one at Pirre camp.

Western White-tailed Trogon, *Trogon chionurus*

A few heard on Pirre slope.

Northern Violaceous Trogon, *Trogon caligatus*

One at Cana and one on Pirre slope.

Collared Trogon, *Trogon collaris*

Two at Pirre.

Black-throated Trogon, *Trogon rufus*

One on Pirre slope.

Black-tailed Trogon, *Trogon melanurus*

One on Pirre slope.

Tody Motmot, *Hylomanes momotula*

One seen very well at the lunch-stop on the Pirre slope.

Rufous Motmot, *Baryphthengus martii*

Three at Cana.

Broad-billed Motmot, *Electron platyrhynchum*

One heard at Cana.

Dusky-backed Jacamar, *Brachygalba salmoni*

One pair at start of Seteganti Trail and two sightings of another bird in the two high trees at the start of Pirre Trail.



*Typical view of Dusky-backed Jacamar, perched in a high tree*

Great Jacamar, *Jacamerops aureus*

One seen and one heard at Boca Cupe Trail at Cana.



*Great Jacamar*

Black-breasted Puffbird, *Notharchus pectoralis*

One seen and two heard on Pirre slope.

Pied Puffbird, *Notharchus tectus*

One on Pirre slope.

Barred Puffbird, *Nystalus radiatus*

One heard and one seen at Cana.



*Barred Puffbird*

White-whiskered Puffbird, *Malacoptila panamensis*

One on Pirre slope.

Gray-cheeked Nunlet, *Nonnula frontalis*  
One at Boca Cupe Trail at Cana.



*Gray-cheeked Nunlet*

White-fronted Nunbird, *Monasa morphoeus*  
A few at Las Minas at Cana and one on Pirre slope.

Spot-crowned Barbet, *Capito maculicoronatus*  
A few at Cana and a few on Pirre slope.



*Spot-crowned Barbet*

Violet-throated Toucanet, *Aulacorhynchus cognatus*  
Many heard and a few seen at Pirre.



*Violet-throated Toucanet*

Collared Aracari, *Pteroglossus torquatus*  
Several at Cana.

Yellow-eared Toucanet, *Selenidera spectabilis*  
Three hung around the Pirre camp one evening.

Keel-billed Toucan, *Ramphastos sulfuratus*  
A few at Cana.

Black- (Chestnut-) mandibled Toucan, *Ramphastos ambiguus*  
Several at Cana.

Olivaceous Piculet, *Picumnus olivaceus*  
A few at Cana.

Black-cheeked Woodpecker, *Melanerpes pucherani*  
A few at Cana.

Red-rumped Woodpecker, *Veniliornis kirkii*  
Two at Cana.

Stripe-cheeked Woodpecker, *Piculus callopterus*

One at Cana and three on the Pirre slope.

Cinnamon Woodpecker, *Celeus loricatus*

One on Pirre slope and one at Cana.

Lineated Woodpecker, *Dryocopus lineatus*

Two at Cana.

Crimson-bellied Woodpecker, *Campephilus haematogaster*

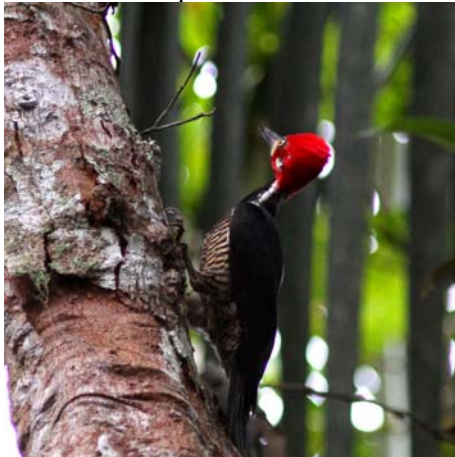
A stunning pair around the Pirre camp. Having been looking for this much wanted species at many places, I was taken by surprise during the quiet late afternoon when I was trying for Chocó Tapaculo. A female suddenly appeared right in front of me and was soon joined by a wonderful male. Then they hung around the camp until dusk and was also heard double-tapping in the early morning before moving downhill.



*Male Crimson-bellied Woodpecker*

Crimson-crested Woodpecker, *Campephilus melanoleucos*

One on Pirre slope.



*Male Crimson-crested Woodpecker*

Slaty Spinetail, *Synallaxis brachyuran*

One at Cana.

