



Chile: North to Patagonia, Nov 2014

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Manu Expeditions Birding and Wildlife Tours

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OVERVIEW.....

Chile offers one the most diverse birding experiences in South America. A solid network of domestic flights and an excellent road system make it easy to get around, making it possible to visit a great variety of habitats within just a few days.

Mountain passes at 4,500 meters above sea level, arid deserts, scrub, dense forests, steppes and pelagic boat rides on the Pacific Ocean are within easy reach on a journey up and down this long, thin country.

The country's geographic diversity translates into various climates, from arid in the north to Mediterranean in the center and occasionally windy and rainy farther south in Patagonia. This variety is also reflected in the diverse and tasty cuisines that can be enjoyed throughout the journey. Of course, Chile is also world famous for its exquisite wines!.

The trip was divided into the three main regions of Chile: North, Central and South/Patagonia. The main goals were to visit as many habitats and to see as many bird species as possible.

We included side trips to look for major target species, along with two pelagic boat rides into the rich waters of the Humboldt Current, one from Arica and the other from Valparaiso.

Our group of five started in the North, and it was the first time of birding in Chile for most participants. Bill, who had been to Chile's North on a prior visit, joined us for the Central and Patagonia sections.

We saw a total of 284 bird species. Highlights included all of the endemics and near-endemics, which are mainly concentrated in Central Chile. We saw all tapaculos and Rufous-legged Owl, and had good views of the recently-split Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper at Conguillo National Park.

The two pelagic trips added substantial numbers of seabirds to the trip list, the highlight here being the boat ride out of Valparaiso, where we saw four albatross species. In Putre, we found a new species for the Chile list, Black-throated Green Warbler!.

All the bird sightings of Albatross Birding trips are sent to eBird, www.ebird.org, and can be shared with our clients if they are eBird users.

All photographs in this report were taken by the guide except the group photograph that was taken by Alain.

To see more pictures of this trip and other wildlife images, please visit my gallery:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/fernando_diaz/



Altos de Lircay National Park

DAY BY DAY ACTIVITIES

Day 1. Pre Tour Lampa Wetlands.

The day's first destination was Laguna de Batuco, the best place to see waterfowl near Santiago. It was full of birds when we arrived, and the grassy, yellow landscape around the lake reminded us of an African savannah. We were surprised to find a flock of 25 **Andean Geese** that remained in the area, annual wintering grounds for hundreds of these birds. We figured we would soon see these birds in their nest sites in northern Chile.

There were several species of ducks, including 3 male **Rosy-billed Pochards**. We could also begin to practice coot identification as we saw three species together: **Red-gartered, Red-fronted and White-winged Coot**.

In the afternoon, we headed 10 kilometers south to the area around Puente Negro, another section of the Lampa Wetlands. We tried our luck with **South American Painted-snipe** but the local hotspot had changed and was much drier than in previous years. We scanned the

reeds for one of the most colorful birds of Chile, **Many-colored Rush Tyrant**, which approached and then disappeared like ghosts back into the vegetation. At the end of the day, we returned to our hotel near the airport.

Day 2. Flight to Arica, birding in Azapa Valley and Chaca. Night in Arica.

Arica is the northernmost city of Chile and is located where the Atacama Desert meets the Pacific Ocean. Several rivers cross this dry landscape descending from the Andes to the coast, forming fertile valleys. We began the day with birding in Azapa Valley, where our main objective was the **Chilean Woodstar**.

This tiny hummingbird is seriously threatened and the entire population is estimated at a mere 500 individuals. We had extremely good luck when we arrived at our first stop; our very first bird of the day was this little hummingbird! It was a male displaying from a dead branch in a tiny patch of native vegetation. We also found **Oasis Hummingbird** in the area, along with more common birds.

After this successful start of the day, we headed south for birding in Quebrada de Chaca. Our target here was **Tamarugo Conebill**, a species highly localized in this part of the desert. It was not difficult to find two of these birds and we enjoyed excellent, long-lasting views as they were feeding. After this successful encounter we headed to a Chilean Woodstar reserve to see more birds and learn about the efforts to protect this little hummingbird.

Day 3. Pelagic trip from Arica, afternoon birding in Lluta Valley, night in Putre.

The day began with a pelagic trip from Arica. The boat ride began early in the morning in the dark, and the sea was a on the rough side. Dawn revealed several common species of the Humboldt Current around us such as **Peruvian Pelican**, **Peruvian Booby**, **Grey Gull** and **Elegant Tern**. The appearance of three **Dusky Dolphins** added to the excitement. After several miles we began to see **Elliot 's Storm-Petrel**, which grew more numerous offshore. After three hours of sailing we found **White-chinned Petrel** and a rare **Sabine's Gull**. One of the most important birds was a **Peruvian Tern** that flew by halfway between our boat and the horizon.

A juvenile **Blue-footed Booby**, a **Red-billed Tropicbird** and two **Long-tailed Jaegers** were other welcome additions to the list. As we moved back closer to the coast, **Inca Tern** and **Belcher's Gull** became increasingly common. After 6 hours of sailing we enjoyed delicious fish for lunch by the harbor.

For the rest of the afternoon, we birded the valley of the Río Lluta in the Colcas area and found **Bran-colored Flycatcher**, **Peruvian Meadowlark** and **Cliff Swallow**. We later ascended the mountain village of Putre at 3,500 m. above sea level, where we spent the

night. After dinner at the small town square, we decided to walk back to our hotel. The stroll paid off when we found **Band-winged Nightjar** hunting insects around a light at a military compound.



Chilean Woodstar, Azapa Valley.

Day 4. Full day at Lauca National Park.

Lauca National Park lies at 4,500 m elevation, and the deep blue waters of Lake Chungara and three snow-capped volcanos created one of the most spectacular views of the trip. Our first stop was in the park's cave region, at a small marsh that attracts many birds and other wildlife.

To our great surprise, we found a pair of **Diademed Sandpiper-plovers** with two chicks that were only a few days old. (During a visit the year before, there was no sign of these birds here.)

Walking at a slow pace in the thin air at this high elevation, we eventually found three **White-throated Sierra finches**, our prime target for the area. We also saw **Andean Negrito**, **White-winged Diuca Finch**, **White-fronted** and **Puna Ground Tyrant**. In addition to good photo opportunities with birds and the stunning scenery, the group enjoyed taking pictures of **Peruvian Vizcacha** and saw a group of slender and graceful Vicuñas.

We then moved on to Lake Chungara, which was busy with breeding waterbirds like **Giant** and **Slate-colored Coots**, **Silver Grebe** and **Puna Teal**. Next to the road we found two **Puna Miners**, and a noisy group of 12 **Black Siskins** moved around in the shrubs.

Our next stop was the high-elevation marsh of Parinacota, which seemed drier now than in prior years, making it harder to access ponds to view flamingos. During a walk in the Sucuyo area, we finally found a pond with good levels of bird activity, including **Andean** and **Chilean Flamingo**, **Andean Avocet**, **Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch** and **Common Miner**. On the drive back, our vehicle got stuck in the sand, after two hours of failed attempts, we decided to return on a different vehicle which delayed the arrival at our hotel in Putre.



White-throated Sierra finch, Lauca.

Day 5. Early morning birding in Putre, afternoon in Lluta Valley. Night in Arica.

Before dawn, we walked from our hotel to the nearby ravine at the north end of Putre. The shrubby ravine offers excellent birding in pre-puna habitat. First bird of the day was a very cooperative **Yellow-billed Tit-tyrant**. We also encountered **Black-throated Flowerpiercer** and **Blue-and-Yellow Tanager**, along with two canastero species, **Canyon** and **Creamy-breasted Canastero**. To our surprise, we saw a **Golden-billed Saltator**, which was singing away perched in a shrub. We watched **White-throated Earthcreeper** enter and exit a hole in a wall before it came very close to

use. A flock of **Mountain Parakeets** flew right over our heads. Other sightings included **Bare-faced ground dove**, **Streaked Tit-Spinetail** and **White-browed Chat-tyrant**.

