

HEART OF CHILE

Jan 28, 2012 to Feb 11, 2012
Peter Burke & Ricardo Matus



In addition to some great birding, Chile is blessed with some spectacular scenery. This is Volcan Osorno, one of the most active volcanoes in the southern Chilean Andes. (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

This was my second time leading the Heart of Chile tour and I have to admit that it was, as is often the case with birding, a learning experience! Recent news items had told of widespread fires and drought conditions in much of the southern part of the country since November. How this would affect the bird life during the tour was something I wondered about often in the weeks leading up to it. Happily we discovered that everything was more or less intact, and the only evidence of serious damage was near Concepcion, en route to the airport, in an area of heavy forest management. However, it was apparent that the dry conditions had affected the breeding season as many places we visited seemed unusually quiet for this time of the year. Both Ricardo and I noted how difficult it was at times to find some of the commoner residents, and felt it was probably the weather to blame.

Regardless, we did work hard as a group to find our quarry and most of the time we did succeed! Who can forget those flocks of Hudsonian Godwits, Whimbrels and Franklin's Gulls? What about the pod of Chilean Dolphins swimming in front of a group of Rufous-chested Dotterels feeding along the shoreline near Puerto Montt? The responsive Chucao Tapaculos and magnificent Alerce trees of Lahuen Nadi? The family of Magellanic Woodpeckers that thrilled us for half an hour in front of our hotel at Termas de Chillan? Don't forget the group of Andean Condors atop the hotel at Valle Nevado or those majestic rugged mountains looking down upon us at the Diademed Sandpiper-Plover location. As for the seabirds, we had one of the most memorable experiences any pelagic birding fan could want - numerous Royal Albatrosses, dancing Wilson's Storm-Petrels right beside the boat, and a plethora of petrels and shearwaters fighting for food within arm's reach.

And if the birds weren't enough, the scenery, culture, and food were just as much of the experience. With our sampling of Chilean cuisine across the tour, one could easily understand how this country has a great resource of wealth within its borders. A trip to Chile is always rewarding, and I hope you enjoyed your time as much as I did. Best wishes in birding and I hope we see each other in the field again soon!

For more information about this tour, including future departures, please visit our website at www.fieldguides.com

KEYS FOR THIS LIST

One of the following keys may be shown in brackets for individual species as appropriate: * = heard only, I = introduced, E = endemic, N = nesting, a = austral migrant, b = boreal migrant

BIRDS

Anatidae (Ducks, Geese, and Waterfowl)

BLACK-NECKED SWAN (*Cygnus melancoryphus*) – Commonly seen in large groups on our day on Isla Chiloe; also seen at El Peral reserve in central Chile.

COSCOROBA SWAN (*Coscoroba coscoroba*) – We had to hurry to get decent views of this odd looking swan at the Talcahuano wetlands before our flight at Concepcion.

KELP GOOSE (*Chloephaga hybrida*) – A couple of lovely pairs at the penguin colony at Puniuil. The starkly plumaged male even grazed on kelp at the water's edge for us!

FLIGHTLESS STEAMER-DUCK (*Tachyeres pteneres*) – We saw a family and a couple pairs at Puniuil. These birds are distinctive in their bill and head coloration from populations of Flightless Steamer Ducks further south in Chile.

CHILOE WIGEON (*Anas sibilatrix*) – We encountered this handsome duck several times through the trip.

CINNAMON TEAL (*Anas cyanoptera*) – Only a few observations of this bird familiar to the west of North America. These are resident birds of southern South America.

RED SHOVELER (*Anas platalea*) – Distinctive in their shape and the males are beautifully plumaged.

WHITE-CHEEKED PINTAIL (*Anas bahamensis*) – Very good numbers in the Talcahuano wetlands plus a couple at the mouth of the Maipo river.

YELLOW-BILLED PINTAIL (*Anas georgica*) – The common dabbling duck of central Chile.

YELLOW-BILLED TEAL (FLAVIROSTRIS) (*Anas flavirostris flavirostris*) – Also common in central Chile, appearing much like a miniature version of the former species.

ROSY-BILLED POCHARD (*Netta peposaca*) – A single male flushed amongst a large group of waterfowl in Lampa on our last afternoon.

BLACK-HEADED DUCK (*Heteronetta atricapilla*) – Unusually good looks at the "Cuckoo Duck" this year! They are quite good at blending into a large concentration of waterbirds and we spotted quite a few at a couple of locations.