Red-faced Spinetail, *Cranioleuca erythroptera*

One at Pirre.

Double-banded Graytail, *Xenerpestes minlosi*

One was heard singing from a tree right above me on Paletón Trail, but it was absolutely impossible to locate it. The same thing repeated itself with one bird at about 1000 masl at Pirre slope.

Spotted Barbtail, *Premnoplex brunescens*

One at Pirre summit.

Beautiful Treerunner, *Margarornis bellulus*

One pair was seen at close range and recorded when feeding at mid level at Pirre summit. It took me a few attempts to finally find this sometimes tricky endemic.

Plain Xenops, *Xenops minutus*

One at Pirre.

Lineated Foliage-gleaner, *Syndactyla subalaris*

Several at Pirre.

Slaty-winged Foliage-gleaner, *Philydor fuscipennis*

Many at Cana and a regular component in mixed species flocks.

Buff-throated Foliage-gleaner, *Automolus ochrolaemus*

One at Pirre.

Ruddy Foliage-gleaner, *Automolus rubiginosus*  
 One near the summit at Pirre.

Plain-brown Woodcreeper, *Dendrocincla fuliginosa*  
 One at Cana.

Long-tailed Woodcreeper, *Deconychura longicauda*  
 One at Pirre and one at Cana.

Northern Barred-Woodcreeper, *Dendrocolaptes sanctithomae*  
 One on Pirre slope.

Cocoa Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus susurrans*  
 Several at Cana.

Black-striped Woodcreeper, *Xiphorhynchus lachrymosus*  
 One at Cana.

Red-billed Scythebill, *Campylorhamphus trochilirostris*  
 Two at Cana.

Great Antshrike, *Taraba major*  
 Two heard at Cana.

Barred Antshrike, *Thamnophilus doliatus*  
 Two at Cana.

Western Slaty-Antshrike, *Thamnophilus atrinucha*  
 One at Cana and two on Pirre slope.

Russet Antshrike, *Thamnistes anabatinus*  
 One at Cana.

Plain Antwreio, *Dysithamnus mentalis*  
 Several at Pirre.

Spot-crowned Antwreio, *Dysithamnus puncticeps*  
 A few at Cana.

Moustached Antwren, *Myrmotherula ignota*  
 One bird eventually surrendered and came in from a distance at Boca Cupe Trail at Cana.

Pacific Antwren, *Myrmotherula pacifica*  
 A few at Cana.

Checker-throated Antwren, *Myrmotherula fulviventris*  
 Several at Pirre and a few at Cana.

White-flanked Antwren, *Myrmotherula axillaris*  
 A few at Cana.

Slaty Antwren, *Myrmotherula schisticolor*  
 A few at Pirre.

Rufous-winged Antwren, *Herpsilochmus rufimarginatus*  
 One at Cana.

Dot-winged Antwren, *Microrhophias quixensis*  
 Several at Cana.

Rufous-rumped Antwren, *Terenura callinota*  
 Several heard on Pirre slope and finally one showed above Pirre camp.

Dusky Antbird, *Cercomacra tyrannina*  
 Two at Cana, three on Pirre slope.

Jet Antbird, *Cercomacra nigricans*  
 One pair at Locomotora trail at Cana.



*Jet Antbird*

Bare-crowned Antbird, *Gymnocichla nudiceps*  
 Two at Boca Cupe trail at Cana.

Chestnut-backed Antbird, *Myrmeciza exsul*  
 A few at Cana.



Dull-mantled Antbird, *Myrmeciza laemosticta*

One pair at Paleton Trail at Cana.

Immaculate Antbird, *Myrmeciza immaculata*

One pair on Pirre slope.

Bicolored Antbird, *Gymnopithys leucaspis*

One on Pirre slope.

Wing-banded Antbird, *Myrmornis torquata*

Two responding and heard simultaneously just below Pirre camp, but unfortunately the mist made it pitch black in the undergrowth. Much better luck when I was trawling for it on the second climb to Pirre, when one responded and sat right out on a log whilst singing its head off. This is maybe one of the cooler antbirds!

Spotted Antbird, *Hylophylax naevioides*

Several at Cana and on Pirre slope.

Ocellated Antbird, *Phaenostictus mcleannani*

One at Cana.

Black-faced Antthrush, *Formicarius analis*

Several at Cana.

Rufous-breasted Antthrush, *Formicarius rufipectus*

Several heard at Pirre, mostly at higher altitudes.