Next, we walked around the small town of Putre. Right by the military base, we found a **Black-throated Green Warbler** in a pine tree, which was a huge surprise. Fernando easily identified this bird as he had banded several of these warblers in North America. We were able to closely observe the highly unusual vagrant and take good photographs. (This is Chile's first record for the species!). Putre is known as a productive spot for vagrants, an oasis of greenery surrounded by dry landscape.

After lunch at the quaint Putre town square, we began the drive back to lower elevations. We had hoped for **Peruvian Pygmy-Owl** along the way, but all of the area's old trees had been cut down, leaving no suitable habitat. Later, in another part of Lluta Valley, we found two **Peruvian Thick-knees** resting on the barren ground along the side of the road. Farther down, we found **Andean Swift**, **Osprey** and **Peregrine Falcon**. We spent the night at a pleasant hotel right on the seashore in the outskirts of Arica.

Day 6. Río Lluta Estuary, flight to Santiago, night in Santiago.

From our seaside hotel, it only took a few minutes to reach the Río Lluta Estuary. It's a small estuary but it's used by large numbers of resident and migratory birds as a feeding and resting spot. We saw a variety of shorebirds, including **Least**, **Semipalmated** and one **Western Sandpiper** (rare in Chile), two **Red Knots** and **Hudsonian Godwit**. Nearby bushes held **Slender-billed Finch**, which were very active and easy to observe.

Later in the morning, we headed to the *Santuario de los Picaflores* ("Shrine of the Hummingbirds"), a small farm where the owners protect hummingbirds. It was not hard to find several **Peruvian Sheartails**, which were actively feeding.

South of Arica, we found the first endemic of the trip, **Seaside Cinclodes**. Two of these birds were foraging among the seaweed. The area is also home to a huge colony of **Peruvian Booby**, and a group of **South American Sea-lions** was relaxing on the rocks, a great show! In the afternoon, we took a flight to Santiago.



Peruvian Thick-knee, Lluta Valley.

Day 7. Birding in the Farellones area and Valle Nevado, night in Santiago.

Today we went high into the Andes above Santiago taking the Farellones route. Along this famous birding route, it's possible to see a variety of Central Chilean endemics and several high-elevation specialty birds. Initially, the road goes through areas with shrubs and trees and then leads to the Farellones ski resort and village at around 3,000 m elevation.

Early in the morning, we stopped at one of the many curves and saw the first endemic of the day, two **Moustached Turcas**, foraging on the ground. It was also not difficult to find **Chilean Mockingbird** along the road. We were very surprised to see a couple of **Culpeo Fox** playing without any fear of us. Our next stop was at Yerba Loca, one of the lower-Andean habitat preserves closest to Santiago.

Here we found another endemic, **Dusky Tapaculo**. The bird crossed in front of the group several times as it moved among dense bushes for cover. As we continued our drive up the road, we saw several massive **Andean Condors** soaring near steep cliffs. Just outside a restaurant, we spotted two **Mountain Caracaras**.

We moved on, gaining more elevation until it was time to look for high Andean specialties. We birded empty ski slopes and found **Rufous-banded Miner** and **Creamy-rumped Miner**, which came within just a few meters from the group.

There was also a lot of ground-tyrant activity in the area. We found **Cinereous**, **White-browed**, **Black-fronted** and **Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant** on this site. We returned to Santiago in time for tacos.

Day 8. Birding the Central Coast, night in Valparaiso.

Early in the morning we headed to the Central Coast to visit a couple of reserves that are very attractive birding areas. Our first destination was the estuary of the Maipo River. This site attracts thousands of birds and is the largest coastal wetland in the region.

We found a lot of activity, including flocks of gulls seagulls, pelicans, and a large group of Black Skimmer. A special bird of this wetland is **Ticking Doradito**, and we found one singing perched on top of a bush. The little tyrant stayed in place for a long time. Later on, we found a male Rufous-tailed Plantcutter perched in a tree.

We moved on to another reserve, the small Laguna Peral, where we found a **Snowy-crowned Tern**, an unusual find in the Central Region in springtime. According to Birdlife International, the whole population of this tern is estimated at only 6,700 individuals.

We continued to another nearby reserve, where we found two **Black-headed Ducks**, among other waterfowl species. During a brief stop near Algarrobo to search for **Stripe-backed Bittern**, we had just left the vehicle when—surprise!—two of these birds flew toward us. After they had landed, we could see them for a long time as they hunted among the reeds. Then it was time to drive to Valparaiso, where we spent the night.



Ticking Doradito, Maipo River

Day 9. Pelagic trip out of Valparaiso, night in Valparaiso.

Let's set sail! Early in the morning, in the darkness, we left the port of Valparaiso on our second boat ride of the trip to look for Humboldt Current specialties. Central Chile pelagics are famous for the wide variety of seabirds that can be seen. Just a few miles out, in the first light of the day, we encountered large numbers of **Sooty Shearwaters**. Later we found **Black-browed, Salvin's** and **Northern Royal Albatross**, which passed several times in front of the boat. An unexpected **Buller's Albatross** landed on the water and stayed for a few minutes. **Pink-footed Shearwater, Westland Petrel**, and a few **Wilson's Storm-Petrel** were among other birds attracted by the bait. We celebrated our successful pelagic outing with a delicious seafood lunch at Valparaiso Harbor. In the afternoon, we visited a colony of hundreds of **Humboldt Penguins** north of the city.



Buller's Albatross, Valparaiso.

Day 10. Birding in Zapallar and at La Campa National Park. Night in Santiago.

This morning we headed back north of Valparaiso towards the coastal town of Zapallar to find **Great Shrike-Tyrant**. It didn't take long until we spotted one perched nearby in a *puya* shrub, focused on potential prey on the ground. After this successful encounter, we moved on to La Campana National Park. This park has well-preserved patches of native forest, and we found two **White-throated Tapaculos** in a ravine. One of them was especially accommodating and landed on a shrub, allowing for detailed views through the spotting scope. After a typical Chilean meal in the city of Olmue, we returned to Santiago.

Day 11. Full day at Yeso Valley, night in Santiago.

This morning we headed to one of the classic and most beautiful destinations for birding near Santiago. Yeso Valley is located southeast of the capital, just 2 ½ hours from downtown. Access up to 3,000 m elevation and breathtaking scenery that includes a hanging glacier, colorful mountains and a deep green reservoir make the birding here unforgettable.

Birding along the road at lower elevations first, we found a female **Torrent Duck** resting on rocks. Next, we stopped at a **Crag Chilla** nest site at a cliff and watched a pair of these endemics as they constantly brought in food for their offspring.

Continuing the climb, we stopped at an area with shrubs and rocks at 2000 meters to find **Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant**. After a few minutes, we saw one of these birds showing off a magnificent flight display. Our next stop was at a former military base where we found a female **White-sided Hillstar** and **Yellow-rumped Siskin**.

At a nearby waterfall, two **Mountain Parakeets** fed for a while just a few meters from the group. We continued our journey higher up to search the most famous bird of this valley, **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover**. We found a couple that Fernando recognized by the bands that he himself had put on these birds a few years earlier. We were able to enjoy these magnificent birds for a long time with our spotting scopes.

The area also produced **Gray-flanked Cinclodes** and **Buff-winged Cinclodes**, among other birds. The final stop on our way back down took us to a **Band-winged Nightjar** territory right next to the reservoir, where we found a female roosting among the shrubs. After that we headed to our hotel in downtown Santiago.

Day 12. Birding at Farellones and Lago Colbún along the way to Altos de Lircay National Park. Night in Vilches.

