

Panama Tranquilo Bay Species List | April 7 – 14, 2024 with Naturalist Journeys



Compiled by host Rick Weiman with local guides Roger and Reinaldo and eight wonderful clients: Sandy, Nancy, Jay, Natalie, Kay, George, Dave and Elena.

Our Naturalist Journeys Panama Tranquilo Bay tour took us to the wonderful Tranquilo Bay Eco Adventure Lodge, our home for seven wonderful days. The lodge is an all-inclusive resort in Bocas del Toro, Panama, situated on the island of Bastimentos. The preserve surrounding the lodge and private cabanas encompasses 200+ forested acres of Panama's Western Caribbean Coast and over half a mile of Caribbean coastline.

Our daily adventures included boat excursions to bird on the mainland, surrounding islands and canals surrounded by mangroves. Kayaks and paddleboards were available for us to use, and most of us took advantage of several opportunities to snorkel on the pristine coral reefs right off the dock, or just a short boat ride away.

The eBird Trip Report link below details the 222 species of birds our group observed or heard during the tour. If you're new to eBird, be sure to click on "Show All Details" on the right side of the list as this will expand the report to show you where and when each of the birds was seen.

[Panama Tranquilo Bay | April 7-14, 2024 | eBird Trip Report](#)

The following is a list of additional mammal, reptile and amphibian species found throughout the trip.

MAMMALS (10):

Derby's Woolly Opossum *Caluromys derbianus*—Spotted on several evenings on the lodge's banana feeders.

Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth *Bradypus variegatus*—Several were observed on the grounds near the lodge, once a mother with her baby walking towards a cecropia tree, and in the mangroves.

Hoffman's Two-toed Sloth *Choloepus hoffmanni*—Good looks on our night walk only 10 feet above us.

Central American Agouti *Dasyprocta punctata*—One was seen in the morning on our first day by Elena and Dave on the hotel grounds in Panama City. Another was spotted by Rick and George at the Chocolate Farm.

Common Bottlenose Dolphin *Tursiops truncatus*—Observed on our boat excursions, especially in the aptly named Dolphin Bay. They swam close to the boats one morning.

Crab Eating Raccoon *Procyon cancrivorus*—One was spotted after dinner by Jay and Natalie as they were walking back to their cabin.

White-throated Capuchin *Cebus capucinus*—A family group visited the banana feeders on several mornings.

Mantled Howler Monkey *Alouatta palliata*—Heard during our Chocolate Farm visit and then a large male was spotted lounging on the branch of a big tree.

Panamanian Night Monkey *Aotus zonalis*—A family group of four, including a very young one, visited the deck after dinner one night for some free bananas. These nocturnal monkeys have large eyes adapted to foraging at night and are not seen often.

Lesser Sac-winged Bat *Saccopteryx bilineata*—These small bats were roosting on the side of Rick's cabana.

REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS (16):

Spectacled Caiman *Caiman crocodilus*—Several were observed on the tour, either basking on logs or with their heads peeking out of the water. A small one was in the pond on the Tranquilo Bay trail, observed on our night walk.

Green Iguana *Iguana iguana*—In the trees during the Snyder Canal journey.

Green Basilisk *Basiliscus plumifrons*—A brilliant emerald-green male and female were spotted on the mainland near a creek and also during our Snyder Canal boat ride.

Brown Basilisk *Basiliscus vittatus*—Multiple sightings throughout the tour.

Helmeted Basilisk *Corytophanes cristatus*—One was spotted hugging a tree on our night walk on the lodge property.

Pug-nosed Anole *Anolis cepito*—Spotted by guide Roger on one of our Tranquilo Bay trail walks. Small anole that was gray in color when we found it.

Middle American Ameiva *Holcosus Festivus*— (also known as the Central American Whiptail). Spotted on the grounds of the lodge property.

Yellow-spotted Keelback *Chironius flavopictus*—This handsome snake was observed and photographed only by Dave during his solo walk at the Chocolate Farm.

Mourning Gecko *Lepidodactylus lugubris*—This introduced species was abundant near the lodge.

Yellow-headed Gecko *Gonatodes albogularis*—Spotted by several clients and one by Rick at the Chocolate Farm.

Red-eyed Tree Frog *Agalychnis callidryas*—Two seen on leaves on our night walk near a small pond on the Tranquilo Bay trails.

Striped Rocket Frog *Allobates talamancae*—Several were seen and heard on the grounds of the Green Acres Chocolate Farm.

Strawberry Poison Dart Frog *Oophaga pumilio*—We found multiple color morphs of this species on several days.

Green-and-black Poison Dart Frog *Dendrobates auratus*— Very common, hopping around the grounds of the Green Acres Chocolate Farm.

Vaillant's Frog *Lithobates vaillanti*—One was found in the small pond on the lodge property.

Central American Bullfrog *Leptodactylus savagei*—A big boy! Seen on our night walk near the pond on the Tranquilo Bay trails.

One other special treat we had was encountering a movement of Blue Land Crabs (*Cardisoma guanhumi*) near the mangroves. This apparently only happens a few nights of the year in April when these large land-living crabs need to visit the salt water to breed. We saw and heard them scurrying past us, rustling in the leaf litter.