Streak-chested Antpitta, *Hylopezus perspicillatus*

Two heard at Cana.

Fulvous-bellied Antpitta, *Hylopezus dives*

One seen at Paleton Trail at Cana a few heard at Boca Cupe Trail at Cana.



*Fulvous-bellied Antpitta (or at least half of one)*

Chocó Tapaculo, *Scytalopus Chocóensis*

One came in to my feet at the mirador at Pirre camp during my first visit and it was also heard in the mid afternoon at my second visit. This form is supposed to not respond to Ecuadorian song, but it is extremely similar to published recordings.

Rufous Piha, *Lipaugus unirufus*

A few at Pirre.

Black-tipped Cotinga, *Carpodectes hopkei*

Four sightings of presumably the same male. First one was seen one day when feeding in a tree-top outside the restaurant at 9.30 and it was seen flying by at 11.30. Presumably the same male was also seen twice the last morning.

Purple-throated Fruitcrow, *Querula purpurata*

A few heard at Cana.

Golden-collared Manakin, *Manacus vitellinus*

Several at Cana.



*Golden-collared Manakin*

White-ruffed Manakin, *Corapipo altera*  
Many at Pirre.



*White-ruffed Manakin*

Blue-crowned Manakin, *Lepidothrix coronata*  
Two at Cana.

Golden-headed Manakin, *Pipra erythrocephala*  
A few on Pirre slope and a few at Cana.

Forest Elaenia, *Myiopagis gaimardii*  
One at Cana.

Yellow-bellied Elaenia, *Elaenia flavogaster*  
Two at Cana.

Olive-striped Flycatcher, *Mionectes olivaceus*  
Two at Cana.

Slaty-capped Flycatcher, *Leptopogon superciliaris*  
Two at Cana.

Bronze-olive Pygmy-Tyrant, *Pseudotriccus pelzelni*  
Three or four during my second visit to Pirre summit elfin forest, where they were easiest found by the manakin wing-snapping sound.

Paltry Tyrannulet, *Zimmerius vilissimus*  
One at Cana.

Scale-crested Pygmy-Tyrant, *Lophotriccus pileatus*  
One on Pirre slope and one at Pirre summit.

Southern Bentbill, *Oncostoma olivaceum*  
A few at Cana.

Common Tody-Flycatcher, *Todirostrum cinereum*  
A few at Cana.

Brownish Twistwing, *Cnipodectes subbrunneus*  
Several at Cana, where frequently heard.

Olivaceous Flatbill, *Rhynchocyclus olivaceus*  
Two at Cana.

Golden-crowned Spadebill, *Platyrinchus coronatus*  
One seen and a few heard on Pirre slope.

White-throated Spadebill, *Platyrinchus mystaceus*  
One seen on Pirre slope.

Northern Royal-Flycatcher, *Onychorhynchus mexicanus*  
Nice views of one at Paletton Trail at Cana.

Ruddy-tailed Flycatcher, *Terenotriccus erythrurus*  
Two at Cana.

Sulphur-rumped Flycatcher, *Myiobius sulphureipygius*  
Three at Cana.



*Sulphur-rumped Tanager*

Black-billed Flycatcher, *Aphanotriccus audax*

One at Las Minas at Cana. This species has a rather restricted range and can be a tricky bird to find



*Black-billed Flycatcher*

Eastern Wood-Pewee, *Contopus virens*

Two at Cana.

Long-tailed Tyrant, *Colonia colonus*

A few at Cana.

Bright-rumped Attila, *Attila spadiceus*

One heard at Cana and one heard at Pirre.

Sirystes, *Sirystes sibilator*

Three at Cana.

Dusky-capped Flycatcher, *Myiarchus tuberculifer*

One at Cana and a few at Pirre.

Rusty-margined Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes cayanensis*

Several at Cana.

Gray-capped Flycatcher, *Myiozetetes granadensis*

Several at Cana.

Streaked Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes maculates*

Two at Cana.

Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, *Myiodynastes luteiventris*

One at Cana.

Piratic Flycatcher, *Legatus leucophaeus*

Several at Cana.

Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus*

Many at Cana.

Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savanna*

Three at Cana.

Sapayoa, *Sapayoa aenigma*

Several sightings of up to three together at Paletton Trail at Cana.

Thrush-like Schiffornis, *Schiffornis turdinus*

A few at Cana and several at Pirre.