In the morning, we once again took the road Farallones. The Andean foothills along lower portions of the road are excellent for shrubby-habitat birding with stops and short walks at different elevations. Early morning is the best time for roadside birding here because the popular route gets busy with cars and numerous cyclists later on.

We put our effort into finding Chilean Tinamou. After while we found one on a nearby slope, walked slowly. The whole group could see this spectacular Tinamou. After this great sighting, we headed to our next destination 400 kilometers south of Santiago.

At Lake Colbún, we saw two **Spectacled Ducks** and several groups of **Burrowing Parakeets** nearby. Right at the entrance of the Altos de Lircay National Park, we saw several bird species typical for the region's forest like **Patagonian Sierra Finch**, **White-throated Treerunner**, **Thorn-tailed Rayadito**, **Striped Woodpecker** and **White-crested Elaenia**, among many other birds. We also found a signature species of the park, **Chestnut-throated Huet-Huet**, which was very cooperative and showed well several times.

After an amazing dinner with local mushrooms that grow on oak trees, we went on a hike with Pedro, the owner of the inn, who took us to an area where he had recently found Rufous-legged Owl, but we only heard one in the distance. After that, we enjoyed a good night's rest at the peaceful lodge.

Day 13. Full day of birding at Altos de Lircay National Park, night in Vilches.

The inn was near the national park entrance, and it only took us five minutes to get to well-preserved forest. We had managed to get the keys to the park entrance gate, which allowed us to enter before the official opening time and made the search for **Magellanic Woodpecker** much easier. We took the Aliwenmahuida trail, which is only 900 meters long and crosses a stream surrounded by old trees, ideal habitat for this large woodpecker.

There is also a viewing platform that offers breathtaking views of the massive gorge with its gigantic cliffs. Right from this viewpoint, Fernando heard nearby drumming. After a few minutes, a family of three Magellanic Woodpeckers approached. They put on an amazing show for us as they settled in on a nearby branch and took turns preening and tapping away.

We continued birding higher up in the park, paying special attention to small stream beds that cross the road above the campground. Here we found a **Chuaco Tapaculo** that showed very well in the middle of the road, allowing us to take great pictures. The bird also vocalized with its characteristic, strong call. Nearby we found a **Magellanic Tapaculo**, which offered several brief looks as it dove in and out of the vegetation. This individual was of the southern race, with an extended fuzzy white spot on the head. With no more targets left this morning, we decided to take a rest and get ready for a night excursion, another attempt to see Rufous-legged Owl.

We entered the park before sunset to await the darkness. There were many visitors at the park this evening, and we decided to walk a little higher to escape the crowds. We hadn't gone far when we found an actively calling **Rufous-legged Owl** that came in for magnificent views.



Rufous-legged Owl, Altos de Lircay National Park



Magellanic Woodpecker, Altos de Lircay National Park.

Day 14. Drive to Temuco, birding at Cerro Ñielol Natural Monument. Night in Temuco.

We left early and traveled south toward the city of Temuco, which would be our basis for the next couple of days. After 5 hours of driving, we arrived at our birding destination for the day, the Natural Monument Cerro Ñielol. The park is right in the outskirts of Temuco and receives many visitors on weekends, drawn in by stands of old trees and a paved road that goes right to the top.

Our first stop was in the picnic area right at the entrance. After just a few minutes, the alarm call of a **Southern Lapwing** alerted us to the presence of a **Rufous-Tailed Hawk**. We could see the raptor repeatedly as it kept flying over the clearing in the forest. We spent the rest of the afternoon trying to find tapaculos without success because the trails were crowded with visitors. We spent the night at a hotel close to the park.

Day 15. Early birding at Cerro Ñielol Natural Monument, followed by Conguillio National Park. Flight to Santiago. Night in Santiago.

Since the hotel was only four blocks from the park, we decided to do some pre-breakfast birding. Our early arrival in the dark paid off, since we managed to be the first people in the park this morning. Soon, two shy **Black-throated Huet-huets** dashed across the first trail we took. A short while later, we found another of these birds, busily scraping through the leaf litter as our whole group watched, soon to be followed by two more crossing the trail.

Nearby, we found a curious **Ochre-flanked Tapaculo** that approached the group, flying across the trail a few times, always careful to stay away from open areas. We also enjoyed thorough views of a Magellanic Tapaculo that was busy looking for insects in the moss.

The itinerary now took us to Conguillio National Park, where we continued our search for another specialist of the deep woods. We arrived at Canguillo in the afternoon and, as so often during this trip, enjoyed spectacular scenery.

The gigantic Llama volcano is the park's symbol and, as it was active some time ago, the park road crosses a vast lava field. Huge Araucaria trees are another of the park's features. We made the trip to Canguillo especially to find the recently-split **Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper**.

There is still little known about this species and only a few nesting sites have been discovered in Chile. After several hikes through the prehistoric landscape, we found a nesting pair along the logging road close to the lake and had very good views. Later in the day we took a flight back to Santiago.

Photo: Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper

Day 16. Flight to Punta Arenas, birding at Estancia San Juan. Night in Punta Arenas.

We took an early morning flight to Punta Arenas. The town is located right on the Strait of Magellan and known for strong winds, which we had the opportunity to experience on our first day in the area.

After landing, we began the day's birding at the Tres Puentes wetlands, just a few minutes from the airport at the edge of town. We quickly found several **Flying Steamer-Ducks** along with other duck species and wintering **White-rumped Sandpipers**. Our next stop was a mixed colony on a pier. **Imperial** and **Magellan Cormorant** nest here, joined by the beautiful **Dolphin Gull**. While seawatching from the dock, we spotted **Southern Fulmar** and several **Southern Giant-Petrels**.

We moved on to Estancia San Juan to pursue our main target of the day, **Ruddy-headed Goose**. The wetland here is the bird's main nesting site on the mainland, and a preserve was created to protect the species. With some luck, we found a mixed flock of geese that included three southern goose species: **Upland Geese**, **Ashy-headed Geese** and also 8 **Ruddy-headed Geese**.

When we went back to our hotel, we found six **Kelp Geese** busily feeding among the exposed seaweed at low tide, allowing for some great pictures. In the evening, we went back to the colony on the old pier to see it under better light condition and take more photographs.

Day 17. Ferry crossing to Tierra del Fuego, birding around Porvenir. Night in Porvenir.

The famous, mythical island of Tierra del Fuego! The day began with a two-hour ferry ride across the Strait of Magellan, from Punta Arenas to Porvenir. There was not much seabird activity but we saw a few **Black-browed Albatrosses** and several **Magellanic Diving-Petrels**, along with a few **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. Once ashore, we headed to the lakes west of Porvenir to search for **Magellanic Plover**.

The wind was blowing at 30-40 miles per hour, making it difficult to find this south-after area specialty. At one of the lakes, we walked 400 meters along the shore until we finally found two feeding individual. We also found **Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant** and **Patagonian Yellow-Finch** in the area.



Magellanic Plover, Tierra del Fuego.

Day 18. Visit to King Penguin colony, birding at Cordón Baquedano . Night in Porvenir.

We began the day with a visit El Parque **King Penguin**, a new private park created to protect a growing colony of this species. The colony is well protected by clearly-marked visitor walking areas and our group was accompanied by a local guide. The penguins were very active, and Bill counted 108 of them. Several couples were displaying and mating.

On the way back to Porvenir, we took a drive up into the mountains to Cordon Baquedano to look for different birds at higher elevations. After traveling along the desolate road for a while, we found several active **Austral Canasteros**. Shortly thereafter, we spotted two pairs of **Rufous-chested Dotterel**. Back in Porvenir, two **Short-billed Miner** allowed us take a close look at them.

Day 20. Ferry crossing from Tierra del Fuego back to the mainland, birding along the roads around Pali Aike National Park. Night in Puerto Natales.

