



Birds of Panama Quiz

Test your knowledge of Panama's amazing birdlife with this fun quiz!

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1. What is the name of this bird?



Scarlet-rumped
Tanager

Hepatic Tanager

Crimson-backed
Tanager

Red-headed Barbet

Need a hint?

Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Scarlet-rumped Tanager** is an attractive tanager native to Central America from southern Mexico to western Panama. Males are primarily black with a bright red back and rump, while females are brown and yellow overall. This species has two distinct subspecies in Panama, once considered separate species.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Hepatic Tanager** is a large tanager most easily recognized by its uniform red color overall in males (females are dull yellow) and dark bill. It can be found in forested areas from the southern USA throughout much of South America. In Panama it is primarily found in the foothill regions.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The male **Red-headed Barbet** has a striking red head and chest and yellow underparts. The female is green overall with yellow and blue on the head. It is found in the highlands of far western and eastern Panama.

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Nice job, you're right!

The **Crimson-backed Tanager** is boldly colored with deep, velvety reds in males. Females are duller reddish overall. It is found in Panama and Colombia, where it inhabits open areas and secondary growth. It can be found in small flocks, and frequently comes to fruit feeders.

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HINT

This brightly colored bird is a member of the genus *Ramphocelus*, a small group of tanagers (8 species) particularly known for their rich, velvety plumage, especially in males.

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2. Which of these birds is usually found in the rainforest canopy?

Need a hint?



White-whiskered Puffbird



Ocellated Antbird



Gray-headed Tanager



Black-breasted Puffbird

HINT

This pied-colored bird is rarely, if ever, found low to the ground. It is typically seen perched motionlessly for extended periods of time, sallying out occasionally to catch large insects.

«« [Try Again](#)

Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Gray-headed Tanager** is an understory forest tanager frequently seen attending army ant swarms. It is usually found in pairs, and males and females look alike.



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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Ocellated Antbird** is a rainforest bird of the lower understory. As an obligate, “professional” ant-following bird, it is typically seen in the company of army ants. Its beautiful electric blue facial patch is one of its most stunning features. Panama is one of the best places to find the Ocellated Antbird.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **White-whiskered Puffbird** is a small puffbird of the rainforest understory. Like other puffbirds, it sits quietly for extended periods of time, occasionally sallying from its perch to catch prey. It nests in burrows near the ground.

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Nice job, you're right!

The **Black-breasted Puffbird** can be found from Panama to Ecuador. It feeds on beetles, grasshoppers, scorpions, centipedes and lizards which it catches in the canopy or sub-canopy of its rainforest home. It gives a loud, distinctive series of whistles, and is often heard before seen. The Black-breasted Puffbird typically nests in arboreal termite nests.

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3. Which of these birds is NOT found in Panama?

Need a hint?



American Pygmy Kingfisher



Ringed Kingfisher



White-throated Kingfisher



Amazon Kingfisher

HINT

While a member of the same family, this bird is a type of tree kingfisher in the genus *Halcyon*.

«« [Try Again](#)

Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Ringed Kingfisher** is a widespread species of kingfisher found from the southern USA to the tip of South America, Tierra del Fuego. It is found in a wide variety of habitats associated with water. It is the largest kingfisher in the Americas and is common throughout Panama.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **American Pygmy Kingfisher** is the smallest species of kingfisher in the Americas. It is strictly Neotropical, ranging from southern Mexico through Amazonia. In Panama, watch for this sparrow-sized bird at quiet lagoons and riversides, where it typically hides in the vegetation.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

Despite its name, the **Amazon Kingfisher** is a widespread Neotropical kingfisher resident throughout all of Central America, Amazonia and into northern Argentina. It is easily recognizable by its fairly large size and extensive green plumage. It is common throughout Panama.

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Nice job, you're right!

The **White-throated Kingfisher** is not found in Panama or the Americas. It is an Old World kingfisher, widespread throughout India and southeast Asia. It is a member of the tree kingfisher subfamily. It appears large-headed and has a huge red bill, electric blue wings and back, and a contrasting white throat.

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4. What is the name of this bird?