LAKE DUCK (*Oxyura vittata*) – A look-alike with the North American Ruddy Duck except that the male has a completely black head. Many were seen at El Peral.

Odontophoridae (New World Quail)

CALIFORNIA QUAIL (*Callipepla californica*) – Probably as common in Chile as the western USA where they are native.

[1]

Podicipedidae (Grebes)

GREAT GREBE (*Podiceps major*) – A few somewhat distant birds at Lago Puyehue en route to our Hotel Antillanca, including a pair going through mating displays.



With all that coastline, you just know that there's got to be a pelagic trip on a Chile tour! And what great pelagic birding! This was one of about a dozen Royal Albatrosses seen during our outing. (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

SILVERY GREBE (OCCIPITALIS) (*Podiceps occipitalis occipitalis*) – Another grebe species we saw on Lago Puyehue in small numbers.

Spheniscidae (Penguins)

HUMBOLDT PENGUIN (*Spheniscus humboldti*) – Easily outnumbered by Magellanic Penguins at the colony in Puniuil, but we saw them well in the company of many Magellanics.

MAGELLANIC PENGUIN (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) – Some fabulous views of family life of Magellanic Penguins at Puniuil - young birds, molting adults, swimming birds, etc.. We also saw a couple from the ferry crossing the Chacao channel to Chiloe.

Diomedidae (Albatrosses)

BULLER'S ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche bulleri*) – A single immature was discovered coming into the fray near the end of the pelagic.

SALVIN'S ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche salvini*) – The common Mollymawk Albatross during the pelagic, we saw well over 75 of them. Most if not all, are young birds spending their time far from nesting colonies in New Zealand,

BLACK-BROWED ALBATROSS (*Thalassarche melanophris*) – A couple of young birds hung around the chum being offered during the pelagic. One adult came in for a quick pass but didn't stay long.

ROYAL ALBATROSS (NORTHERN) (*Diomedea epomophora sanfordi*) – Wow, what a bird!!! We tend to see more of these beautiful giants in summer than November and it was once again the case with well over 12 birds coming in to check out the chum.

Procellariidae (Shearwaters and Petrels)

SOUTHERN GIANT-PETREL (*Macronectes giganteus*) – At least three sightings of singles coming into the boat during the pelagic, all young dark birds.

JUAN FERNANDEZ PETREL (*Pterodroma externa*) – Just like the great albatrosses, summer is the best time to see this ocean wanderer and we must have seen 4-5 pretty well during the pelagic.

WHITE-CHINNED PETREL (*Procellaria aequinoctialis*) – One of two dark Procellaria petrels, this species was equally as common as the next species. Identification was made easier by the fact that this species was undergoing wing molt while Westlands had pretty much completed it.

WESTLAND PETREL (*Procellaria westlandica*) – Good numbers of this once considered uncommon visitor to Chilean waters.

PINK-FOOTED SHEARWATER (*Puffinus creatopus*) – Common during the pelagic.

SOOTY SHEARWATER (*Puffinus griseus*) – Our first indication that we were hitting deeper water was the large flocks that rose off the water as we chugged out to sea during our pelagic. We also saw a few from the ferry to Chiloe and at the Penguin colony at Puniuil.

MANX SHEARWATER (*Puffinus puffinus*) – Our trip obtained the first positive photographic evidence of this species in Chile!! Although it has been reported with increasing frequency during the last 10 years off of central Chile there was a lack of good photographs. However that all changed with our trip and the observation of what was surely 5 or more individuals. Where are they coming from? No one really knows but the suspicion is breeders from somewhere in the Pacific northwest.

Hydrobatidae (Storm-Petrels)

WILSON'S STORM-PETREL (*Oceanites oceanicus*) – Great views of these graceful ocean birds throughout the pelagic. Interestingly we saw birds with white belly patches and whitish underwings, belonging to the subspecies *chilensis*, a form that is suspected to breed in the Andes of central Chile. There remains some big unanswered questions with these dark white-rumped Storm Petrels in Chile.

Pelecanoididae (Diving-Petrels)



Gray-breasted Seedsnipe blend very well into the Andean bog habitat they prefer, but thanks to Cheri's sharp eyes, we were able to enjoy this bird for lunch at El Yeso. (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

PERUVIAN DIVING-PETREL (*Pelecanoides garnotii*) – Many different birds were flushed alongside the boat during the pelagic, providing some fine views of these small, starling-sized seabirds.