We left the island of Tierra del Fuego, this time via a shorter ferry route to the mainland. Birds were far and few in between this morning on the Strait but we observed four small **Commerson's Dolphins** that jumped and escorted the ferry for a few minutes. Back on firm ground, we headed to the wetlands of Buque Quemado.

We saw a good number of waterbirds, including two **Silver Teal** that rested on the banks of one of the lakes. Then we headed to one of the best birding areas in these southern lands, Route 405, which meant 120 kilometers of desolate steppe. After a few kilometers we saw, several **Lesser Rhea** and a group of at least 15 **White-bridled Finches**, which actively fed

on the side of the road. In short-grass habitat, we found more than ten **Tawny-throated Dotterels**, roaming around in pairs as they were foraging. Unfortunately, we could not take pictures of these elusive plovers.

Day 20. Torres del Paine National Park, Sierra Baguales. Night in Puerto Natales.

Our final pre-dawn departure of the trip took us to the majestic Torres del Paine National Park. The scenery is simply stunning: steep mountains, deep blue lakes and lots of wildlife. The park is one of the very few sites to find **Austral Rail**, a species only rediscovered in recent years. At the park entrance, a pond almost entirely overgrown by reeds ideal looked like the habitat for this species. We found three of these rare and shy rails there and were able to get looks at two of them.

We headed west to the mountainous Sierra Baguales area, well-known for its mix of different habitats, of dense shrubs, steppes and tall cliffs. At the beginning of the road, we found a **Patagonian Mockingbird** without any effort as it sang nonstop on a tall shrub. A **Band-tailed Earthcreeper** foraged on the ground and for a while and then perched in a shrub to sing.

We had great views of both species and took many pictures. We continue climbing this route and after a few kilometers the landscape becomes high steppe, here we find several **Yellow-bridled Finch** which was abundant. After crossing four gates, we found a giant cliff with two **White-throated Caracara**.

We watched its from distance while we took our Box-lunch. Back in shrubby habitat of Sierra Baguales, we found two Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrants. We enjoyed long looks as they were resting in tall shrubs. This is one of the few sectors where you can find this species in Chilean Patagonia.

We returned to Puerto Natales for the last overnight stay of the trip. For our last meal together we went to an old style, traditional restaurant and enjoyed the famous regional speciality dish Magellanic Lamb.



White-bridled Finches, Patagonia.

Day 21. Early flight to Santiago. END OF THE TRIP.

BIRD LIST

Taxonomic order and notes follow South American Classification Committee (April 2014)

RHEAS

Lesser Rhea *Rhea pennata*

Several along the Pali Aike route, including three families with chicks.

TINAMOUS

Chilean Tinamou *Nothoprocta perdicaria*

An individual at Farellones, the whole group saw the bird well out in the open.

WATERFOWL

Black-necked Swan *Cygnus melancoryphus*

We saw this swan in several wetlands and took good pictures in Puerto Natales, where they fed right on the shoreline.

Coscoroba Swan *Coscoroba coscoroba*

Seen in several places. Family with eight cygnets at Laguna Cartagena.

Andean Goose *Chloephaga melanoptera*

A group of 25 of them at Laguna Batuco, then several pairs in Lauca National Park.

Upland Goose *Chloephaga picta*

Very common in Patagonia, was in almost every habitat we visited there.

Kelp Goose *Chloephaga hybrida*

A group of eight on the coast north of Punta Arenas.

Ashy-headed Goose *Chloephaga poliocephala*

Several individuals at Estancia San Juan, where we could compare the three *chloephaga* geese side-by-side.

Ruddy-headed Goose *Chloephaga rubidiceps*

We found ten of these geese around the protected area for this species to the northwest of Punta Arenas. The continental population of this species is decreasing, at no more than 750 individuals (Blanco 2009).

Torrent Duck *Merganetta armata*

A female along the Maipo River resting on a rock, but no male. We visited during nesting season, the likely reason why these ducks kept a low profile.

Flying Steamer-Duck *Tachyeres patachonicus*

Six at the Tres Puentes wetlands, Punta Arenas, later in the trip ten on the ponds near Porvenir.

Flightless Steamer-Duck *Tachyeres pteneres*

A group of 12 at the entrance to the protected area for Ruddy-headed Goose.

Crested Duck *Lophonetta specularioides*

We saw the two races of this duck, six in the Lago Chungara, and common around Patagonia.

Spectacled Duck *Speculanas specularis*

Two at Colbún Lake (Central Chile), the northern range limit for this species. Then two more sightings of this beauty in Patagonia.

Chiloe Wigeon *Anas sibilatrix*

We saw this colorful duck at a good number of wetlands that we visited.

Yellow-billed Teal *Anas flavirostris*

We found the two subspecies of this duck: *oxyptera* in the North and *flavirostris* in the Center and Patagonia.

Yellow-billed Pintail *Anas georgica*

Present at almost all the wetlands we visited.

White-cheeked Pintail *Anas bahamensis*

A group of 12 of in the estuary of the Río Lluta , Arica.

Silver Teal *Anas versicolor*

Two were resting at Buque Quemado wetlands. This duck does not occur in high numbers in Chile. Usually seen in pairs or solitary.

Puna Teal *Anas puna*

We found 15 of them at Lauca National Park.

Cinnamon Teal *Anas cyanoptera*

Seen in several of the wetlands that we visited. Recorded 30 of them the first day at Laguna Batuco.

Red Shoveler *Anas platalea*

One of the common ducks in the Central region. We saw a group of at least 40 at Laguna Batuco and more individuals in the wetlands of the Central Chile.

Rosy-billed Pochard *Netta peposaca*

Three spectacular males at Laguna de Batuco on our first day.

Black-headed Duck *Heteronetta atricapilla*

Only one sighting at Laguna el Peral.

Ruddy Duck *Oxyura jamaicensis*

Five at Lago Chungara.

Lake Duck *Oxyura vittata*

Eight at wetlands along the Central Coast.

NEW WORLD QUAIL

California Quail *Callipepla californica*

Seen almost every day, during our trip in the Central Region. The species was introduced to Chile in the 1970s and populations have spread widely.

GREBES

White-tufted Grebe *Rollandia rolland*

We saw groups of this small grebe at several wetlands.

Pied-billed Grebe *Podilymbus podiceps*

Seen twice at wetlands along the Central Coast.

Great Grebe *Podiceps major*

Two pairs, one at Laguna Batuco and the other along the Central Coast.

Silvery Grebe *Podiceps occipitalis*

We saw both subspecies, a group of 15 *occipitalis* in the Central Region and more than 100 *juninensis* at Lago Chungara.

FLAMINGOS

Chilean Flamingo *Phoenicopterus chilensis*

Most numerous in Chungara National Park, also a few in Patagonia.

Andean Flamingo *Phoenicoparrus andinus*

Worked hard to find a mere five at Chungara National Park. The areas where this species is generally observed seemed drier than in previous years, and it took a long walk to more remote lakes to find them.

PENGUINS

King Penguin *Aptenodytes patagonicus*

We counted 108 birds at the colony in Tierra del Fuego. Some birds were mating and others were displaying. This colony has substantially grown in recent years. Just a few hatches have been successful, but then the chicks have died within a few months. It is thought that the majority of individuals in this colony are young individuals who have no experience in raising offspring.

Humboldt Penguin *Spheniscus humboldti*

We visited a large colony in Cachagua north of Valparaíso.

Magellanic Penguin *Spheniscus magellanicus*

Several seen on the ferry crossings between Tierra del Fuego and the mainland.

ALBATROSSES

Royal Albatross (Northern) *Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*

We saw four of these gigantic albatrosses during the Valparaíso pelagic trip and could distinguish individuals by their unique plumages.

Black-browed Albatross *Thalassarche melanophrys*

At least 30 of them during pelagic from Valparaíso, mostly juveniles and a few adults. Also saw four during the Tierra del Fuego ferry crossing.