Scaly-breasted
Hummingbird

Green-crowned
Brilliant

White-vented
Plumeleteer

Snowy-bellied
Hummingbird

Need a hint?

HINT

This medium-sized hummingbird is named for a color that stands out on its body. It has a restricted range in southern Central America.

«« [Try Again](#)

Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Green-crowned Brilliant** is a large hummingbird found from Costa Rica to Ecuador. It has a glossy green plumage overall with a distinctive straight bill. In Panama it is most often encountered in the foothills and highlands.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **White-vented Plumeleteer** is a fairly large hummingbird found in Panama, Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. It is primarily green overall with distinctive white vent feathers. It can be found in forested areas in central and eastern Panama.

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Oops, that's
incorrect...

The **Scaly-breasted Hummingbird** is a large, drab hummingbird best identified by its white outer tail tips. It prefers dry forests and forest edge habitats from Mexico to Colombia.

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Nice job, you're right!

This is a **Snowy-bellied Hummingbird**. It is a medium-sized hummingbird named for its pure-white underparts, contrasting with its shimmering green upperparts, throat and chest. It has a restricted range and is found in Costa Rica, Panama and has been recorded in Colombia. It commonly visits feeders and prefers forest edge and second growth forests.

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5. What is the name of this bird?



Black-capped
Donacobius

Long-tailed
Silky-flycatcher

Black-and-yellow
Silky-flycatcher

Sooty-capped
Chlorospingus

Need a hint?

HINT

While not a true flycatcher, this unique bird is a member of a small family of Neotropical birds, Ptiliogonatidae, most closely related to waxwings.



«« [Try Again](#)