Sulidae (Boobies and Gannets)

PERUVIAN BOOBY (*Sula variegata*) – Fairly common along the central Chilean coastline, these are one the "Guano birds" of the Humbolt Current.

Phalacrocoracidae (Cormorants and Shags)

NEOTROPIC CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax brasilianus*) – Widespread during the trip.

RED-LEGGED CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax gaimardi*) – Fantastic, neatly-patterned cormorants - surely a contender for the world's best looking cormorant!

MAGELLAN CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax magellanicus*) – Also called Rock Cormorant, we had brief views of a flyby from the boat at the penguin colony in Puniuil.

GUANAY CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax bougainvillii*) – A couple of birds in the Chacao channel were at the southern end of this bird's range. The larger groups we saw during the pelagic were more towards the core of this Humbolt Current species.

IMPERIAL CORMORANT (*Phalacrocorax atriceps atriceps*) – A southern cone species, we saw the "Blue-eyed" form in good numbers around Chiloe and Puerto Montt.

Pelecanidae (Pelicans)

PERUVIAN PELICAN (*Pelecanus thagus*) – A hulking pelican, these guys dwarf the more northern Brown Pelican.

Ardeidae (Herons, Egrets, and Bitterns)

COCOI HERON (*Ardea cocoi*) – Two different birds in central Chilean wetlands.

GREAT EGRET (*Ardea alba*) – A few individuals during the trip.

SNOWY EGRET (*Egretta thula*) – Scattered throughout the trip in low numbers.

CATTLE EGRET (*Bubulcus ibis*) – Mainly seen around central Chile where we took a good look at one to separate from non-breeding Snowy Egrets.

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON (DUSKY) (*Nycticorax nycticorax obscurus*) – Dark southern birds are normally tied to the coastline.

Threskiornithidae (Ibises and Spoonbills)

WHITE-FACED IBIS (*Plegadis chihi*) – Two birds in the Lampa wetlands were unusual for the location and date.

BLACK-FACED IBIS (*Theristicus melanopis*) – Abundant in the heartland of Chile, foraging in hay fields almost everywhere you looked.

Cathartidae (New World Vultures)

BLACK VULTURE (*Coragyps atratus*) – Widespread in the lowlands and foothills.

TURKEY VULTURE (*Cathartes aura*) – These blackish, rosy-headed birds are worth noting as they may someday earn their own specific status, set apart from the migrant North American birds and lowland birds from the rest of South America.

ANDEAN CONDOR (*Vultur gryphus*) – Chile is normally elected by birders as the best place to see lots of condors and see them well. We were not disappointed with our condor experience!! Who can forget those birds perched so closely at Valle Nevado?

Accipitridae (Hawks, Eagles, and Kites)

WHITE-TAILED KITE (*Elanus leucurus*) – Several sightings in the dry central Chilean lowlands.

BLACK-CHESTED BUZZARD-EAGLE (*Geranoaetus melanoleucus*) – Great views of adults and immatures around Santiago when we birded Mahuida and Farellones Road.



Who really cares whether or not they see Diademed Sandpiper-Plover when there's scenery like this to bird in at El Yeso? Fortunately this trip we never learned the answer to that question! (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

HARRIS'S HAWK (*Parabuteo unicinctus*) – A family group at Mahuida offered us wonderful viewing (thanks to great spotting by Cheri!), along with a few more in the days that followed.

WHITE-THROATED HAWK (*Buteo albigula*) – A distantly soaring bird our first afternoon at the Termas de Chillan.

VARIABLE HAWK (*Buteo polyosoma*) – A sharp looking buteo, we saw males, females and those hard to identify immatures at a number of locations.

Falconidae (Falcons and Caracaras)

MOUNTAIN CARACARA (*Phalcoboenus megalopterus*) – The sharply contrasting adults were much easier to identify than the dull brown immatures.

SOUTHERN CARACARA (*Caracara plancus*) – Several in the southern parts of the tour near Puerto Montt.

CHIMANGO CARACARA (*Milvago chimango*) – Perhaps the most widespread and common bird we saw in Chile.

AMERICAN KESTREL (*Falco sparverius*) – Low numbers seen on a few days.