*Two different Thrush-like Schiffornises*

Cinnamon Becard, *Pachyramphus cinnamomeus*

One at Cana.

Cinereous Becard, *Pachyramphus rufus*

One at Cana.

One-colored Becard, *Pachyramphus homochrous*

A few at Cana.

Masked Tityra, *Tityra semifasciata*

A few at Cana.

Black-crowned Tityra, *Tityra inquisitor*

Two at Cana.

Sharpbill, *Oxyruncus cristatus*

A few at Pirre camp and on Pirre slope. Mostly heard when uttering is mournful call.

White-thighed Swallow, *Neochelidon tibialis*

Many at Cana.

Southern Rough-winged Swallow, *Stelgidopteryx ruficollis*

Many at Cana.

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*

A few on migration at Cana.

White-headed Wren, *Campylorhynchus albobrunneus*

A family group at Cana and a pair at Pirre camp.

Sooty-headed Wren, *Thryothorus spadix*

Two heard on Pirre slope during my first visit, but too distant to respond. During the second visit I initially struggled on the way up, but eventually got walk-away views of a pair.

Bay Wren, *Thryothorus nigricapillus*

A few at Cana of the prisoner-barred subspecies.

Ochraceous Wren, *Troglodytes ochraceus*

One at Pirre.

White-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucosticte*

Many at Cana and on Pirre slope.

Gray-breasted Wood-Wren, *Henicorhina leucophrys*

Several at Pirre.

Scaly-breasted Wren, *Microcerculus marginatus*

A few heard on Pirre slope.

Varied Solitaire, *Myadestes coloratus*

Many seen and heard at Pirre, mostly above the camp.



*Varied Solitaire*

Slaty-backed Nightingale-Thrush, *Catharus fuscater*

Many at Pirre.

Swainson's Thrush, *Catharus ustulatus*

One at Cana and one on Pirre slope.

Pale-vented Thrush, *Turdus obsoletus*

A few at Pirre.

Dagua Thrush, *Turdus daguae*

One at Paleton Trail at Cana. Recent split from White-throated Thrush. Did not respond to Mexican taxon of White-throated Thrush, but strongly to its own song.



*Dagua Thrush*

Slate-throated Gnatcatcher, *Poliophtila schistaceigula*

Two or three together in the canopy at the Connection Trail at Cana, after lots of time spent on neck-breaking canopy-scanning.

Black-chested Jay, *Cyanocorax affinis*

Several at Cana.

Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*

One at Cana.

Lesser Greenlet, *Hylophilus decurtatus*

Several at Cana and on Pirre slope.

Yellow-browed Shrike-Vireo, *Vireolanius eximius*

Two or three heard calling frequently from the valley next to Pirre ridge on all four climbs/descents. Fortunately one suddenly called from not too far away, and was pulled in for a good look. Invariably the song consisted of four strokes, different from the similar three-stroke song of Green Shrike-Vireo.

Golden-winged Warbler, *Vermivora chrysoptera*

One at Pirre.

Tennessee Warbler, *Vermivora peregrine*

A few at Cana.

Black-throated Green Warbler, *Dendroica virens*

Two at Pirre.

Blackburnian Warbler, *Dendroica fusca*

Two at Pirre.

Bay-breasted Warbler, *Dendroica castanea*

A few at Cana.

Black-and-white Warbler, *Mniotilta varia*

One at Cana and one at Pirre.

American Redstart, *Setophaga ruticilla*

A few at Pirre and one at Cana.

Mourning Warbler, *Oporornis Philadelphia*

Several at Cana.

Canada Warbler, *Wilsonia Canadensis*

A few at Cana and one on Pirre slope.

Slate-throated Redstart, *Myioborus miniatus*

Many at Pirre.

Pirre Warbler, *Basileuterus ignotus*

Three sightings of four birds at Pirre, halfway between camp and summit.

Buff-rumped Warbler, *Basileuterus fulvicauda*

A few at Cana.

Bananaquit, *Coereba flaveola*

A few at Cana and one at Pirre.

Pirre Bush-Tanager, *Chlorospingus inornatus*

Several at Pirre, between camp and summit.

Dusky-faced Tanager, *Mitrospingus cassinii*

Many at Cana.

Lemon-spectacled Tanager, *Chlorothraupis olivacea*

Several at Cana, where readily seen along e.g. Las Minas Trail.