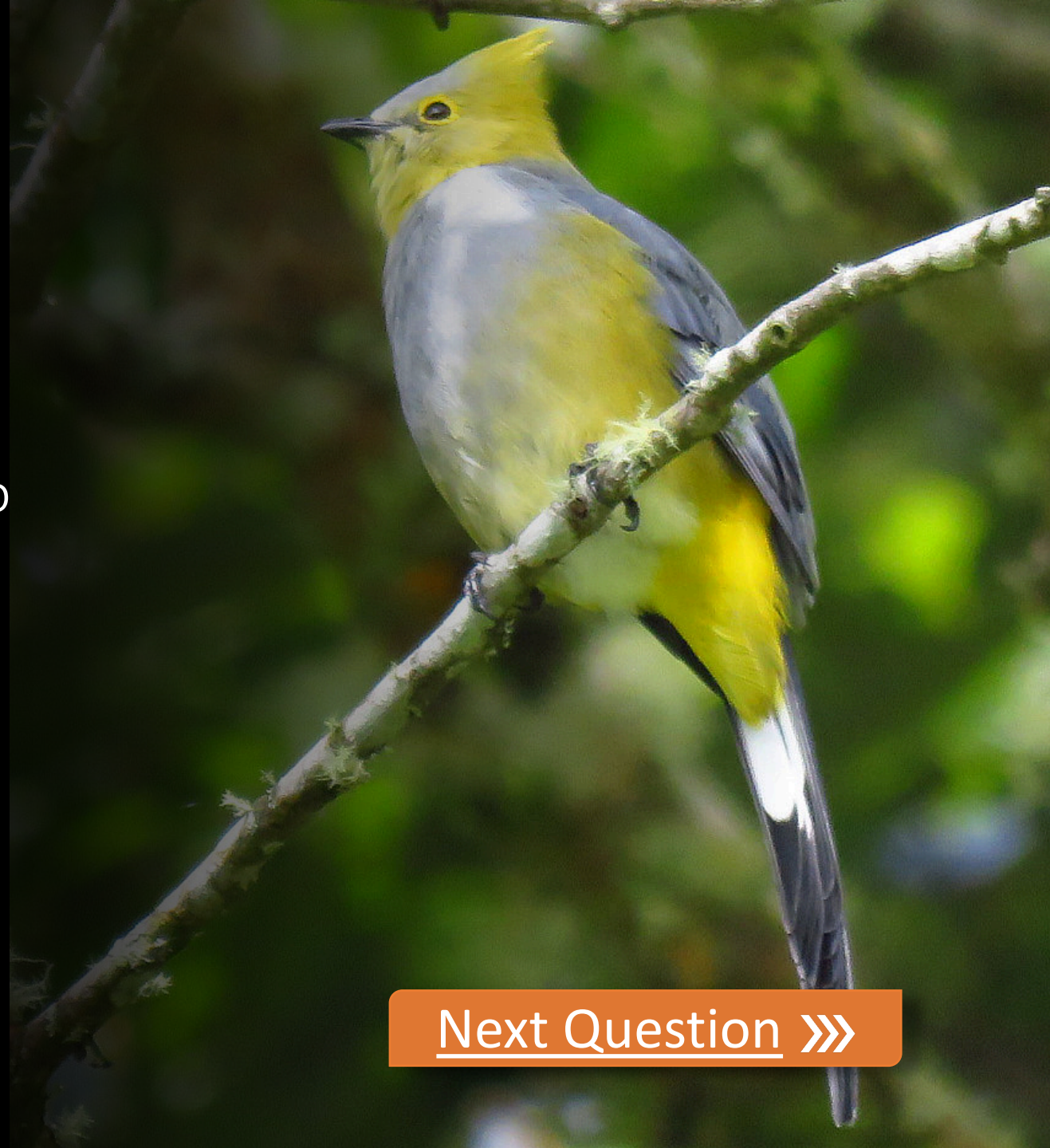


Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Long-tailed Silky-flycatcher** is also a member of the family Ptiliogonatidae, a small family endemic to the Neotropics. It has a distinctive crest and a very long, pointed tail. It is found in the highlands of western Panama and Costa Rica.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Black-capped Donacobius** is a member of its own family, most closely related to wrens. It has a dark cap with buffy underparts and a long tail. It can be found in wetlands throughout tropical South America.

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Oops, that's
incorrect...

The **Sooty-capped Chlorospingus** is a small member of the tanager family found in the highlands of Costa Rica and Panama. It has a yellow-green body with a dark head and distinctive long, white eyebrow stripe.

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Nice job, you're right!

The **Black-and-yellow Silky-flycatcher** is a unique bird found in Panama's western highlands. It is one of four members of the family Ptiliogonatidae, which also includes the Phainopepla. Despite its name, it is not related to flycatchers, and eats primarily berries.

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6. Which of these birds is NOT a tanager?

[Need a hint?](#)