APLOMADO FALCON (*Falco femoralis*) – A leisurely fly-over at El Peral provided us with some great views and a chance to review important field marks.

PEREGRINE FALCON (*Falco peregrinus*) – A dark headed adult of the cassini subspecies guarded the saltflats near Pelluco on our first day.

Rallidae (Rails, Gallinules, and Coots)

PLUMBEOUS RAIL (*Pardirallus sanguinolentus*) – Two different opportunities to see this large dark rail during the trip.

SPOT-FLANKED GALLINULE (*Gallinula melanops*) – A couple of brown immatures fed obligingly in the open at El Peral.

RED-GARTERED COOT (*Fulica armillata*) – Normally the most common marsh coot, it seemed this species was in the lowest numbers at the wetlands we visited.

RED-FRONTED COOT (*Fulica rufifrons*) – With its gallinule-like body shape and behaviour, we found this coot at many of the wetlands we stopped at.

WHITE-WINGED COOT (*Fulica leucoptera*) – El Peral was a great spot to get to know this species and compare it to the two other 'marsh coots' of central Chile.

Charadriidae (Plovers and Lapwings)

SOUTHERN LAPWING (SOUTHERN SOUTH AMERICA) (*Vanellus chilensis chilensis*) – Very common and vocal throughout the trip. This species is found virtually throughout South America but recent work is showing that there may be three distinct groups involved. Stay tuned to lapwing taxonomy in the near future!

COLLARED PLOVER (*Charadrius collaris*) – Nice views of birds on the beach at the mouth of the Maipo River.

RUFOUS-CHESTED DOTTEREL (*Charadrius modestus*) – We were hoping for a few early migrants at Puerto Montt and were not disappointed with some great looks. [a]

DIADEMED SANDPIPER-PLOVER (*Phegornis mitchellii*) – What can you say about this bird? When you make the effort to get up to its breeding sites, like at El Yeso, and are surrounded by the breathtaking scenery in which it survives, you cannot help but feel privileged.

Haematopodidae (Oystercatchers)

AMERICAN OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus palliatus*) – Common on the sandy Chilean coastlines.

BLACKISH OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus ater*) – Great chances to observe all three oystercatchers together in Puerto Montt!

MAGELLANIC OYSTERCATCHER (*Haematopus leucopodus*) – Good numbers had already returned to wintering grounds along the coastline at Puerto Montt. [a]

Recurvirostridae (Stilts and Avocets)

BLACK-NECKED STILT (WHITE-BACKED) (*Himantopus mexicanus melanurus*) – Common in several wetlands during the trip.



It's not certain exactly what the function of the Slender-billed Parakeet's long, thin bill is, other than to serve as a useful field mark for separating this species from the very similar, but more common, Austral Parakeet. (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

Scolopacidae (Sandpipers and Allies)

GREATER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa melanoleuca*) – Small numbers on the coastline. [b]

LESSER YELLOWLEGS (*Tringa flavipes*) – Commoner than Greater Yellowlegs and found in sizeable flocks at Talcahuano and Lampa. [b]

WHIMBREL (AMERICAN) (*Numenius phaeopus hudsonicus*) – Impressive numbers of this nearctic migrant in several places during our trip, notably in the area around Puerto Montt and Chiloe. [b]

HUDSONIAN GODWIT (*Limosa haemastica*) – Wow, what a showing from this species! Who could not be impressed by the banded birds in the flock on Chiloe? Ricardo's insight on their origins was truly remarkable with birds banded in Argentina and Tierra del Fuego being present. [b]

RUDDY TURNSTONE (*Arenaria interpres*) – Small numbers with Surfbirds in Vina del Mar. [b]

SURFBIRD (*Aphriza virgata*) – A large group at Punihuil and along the coast near Vina del Mar. [b]

RED KNOT (*Calidris canutus*) – Well over 100 birds were snuggled into the large Hudsonian Godwit flock at Caulin on Chiloe. These are part of the dwindling rufa population. [b]

SANDERLING (*Calidris alba*) – A few with the Chiloe godwit flock but better seen at the mouth of the Maipo River. [b]

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER (*Calidris bairdii*) – Small numbers at Pelluco and Chiloe plus a singleton hanging out with the Diademed Sandpiper-Plovers. [b]

PECTORAL SANDPIPER (*Calidris melanotos*) – A good-sized group of this spring migrant in Lampa was part of the small migration window now known to occur in central Chile in Feb/March. [b]

SOUTH AMERICAN SNIPE (MAGELLANIC) (*Gallinago paraguaiiae magellanica*) – We must have kicked well over 70 birds from the wetland at Lampa.

