

Albatross

Birding and Nature Tours



**DAY TRIP AROUND SANTIAGO: Birding trip to
coastal wetlands of central Chile
16th of July 2015**

Leader: Paola Soublete

Participants: Catherine and Alec Gillespie

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Trip Report, 16th of July 2015



Blackish Oystercatcher, Maipo River

I picked up Catherine and Alec Gillespie from the hotel Best Western Premier Marina in Santiago at 8:00 am. Because of the bad weather conditions in the Andes range we decided to visit the wetlands at the central coast of Chile.

Our first stop was at “El Peral” lagoon, a Natural Sanctuary in the town of San Sebastian. Here we had amazing sightings of many scrubland birds such as Tufted Tit-tyrants, Plain-mantled Tit-spinetails, Rufous-tailed Plantcutters, Austral Thrushes, Fire-eyed Diucons, the delicate and elegant Patagonian Tyrant among many others. A remarkable story was that Alec, who lives in Australia, enjoyed a lot the Green-backed Firecrowns feeding on Eucalyptus flowers. We spotted many typical wetland birds as

well; Yellow-winged Black birds, Black-crowned Night heron, Red-gartered Coots, Southern Lapwings, Yellow-billed Pintails, White-backed Stilts and more.

Once we finished here we drove south and went to “Cartagena” lagoon, another Sanctuary at the beach with the same name. As well as in the morning we had very good birding at this venue. We saw several species of ducks; Red-shovelers, Cinnamon Teals, Chiloe Wigeons, Yellow-billed Pintails and Lake Ducks. We were able to see White-winged Coots, Spot-flanked Gallinules, Silvery Grebes, White-tufted grebes, House Wrens, many Tufted Tit-tyrants again, Rufous-collared Sparrows, Neotropic Cormorants, Whimbrels, American Oystercatchers, Peruvian Boobies flying above the Pacific Ocean and finally the stunning Coscoroba Swan, we saw a couple and, although it is winter, they were building their nest. Surprisingly while watching the swans a beautiful White-tailed Kite perched in a cable just in front of us.

After we finished the circuit here we left Cartagena lagoon to continue our trip. Next and last place to visit was the Maipo river mouth, a beautiful estuary located in Santo Domingo resort, central Chile. Continuing south we drove to Santo Domingo then, from the car we saw very close a Variable Hawk, Black-chinned Siskins, more Plantcutters, Austral Blackbirds and many Long-tailed Meadowlarks. Once in Santo Domingo we made our first stop at the rocky beach searching for the Seaside Cinclodes, fortunately we were lucky! Here we also spot a Grey-flanked Cinclodes and a couple of Blackish Oystercatchers.

After this we walked across the beach to the estuary, while walking we saw Grey Gulls, Brown-hooded Gulls and more Whimbrels. When we reached the river we had incredible sights of the Many-coloured Rush Tyrants, White-backed Stilts, Austral Negritos, Collared Plovers, Two-banded Plovers, South American Snipes among many species of ducks and coots which we had seen in the morning. The only new species of duck here was the Speckled Teal (or Chilean Teal).

Before sunset we made our last walk along the river shore, good decision just around the corner we found a group of Black Skimmers. Among them for Catherine and Alec's delight one Elegant Tern, a few South American Terns and one Snowy Crown Tern.



Rufous-tailed Plantcutter, Peral Lagoon

Bird checklist, July 16, 2015

Silvery Grebe (*Podiceps occipitalis*)
White-tufted Grebe (*Rollandia rolland*)
Peruvian Booby (*Sula variegata*)
Peruvian Pelican (*Pelecanus thagus*)
Neotropic Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*)
Great Egret (*Ardea alba*)
Snowy Egret (*Egretta thula*)
Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*)
Coscoroba Swan (*Coscoroba coscoroba*)
Speckled Teal (*Anas flavirostris*)
Yellow-billed Pintail (*Anas georgica*)
Red Shoveler (*Anas platalea*)

Cinnamon Teal (*Anas cyanoptera*)
Chiloe Wigeon (*Anas sibilatrix*)
Lake Duck (*Oxyura vittata*)
Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*)
Variable Hawk (*Parabuteo polyosoma*)
Chimango Caracara (*Milvago chimango*)
Spot-flanked Gallinule (*Gallinula melanops*)
Red-gartered Coot (*Fulica armillata*)
White-winged Coot (*Fulica leucoptera*)
Southern Lapwing (*Vanellus chilensis*)
White-backed Stilt (*Himantopus melanurus*)
Collared Plover (*Charadrius collaris*)
Two-banded Plover (*Charadrius falklandicus*)
American Oystercatcher (*Haematopus palliatus*)
Blackish Oystercatcher (*Haematopus ater*)
Whimbrel (*Numenius phaeopus*)
South American Snipe (*Gallinago paraguaiae*)
Kelp Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)
Grey Gull (*Larus modestus*)
Brown-hooded Gull (*Larus maculipennis*)
Elegant Tern (*Sterna elegans*)
South American Tern (*Sterna hirundinacea*)
Snowy Crown Tern (*Sterna trudeaui*)
Black Skimmer (*Rynchops niger*)
Feral Pigeon (*Columba livia*)
Green-backed Firecrown (*Sephanoides sephanoides*)
Seaside Cinclodes (*Cinclodes nigrofumosus*) (Endemic)
Grey-flanked Cinclodes (*Cinclodes oustaleti*)
Buff-winged Cinclodes (*Cinclodes fuscus*)
Wren-like Rushbird (*Phleocryptes melanops*) (heard)
Plain-mantled Tit-spinetail (*Leptasthenura aegithaloides*)
Dusky Tapaculo (*Scytalopus fuscus*) (heard)

Many-coloured Rush Tyrant (*Tachuris rubigastra*)
Austral Negrito (*Lessonia rufa*)
Tufted Tit-tyrant (*Anairetes parulus*)
Fire-eyed Diucon (*Xolmis pyrope*)
Patagonian Tyrant (*Coloramphus parvirostris*)
Chilean Swallow (*Tachycineta meyeni*)
Austral Thrush (*Turdus falcklandii*)
Rufous-tailed Plantcutter (*Phytotoma rara*)
Chilean Mockingbird (*Mimus tenca*)
Grassland Yellow-Finch (*Sicalis luteola*)
Austral Blackbird (*Curaeus curaeus*)
Long-tailed Meadowlark (*Sturnella loyca*)
Yellow-winged Blackbird (*Agelasthicus thilius*)
House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*)
Rufous-collared Sparrow (*Zonotrichia capensis*)
House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)
Black-chinned Siskin (*Sporagra barbata*)