Buller's Albatross *Thalassarche bulleri*

One landed in front of the boat during the pelagic from Valparaíso. We observed it for a short time but long for some in our group to take photographs.

Salvin's Albatross *Thalassarche salvini*

The most common albatross during the Valparaíso pelagic, we saw about 60 of them throughout the trip, a mix of juveniles and adults. Also we found just one in the pelagic trip from Arica.

PETRELS AND SHEARWATERS

Southern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes giganteus*

Two observed during Valparaíso pelagic, also seen during both ferry crossings. Also observed several near the coast in Punta Arenas

Northern Giant-Petrel *Macronectes halli*

20 seen during pelagic from Valparaíso, a group resting on the water.

Southern Fulmar *Fulmarus glacialis*

Common during Punta Arenas seawatch.

White-chinned Petrel *Procellaria aequinoctialis*

A few individuals followed the boat during the Valparaíso pelagic trip.

Westland Petrel *Procellaria westlandica*

We saw one of them in Arica and then at least two were seen well on the pelagic from Valparaiso.

Sooty Shearwater *Puffinus griseus*

Large numbers on both pelagics.

Pink-footed Shearwater *Puffinus creatopus*

Estimated at least 70 on the pelagic from Valparaiso, most numerous far from the coast. The species' main nesting site is isla Mocha, 650 kilometers south of Valparaíso.

STORM-PETRELS

Wilson's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites oceanicus*

We saw this species on both pelagics and also a group of ten from the ferry to Tierra del Fuego.

Elliot's Storm-Petrel *Oceanites gracilis*

About 40 during the pelagic from Arica, a group feeding on bait. The captain turned the boat several times so that we could take good pictures.

DIVING-PETRELS

Peruvian Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides garnotii*

Seen on both pelagics.

Magellanic Diving-Petrel *Pelecanoides magellani*

15 during the ferry ride to Tierra del Fuego.

TROPICBIRDS

Red-billed Tropicbird *Phaethon aethereus*

An individual flew over the boat during Arica pelagic, seen by only a few group members. This bird is uncommon in Chilean waters, with only a few records each year.

PELICANS

Peruvian Pelican *Pelecanus thagus*

We observed this species at several coastal sites, including a group of 50 of them resting at the Maipo River estuary.

BOOBIES

Blue-footed Booby *Sula nebouxii*

A juvenile passed the boat during the pelagic from Arica, seen only by some members of the group. This bird is rare in Chile and most of the records come from this area.

Peruvian Booby *Sula variegata*

We observed this species at almost all stops along the Central Coast and visited a large colony south of Arica.

CORMORANTS

Neotropic Cormorant *Phalacrocorax brasilianus*

Common at most of the wetlands and along the coast. In the port of Arica, these birds are nesting on an old boat.

Red-legged Cormorant *Phalacrocorax gaimardi*

Very numerous along the coast at Arica, where we had excellent views of this colorful cormorant.

Magellan Cormorant *Phalacrocorax magellanicus*

We visit a mixed colony on the old dock in Punta Arenas, where this species nests but in smaller numbers than Imperial Cormorant.

Guanay Cormorant *Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*

We saw this bird along the coast in the North and Central Region.

Imperial Cormorant *Phalacrocorax atriceps*

Very common in colonies along the coast around Punta Arenas.

HERONS

Stripe-backed Bittern *Ixobrychus involucris*

Near Algarrobo, two birds flew in just as we arrived and we observed them for a long time through the spotting scope as they hunted among the reeds.

Black-crowned Night-Heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*

Observed at multiple sites in the Central Region.

Cattle Egret *Bubulcus ibis*

15 at Laguna Batuco.

Cocoi Heron *Ardea cocoi*

One bird in flight at Laguna Batuco.

Great Egret *Ardea alba*

Observed at several of the wetlands we visited.

Snowy Egret *Egretta thula*

Observed at several of the wetlands we visited.

Little Blue Heron *Egretta caerulea*

Only saw four of these near Arica.

IBISES

Puna Ibis *Plegadis ridgwayi*

25 at Lago Chungara and three close to the coast along Río Lluta.

Black-faced Ibis *Theristicus melanopis*

Seen daily in Patagonia.

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Turkey Vulture *Cathartes aura jota*

Very common in the North and Central Region.

Black Vulture *Coragyps atratus*

Seen at several places in the Central Region.

Andean Condor *Vultur gryphus*

Fantastic views of several of these massive birds in the Central Andes and also some in Patagonia.

OSPREYS

Osprey *Pandion haliaetus*

An individual flying in the lower part of the Lluta Valley.

HAWKS

Cinereous Harrier *Circus cinereus*

Several seen at wetlands of the Center and Patagonia.

Black-chested Buzzard-Eagle *Geranoaetus melanoleucus*

One in flight at Yeso Valley and several near Puerto Natales.

Harris's Hawk *Parabuteo unicinctus*

One at Quebrada de Chaca and another at the Central Coast.

Variable Hawk *Buteo polyosoma*

Seen in several places, allowing us to compare different plumages.

Rufous-tailed Hawk *Buteo ventralis*

One in flight above the forest at Cerro Nielol.

FALCONS

Southern Caracara *Caracara plancus*

Common in Patagonia.

Mountain Caracara *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*

Two seen at Farellones.

White-throated Caracara *Phalcoboenus albogularis*

A couple in Sierra Baguales. We enjoyed long looks at them perched on cliffs.

Chimango Caracara *Milvago chimango*

Common during most of the trip except in the North.

American Kestrel *Falco sparverius*

Several in the North and Central Region.

Peregrine Falcon *Falco peregrinus*

One seen during the Arica pelagic that was attacking a flock of terns.

RAILS

Austral Rail *Rallus antarcticus*

Saw two and heard one more at Torres del Paine National Park.

Plumbeous Rail *Pardirallus sanguinolentus*

Two of them walking out in the open, an adult and a juvenile with brown plumage.

Common Gallinule *Gallinula galeata*

Several seen around Arica.

Red-gartered Coot *Fulica armillata*

This was the most common coot in several places. We saw large numbers in the Central Region.

Red-fronted Coot *Fulica rufifrons*

Only a few in Central Region wetlands.

Giant Coot *Fulica gigantea*

More than 100 at Lago Chungara.

Slate-colored Coot *Fulica ardesiaca*

At several wetlands in the North, nesting at Lago Chungara.

White-winged Coot *Fulica leucoptera*

Only in some of the wetlands in the Center and in Patagonia, always less numerous than other coots.

PLOVERS

Southern Lapwing *Vanellus chilensis*

Seen daily in Central Region and Patagonia, does not occur in the North.

Andean Lapwing *Vanellus resplendens*

Several at Lago Chungara and a single bird at Río Lluta.

American Golden-Plover *Pluvialis dominica*

Three at Río Lluta Estuary.

Black-bellied Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

A group of 20 at Río Lluta Estuary.

Killdeer *Charadrius vociferus*

Only two at Río Río Lluta Estuary, the southern limit of their normal range.

Two-banded Plover *Charadrius falklandicus*

Seen almost daily in Patagonia, where they breed. Observed a displaying couple near Porvenir.

Rufous-chested Dotterel *Charadrius modestus*

Two pairs of this colorful plover at Cordon Baquedano, Porvenir.

Diademed Sandpiper-Plover *Phegornis mitchellii*

Fantastic view of a couple in the area of the caves in Lauca National Park, plus a family! Another pair at Yeso Valley.

Tawny-throated Dotterel *Oreopholus ruficollis*

At least six of them in the Patagonian steppe during our trip to Puerto Natales, foraging in short grass.

OYSTERCATCHERS

American Oystercatcher *Haematopus palliatus*

Dozens in coastal wetlands of Central and North.

Blackish Oystercatcher *Haematopus ater*

Saw couples on three occasions in the North, Central and Patagonia.