Thinocoridae (Seedsnipes)

GRAY-BREASTED SEEDSNIPE (*Thinocorus orbignyianus*) – Cheri put the group on to a very cooperative pair at our lunch stop in Yeso. They proceeded to then give us wonderful telescope views!

Rostratulidae (Painted-Snipes)

SOUTH AMERICAN PAINTED-SNIPE (*Nycticryphes semicollaris*) – Last minute bonus bird!!! Our friend Fernando gave us the skinny on a good spot for these sought after shorebirds and it did not fail! Just in the nick of time too, as it was our last bird of the trip.

Laridae (Gulls, Terns, and Skimmers)

BROWN-HOODED GULL (*Chroicocephalus maculipennis*) – Abundant on the coastline of Puerto Montt and Chiloe, as well as the mouth of the Maipo River. The newly fledged juveniles remind one of a well toasted marshmallow...

GRAY GULL (*Leucophaeus modestus*) – A few of these Humbolt current specialties were offshore at the Maipo River mouth.

FRANKLIN'S GULL (*Leucophaeus pipixcan*) – The sheer numbers of Franklin's Gulls in winter in Chile is astounding - those flocks pouring over us as we chugged out to sea for the pelagic was unforgettable. Their soft pink underparts also brought a splash of color to the grey shorelines of Puerto Montt. [b]

KELP GULL (*Larus dominicanus*) – The common large gull of Chile.

INCA TERN (*Larosterna inca*) – This handsome tern was seen well in flight during the pelagic and from shore later that day.

COMMON TERN (*Sterna hirundo*) – A winter-plumaged bird at the mouth of the Maipo River. [b]

SOUTH AMERICAN TERN (*Sterna hirundinacea*) – Some nicely plumaged adults at the penguin colony sporting their blood red bills.

SANDWICH TERN (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*) – A good bird for Chile, we found three at the mouth of the Maipo River. Current data shows that this species is expected to occur between December and March. [b]

ELEGANT TERN (*Thalasseus elegans*) – We got some great views of this Pacific tern at the mouth of the Maipo River.



The Fire-eyed Diucon is a common and conspicuous flycatcher of the Chilean countryside. Closely related to the monjitas, this is the only member of the genus to occur on the west side of the Andes. (Photo by guide Peter Burke)

[b]

BLACK SKIMMER (CINERASCENS) (*Rynchops niger cinerascens*) – Ricardo's concern for a bird lying on the beach at the Maipo turned into humor when we noticed how many of them appeared to be 'dying'. Apparently this behavior is well known in skimmers and sometimes spreads to Tour Leaders.

Stercorariidae (Skuas and Jaegers)

PARASITIC JAEGER (*Stercorarius parasiticus*) – Two birds early on in the pelagic, one of which was a dark morph bird.

[b]

Columbidae (Pigeons and Doves)

ROCK PIGEON (*Columba livia*) – Common in urban habitats.

CHILEAN PIGEON (*Patagioenas araucana*) – Some good looks at perched birds in Lahuen Nadi and La Campana.

EARED DOVE (*Zenaida auriculata*) – Widespread.

PICUI GROUND-DOVE (*Columbina picui*) – This small dove is easy to find in central Chile around agricultural areas.

BLACK-WINGED GROUND-DOVE (*Metriopelia melanoptera*) – Several groups high up in Valle Nevado and the Yeso Valley.

Psittacidae (Parrots)

AUSTRAL PARAKEET (*Enicognathus ferrugineus*) – We came across these parakeets in the Andes at Antiillanca and Termas de Chillan.

SLENDER-BILLED PARAKEET (*Enicognathus leptorhynchus*) – Ricardo picked out a flock in the last hour of the day as we approached Puerto Montt at roadside. Thankfully they sat calmly as Cristian maneuvered the bus back to their location and we enjoyed magnificent views of this Chilean endemic. [E]

Strigidae (Owls)

RUFOUS-LEGGED OWL (*Strix rufipes*) – How frustrating! A bird responded well but distantly to playback in Antillanca and didn't budge from its hillside perch. Despite two more efforts in the trip we came up empty in the end. [*]

Trochilidae (Hummingbirds)

GREEN-BACKED FIRECROWN (*Sephanoides sephanioides*) – The common hummer of central Chile. A few birds showed their iridescent foreheads briefly.