*Lemon-spectacled Tanager*

Scarlet-browed Tanager, *Heterospingus xanthopygius*

One male on Pirre slope was a fortunate sighting, as this species can sometimes be a bit tricky.

White-shouldered Tanager, *Tachyphonus luctuosus*

A few at Cana.

Red-crowned Ant-Tanager, *Habia rubica*

One at Cana.

Scarlet Tanager, *Piranga olivacea*  
Several at Cana.

Summer Tanager, *Piranga rubra*  
Several at Cana.

Crimson-backed Tanager, *Ramphocelus dimidiatus*  
Several at Cana.

Flame-rumped Tanager, *Ramphocelus flammigerus*  
Many at Cana.

Blue-gray Tanager, *Thraupis episcopus*  
Many at Cana.

Palm Tanager, *Thraupis palmarum*  
Many at Cana.

Orange-bellied Euphonia, *Euphonia xanthogaster*  
One at Cana and two at Pirre.

Yellow-collared Chlorophonia, *Chlorophonia flavirostris*

A few sightings of two birds at Pirre camp during both visits. After several flighty views, both male and female settled for scope views.



*Yellow-collared Chlorophonia*

Plain-colored Tanager, *Tangara inornata*  
Two at Cana.

Gray-and-gold Tanager, *Tangara palmeri*  
Many sightings of at least four birds at Pirre camp during both visits. This subtly beautiful bird became a favorite tanager.

Silver-throated Tanager, *Tangara icterocephala*  
A few at Pirre.

Speckled Tanager, *Tangara guttata*  
Three on Pirre slope.

Bay-headed Tanager, *Tangara gyrola*  
Three at Cana, and a few at Pirre.

Golden-hooded Tanager, *Tangara larvata*  
Several at Cana.

Green-naped Tanager, *Tangara fucosa*  
Several sightings of this Pirre endemic half-way between camp and summit at Pirre.

Scarlet-thighed Dacnis, *Dacnis venusta*  
One at Pirre camp.

Blue Dacnis, *Dacnis cayana*  
Two at Cana.

Viridian Dacnis, *Dacnis viguieri*  
One pair the second evening at Cana. I first saw a female very briefly in a tree at the western end of the airstrip, then it flew and I happened to point the scope to an electric male that sat and preened for a long time in nice evening sunlight. Another one of the difficult Cana specialties.

Green Honeycreeper, *Chlorophanes spiza*  
One at Cana and one at Pirre camp.

Shining or Purple Honeycreeper, *Cyanerpes lucidus* or *caeruleus*  
One at Cana.

Swallow-Tanager, *Tersina viridis*

Many at Cana.



*Swallow-Tanager*

Variable Seedeater, *Sporophila corvine*

Many at Cana.

Thick-billed Seed-Finch, *Oryzoborus funereus*

Two at Cana.

Chestnut-capped Brush-Finch, *Buarremon brunneinucha*

Many at Pirre.

Orange-billed Sparrow, *Arremon aurantiirostris*

Many at Cana.

Black-striped Sparrow, *Arremonops conirostris*

One at Cana.

Buff-throated Saltator, *Saltator maximus*

Many at Cana.

Slate-colored Grosbeak, *Saltator grossus*

A few at Cana.

Yellow-green Grosbeak, *Caryothraustes canadensis*

Several at Pirre.

Blue-black Grosbeak, *Cyanocompsa cyanoides*

One at Cana.

Giant Cowbird, *Molothrus oryzivorus*

Many at Cana.

Yellow-tailed Oriole, *Icterus mesomelas*

A few at Cana.

Baltimore Oriole, *Icterus galbula*

A few at Cana.

Yellow-billed Cacique, *Amblycercus holosericeus*

One at Cana.

Yellow-rumped Cacique, *Cacicus cela*

Many at Cana.

Crested Oropendola, *Psarocolius decumanus*

One at Cana. Perhaps more around than properly identified.

Chestnut-headed Oropendola, *Psarocolius wagleri*

Many at Cana.

## **Mammals**

Geoffrey's Tamarin, *Saguinus geoffroyi*

Two at Cana.

Mantled Howler Monkey, *Alouatta palliata*

Several heard and seen.

Gray Fox, *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*

One at Cana.

Collared Peccary, *Pecari tajacu*

One on Pirre slope.

Tayra, *Galictis vittata*

One on Pirre slope.

Central American Agouti, *Dasyprocta punctata*

A few at Cana.