Magellanic Oystercatcher *Haematopus leucopodus*

Seen daily in Patagonia, some far from the coast, even at Torres del Paine National Park.

AVOCETS and STILTS

Black-necked Stilt *Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*

We saw this slender shorebird in a few Central Region wetlands.

Andean Avocet *Recurvirostra andina*

Six seen from a distance at Lauca National Park.

THICK-KNEES

Peruvian Thick-knee *Burhinus superciliaris*

A roosting pair on sandy and gravelly ground along the road in Río Lluta Valley.

MAGELLANIC PLOVER

Magellanic Plover *Pluvianellus socialis*

A pair at Laguna Azul, east of Porvenir. Cathy found these birds feeding on the shore. The group enjoyed long looks and took many pictures.

SANDPIPERS

South American Snipe *Gallinago paraguaiiae*

Seen in several wetlands of the Center and Patagonia. Several couples were doing display flights accompanied by their characteristic sounds.

Hudsonian Godwit *Limosa haemastica*

A single individual was a big surprise at Río Lluta estuary. Seen together with Whimbrels and Red Knots. The majority of these godwits does not pass along the coasts of Northern and Central Chile during migration, and only a few sightings have been recorded in these areas.

Whimbrel *Numenius phaeopus*

At least 300 at Río Maipo Estuary, roosting in the dunes.

Spotted Sandpiper *Actitis macularius*

One at at Río Lluta Estuary.

Greater Yellowlegs *Tringa melanoleuca*

A group of 20 at Río Lluta Estuary.

Willet *Tringa semipalmata*

Numerous on the rocks south of Arica Beach.

Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*

Several on the rocks south of Arica Beach.

Surfbird *Aphriza virgata*

25 on the rocks south of Arica Beach.

Red Knot *Calidris canutus*

Surprise sighting of two at Río Lluta Estuary. While almost the entire American population of this species winters in Patagonia (both Chile and Argentina), it is not common to the north of this región.

Sanderling *Calidris alba*

Only a few of them at Río Lluta Estuary.

Semipalmated Sandpiper *Calidris pusilla*

Two at Río Lluta Estuary.

Least Sandpiper *Calidris minutilla*

Two at Río Lluta Estuary. We saw these small shorebirds next to other species, which helped with identification.

White-rumped Sandpiper *Calidris fuscicollis*

Seen daily in Patagonia, where it winters in large numbers.

Baird's Sandpiper *Calidris bairdii*

A group of 60 flying together at Laguna de Batuco, also at other wetlands.

Wilson's Phalarope *Phalaropus tricolor*

Alain found two of them at Lake Chungará.

Red Phalarope *Phalaropus fulicarius*

Several flocks migrating south seen during the pelagic from Valparaíso.

SEEDSNIPES

Gray-breasted Seedsnipe *Thinocorus orbignyianus*

At least 30 of them in the area of the caves at Lauca National Park. Also some in the Yeso Valley.

Least Seedsnipe *Thinocorus rumicivorus*

A few sightings in Patagonia, including a family with tiny chicks along the road.

SKUAS

Chilean Skua *Stercorarius chilensis*

Seen on both pelagics and daily in Patagonia, where they frequent the steppes.

Long-tailed Jaeger *Stercorarius longicaudus*

Two during Arica pelagic.

GULLS

Sabine's Gull *Xema sabini*

An individual during the Arica pelagic from Arica. We were able to take pictures of this species, which is rare in Chile.

Andean Gull *Chroicocephalus serranus*

At least 20 at Lago Chungara.

Brown-hooded Gull *Chroicocephalus maculipennis*

A large flock at the Río Maipo Estuary.

Dolphin Gull *Leucophaeus scoresbii*

Almost daily in Patagonia. Some adults were in breeding plumage.

Franklin's Gull *Leucophaeus pipixcan*

Commonly found on migration to the south at wetlands of Northern and Central Chile.

Belcher's Gull *Larus belcheri*

Common around Arica.

Kelp Gull *Larus dominicanus*

Very common throughout the trip.

Inca Tern *Larosterna inca*

We saw several of them in the Center and North of the country, where some followed the boat for a long time.

Peruvian Tern *Sterna lorata*

One flying by at some distance during Arica pelagic. Unfortunately, a few group members did not see this little bird.

South American Tern *Sterna hirundinacea*

Seen throughout the trip along the coast.

Snowy-crowned Tern *Sterna trudeaui*

One individual at Laguna Cartagena. Another guide for Albatross Birding who lives in the area tipped us off about this bird.

Elegant Tern *Thalasseus elegans*

At least 1,000 of them along the rocky beach south of Arica.

SKIMMERS

Black Skimmer *Rynchops niger*

70 at Río Maipo Estuary.

PIGEONS

Picui Ground-Dove *Columbina picui*

Seen twice during trip.

Croaking Ground-Dove *Columbina cruziana*

Commonly seen and Heard in valleys around Arica.

Bare-faced Ground-Dove *Metriopelia ceciliae*

Group of 30 in ravine north of Putre.

Black-winged Ground-Dove *Metriopelia melanoptera*

Seen during most visits to higher elevations in the Andes.

Spot-winged Pigeon *Patagioenas maculosa*

Common around Putre

Chilean Pigeon *Patagioenas araucana*

Seen daily around Altos de Lircay National Park and Temuco.

West Peruvian Dove *Zenaida meloda*

Very common in the north of Chile, in the countryside and around Arica.

Eared Dove *Zenaida auriculata*

We saw this species in many of the places we visited, including some in Patagonia.

PARROTS

Burrowing Parakeet *Cyanoliseus patagonus*

Several flocks flying by near colony at Colbún Lake.

Austral Parakeet *Enicognathus ferrugineus*

Seen near Altos de Lircay National Park

Slender-billed Parakeet *Enicognathus leptorhynchus*

Seen well at Cerro Nielol, where a flock was roosting in front of us at the top of a tree.

Mountain Parakeet *Psilopsiagon aurifrons*

We saw this small parakeet on two occasions. A flock flew above us in Putre and later we found two individuals feeding close to the group at Yeso Valley.

CUCKOOS

Groove-billed Ani *Crotophaga sulcirostris*

Seen on two occasions. Cathy spotted two of them from the vehicle in the fields at Lluta Valley.

OWLS

Great Horned Owl *Bubo virginianus*

Three roosting birds at Farellones.

Rufous-legged Owl *Strix rufipes*

The entire group enjoyed great views of this fantastic owl at Altos de Lircay National Park.

Austral Pygmy-Owl *Glaucidium nanum*

Heard close to our group at Altos de Lircay National Park.

Burrowing Owl *Athene cunicularia*

Two at Laguna Batuco and one at Museo de San Miguel de Azapa.

NIGHTJARS

Band-winged Nightjar *Caprimulgus longirostris*

One individual was hunting for insects around a lamp at a military base in Putre. Another bird roosting among shrubs at Yeso Valley.

SWIFTS

Andean Swift *Aeronautes andecolus*

One in Río Llura Valley.

HUMMINGBIRDS

Green-backed Firecrown *Sephanoides sephaniodes*

Several seen at Altos de Lircay.

Andean Hillstar *Oreotrochilus estella*

Very numerous and active in Putre.

White-sided Hillstar *Oreotrochilus leucopleurus*

Three at Yeso Valley. A female posed for while in front of the group and we observed her through the scope.

Giant Hummingbird *Patagona gigas*

A few in the North and Central Region.

Chilean Woodstar *Eulidia yarrellii*

First sighting was a male displaying from a dry branch in a cluster of native trees in Azapa Valley. Later we saw a female at Santuario del Picaflor, a small reserve in the same valley. This hummingbird is highly threatened and the entire population is estimated at no more than 500 individuals. The range is restricted to only a few valleys in the extreme north of Chile.

Oasis Hummingbird *Rhodopsis vesper*

Seen well at Santuario del Picaflor, Azapa Valley.