GIANT HUMMINGBIRD (*Patagona gigas gigas*) – The show-stopping pair of birds that hovered for minutes in front of the group at Mahuida reminded some of us of swifts.

Picidae (Woodpeckers)

STRIPED WOODPECKER (*Veniliornis lignarius*) – Seen well at several stops throughout the tour.

CHILEAN FLICKER (*Colaptes pitius*) – Best seen in the southern lowlands near Puerto Montt but present up into Chillan and Yeso.

MAGELLANIC WOODPECKER (*Campephilus magellanicus*) – It was getting towards being a nail-biter for the leaders but a very cooperative pair with their fledgling male at Robledal made that early morning walk totally worth it! Can you still picture in your mind that female's floppy crest?

Furnariidae (Ovenbirds and Woodcreepers)

RUFOUS-BANDED MINER (*Geositta rufipennis fasciata*) – The common miner of the central Chilean Andes, we saw many of these birds with their contrasting wing and tail pattern.

CRAG CHILIA (*Ochetorhynchus melanurus*) – Superb views of a family group at the base of the Yeso Valley. [E]

PATAGONIAN FOREST EARTHCREEPER (*Upucerthia saturator*) – A recent split from Scale-throated Earthcreeper, this species is fond of the Nothofagus forest bordering open Andean habitat. We had a pair of these birds feeding beside a steep trail we walked up to the Hot Springs of Chillan but they did not linger for much of the group.

SCALE-THROATED EARTHCREEPER (*Upucerthia dumetaria*) – A couple of birds in the Yeso Valley.

BUFF-WINGED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes fuscus*) – Another recent split that resulted from Bar-winged Cinclodes being made into two species- this and Cream-winged Cinclodes of northern Chile, Argentina, Bolivia and Peru. We saw a number of birds in Farellones, Yeso and Chillan.

GRAY-FLANKED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes oustaleti*) – A tough ID from Dark-bellied Cinclodes, but we saw them well at Chillan and El Yeso and discussed the finer points of their identification.

DARK-BELLIED CINCLODES (*Cinclodes patagonicus*) – Many birds in the south along coastlines mainly but also seen

right at Robledal at the Termas de Chillan.

SEASIDE CINCLODES (*Cinclodes nigrofumosus*) – A wonderful pair of displaying birds right beside the road in Renaca, north of Vina del Mar. [E]

WREN-LIKE RUSHBIRD (*Phleocryptes melanops*) – This marsh dweller proved difficult this year with much of the blame on such dry conditions across the southern half of the country. A few folks had some glimpses of birds that reacted poorly to playback.

THORN-TAILED RAYADITO (*Aphrastura spinicauda*) – This little charmer was widespread and seemed to accompany us wherever we went for the first half of the trip.

PLAIN-MANTLED TIT-SPINETAIL (AEGITHALOIDES) (*Leptasthenura aegithaloides aegithaloides*) – We had a very cooperative bird along the coastline in Puerto Montt that provided great views. Otherwise this common species was very quiet for the rest of the trip.

DES MURS'S WIRETAIL (*Sylviorthorhynchus desmursii*) – With a tail like that, it's hard to forget this bird! We enjoyed fine viewing of several birds at Pelluco and Lahuen Nadi.

CORDILLERAN CANASTERO (*Asthenes modesta*) – We had a couple come in very well to playback at Chillan and El Yeso.

SHARP-BILLED CANASTERO (*Asthenes pyrrholeuca*) – A bird came in closely for good views at the El Yeso reservoir. Their distinctive voice helps separate them from the very similar Cordilleran Canastero.

DUSKY-TAILED CANASTERO (*Pseudasthenes humicola*) – Great looks at a very cooperative pair at Mahuida in Santiago. We also had them in Farellones, El Yeso and La Campana. [E]

WHITE-THROATED TREERUNNER (*Pygarrhichas albogularis*) – We saw these birds mainly in the company of rayaditos, including a number of juveniles with their sharp-looking spotted upperparts.

