



Highland above Santiago, April 2016

Leader: Eduardo Navarro

Participants: Shelly Jardine

Albatross Birding and Nature Tour

www.albatross-birding.com

The highlands around Santiago, at Central Chile, are especially cold during autumn and winter seasons. In the company of Shelly Jardine, we spent a whole day around Farellones and Valle Nevado, looking for some interesting birds. Despite this cold day, we got the chance to spot a good number of species and have a look to the Andes heart landscapes.

We left the hotel at 7:00 a.m. and drove to our first birding stop where we rapidly found some good species including Moustached Turca and Dusky-tailed Canastero, both Chilean endemic.

We stopped several times along the way, where we found a good selection of finches like, Mourning Sierra-Finch, Band-tailed Sierra-Finch, Grey-hooded Sierra-Finch and Rufous-collared Sparrow. We try to visit the Yerba Loca reserve but, unlucky for us, the road was closed because a big storm the week before.

We continued driving to the higher lands, with strong winds and even some snow, but we could find a couple of Magellanic Horned Owl resting on a tree branch. Around Farellones town we saw some highlands species like Rufous-banded Miner, Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant and Black-winged Ground Dove. We also had some great views of several Andean Condors and mountain caracaras and two species of falcons: aplomado and peregrine falcons.

We came back to the hotel at 6:30 p.m. after having seen 30 species of birds, nothing bad for a winter day at the Andes.



Dusky-tailed Canastero (*Pseudasthenes humicola*).

BIRDLIST

RR = Restricted-range species (total range < 50,000 km²)

Conservation Status follows Birdlife International

Taxonomic order and notes follows South American Classification Committee

<http://www.museum.lsu.edu/~Remsen/SACCBaseline.html>

NEW WORLD QUAILS

California Quail – *Callipepla californica*

NEW WORLD VULTURES

Andean Condor – *Vultur gryphus* Monotypic **NEAR-THREATENED**

HAWKS

Variable Hawk – *Geranoaetus polyosoma* Monotypic

FALCONS

Mountain Caracara – *Phalcoboenus megalopterus*

Chimango Caracara – *Milvago chimango*

Peregrine Falcon- *Falco peregrinus*

Aplomado Falcon – *Falco femoralis*

PLOVERS

Southern Lapwing - *Vanellus chilensis*

PIGEONS

Black-winged Ground-Dove – *Metriopeliamelanoptera melanoptera*

Eared Dove – *Zenaida auriculata*

OWLS

Great Horned Owl - *Bubo virginianus magellanicus*

HUMMINGBIRDS

Green-backed fire crown- *Sephanoides sephanoides*

OVENBIRDS

Rufous-banded Miner – *Geositta rufipennis*

Buff-winged Cinclodes – *Cinclodes fuscus* Monotypic

Plain-mantled Tit-Spinetail – *Leptasthenura aegithaloides*.

RR Dusky-tailed Canastero – *Pseudasthenes humicola* **CHILEAN ENDEMIC**

TAPACULOS

RR Moustached Turca – *Pterotochos megapodius* **CHILEAN ENDEMIC**

TYRANT FLYCATCHERS

Tufted Tit-Tyrant – *Anairetes parulusparulus*

Black-billed Shrike-Tyrant- *Agriornis montanus*

Fire-eyed Diucon - *Xolmis pyrope*

WRENS

House Wren - *Troglodyte (aedon) musculus*

THRUSHES

Austral Thrush – *Turdus falcklandii magellanicus*

MOCKINGBIRDS

RR Chilean Mockingbird – *Mimus thenca* Monotypic **NEAR TO CHILEAN ENDEMIC**

SPARROWS

Rufous-collared Sparrow – *Zonotrichia capensis*

Gray-hooded Sierra-Finch – *Phrygilu sgrayi*

Mourning Sierra-Finch – *Phrygilus fruticeti*

Common Diuca-Finch – *Diuca diuca*

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BLACKBIRDS

Austral Blackbird – *Curaeus curaeus*

Long-tailed Meadowlark – *Sturnella loyca*

FINCHES

Black-chinned Siskin- *Sporagra barbata* Monotypic

MAMMAL LIST

CANIDAE

Culpeo Fox – *Pseudalopex culpaeus*

Octodontidae

Cururo- *Spalacopus cyanus* Monotypic **CHILEAN ENDEMIC**