A



B



C



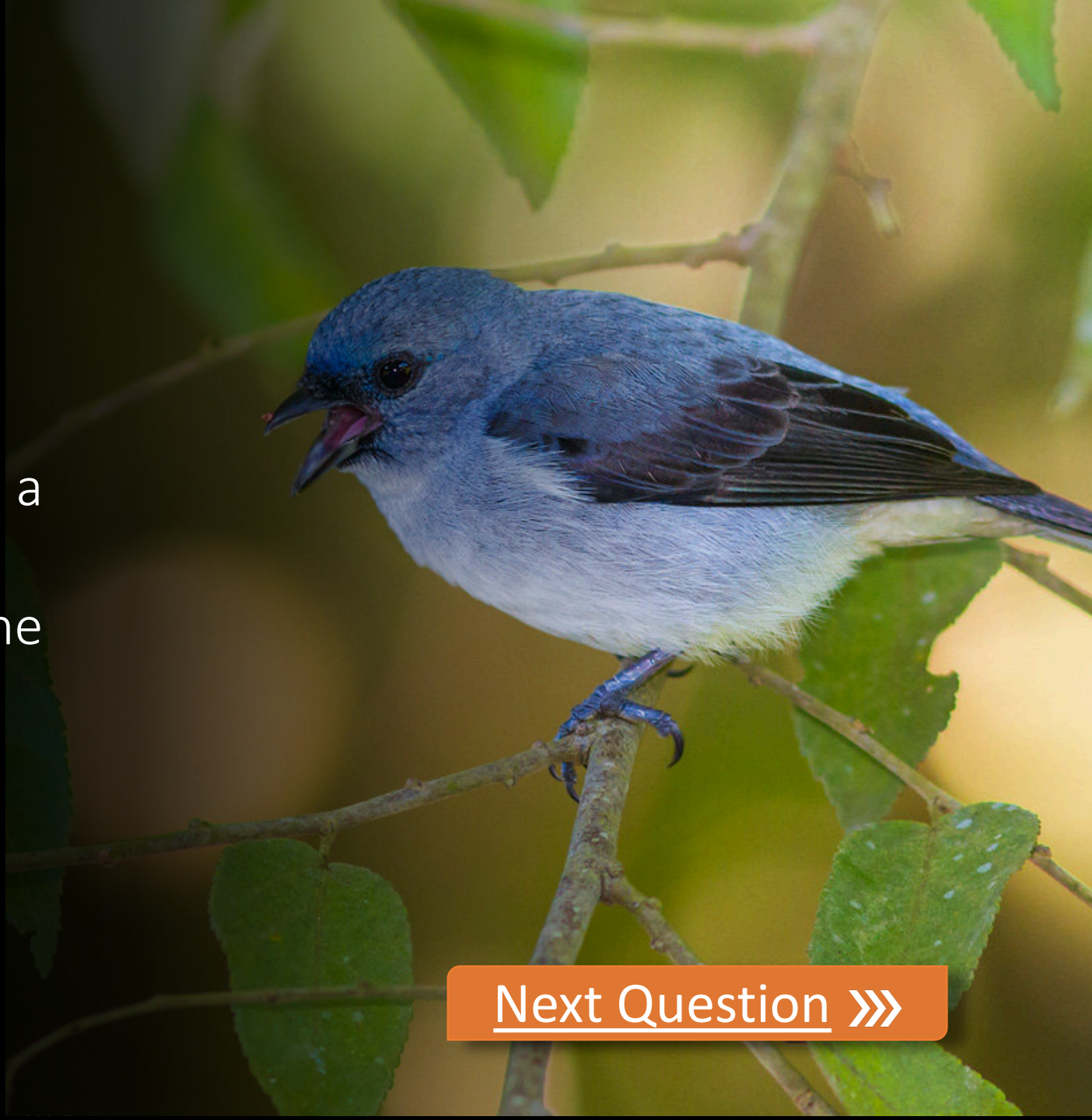
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Oops, that's incorrect...

This is a **Plain-colored Tanager**. It is a small tanager of forest edge and secondary growth forests. It lacks the bright colors and markings of the other species of the colorful genus *Tangara*. It occasionally displays a bright blue wing patch.

«« [Try Again](#)

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Oops, that's incorrect...

This is a **Bay-headed Tanager**. It is one of the most colorful tanagers found in Panama. Males and females look alike. It can be found in mixed feeding flocks in the forest canopy, usually along with other tanagers, honeycreepers and flycatchers.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

This is a **Gray-headed Tanager**. It is a rainforest understory tanager that often attends army ant swarms. It is usually found in pairs.



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HINT

Ornithologists and taxonomists have puzzled over the origins and classification of this species. It has been previously classified into the manakin and flycatcher families, but now is best placed in its own family.

«« [Try Again](#)

Nice job, you're right!

The **Sapayoa**, although it may resemble a small forest tanager, is a taxonomically puzzling bird. Once considered a member of the flycatcher and manakin families, recent research shows that it is most closely related to the Old World broadbills. It is now placed in its own family, Sapayoidae. It has a limited range in Panama, Colombia and Ecuador.

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7. How many species of birds are found in Panama?



880

922

978

1010

Need a hint?

Oops, that's incorrect...

As of 2010, when “The Birds of Panama, A Field Guide” was published, there were **978** species of birds registered in Panama. Since then, more than two dozen species have been recorded in Panama.

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Tody Motmot

Oops, that's incorrect...

Just next door in Costa Rica, **922** species of birds can be found, a great diversity! The two countries share many birds, but Panama holds dozens more!

«« [Try Again](#)

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Great Curassow

Oops, that's incorrect...

When “A Guide to the Birds of Panama,” (the first standard field guide to the birds of Panama, by Robert Ridgely) was published in 1976, it included **880** birds recorded in Panama. Since then, over 100 species have been added to Panama’s list.