Rhinocryptidae (Tapaculos)

CHESTNUT-THROATED HUET-HUET (*Pterotochos castaneus*) – Frustration with this species as they just didn't perform to expectations. A trio of birds at Robledal circled us and ran across the track. [*]

BLACK-THROATED HUET-HUET (*Pterotochos tarnii*) – We finally caught up to "huey-huey" at Antillanca with two birds hanging around the maintenance buildings on our chilly last morning there. We did glimpse others at Lahuen Nadi and Cerro Nielol in Temuco as well.

MOUSTACHED TURCA (*Pterotochos megapodius*) – We enjoyed a couple of fine views of this monstrous tapaculo in the open matorral of Farellones and El Yeso. [E]

WHITE-THROATED TAPACULO (*Scelorchilus albicollis*) – Despite a great effort to bring in a responsive bird at Mahuida we came up short on this difficult species. We also heard it at La Campana. [E*]

CHUCAO TAPACULO (*Scelorchilus rubecula*) – Fabulous views of a couple of birds at Lahuen Nadi gave us an optimistic start with the tapaculos. We heard them often in Puyehue and Chillan and even saw a few more well.

OCHRE-FLANKED TAPACULO (*Eugralla paradoxa*) – Another frustrating tapaculo this year, we had our chances a few times with it in Puyehue and Cerro Nielol in Temuco. However they kept in the dark shadows of the Chusquea bamboo and only provided a few glimpses of silhouettes.

MAGELLANIC TAPACULO (*Scytalopus magellanicus*) – A couple of very cooperative birds in Lahuen Nadi and at Antillanca. Heard many times in these locations and Chillan as well.

DUSKY TAPACULO (*Scytalopus fuscus*) – Ricardo brought in a nice singing male at La Campana our last morning. This species was formerly lumped in with Magellanic Tapaculo in the more northern taxa Andean Tapaculo. [E]

Tyrannidae (Tyrant Flycatchers)

TUFTED TIT-TYRANT (*Anairetes parulus*) – These Kinglet-like flycatchers were observed a number of times throughout the trip.

TICKING DORADITO (*Pseudocolopteryx citreola*) – A last minute detection by Ricardo at the Maipo River mouth saved the day for this special bird. Recently split from the Warbling Doradito of southern South America, the wintering area of this endangered endemic is unknown. [E]

WHITE-CRESTED ELAENIA (CHILEAN) (*Elaenia albiceps chilensis*) – Common throughout the trip.

MANY-COLORED RUSH TYRANT (*Tachuris rubrigastra*) – We saw these pretty marsh inhabitants at El Peral and the mouth of the Aconcagua River in Concon.

AUSTRAL NEGRITO (*Lessonia rufa*) – Our best views of this species was on the saltmarsh flats of Pelluco our first day.

WHITE-BROWED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola albilora*) – This is the common Ground-Tyrant in central Chile.

BLACK-FRONTED GROUND-TYRANT (*Muscisaxicola frontalis*) – A couple of birds at Valle Nevado and El Yeso.

This species tends to favor higher altitudes in the Andes.

BLACK-BILLED SHRIKE-TYRANT (*Agriornis montanus*) – A quick flypast at Valle Nevado.

FIRE-EYED DIUCON (*Xolmis pyrope*) – These smart looking flycatchers with the devil's eyes were present in Chillan and around Santiago. The recently fledged juveniles have brown eyes.

PATAGONIAN TYRANT (*Colorhamphus parvirostris*) – Nice responses to playback in Puyehue and Chillan. The breeding birds at Chillan represent an extension northwards of the known breeding range in Chile.

Cotingidae (Cotingas)

RUFIOUS-TAILED PLANTCUTTER (*Phytotoma rara*) – A bird of disturbed areas, we came across plantcutters several times during the trip. The sexes are quite different in their plumages.

Hirundinidae (Swallows)

BLUE-AND-WHITE SWALLOW (PATAGONICA) (*Pygochelidon cyanoleuca patagonica*) – These austral migrants will be heading north for the winter months of Chile. [a]

CHILEAN SWALLOW (*Tachycineta meyeni*) – Unlike the former species, Chilean Swallows remain in Chile the entire year. We saw them in all parts of the trip.

Troglodytidae (Wrens)

HOUSE WREN (SOUTHERN) (*Troglodytes aedon chilensis*) – Widespread.

SEDGE WREN (PLATENSIS GROUP) (*Cistothorus platensis hornensis*) – Nice views of a bird in a garden on Chiloe just after we got off the ferry.