Peruvian Sheartail *Thaumastura cora*

At least four at Santuario del Picaflor. Two spectacular males were feeding right in front of tushe group, offering good photo opportunities for some of the group members.

WOODPECKERS

Striped Woodpecker *Veniliornis lignarius*

Seen twice at Altos de Lircay.

Chilean Flicker *Colaptes pitius*

Seen on several occasions, including an individual digging in the soil.

Andean Flicker *Colaptes rupicola*

Four seen at Lauca National Park.

Magellanic Woodpecker *Campephilus magellanicus*

Spectacular views of an entire family at Altos de Lircay. Three birds sat next to each other on a branch close to our group for a long time.

OVENBIRDS

Common Miner *Geositta cunicularia*

Saw two subspecies; four *titicacae* at Lauca National Park, one *cunicularia* in Patagonia.

Short-billed Miner *Geositta antarctica*

A few seen around Porvenir.

Creamy-rumped Miner *Geositta isabellina*

One bird at Valle Nevado, close to our group and allowing for great looks. This miner has a small range, limited to the High Andes of central Chile and western Argentina.

Puna Miner *Geositta punensis*

Four seen at Lago Chungara.

Rufous-banded Miner *Geositta rufipennis*

Seen well in the Andes above Santiago.

Band-tailed Earthcreeper *Ochetorhynchus phoenicurus*

An individual at Sierra Baguales, first feeding on the ground, then perched and singing in a shrub. The whole group saw this cute bird very well.

Crag Chilia *Ochetorhynchus melanurus*

Two seen very well carrying food to their nest site at a cliff in Yeso Valley.

Patagonian Forest Earthcreeper *Upucerthia saturator*

We took a special side trip to Conguillo National Park to find a pair.

Scale-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia dumetaria*

Seen several times in Central Chile, also in Patagonia.

White-throated Earthcreeper *Upucerthia albigula*

We found an individual entering a hole in Putre. Later it approached the group within a few meters.

Plain-breasted Earthcreeper *Upucerthia jelskii*

Two in the wetlands at Parinacota.

Buff-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes fuscus*

We observed this species in several locations during the trip.

Cream-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes albiventris*

Several seen in the high Andes of northern Chile.

Gray-flanked Cinclodes *Cinclodes oustaleti*

Four at Yeso Valley.

Dark-bellied Cinclodes *Cinclodes patagonicus*

Two highly active birds in Vilches, at Altos de Pirca National Park.

Seaside Cinclodes *Cinclodes nigrofumosus*

We saw this endemic on several occasions, south of Arica and along the Central Coast.

White-winged Cinclodes *Cinclodes atacamensis*

Two in the caves region at Lauca National Park.

Wren-like Rushbird *Phleocryptes melanops*

Seen in several wetlands in Central Chile and also heard at Torres del Paine.

Thorn-tailed Rayadito *Aphrastura spinicauda*

This restless little bird was common at Altos de Lircay and Cerro Nielol.

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*

We saw this spinetail on several days in shrubby hábitats.

Streaked Tit-Spinetail *Leptasthenura striata*

Two in Putre, approaching the group and then disappearing into the shrubs.

Des Murs's Wiretail *Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*

We found this species at Cerro Ñielo, passing above our heads in dense bamboo.

Canyon Canastero *Asthenes pudibunda*

Two seen in shrubs in Putre.

Cordilleran Canastero *Asthenes modesta*

Seen on all visits to the Andes, including some that were feeding on the ground.

Austral Canastero *Asthenes anthoides*

Three at Cordón Baquedano, Tierra del Fuego.

Sharp-billed Canastero *Asthenes pyrrholeuca*

Seen twice in Central Chile and in Patagonia.

Dusky-tailed Canastero *Asthenes humicola*

Two of these endemics seen at Farellones.

Creamy-breasted Canastero *Asthenes dorbignyi arequipae*

Four seen in the ravine north of Putre.

White-throated Treerunner *Pygarrhichas albogularis*

We watched this trunk-climbing bird at Altos de Lircay and Cerro Ñielol.

TAPACULOS

Chestnut-throated Huet-huet *Pterotochos castaneus*

Good looks at this large tapaculo at Altos de Lircay, where it crossed openings in the forest undergrowth.

Black-throated Huet-huet *Pterotochos tarnii*

Six seen at Cerro Ñielol, one of them seen in good light as it foraged in the leaf litter.

Moustached Turca *Pterotochos megapodius*

Seen well during our three visits to the Central Andes. We also heard a variety of this charismatic endemic's vocalizations.

White-throated Tapaculo *Scelorchilus albicollis*

It took a while until we managed to see this bird at La Campana National Park. It sat still on a branch for a few minutes, allowing for good scope views.

Chuca Tapaculo *Scelorchilus rubecula*

One of these stopped in the middle of the trail at Altos de Lircay. We also heard the characteristic, powerful song in the Patagonian forests.

Ochre-flanked Tapaculo *Eugralla paradoxa*

One seen in a bamboo thicket at Cerro Ñielol.

Magellanic Tapaculo *Scytalopus magellanicus*

Seen well on two occasions, at Altos de Lircay and at Cerro Nielol.

Dusky Tapaculo *Scytalopus fuscus*

Saw this endemic at Parque Yerba Loca. A few group members were able to take pictures.

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

White-crested Elaenia *Elaenia albiceps*

Saw the two subspecies. Several *modesta* in the North, and *chilensis* was very common in the Center and in Patagonia.

Yellow-billed Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes flavirostris*

A pair seen very well in Putre.

Tufted Tit-Tyrant *Anairetes parulus*

Saw this small tyrant in several shrub and forest habitats in the Center and in Patagonia.

Ticking Doradito *Pseudocolopteryx citreola*

We found one perched on a shrub and singing, allowing for long scope views.

Many-colored Rush Tyrant *Tachuris rubrigastra*

We saw this colorful tyrant very well at Lampa Wetlands and at Río Maipo Estuary.

Bran-colored Flycatcher *Myiophobus fasciatus*

Saw one individual in shrubby thicket at Lluta Valley.

Vermilion Flycatcher *Pyrocephalus rubinus*

Seen on several occasions in the valleys around Arica.

Austral Negrito *Lessonia rufa*

A few seen in wetlands of Central Chile, later the most common bird in Patagonia.

Andean Negrito *Lessonia oreas*

Six at Lauca National Park.

Spectacled Tyrant *Hymenops perspicillatus*

Two at Río Maipo Estuary.

Spot-billed Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola maculirostris*

After searching for a while among shrubs and rocks, we found one that put on an incredible aerial display.

Puna Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola juninensis*

15 seen at Lauca National Park.

Cinereous Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola cinereus*

We found three on the ski slopes at Valle Nevado.

White-fronted Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albifrons*

Several at Lauca National Park.

Ochre-naped Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola flavinucha*

Seen twice, at Valle Nevado and at Sierra Baguales.

White-browed Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola albilora*

Very common during visits to the High Andes of the Central Region.

Cinnamon-bellied Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola capistratus*

Several sightings in Patagonia.

Black-fronted Ground-Tyrant *Muscisaxicola frontalis*

Two seen at Yeso Valley.

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis montanus*

Several seen in the high Andes, also one in Patagonia.

Great Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis lividus*

We made a special trip to Zapallar, north of Valparaíso, where we had good views of one of these impressive tyrants.

Gray-bellied Shrike-Tyrant *Agriornis micropterus*

Two seen at Sierra Baguales that were roosting in tall shrubs, allowing us to get very close. This species was recorded in Chilean Patagonia only recently, and we were surprised to find two of them.

Fire-eyed Diucon *Xolmis pyrope*

Seen almost daily in Central Chile and in Patagonia.

Chocolate-vented Tyrant *Neoxolmis rufiventris*

Saw three of these handsome tyrants in Patagonia, had long looks through the scope.