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Violet-bellied Hummingbird

HINT

Panama is home to 10% of the total species of birds found on Earth.

«« [Try Again](#)





Golden-collared Manakin

Nice job, you're right!

As of 2020, Panama has recorded **1010** species of birds.

As the total number of bird species known globally is just over 10,000, that means that 10% of the world's birds are found in this small country.

Panama's great diversity of habitats and geographic location contributes to this amazing biodiversity of birds.

8. Panama is home to over 35 species of antbirds & their relatives. Which one does NOT typically follow army ant swarms?

Need a hint?



Bicolored Antbird



Ocellated Antbird



Spotted Antbird



Chestnut-backed Antbird

Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Ocellated Antbird** is a large and flashy antbird found in the lowland rainforest understory. It is an obligate “professional” ant-following antbird, rarely ever seen away from a swarm. Panama is one of the best places to see the Ocellated Antbird.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Bicolored Antbird** is a medium-sized antbird found from Honduras to Ecuador. It is a very common attendee of army ant swarms, where it announces its presence with its sharp, whistled song, finishing in harsh, slurring notes.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Spotted Antbird** is small antbird of the lowland rainforest understory of Central America and northwestern South America. It frequently attends army ant swarms, but is also found away from swarms, often in pairs. It is common in Panama.

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HINT

This antbird is often found in pairs in the rainforest understory. It is often hard to detect due to its dark colors, but announces its presence by a loud, 2 or 3 note song.

«« [Try Again](#)



Nice job, you're right!

The **Chestnut-backed Antbird** is a common antbird found in the lowland rainforests of Panama. It is usually found in pairs, and best detected by its loud 2-3 note song, descending in pitch on the last note. Often found in pairs near the forest floor, they do not typically follow army ant swarms.

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9. What is the name of this bird?



Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl

Crested Owl

Choco Screech-Owl

Tropical Screech-Owl

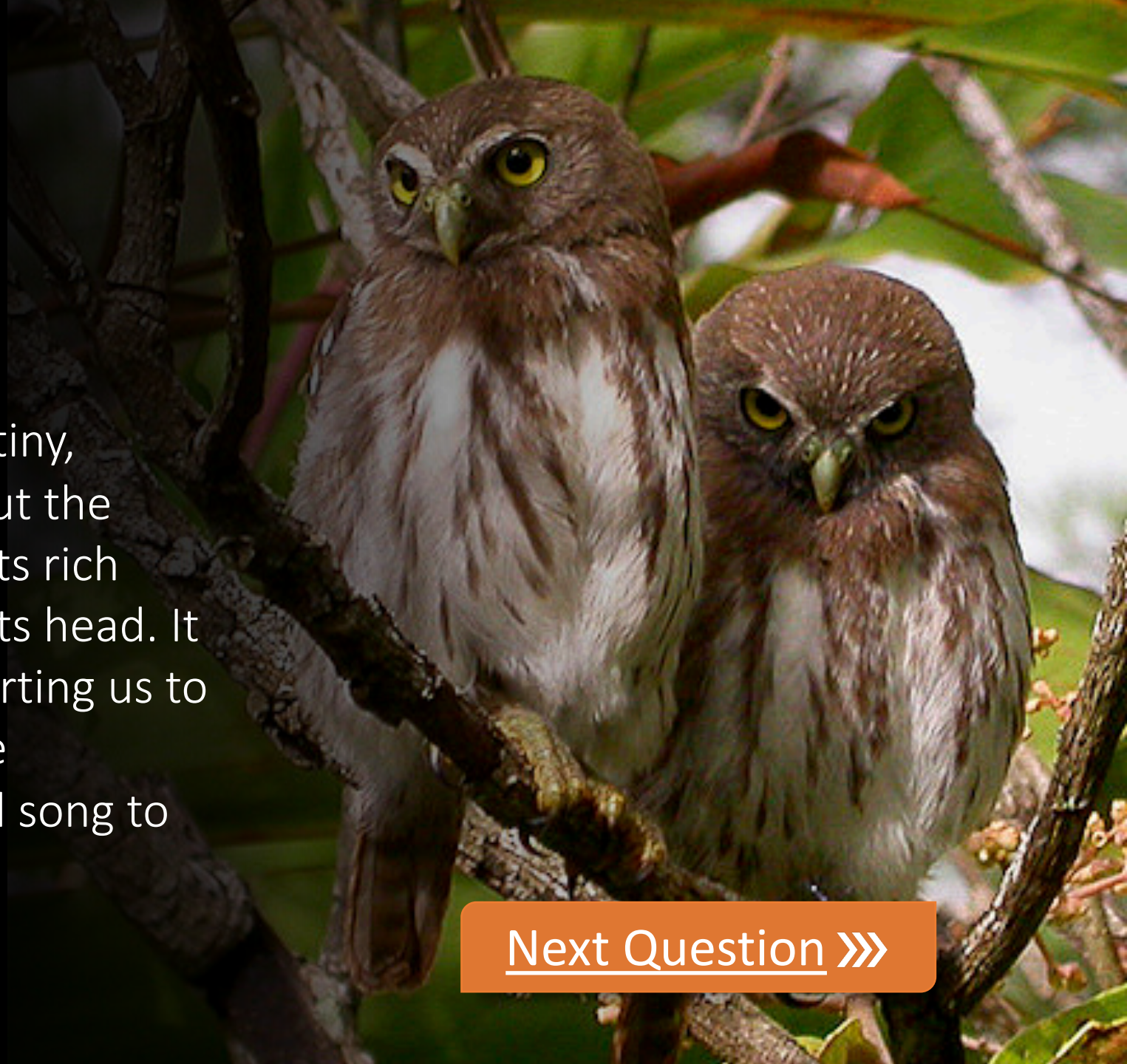
Need a hint?

Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl** is a tiny, diurnal owl widespread throughout the Neotropics. It is distinguished by its rich plumage and streaking on top of its head. It is often mobbed by songbirds, alerting us to its presence. Birders often use the Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl's whistled song to attract other birds.

«« [Try Again](#)

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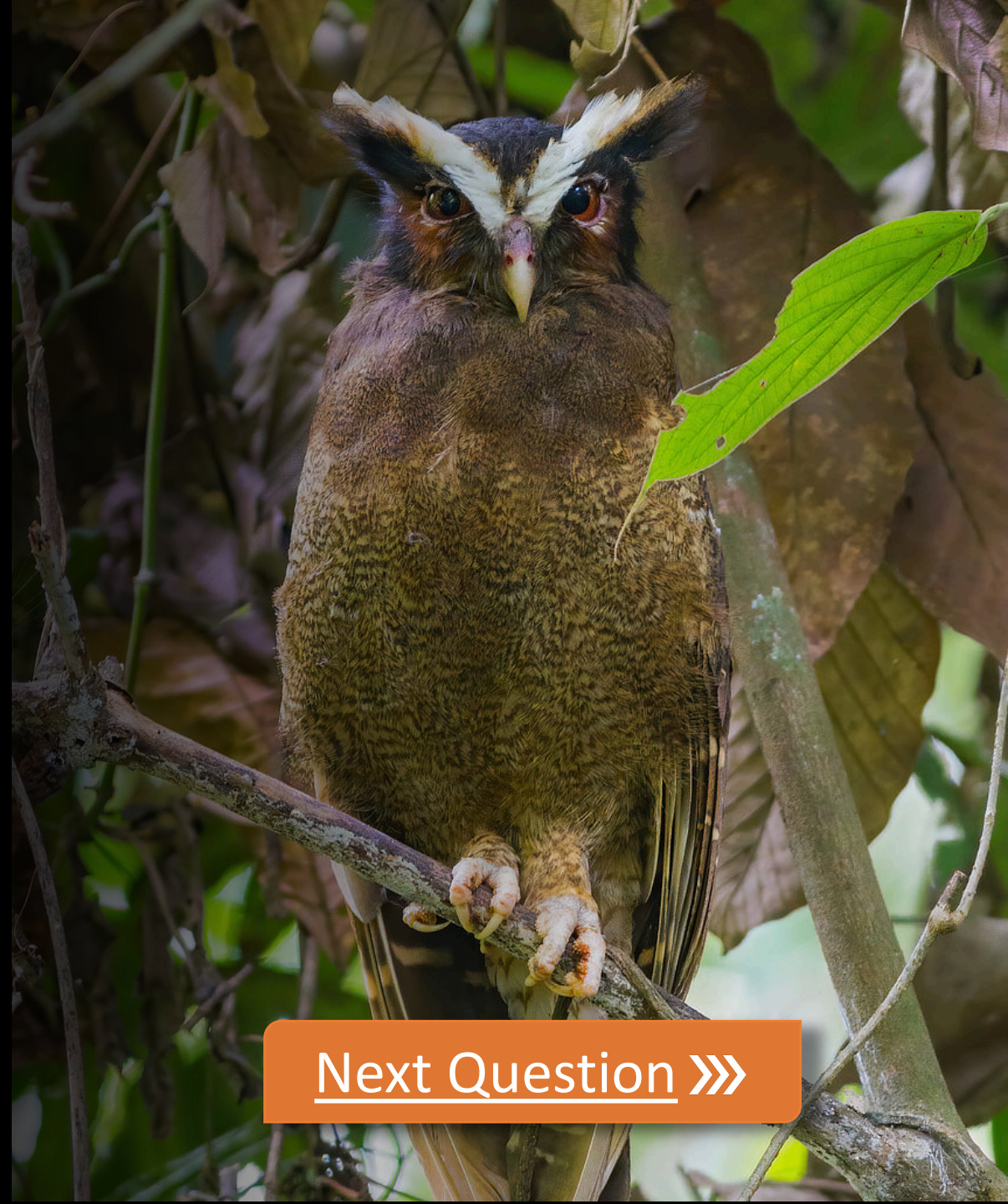


Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Crested Owl** is a large forest owl of the Neotropics. It is best distinguished by the long white feather tufts on its head. It is quite inconspicuous, but occasionally seen roosting in the rainforest midstory during the day.

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Oops, that's incorrect...

The **Tropical Screech-Owl** is widespread throughout most of the Neotropics from Costa Rica to Argentina and Uruguay. It is best distinguished from other screech-owls by its distinct black facial border.

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HINT

This small forest owl is restricted to the lowland forests from Panama to Ecuador. It was once considered a subspecies of the Vermiculated Screech-Owl.

«« [Try Again](#)



Great Job! You're right

The **Choco Screech-Owl** is a small, cryptically colored forest owl, ranging from Panama to Ecuador. Its plumage color varies from gray-brown to bright rufous. Unlike other screech-owls in its range, it lacks the thick dark facial disk borders. It was recently split from the (now) Middle American Screech-Owl, previously all considered one species, the Vermiculated Screech-Owl.

[Next Question >>>](#)



10. Which of these birds is the national bird of Panama?

Need a hint?



Keel-billed Toucan



Crested Eagle



Harpy Eagle



King Vulture

Oops, that's incorrect...

While the **Keel-billed Toucan** is not the national bird of Panama, it is quite common throughout the country. The Keel-billed Toucan is the national bird of Belize.

«« [Try Again](#)

[Click to Finish](#) »»



Oops, that's
incorrect...

A close relative to Panama's national bird, the **Crested Eagle** is smaller but has a similar natural history.

«« [Try Again](#)

[Click to Finish](#) »»



Oops, that's
incorrect...

The majestic **King Vulture** is one of Panama's largest raptors but is not the national bird. It can be seen in Panama flying over the rainforest canopy.

«« [Try Again](#)

[Click to Finish](#) »»



HINT

Panama's national bird is considered to be the most powerful bird of prey in the world.

«« [Try Again](#)



Nice job, you're right!

The **Harpy Eagle** was officially declared Panama's national bird on April 10, 2002. It feeds mainly on medium to large arboreal animals such as sloths, monkeys, kinkajous and toucans.

[Click to Finish](#) >>>





Congratulations on
completing the quiz!

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Rufous-crested Coquette

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