Turdidae (Thrushes and Allies)

AUSTRAL THRUSH (*Turdus falcklandii*) – Common and widespread with many juveniles foraging with adults.

Mimidae (Mockingbirds and Thrashers)

CHILEAN MOCKINGBIRD (*Mimus thenca*) – A common garden bird in central Chile. [E]

Motacillidae (Wagtails and Pipits)

CORRENDERA PIPIT (*Anthus correndera*) – There were many birds at the mouth of the Maipo River where they were likely staging and molting after the breeding season.

Emberizidae (Buntings, Sparrows and Allies)

GRAY-HOODED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus gayi*) – Common in the high Andes above Santiago at Valle Nevado and El Yeso,

PATAGONIAN SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus patagonicus*) – Unlike the Gray-hoodeds, we saw Patagonians down at sea level in the south and also up in the *Nothofagus* forests of Puyehue and Chillan. Their dull plumages in the south are quite similar to Gray-hoodeds further north.

MOURNING SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus fruticeti*) – A few in Farellones and El Yeso.

BAND-TAILED SIERRA-FINCH (*Phrygilus alaudinus*) – We had nice views of several in Farellones on our way down the valley.

COMMON DIUCA-FINCH (*Diuca diuca*) – These odd finches were widespread during the trip. Their song and habit of walking rather than hopping make them unique and the current thought is that they are in fact tanagers!

GREATER YELLOW-FINCH (*Sicalis auriventris*) – Large groups in El Yeso and a few at Valle Nevado where these high Andean inhabitants frequently are observed.

GRASSLAND YELLOW-FINCH (GRASSLAND) (*Sicalis luteola luteiventris*) – Unlike other yellow-finches, this species prefers the lowlands and agricultural areas. We saw them well in Pelluco in particular.

RUFIOUS-COLLARED SPARROW (*Zonotrichia capensis*) – Common and widespread.

Icteridae (Troupials and Allies)

LONG-TAILED MEADOWLARK (*Sturnella loyca*) – At this time of the year we saw them in various stages of fresh plumage and gathering in post breeding flocks.

AUSTRAL BLACKBIRD (*Curaeus curaeus*) – A generic-looking icterid of forests and second growth.

YELLOW-WINGED BLACKBIRD (*Agelasticus thilius*) – This species looks similar to North American marsh blackbirds but is distinctly smaller. Recent genetic work has shown that they are an example of convergent evolution in that they are not very closely related to each other but share a similar niche.

SHINY COWBIRD (*Molothrus bonariensis*) – A small group at Pelluco our first day.

Fringillidae (Siskins, Crossbills, and Allies)

YELLOW-RUMPED SISKIN (*Spinus uropygialis*) – We ran into a couple of small groups up near the reservoir at El Yeso along the roadside.

BLACK-CHINNED SISKIN (*Spinus barbatus*) – Common in the lowlands and mountains of the south.

Passeridae (Old World Sparrows)

HOUSE SPARROW (*Passer domesticus*) – Common in urban habitats throughout. [I]

MAMMALS

OLD WORLD RABBIT (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) – Several. [I]

EUROPEAN BROWN HARE (*Lepus europaeus*) – Antillanca hotel grounds. [I]

NORWAY (BROWN) RAT (*Rattus norvegicus*) – The arboreal type that inhabits bamboo stands in Temuco! [I]

DEGU (*Octodon degus*) – Some folks got to see this relative of the Chinchilla at Mahuida in Santiago.

PEALE'S DOLPHIN (*Lagenorhynchus australis*) – Nice views of several pods along the coastline in Puerto Montt.

CHILEAN DOLPHIN (*Cephalorhynchus eutropia*) – WOW!!! This was truly a great observation of a little known species of the fjords in southern Chile. They appeared to be in the company of a pod of Peale's Dolphins along the shoreline east of Puerto Montt, The pod of 12 or so individuals contained both adults and young. [E]

CULPEO FOX (*Pseudalopex culpaeus*) – A brief view of a nice adult headed towards the campgrounds in La Campana our last morning,

MARINE OTTER (*Lontra felina*) – A pair at the penguin colony offered nice views. They seemed to have quite a mink-like appearance compared to the North American River Otter.

SOUTHERN SEA LION (*Otaria byronia*) – Great views of adults and young in the harbor at Valparaiso along with others at Punihuil and the Chacao channel crossing

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Totals for the tour: 166 bird taxa and 9 mammal taxa