White-browed Chat-Tyrant *Ochthoeca leucophrys*

Saw two of them well in Putre.

COTINGAS

Rufous-tailed Plantcutter *Phytotoma rara*

A perched male along the Maipo River.

SWALLOWS

Blue-and-white Swallow *Pygochelidon cyanoleuca*

Seen at several locations throughout the trip.

Andean Swallow *Orochelidon andecola*

A few seen at Lauca National Park.

Chilean Swallow *Tachycineta meyeni*

Common in the Center and Patagonia.

Bank Swallow *Riparia riparia*

Several seen in the valleys around Arica.

Barn Swallow *Hirundo rustica*

A few seen in the valleys of the North.

Cliff Swallow *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*

Two seen in the valleys of the North.

WRENS

House Wren *Troglodytes aedon*

Seen almost everywhere throughout the trip.

Sedge Wren *Cistothorus platensis*

Seen several times, including one nesting at Torres del Paine.

THRUSHES

Austral Thrush *Turdus falcklandii*

Seen almost daily in the Center and Patagonia.

Chiguanco Thrush *Turdus chiguanco*

Several seen around Putre.

MOCKINGBIRDS

Chilean Mockingbird *Mimus thenca*

Several seen along the road to Farellones and also close to Altos de Lircay.

Patagonian Mockingbird *Mimus patagonicus*

One actively singing at Sierra Baguales.

PIPITS

Correndera Pipit *Anthus correndera*

Seen in several places, including a few aerial displays.

TANAGERS

Blue-and-yellow Tanager *Thraupis bonariensis*

Several seen near Putre.

Cinereous Conebill *Conirostrum cinereum*

We found a few in the valleys around Arica and a few more in Putre.

Tamarugo Conebill *Conirostrum tamarugense*

Two at Quebrada de Chaca, feeding for a long time right in front of our group.

Black-throated Flowerpiercer *Diglossa brunneiventris*

We saw several of these active singer in the ravine at the north end of Putre.

WARBLERS

Black-throated Green Warbler *Setophaga virens*

One individual in a pine tree near the Putre military base. This is Chile's first record for the species! Fernando was quick to identify the bird as he had banded this species in North America.

INSERTAE SEDIS

Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantirostris*

One bird singing for a long time in the shrubs, allowing for good scope views.

SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow *Zonotrichia capensis*

Seen every day in all habitats.

Black-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus atriceps*

One near the picnic tables at Lago Chungara and several in Putre.

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus gayi*

Several seen in the Central Andes and several more in Patagonia.

Patagonian Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus patagonicus*

We found this colorful bird in the forests at Altos de Lircay and Cerro Nielol.

Mourning Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus fruticeti*

Seen repeatedly in the Center and also one in Sierra Baguales.

Plumbeous Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus unicolor*

Seen in several places in the high Andes, also in Patagonia.

White-throated Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus erythronotus*

Three seen in the caves region at Lauca National Park.

Ash-breasted Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus plebejus*

Common in the highlands of the North.

Band-tailed Sierra-Finch *Phrygilus alaudinus*

Several seen around Farellones.

White-winged Diuca-Finch *Diuca speculifera*

Eight seen in the caves region at Lauca National Park.

Common Diuca-Finch *Diuca diuca*

Four of them on our first day at Laguna de Batuco, later a few more close to Altos de Lircay.

White-bridled Finch *Melanodera melanodera*

An impressive 25 in the Patagonian steppe along the road to Puerto Natales.

Yellow-bridled Finch *Melanodera xanthogramma*

Several flocks at Sierra Baguales.

Slender-billed Finch *Xenospingus concolor*

Several seen very well singing on top of shrubs at Río Lluta Estuary.

Bright-rumped Yellow-Finch *Sicalis uropygialis*

During a hike at the high-elevation wetlands at Parinacota we found six, both females and colorful males.

Greater Yellow-Finch *Sicalis auriventris*

We found groups of these finches on several occasions. Also a surprise sighting in Patagonia, where little is known about the bird's presence.

Greenish Yellow-Finch *Sicalis olivascens*

Found in the highlands of the North.

Patagonian Yellow-Finch *Sicalis lebruni*

Six at Laguna Azul close to Porvenir.

Grassland Yellow-Finch *Sicalis luteola*

Several flocks seen in the Central Region.

Chestnut-throated Seedeater *Sporophila telasco*

Common in the valleys near Arica.

Band-tailed Seedeater *Catamenia analis*

Two seen in Putre.

BLACKBIRDS

Austral Blackbird *Curaeus curaeus*

We saw flocks in several places. One bird sang above our heads in the bamboo at Cerro Nielol.

Yellow-winged Blackbird *Agelasticus thilius*

Abundant in the wetlands of the Central Region, also a very confiding individual at Torres del Paine.

Shiny Cowbird *Molothrus bonariensis*

A few sightings in the Central Region.

Peruvian Meadowlark *Sturnella bellicosa*

We saw several of these conspicuous birds, including several display flights in the fields in the valleys near Arica.

Long-tailed Meadowlark *Sturnella loyca*

Seen almost daily in the fields and mountains of Patagonia and the Center.

FINCHES

Hooded Siskin *Carduelis magellanica*

Several of them in the valleys around Arica and also in Putre.

Black Siskin *Carduelis atrata*

A flock of 15 in the shrubs along the shore of Lake Chungará, singing loudly for a long time.

Yellow-rumped Siskin *Carduelis uropygialis*

A flock just before the dam at the former military base at Yeso Valley.

Black-chinned Siskin *Carduelis barbata*

A few seen in the Center and in Patagonia.

OLD WORLD SPARROWS

House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*

In all towns and villages we visited.

MAMMALS

RODENTS

Peruvian Viscacha *Lagidium peruanum*

Several of these endearing rodents in the caves region of Lauca National Park.

Coruro *Spalacopus cyanus*

A colony at Farellones. We could only see their heads since they, as usual, did not come out of their burrows.

Coypu AKA Nutria *Myocastor coypus*

Five at Laguna Cartagena.

RABBITS

European Hare *Lepus europaeus*

Very common in Patagonia and also some in the Central Andes.

European Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Only one at Farellones.

CAMELIDS

Guanaco *Lama guanicoe*

Two close to Putre, then abundant in Patagonia.

Vicuña *Vicugna vicugna*

Several groups at Lauca National Park.

FOXES

Culpeo Fox *Pseudalopex culpaeus*

A pair playing close to our group at Farellones.

Gray Fox *Pseudalopex griseus*

Common in Patagonia, seen daily in the steppe.

EARED SEALS

South American Sea-lion *Otaria flavescens*

Observed individuals and colonies at each visit to the coast or pelagic.

SKUNKS

Patagonian Hog-nosed Skunk *Conepatus humboldti*

Two at Torres del Paine.

DOLPHINS

Commerson's Dolphin *Cephalorhynchus commersoni*

We watched four of these dolphins from the ferry from Tierra del Fuego as they jumped and followed the boat.

Peale's Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus australis*

A few seen from the coast.

Dusky Dolphin *Lagenorhynchus obscurus*

Four seen during Arica pelagic.

REPTILES

LIOLAEMIDAE

***Liolaemus monticola* Peak Tree Iguana**

One at Altos de Lircay

***Liolaemus nigroviridis* Black-and-green Tree Iguana**

One at Farellones.

***Liolaemus tenuis* Blue-tailed Tree Iguana**

Several of these colorful reptiles at Altos de Lircay.

***Microlophus yanezi* Runner of Arica Valleys**

One in the Azapa Valley.

LEIOSAURIDAE

***Pristidactylus torquatus* Southern Grumbler**

Two at Altos de Lircay.

COLIBRIDAE

***Philodryas chamissonis* Long-tailed Chilean Racer**

Cathy saw this species at Lampa Wetlands.



Microlophus yanezi Runner of Arica Valleys



Pristidactylus torquatus Southern Grumbler